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
Dr. E. V. Babb, retired Baptist minister of Seneca, S. C., died July 5.

Dr. Babb was a native of Laurens County and a graduate of Furman University and of Colgate University. He had an honorary degree from Newberry College. He served pastorates in Easley, Newberry, and Seneca, S. C., and Laurinburg, N. C. He retired from the Seneca Baptist Church some years ago and continued to live in Seneca and serve as supply pastor.

Dr. Babb was twice married. His first wife was the late Mrs. Agnes Chandler Babb who died in 1933. He is survived by his second wife, Mrs. Ruth Adams Babb; a son, Dr. Winston C. Babb of Furman University; one brother, and two sisters.

Funeral services and burial were in Seneca, July 7.