

The parent Church continued to hold services in library hall in the morning and in Riverside chapel in the afternoon and evening,<sup>1</sup> until 1886, when a lot 42x60 feet at the southwest corner of Main and Beaver Streets was purchased and a small wooden church was erected on it. The congregation worshipped here several years, but the property did not prove satisfactory and was sold to a negro congregation on time payments. After the sale the Christian congregation held their services in various places, first in a hall over Randolph's restaurant, Main and Adams Streets; then in library hall; in the board of trade rooms; in the dining room of the Oxford hotel across from the St. James; then in the Union building at Adams and Main Streets. Finally they went back to the church at Main and Beaver Streets, the colored congregation having failed in their payments.<sup>2</sup> This church was burned in the fire of May 3, 1901. Shortly before the fire the Christian Church had bought the southeast corner of Monroe and Hogan Streets, its present location, and when the fire of May 3, 1901, came the foundation for the new church was being built.<sup>3</sup>

The Sunday School rooms of the present First Christian church were first used on June 1, 1902. The auditorium was completed a year later, the first services being held there June 7, 1903.<sup>4</sup> A unique feature of the campaign for funds to complete the church was the selling of shingles to the public for 10 cents each, by which a substantial sum was raised. The cost of the completed edifice was in the neighborhood of \$45,000 and it is now practically free of debt. It is built of the so-called Miami rock, some of which was imported from Nassau, N. P.; this material has now hardened to the substance of granite.<sup>5</sup>

The services were conducted by Elder W. Bennett Young until the arrival of a permanent pastor, Rev. T. H. Blenus, in May, 1885. Mr. Blenus accepted a call to Savannah in June, 1888, and there was no permanent pastor until 1893, when Rev. John Friend was called;<sup>6</sup> he however remained but four months. Rev. S. P. Benbrook was the pastor when the congregation went back to the church at Main and Beaver Streets. Rev. M. B. Ingle followed Mr. Benbrook and was pastor until November 1, 1895. Rev. J. J. Irvine was pastor from February, 1896, to June, 1898. During the intervals between these pastors, Elder Rufus A. Russell usually con-