

Open Doors-First Edition

By Amy Mangram

On May 25, 1928, a would be thief attempted to break into the poor box, a locked brass container in the church vestibule where parishioners anonymously placed donations for those in need. Rev. Henry Hadley explained that such attempts were not unheard of, yet he remained unwilling to change the spirit of welcome that defined the church. At the time of the incident, there were no plans to lock the building outside of services.

“The church is open all day for prayer and rest, especially during the summer,” he said, emphasizing that its doors were meant to offer comfort to anyone seeking peace. He added that he would not consider closing it, “even if they steal the cross off the altar.” His response reflected a deep belief that compassion and accessibility mattered more than fear of loss, and that the church’s mission to provide refuge should not be compromised by the actions of a few.

