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Wall, Zeno (1925 – 1948)

Pastors of First Baptist Shelby

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### Zeno Wall - 27th Pastor

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*27, th Pastor*

DR. ZENO WALL

Dr. Zeno Wall was born August 20, 1882 near Mooresboro, North Carolina. A son of Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Wall, he was educated in the Rutherford County Schools and also attended a private school operated by Mr. A. B. Flack. Furthering his education he went to Mars Hill College and was graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

Upon completion of his education in Rutherford County, he set out on a business career with a textile firm in Cliffside, N. C. While in Cliffside he received and accepted an invitation to speak in the nearby Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. It was this experience which confirmed in his heart his call to preach.

His pastorates have included Marshall, N. C.; Mount Olive, Mississippi; First Baptist, Columbia, Mississippi; Pastorate at the Mississippi Baptist College from which he entered the Military Chaplaincy in 1916; First Baptist, Goldsboro, N. C. and the First Baptist Church of Shelby, N. C. Here he served for twenty-three years.

While pastor of the Shelby church, his ministry was a most fruitful one. The membership of the church grew from 736 to over 2,500. There were 1,484 received into the church by baptism and 2,095 uniting by letter. The church also increased in gifts from an annual budget of \$28,000.00 to \$131,225.57. While serving this church as pastor and during the trying time of the depression, he served for two years, without pay, as President of Boiling Springs Junior College (now Gardner-Webb College).

In 1948, already serving as President of the Board of Trustees at the North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes, he was invited to become General Superintendent and in this capacity he served until 1950.

When he reached retirement age, he returned to Shelby but shortly thereafter received a plea to become pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church. This pastorate he

held for five years. Other Interim Pastorates were: Eastside, Pleasant Grove, Shady Grove (Gaston Association), and the Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

Many honors have come to him during his fruitful ministry. He was President of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention for four terms--1933-1936.

His name appeared in "Who's Who In America" in the 1948-49 edition.

*Dr. wall married Miss Ada Katherine Romsey and to them 5 children were born 3 sons and 2 daughters. Dr. wall died September 12, 1967 and was buried at Elizabeth church.*