near Jacksonville. The little brick church had a war history. Pickets and out-posts were stationed there whenever Jacksonville was occupied by the Federal troops and near it the first blood of the war in this vicinity was shed. Sentinel-like, it witnessed scenes that have never found a place in print. A few years after the brick church was built, Elias G. Jaudon bought a piece of ground adjoining the church and donated it to the Church for a burial ground.

Finding themselves too far from the center of the city, it was decided to make yet another change in location, and again Deacon Jaudon came to the assistance of the Church by buying and donating a lot on Church Street, between Julia and Hogan. Here a house of worship was erected, and dedicated February 23, 1861. Soon after this the war came on and disrupted the congregation. After the battle of Olustee, the building was taken possession of by the Federal army and used as a hospital for wounded soldiers, and from this time until the close of the war it was used as a military hospital. The building was left in a deplorable condition, scarcely a pane of glass remaining in the windows and very little plastering on the walls. The claim of the First Baptist Church for $1,170 damages done to the building during the war was approved by the U. S. Congress in February, 1912.

At the close of the war an effort was made to separate the white and the colored members of the congregation, but the colored members being in the majority refused to give possession to the white members. The colored members finally accepted an offer of $400 for their interest in the property, withdrew, and built for themselves a new church, which they called Bethel Baptist, taking the original name. The church of the white congregation was then re-named Tabernacle.

In 1892 the church property on Church Street (the site is now occupied by the club house of the American legion) was sold. The present site at the northeast corner of Church and Hogan Streets was acquired in October, 1892, at a cost of $9,000. A Sunday School building was erected on the inside of this lot facing Church Street, as a unit of the future church, then called First Baptist instead of Tabernacle, but the fire of 1901 destroyed it before the church was completed.