

TO OPEN NEW \$65,000.00 SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING

BAPTISTS TO HAVE WEEK OF OPEN HOUSE, BEGINNING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Dr. Chas. Maddry, Dr. R. J. Bateman, Dr. Zeno Fall, Hon. Clyde R. Hoey and Dr. R. C. Smith on Program.

RECEPTION AND INSPECTION OF BUILDING, MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 14TH.

(BY ARVAL L. ALCOCK)

A week of open house will be held by the First Baptist Church of Forest City, beginning March 13th and continuing through March 18th, the occasion being the opening of the new \$65,000 Sunday School building, built as a memorial to the late J. F. Alexander, of Forest City and St. Petersburg, Fla.

The following program has been announced by Dr. W. A. Ayers, pastor of the church:

Sunday, March 13, at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.—"The Denominational Message," by Dr. Chas. E. Maddry, of Raleigh, N. C.

Monday, March 14, at 7:30 p. m., a reception will be given at which time an inspection of the new building will be held, after which refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, March 15, at 7:30 p. m., Dr. R. J. Bateman, of Asheville will deliver "The Memorial Message."

Wednesday, March 16, at 7:30 p. m., Dr. Zeno Wall, of Shelby, will speak, his subject being, "The Sunday School and Young People."

Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p. m., Hon. Clyde R. Hoey, of Shelby, will speak on the literary value of the Bible.

Friday, March 18, at 7:30 p. m., "The Sunday School and Missions", will be the subject of an address given by Dr. R. C. Smith, of Cliffside.

The movement for the erection of a much needed Sunday School building was started some time ago under the direction of Dr. W. A. Ayers. Consummation of the dream was made possible by the generosity of Hon. J. F. Alexander, who made it known before his death that he would donate one-fourth of the cost of the structure. There was no price limit, he agreeing to pay his one-fourth of what ever amount the Baptists might raise. Following his lamented demise Mrs. Alexander and his relatives and business associates came forward with the donations that made the building of a structure of magnificent proportions possible. In gratitude and loving remembrance of a staunch friend and supporter of the church, the Baptists unanimously agreed to name the building in his honor.

The Alexander Memorial Building costs approximately \$65,000. The architects were Casey and Fant, of Anderson, S. C., who have been very successful in church and Sunday School buildings. The contractors were W. H. Hand and Son, of Belmont, N. C. The building is modernly equipped and the equal of any its size in the state. Dr. Burroughs, of Nashville, an authority, passed on the plans with 100 per cent approval, which is a great recommendation.

The new building is three stories high and of brick construction. The first floor contains a large social and class room to be used by the Men's Bible Class and other adult classes. It is also equipped with modern kitchen equipment. The second floor carries the main entrance and will be the ladies department. The third floor will be occupied by the intermediate and young people departments. Each department has a separate assembly room.

One of the handsomest in the state, the new Sunday School building is a credit to Forest City and a monument of enduring remembrance to the real founder in whose loving memory it is named—J. F. Alexander.

Mr. Alexander was born January 11, 1859 in Rutherford county, N. C., near Forest City, in a family of three, Stephen, J. F. and A. C. Alexander. He died December 17, 1925 at St. Petersburg, Florida. He was educated in the schools of Rutherford county and moved to Texas where he studied

for the ministry. Failing health caused him to give up his studies and returning to Rutherford county, he entered the mercantile business and with Dr. G. E. Young, of Forest City, purchased a small sawmill and a limited area of timber land. From this firm Mr. Alexander expanded his enterprises and at his death was head of the following concerns: Waverly Hall Lumber Co., Waverly Hall, Ga.; Saluda Lumber Co., Saluda, S. C.; Trout-Wilkie Lumber Co., Wallaceville, S. C.; Weston Lumber Co., Weston Ga.; McGregor Lumber Co., Omaha, Ga.; Union Lumber Co., Union, Ga.; Bell Tate Lumber Co., Brooklyn, Ga.; Seminole Lumber Co., Ozark, Ala.; Alexander & Burgin Lumber Co., Beuna Vista, Ga.; Smith-Burgin Lumber Co., Americus, Ga. In 1915 he organized the Farmers Bank & Trust Co., at Forest City, and in 1917 the Alexander Manufacturing Co., manufacturers of cotton goods, at Forest City. In 1911 he went to Florida for his health and went back every winter since, spending practically all his time in St. Petersburg. With three others he owned some of the most valuable property at this place. He built the Alexander hotel, at St. Petersburg, and also founded the Alexander National Bank.

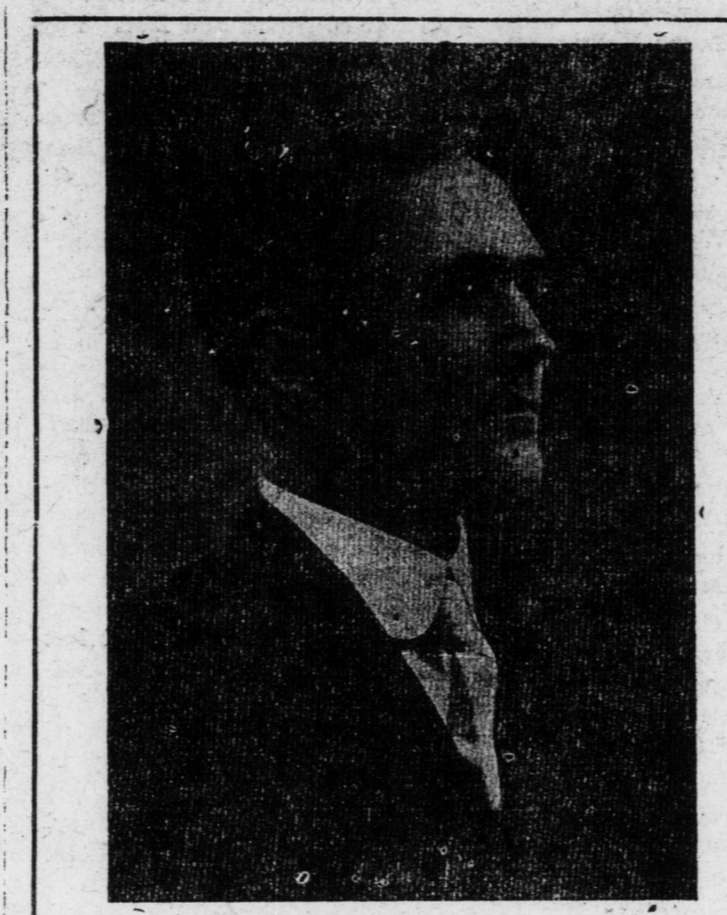
Mr. Alexander was a member of the First Baptist Church at Forest City and was active in church work in St. Petersburg, attending Grace Baptist Church there. He aided many worthy young men and women in furthering their education, having provided scholarships at Wake Forest College and Meredith College in North Carolina.

About a year before his death he purchased the Alexander School for Motherless Children in the mountains of Western North Carolina and endowed it for the education of orphan boys and girls, leaving an endowment of \$10,000 a year for this purpose. He also gave Mars Hill College \$10,000 a year and Boiling Springs High School \$2,000. In addition the other bequests were \$2,000 annual income to the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville and \$1,000 each, annually, to First Baptist and First Methodist Churches at Forest City. In addition the latter three were to be the beneficiary of a one-third interest in over a million dollars to be received from the sale of the property from which the income then granted comes.

Rev. Dr. R. J. Bateman, pastor of the First Baptist Church at Asheville declared that Mr. Alexander noted for his personal gifts throughout his life. "I had known Mr. Alexander for many years and he was what I would term a real big man," said Rev. Dr. Bateman, at the time of Mr. Alexander's death, "He was a man who took an interest in everything and loved the things that people themselves love." He was one of the largest givers in the Baptist church, of which he was a life-long member, and it is not surprising that he should be so generous to Mars Hill and other schools in this section coming under the supervision of the Baptist Home Mission Board.

Mr. Alexander was Rutherford county's foremost citizen. He represented Rutherford county in the legislature of 1898, 1900 and was in the state senate in 1902. At the time of his death his estate was estimated to be worth from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000.

The First Baptist Church of Forest City was organized as Cool Springs Baptist church in about 1825, where the Cool Springs cemetery is now located. In latter years the church was removed from this location to the center of the city, where a brick building had been erected. Here the church prospered until under the di-



DR. W. A. AYERS
Pastor of First Baptist Church, whose untiring energy and ability is largely responsible for completion of the Alexander Memorial Building.



J. F. ALEXANDER
Who made it possible to erect the magnificent new Sunday School building.

rection of Rev. J. Q. Adams, the building became inadequate for the growing work of the church and a new and modern church was erected in 1914. The beloved and popular Dr. Adams served the church until his death. The next pastor was Rev. S. N. Watson, now of Bladenboro, N. C., who served the church for four years. In November, 1922, the church extended a call to Dr. W. A. Ayers, of New Bern, N. C., but he did not come to the pastorate, on account of the great fire at that place, until June, 1923. The long period in which the church was without a pastor found the work at a rather low ebb at the time of Dr. Ayers arrival. However, the church responded from the first to the leadership of its present pastor and has performed a most worthy and progressive work. Since he took over the pastorate of the church, a handsome parsonage has been built and paid for at a cost of \$12,000. In addition to his home work, Dr. Ayers has had a number of denominational duties, being a member of the Baptist State Mission Board, and a member of the board of trustees of the following institutions: Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C.; Baptist Bible Institute, New Orleans; Alexander Schools, Inc., Union Mills, N. C.; and Boiling Springs High School, Boiling Springs, N. C.

MR. CHOATE TO ADDRESS WOMAN'S CLUB

Mr. Choate, interior decorator for Ivy's Store, of Charlotte, will be present at the School auditorium, Monday, March 7th and address the members of the Woman's Club on Interior Decorating. The public is invited to attend this address.

Born to Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Duncan on Tuesday, March 1, a fine boy.

PRICE-CARPENTER ESSAY-ORATION CONTEST FRIDAY

Contest to be Held in Cool Springs School Auditorium Friday Evening. Several Entries To Date

The Price-Carpenter Essay-Oration contest will be held in the auditorium of the Cool Springs High school at Forest City at eight o'clock, Friday night, March 4th. To date, entries have been sent in from four of the county high schools, which promise to make a very interesting contest. The essays were turned over to County Superintendent Clyde A. Erwin last Saturday and the winner will be announced Friday night. Mr. R. E. Price gives the Orator's Medal and Mr. H. L. Carpenter gives the Essay medal.

Miss Bernice Kanipe speaking on "Americanism," and Miss Mildred Moores speaking on "Talents," will represent the Cool Springs High school. Music and selections from the various High Schools will make a very interesting program.

LITERARY CLUB

The Literary Club Division No. 2 will meet Thursday at 4 o'clock at the home of Mrs. M. H. Hewitt. Mesdames M. F. Moores and G. M. Huntley will be joint hostesses with Mrs. Hewitt.

SISTER OF MR. J. E. CALDWELL DIES IN TEXAS

Mr. J. E. Caldwell received a telephone message Sunday announcing that his sister, Mrs. O. L. Truman of Houston, Texas, was dead. No details were given in the message.

Mrs. Truman was about forty years of age. She is survived by two children, Mrs. J. B. Houser, Jr., of Cherryville and a thirteen year old son, Houston, Texas. Her mother, Mrs. J. A. Caldwell, of Cherryville, also survives, and three sisters, Mrs. C. F. Whitehead and Mrs. C. E. McCurry, of Cherryville and Mrs. Max Bridges, of Spartanburg and two brothers, Mr. J. E. Caldwell, of Forest City, and Jesse Caldwell, of Cramerton.

Mrs. Truman's husband was killed about two years ago when he came in contact with a live electric wire.

The funeral services for Mrs. Truman and interment were at Houston, Texas.

THE MAYOR IN FLORIDA

A Florida newspaper says: "The mayor of Forest City, N. C., called at the Kaltenbruner filling station Tuesday afternoon. He cordially invites all the citizens of Pahokey to spend their summer vacation in his town. He assures all those who go, that if any of them get in jail in his town he will go 50-50 on their time."

BASKETBALL

The Spindale Basketball Team will meet the Charlotte Outlaws at the Spindale House Saturday evening at 8 o'clock in what promises to be one of the best games of the season.

J. E. M'FARLAND DIES SUDDENLY AT HOME HERE

Former Legislator and Prominent Rutherford County Man Drops Dead.

Death came to the Hon. J. E. McFarland with shocking suddenness at his home here at 12:30 Friday, February 25. After finishing his noon meal, he was sitting reading his newspaper, when, without outcry or warning, he suddenly fell from his chair to the floor, and expired before assistance could reach him.

His sister, Miss Kate McFarland, seeing him fall, rushed to his side and saw at a glance that he was in desperate straits. Unable to lift him from the floor, and realizing that he was in a dying condition, she immediately summoned neighbors to her assistance, who, responding hastily, found him dead upon their arrival.

Mr. McFarland's death was the result of heart failure. He had a desperate attack of illness in November, when his life was despaired of, a stroke of paralysis almost proving fatal at that time. However, he finally recovered, and since had been able to attend to his business, his many friends believing he had made a permanent recovery. However, this spell had proven too much for a weak heart and his death came with the suddenness noted above.

Hon. J. E. McFarland was one of the county's most prominent and best beloved citizens. Member of a fine old family, he had faithfully followed all the traditions and lived a life in keeping with his fine heritage. He was a man of fine character, strong principles, courageous in his convictions and a splendid type of Christian gentleman. His many fine characteristics are well described in another article in this paper, written by his friend and pastor, the Rev. Geo. R. Gillespie.

Mr. McFarland was the youngest of nine children, the son of John and Margaret C. McFarland, prominent couple of the old school. He was born in Spartanburg, S. C., March 17, 1861. After a few years the family moved to Tennessee, then later to Rutherford county, where he has resided for the past fifty years. He is survived by three sisters, Miss Kate McFarland, Forest City, with whom he made his home; Mrs. J. G. Stewart, route 1, Bostic and Mrs. D. C. Beam, route 1, Bostic.

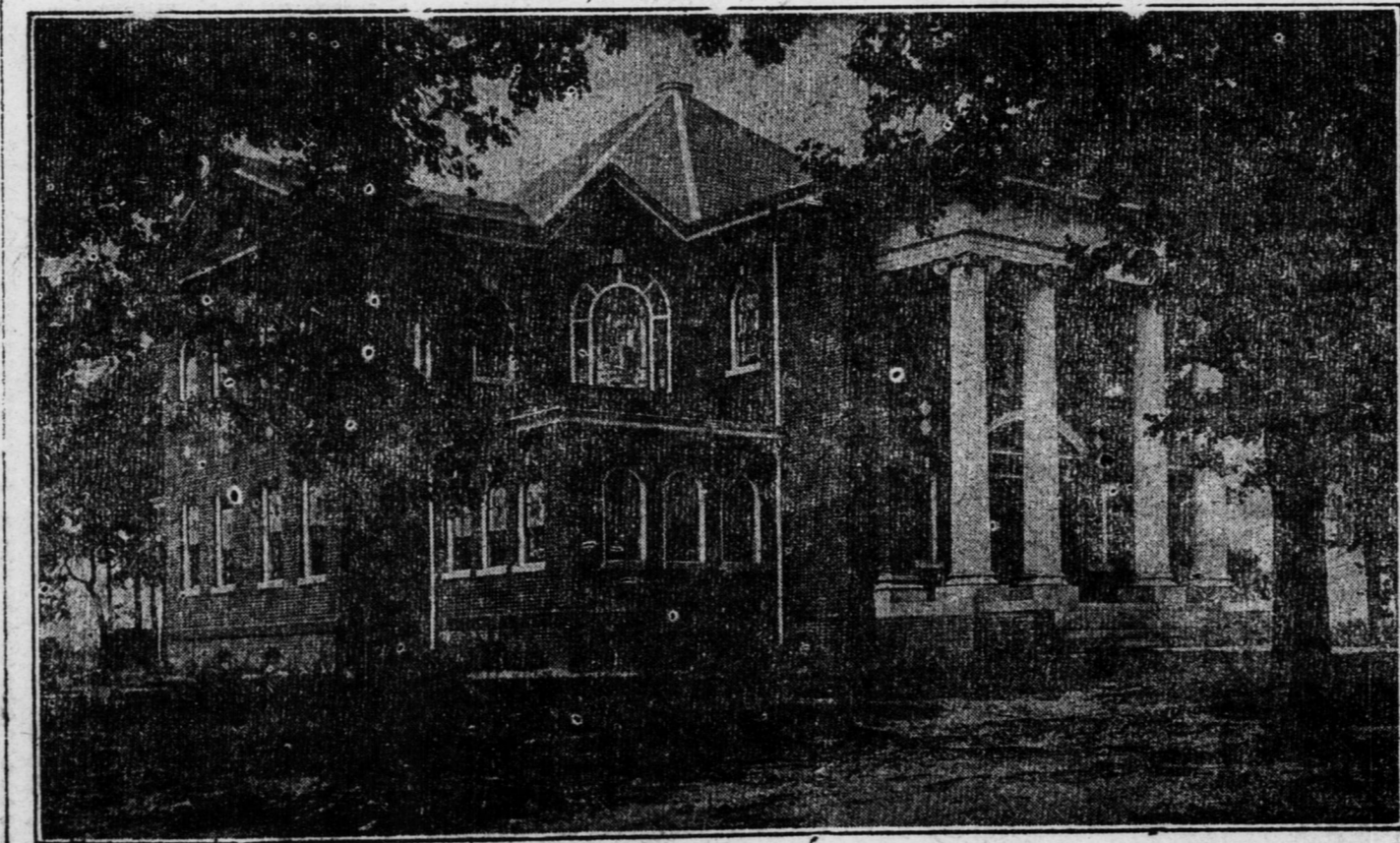
Mr. McFarland had lived in Forest City for the past 44 years. He represented Rutherford county in the general assembly of North Carolina in 1923. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church and was one of the founders of the church in Forest City. He was a Mason, member of the chapter, commandry, Shriner and a member of the Eastern Star, also a Junior and Pythian. He was never married.

Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church, Sunday, at 2 p. m. A large crowd gathered at the church to pay their last respects to a good man. The services were simple and impressive, in keeping with the spirit of the departed, who cared not for pomp nor glory, but kept the faith and looked for his reward in the hereafter. Among those taking part in the ceremonies were Rev. Geo. R. Gillespie, Rev. R. W. Montgomery, Dr. John S. Wood, Rev. M. F. Moores, Dr. W. A. Ayers, Rev. O. C. Houston.

Forest City Lodge, No. 381, A. F. & A. M., had charge of the obsequies at the grave, assisted by the Knight Templars, in impressive Masonic rites.

The following ladies of Areme Chapter No. 125, Order Eastern Star, had charge of the profuse floral offerings: Mesdames C. E. Alcock, E. O. Thomas, U. S. Courtney, G. P. Reid, P. L. Marks, A. W. Falvey, F. I. Barber, Thos. G. Stone; Misses Claire Reid, Otilie Long, Willie Carpenter, Flora Marks, Emma Dalton.

The pallbearers were John Poole, N. H. Welsh, B. F. Price, Harry Cannitz, Dr. Geo. P. Reid, Festus Bridges.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FOREST CITY