DIAMOND JUBILEE
FIRST BAPTIST PREPARES FOR CELEBRATION
FIVE CHARTER MEMBERS - 1902

The climax of an exciting year of celebration will be observed this Sunday, November 13, as the First Baptist Church of Lafayette, Louisiana, marks its 75th anniversary. Organized on November 23, 1902, with five charter members, the church has enjoyed steady growth through the years and now has a membership of almost 2,500 members. It was considered a "mission church" for several years, but today is recognized as one of the strongest Baptist churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dr. Perry R. Sanders, pastor, states that over 1,000 people are expected to participate in the day-long celebration which begins at 9:00 a.m. with Bible study. Indeed, the emphasis on the steadfast witness of God has always been a strong witness of the people of First Baptist. A "Reunion Class" will be taught in the auditorium by Rev. St. Clair Bower for all visitors.

Dr. Sanders has prepared a Diamond Jubilee sermon entitled "God's Church - Alive and Well!" for the eleven o'clock service.

A church-wide reception will be held in honor of former pastors, staff members and church members and friends at 5:00 p.m. in the Activities Building.

One of the highlights of the Celebration Day will be the presentation of "The Church Trustee" by the Sanctuary choir under the direction of Luther A. Bourdon, Minister of Music, at 7:00 p.m. in the church auditorium.

Recollecting the heritage of the past, the First Baptist Church looks forward to an exciting future of ministry and caring by also pledging the 1976 budget of $187,315 in a single day for the fourteenth consecutive year.

ELEVATION
First Baptist Church—Expanding With Lafayette

The First Baptist Church of Lafayette recently voted to enter into a new building program with a projected cost of $300,000. The project is necessary because of overcrowding in the current auditorium and is an effort to attract additional educational facilities for Bible study and opportunities for a better future for our community.

The new facility will allow for an increase of 500 people per week, which is expected to increase the average attendance to 1,500 weekly.

The pastor, Perry R. Sanders, has said: "The building program is a result of the church's vision for the future, including an expansion project which is currently underway. A look at the past and a vision for the future are both necessary to ensure that the time is right for the people of First Baptist to grow and to change in the right direction for the Lord's sake."

Diamond Jubilee Logo

One of the first events at the Diamond Jubilee year at the First Baptist Church of Lafayette, Louisiana, was the unveiling of the official Diamond Jubilee Logo. Prepared by Mr. Don Sampson, a professional artist employed by the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the logo combines all the features of the First Baptist Church without sacrificing its historical significance. The logo features the open Bible, signifying a reliance on the Word of God; the symbolic diamond on a field of red, representing missionary work in the history of the unique South Louisiana culture; and within the material portion of the diamond, the heart of the Church's community, the Cross of Christ, emphasizing the connection of the Church with the larger Louisville community.

Well-Known Composer

Dr. Warner Angell, well-known composer, was chosen by the pastor to design the logo for the Diamond Jubilee celebration. Dr. Angell has had many compositions published and is a popular composer for religious and secular materials. He has written music for the First Baptist Church of Lafayette as a way of expressing his love and gratitude for the church's 75th anniversary."