

# Presbyterian Church Began In 1884

(By Mrs. W. T. Weir)

On Saturday, April 5, 1884, under the guidance of the Reverends Cook, Leeper, J. J. Kennedy, and Elder J. I. Holland the following eighteen men and women presented certificates of membership from Presbyterian churches elsewhere and were organized into a Presbyterian church: W. I. Stowe, Mrs. W. I. Stowe, Thomas G. Stowe, Dr. T. J. Walker, Mrs. M. E. Houser, Dr. T. T. Hay, Miss Ella Hay, Miss Rosetta Hay, Louis G. Hay, Mrs. Louis G. Hay, Richard T. Cansler, Mrs. Richard T. Cansler, Mrs. A. P. Ashbury, Miss M. M. Ashbury, Mrs. Carrie Black, Mrs. M. J. Dellinger, Miss Addie Smith, Miss Sallie E. Ashbury. Two elders, W. I. Stowe and Dr. T. T. Hay, and two deacons, Richard T. Cansler and Louis G. Hay were elected, ordained and installed. The name chosen for the organization was "The Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain." The first pastor, Reverend E. P. Davis, who served from 1884-1887, was engaged to preach one Sunday in each month.

For the first three years the young church held occasional services in the A. R. F. and Methodist churches. On April 3, 1887, the congregation had the joy of worshipping for the first time in their own church home, a frame structure located on the southwest corner of King Street and Railroad Avenue, the dedicatory sermon being preached by the Reverend E. P. Davis.

On July 10, 1887, a Sunday school was organized with Elder W. I. Stowe as superintendent and with a membership of twenty. During the first sixteen years of its history, the church made small progress due chiefly to the shortness of the service of the ministers and the frequency of the vacancies that followed. From 1884-1888 the Kings Mountain Church was served for one Sabbath each month by the pastor of the Shelby church. The second pastor, Reverend E. E. Erwin, served from April to December 1888.

From 1889-1906 it was grouped with Long Creek, Shiloh (Grover), and Hepzibah, with the pastor to preach one Sunday each month. In 1897 these four churches secured a manse in Kings Mountain on South Railroad Avenue, after which date the pastor resided in Kings Mountain. During this period the church was served by Reverend E. A. Sample (1889-1892), student W. L. Walker (three months in 1893), Reverend J. K. Hall (1893-1894), Reverend R. J. McIlwaine (1896-1898), Reverend J. R. Millard (1899-1902), and Reverend J. M. Forbis (1903-1908).

In 1906 the Kings Mountain church decided to have half of the pastor's time. Long Creek and Bessemer City with Kings Mountain, constituted the new group. The Reverend Mr. Forbis was succeeded by Reverend S. S. Oliver (1910-1912), Reverend R. A. Miller (1913-1914), Reverend C. L. Bragaw (1914-1915), Reverend J. E. Berryhill (1916-1918).

The congregation had long felt the need of a larger church with more adequate provision for a Sunday School. On July 3, 1906, a new building, which had been erected on the northwest corner of Piedmont and

Mountain Streets, was dedicated by the pastor, Reverend J. M. Forbis. During the first thirty-six years the church was blessed with Godly, efficient men who served as elders and deacons. Those elected as elders and deacons. Those elected as elders were W. I. Stowe, Dr. W. T. Hay, H. P. Allison, J. W. Brown, C. F. Neisler, C. J. McCombs, H. L. Ramseur, Robert Barber, C. I. Hunter, J. T. Davidson, J. T. Ware. Those elected as deacons were R. T. Cansler, L. G. Hay, C. E. Falls, C. P. Goforth, J. T. Allison, G. V. Patterson, J. T. Welch, J. B. Thomasson, H. B. Stowe and P. M. Neisler.

By 1919 the church membership had increased from fifty one in 1909 to ninety-four. At this date the church took a very decided forward step in call Reverend Fred J. Hay as full time pastor. Two years before this date the house used as the pastor's residence was sold, and the equity falling to the King Mountain church was invested in a house and lot on the corner of King and Carpenter Streets, which served as a manse until 1926.

Upon the resignation of the Rev. J. T. Welch, Dr. Dr. McElroy accepted the call and served the church from 1923-1931, when he was called to his reward. During his pastorate the church membership increased and the Sunday School grew so large that the church in 1926 rented an adjoining cottage to serve as an annex.

Having been without a pastor from January to July the church extended a call to the Rev. Richard C. Wilson, Jr., who accepted it and began his ministry in August, 1931. During his pastorate the way was prepared for the making of definite plans to construct a new building. The congregation was saddened a second time by the loss of a pastor by death in 1934.

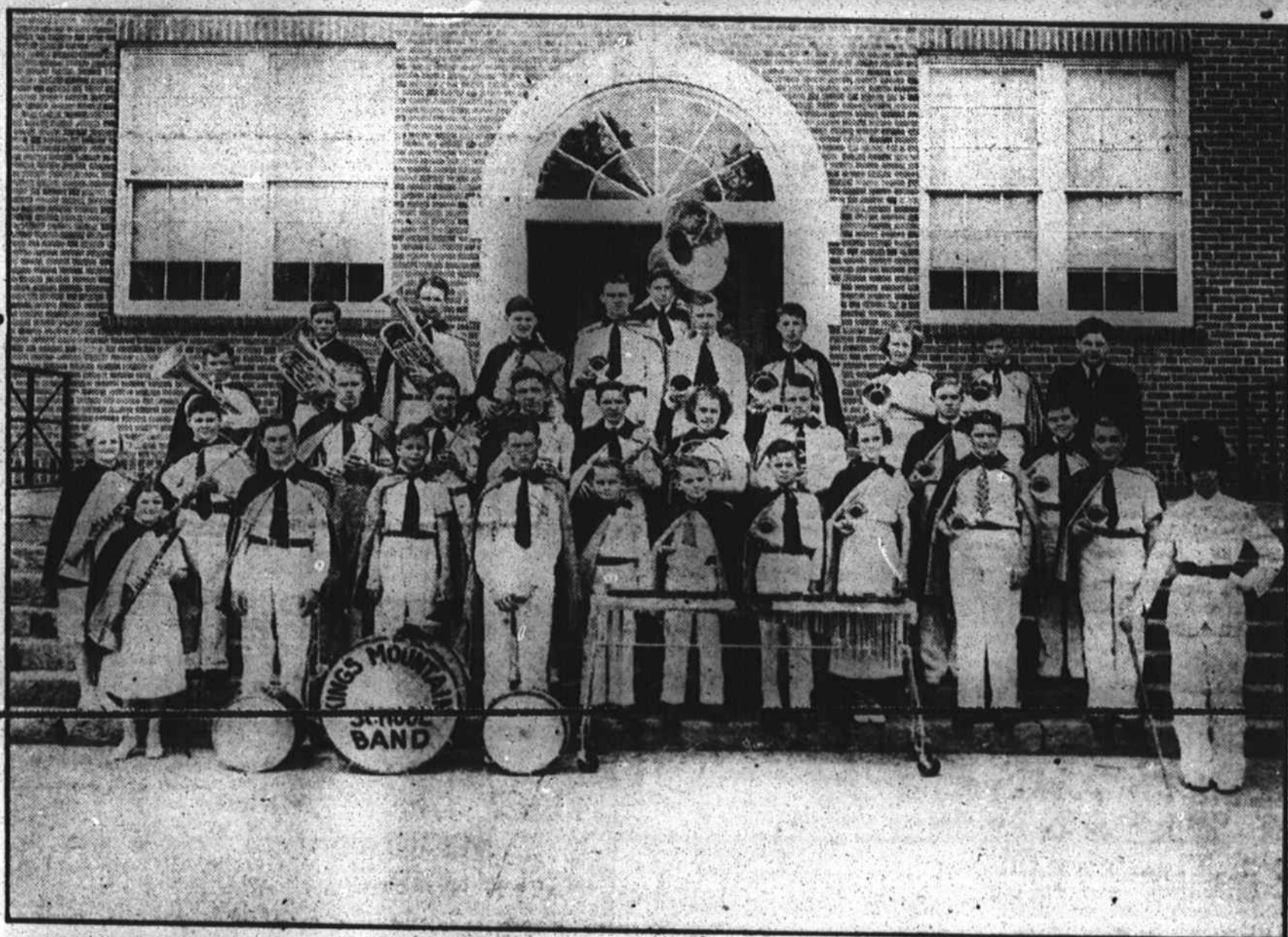
During the past seventeen years the church has found herself continually blessed by the same type of able, God-fearing elders and deacons as those under whose guidance she grew prior to 1920. Since that date the following elders have been chosen: J. C. Mason, C. E. Neisler, Jr., George Cansler, J. H. Thomson, Jr., B. Thomasson, H. B. Stowe and R. H. Webb. The following deacons have been elected: E. W. Barnes, C. E. Mason, D. S. Rhyne, J. H. Thomson, C. F. Thomasson, C. W. Davidson, J. A. Neisler, J. W. Ramseur, C. F. Stowe, H. H. Houston, F. G. Rogers, Arthur Hay, Luther Cansler, H. R. Neisler and Paul Mauney.

This church has been honored in sending out one of her best sons as a minister, B. F. Ormand, Jr., graduated from the Union Theological Seminary in May, 1937, and was ordained on October 10, 1937, in Lost City, West Virginia.

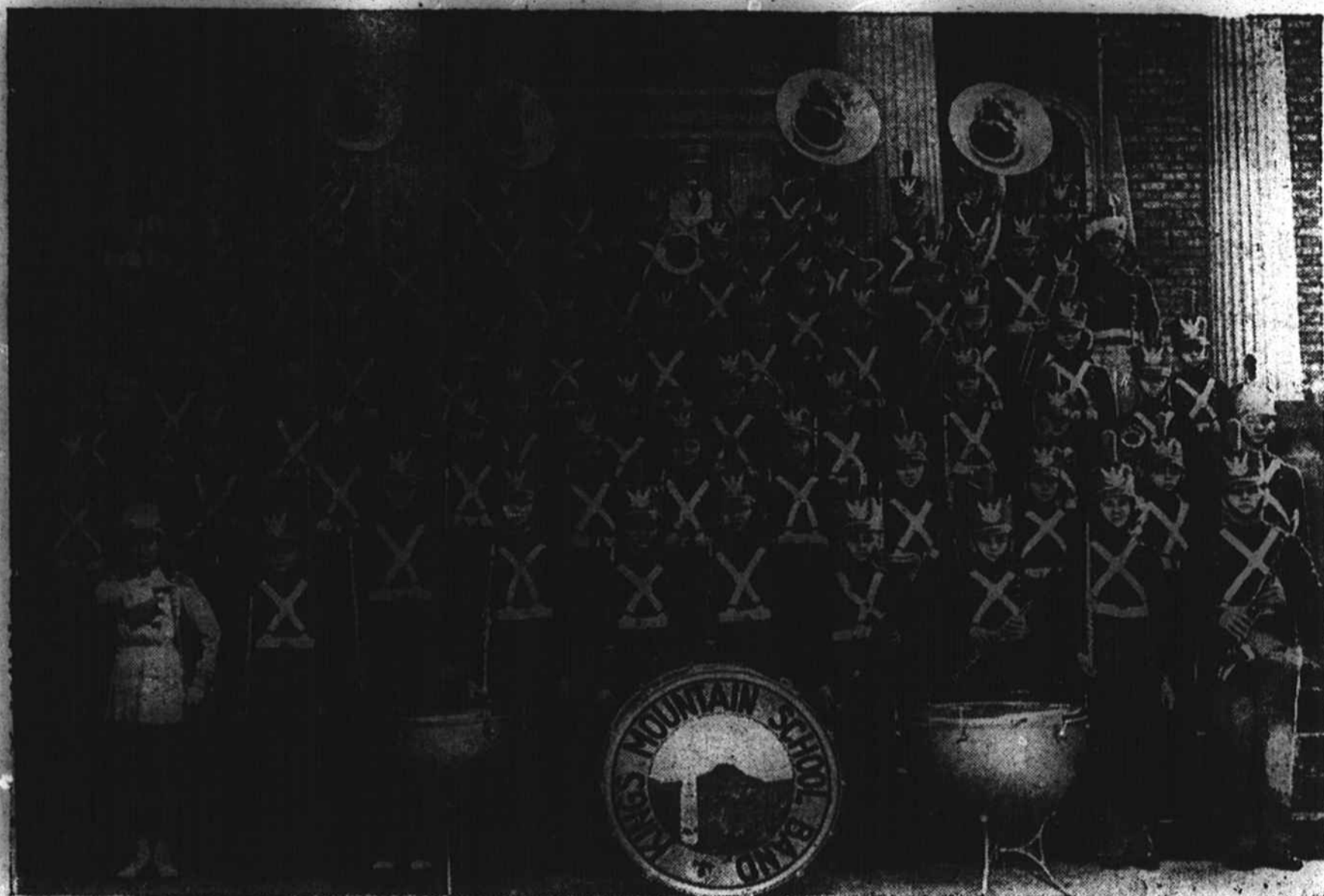
Having been without a pastor from October to April, the church extended a call to the Reverend P. D. Patrick, who accepted the charge and began his pastorate in May 1935.

In 1936 Mrs. C. E. Neisler presented the church with the beautiful lot on the corner of King and Gaston Streets for the erection of a new

# Pictures Relate Growth In Kings Mountain School Band



The first picture of the Kings Mountain School Band which was taken shortly after it was organized in 1936.



The last picture taken of the Band in 1939 that all of Kings Mountain is justly proud. Note the growth in both the band and the musicians. The citizens of Kings Mountain are indebted to Director Paul Hendricks, whose untiring efforts have made our Band one of the most outstanding in the State.

church. As the lot included an attractive house to be used as a home for the pastor, the officers disposed of the former manse.

The congregation elected the Building Committee composed of Messrs. J. B. Thomasson, P. M. Neisler, Joe Thomson, Paul Mauney, C. F. Neisler, Jr., and R. G. Plonk and Mrs. C. E. Neisler, Mrs. H. N. Moss and Miss Carlisle Ware approved the plans submitted by Wenner and Plonk, and began work on August 16, 1936. After experiencing the joy of

whole hearted cooperation in building God's House, the congregation worshipped for the last time in the old church October 31, 1937, with Reverend J. M. Forbis preaching the sermon, and moved to the new location November 7, 1937.

After a week of revival services and thanksgiving for the blessings God had bestowed upon her, the church, composed of a membership of 301, dedicated the church building at the morning service, December 5, 1937, and the Neisler Memorial

Educational Building at the evening service.

The Sunday School of 269 members and eighteen teachers is divided into eight departments and under the able leadership of Mr. C. F. Thomasson, superintendent; Mr. C. P. Goforth, assistant superintendent; and Mr. Luther Cansler, secretary treasurer, is making her contribution toward the spreading of the Kingdom. In 1938 Miss Marian E. Murphy accepted the position of Director of Religious Education and has

been instrumental in organizing the young people of the church according to the plan adopted by the General Assembly and is doing a vital work with them. The Woman's Auxiliary whose president is Mrs. O. W. Myers, and the Boy Scouts of America, Troop No. 1, under the leadership of Mr. Carl Davidson, Scoutmaster, and Messrs Harry Page and W. B. Thomson, assistants, play an important part in the work of the church.

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