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Second Baptist Church

In the winter of 1914, J. R. Roberts, Superintendent of Cora Cotton Mills, led a community Sunday School in one of the village houses, sponsored by Dr. O. G. Galls, President of Cora Cotton Mills. Mr. Roberts Bible Class was made up with all ages. After Sunday School they would walk a mile uptown to First Baptist Church to preaching where J.R. Roberts was a member and deacon.

In the Spring of 1915, Mr. David D. Lankford moved from upper Cleveland to a farm near east Kings Mountain. One of the first things he did was to inquire about a Baptist church were he and his family could worship. He was told about the community Sunday School and First Baptist Church about one mile away. This was good, but he thought a baptist church on this end of town would be better. He suggested this plan to R.L. Chaney, Sr. he liked the plan, and in turn began to talk to others about it. Later Mr. R. L. Chaney, Sr., Mr. Ben Bruce, and Mr. J. H. Riddle hired a buggy and rode out to the farm of Mr. Dave Lankford and it was there they formed a committee to ask First Baptist Church to help them organize a missionary baptist church on this side of town. First Baptist gladly responded. On June 13, 1915 the church was organized and the name East Side was chosen. The presbytery was composed of Rev. J. R. Miller, B. B. Hill, W. R. Moss, and several deacons from First Baptist Church. Twenty-seven Charter Members came forward and joined that day. J. R. Miller, Moderator, and D. F. Hord, Sr., Secretary.

Our first meeting place was in a little white one-room school house given to us by Dr. O. G. Falls. We remodeled and worshipped there seven years. We were admitted to Kings Mountain Association in the fall of the same year, 1915.

In 1922, we were given some more lots by Dr. O. G. Falls, near the center of the village on Linwood Road, where we built a brick veneer building. We worshipped here for 30 years. Our membership grew from 200 to 648 members. In 1923, we voted to change our name from East Side to Second Baptist Church.

In 1952, we purchased some more land across the road and built the new building we now worship in.

In 1953 the congregation entered the present facilities with the fellowship building being dedicated in 1965.

In its seventy four years Second Baptist Church has been served by thirteen pastors: L. A. Bangle, John J. Hicks, John Wesley Davis, H. V. Tanner, W. N. Cooke, R. L. Chaney, Jr., C. C. Parker, B. f. Austin, Howard T. Cook, A. R. Hastings, Victor Trivette, George W. Julian and Eugene W. Land.

The Pastor and people of Second Baptist Church hold dear those men and women of the past who have given of themselves to build the Kingdom of God in this city.

Standing on the strong foundation left by those who have come before us, the present congregation looks to the future with keen anticipation, as we acknowledge what God is doing in our midst.

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