Rush Padgett came to Poplar Springs as pastor on October 11, 1931. He was married to Carrie Bridges and they had two children: Rush, Jr., and Fidelia.

Although the principal part of the cost of the building had been paid, the Depression caught the church with an indebtedness of $3,600. The church turned in real earnest to the “Lord’s Acre,” and in three years members had ginned ninety-nine bales of cotton and the ladies had sold chickens. Thus was the debt paid -- with $400 leftover in the treasury!

The new church building was dedicated in 1934 on Thanksgiving Day. Rev. Rush Padgett was in charge of the service; Dr. Zeno Wall preached the sermon; and Rev. D. Frank Putnam led in prayer. The program was followed by a picnic dinner which consisted of nineteen turkeys and so much of everything that it was a real feast.

YOUNG MEN’S BIBLE CLASS - 1933 Allen Jones, Teacher, Clarence McCraw, Assistant Teacher.
Left to right first row: Forrest Jones, Joe Moore, Bemus Lemons, Frank Anthony, Archie Queen, Eddison Noggle, Lester Spain, J. T. Martin, Vaudrey Hamrick.
On October 11, 1931. He was married to Lettie Henderson. Their children: Rush, Jr., and Mildred. The church building had been paid, the mortgage of $3,600. The church members had sold chickens. Thus they had raised money for the building.

On Thanksgiving Day, Rev. Zeno Wall preached the program was followed by Thanksgiving Day, Rev. Zeno Wall preached the program. He was the first to preach in the newly constructed building.

Rev. J. R. Cantrell

When Rev. Padgett was forced to resign due to ill health in 1940, the Reverend J. R. Cantrell was called as pastor in 1941. Rev. Cantrell also served as president of Gardner-Webb College from 1938 to 1942. He and his wife, Lettie Henderson, had four children: Leatha, Cleatus, John, and Grace.

At the beginning of his ministry, the church voted to hold services each second and fourth Sunday mornings and evenings. In 1944 Mrs. J. R. Cantrell, the pastor's wife, organized the first Woman's Missionary Union. The W. M. U. began with just ten members. The first Vacation Bible School was held in the summer of 1947. A sexton's home was built on the church grounds in 1947 at a cost of $3,600, and upon completion of the work on the house, it was debt-free. Indeed, Rev. Cantrell served the church well during his ten-year pastorate.
In Memoriam

REV. RUSH PADGETT

The Rev. Rush Padgett, age 60, a native of Cleveland County, departed this life June 4, 1951. He was reared in the Sandy Plains community and was licensed to preach by the Sandy Plains Baptist Church.

In his preparation for the ministry, he attended the following schools: Bolling Springs High School, Carson-Newman College, Southern Baptist and Southwestern Seminaries. During his College days in Tennessee he was called to the Whiteville Baptist Church as pastor. He was ordained by his College church to the full Gospel Ministry. After he finished his college work in 1916, he was called to serve two churches near Hickory, N. C.:—Highland and Brookford. Brother Padgett was pastor of the following Churches: McAdenville, Gaston Association; Fullston, New Prospect, Ross Grove, New Hope and Mt. Sinai in the Kings Mountain Association; Old Buffalo in South Carolina; Second Baptist, Shelby, N. C.; Franklinville and Ramseur Churches in the Randolph Association; Lowell, Gaston Association; and then back to the Kings Mountain for his last work, Grover First, Poplar Springs, Lattimore and Zear Churches.

Brother Rush Padgett for the last ten years of his life was retired because of ill health.