Robert Livingston Naff

1925-1928
William Graham Hall came to the church as pastor in 1923, moving here from a pastorate in Wilmington. His stay was brief and he was succeeded by Samuel L. Naff in 1924. A native of Franklin County, Va., Mr. Naff was graduated from Richmond University and Southern Seminary. He came to Laurinburg from a pastorate in Mullins, S.C. He resigned in 1925 to accept a call to Mt. Olive.

Mr. Weatherspoon continued as Sunday school superintendent during these years. Enrollment in the Sunday school was 166 in 1924 and church membership had exceeded 260.

**THE MATURING YEARS**

**New Church Building Occupied in 1928**

When Dr. Earle V. Babb, a Laurens County, S.C., native, arrived in Laurinburg to become pastor in 1926, the membership was eager to get moving toward a new construction program. The community was in the middle of an economic boom. Laurinburg had matured. It had, during the early twenties, acquired new industry (a flour mill, a fertilizer plant, and Waverly Mills in Laurinburg and East Laurinburg) and new economic leadership, such as had never been experienced previously.

Dr. Babb came equipped with the personality, the dedication and the advantage of a "good Yankee wife" to help spur the membership on to new heights of stewardship and progress.

Dr. Babb may have been Laurinburg's first "sidewalk preacher," for part of his ministry was spent on the busy downtown sidewalks and in places of business. He was never seriously accused of proselyting though he mixed a good bit of cigar smoke, wit and Christian example among small groups of Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, and no doubt among some "infidels." A formal man in a number of ways, he yet frequently functioned most satisfactorily informally. Singing preachers weren't the rage in Laurinburg during the twenties — though Mr. Naff had greatly enjoyed the singing of spirited hymns — but Dr. Babb on occasion provided the special music for the morning service, usually singing duets with Mrs. Babb.

It was Dr. Babb who "moved the church" from its location on Cronly Street to the present building. The first service was conducted on October 14, 1928.

There were differences of opinion, of course, about the way the new structure was to be built. One debate was over whether to construct a pitched or a level floor for the sanctuary. At the night service on opening
SAMUEL LIVINGSTON NAFF


AMONG SOUTHERN BAPTISTS, p. 369

By: John S. Ramond, Compiler-Publisher, (1936)
Orange, Va., and labored of unalloyed pastors on the

as pastor the following Va., Norfolk, Va. He made the state. De-
or, and true many offices was a leader insted, pastor listed by two m during his it beside that tery, Orange, BINSTED.

earthly house win, was dist-

First Baptist ry 16, 1879. people, and nd examplespressive. He forces in his and inspir

and His cause. d good life. that defies ex-
s. First of purity that charged with highway of eg, to those
P. Roland Wagner, Central Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., conducted the services, with interment in Memorial Cemetery, Newport News, Va. The hundreds of floral tributes bespoke the esteem friends and loved ones held for him throughout Virginia.

In addition to his wife and daughter, Gazelle, he is survived by his mother and several brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.

Today the Cradock Baptist Church stands as a memorial to him, and his works are memorialized not only in the hearts of the Cradock members, but also in the hearts of members of his former pastorates.

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” will be inscribed on his stone which will mark his final resting place.

Samauel L. Naff
1882—1945

The Rev. Samuel L. Naff, pastor of the South Roanoke Baptist Church died in Roanoke, Virginia, hospital after an illness of over a year.

The funeral services were conducted July 19, 1945, by Dr. Ralph A. Herring, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N. C., assisted by Jesse E. Tate, Jr., and H. Felix Sanders.

Brother Naff was born in Franklin County, April 2, 1882, the son of Abram Irvin Naff and Mrs. Ann Melinda Turner Naff. He received his education at the University of Richmond, the Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and during his early ministry toured Europe and the Holy Land.

He entered the ministry in 1906. His first pastorate was with the Salem Baptist Church in Chesterfield County. After this pastorate he served the following churches: Calvary Baptist Church, Newport News; Main Street and Calvary Baptist Churches, Emporia; Salem Baptist, Winston-Salem; First Baptist, Mullins, S. C.; First Baptist, Laurinburg, N. C.; First Baptist, Mt. Olive, N. C., and North Winston Baptist, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Brother Naff was a faithful minister of the gospel. He found great joy in preaching the Word of God and singing the hymns of Zion, which he did with marked ability. The influence of his godly consecrated life will live on to bless and help others. “He being dead yet speaketh.”

Floyd Witt Putney
For Biographical Sketch and Picture see page 3.
Naff, Samuel L.

NCCF Mount Olive First Baptist Church

Centennial history. Photograph of Samuel L. Naff, p. 12.
SAMUEL L. NAFF
(1925-1928)