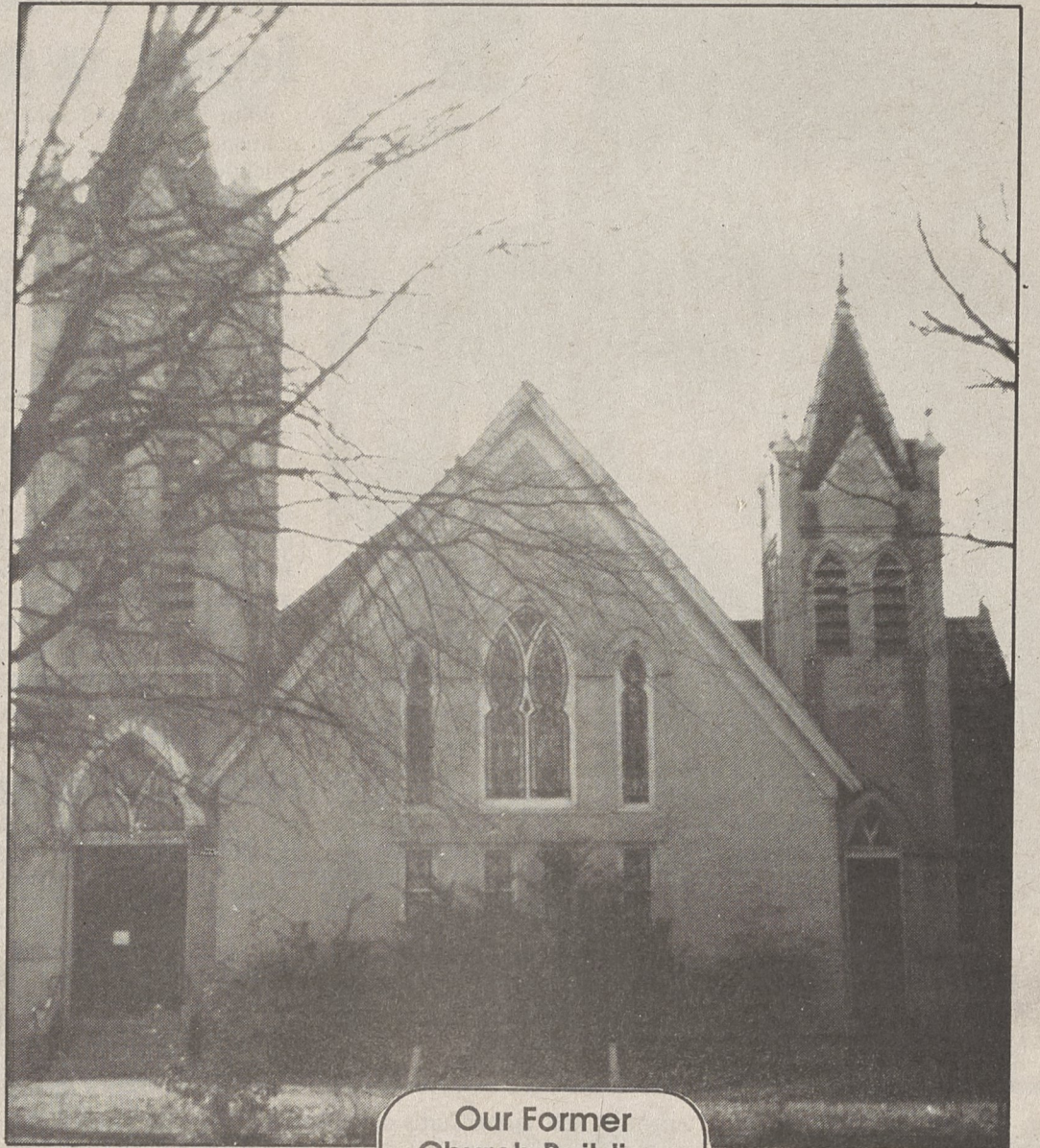




Our Current Church Building



Our Former Church Building

## Boyce Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Boyce Memorial Association Reformed Presbyterian Church has its origin in the Pisgah Church near Crowders Mountain. It seems that the Pisgah Church served members in Gaston and Cleveland Counties and was located on the south base of the pinnacle of Kings Mountain. This church was active in the late 1700's. Around 1796 this church split into what was to become Pisgah and Bethany ARP Churches. In 1855 Dr. Ebenezer Erskine Boyce was directed to divide the Pisgah congregation. The Cleveland County members formed the Mt. Nebo Church which met in a comfortable frame building where Waco Road and Watterson Street intersect today. This church was active for twenty years. In 1876 two congregations formed from the members of the Mt. Nebo Church. Thus the Bethel and Kings Mountain Churches began.

The Kings Mountain ARP Church was located on East King Street, two blocks from the old City Hall, which was then the home of Mrs. Minnie Crawford. This was the first church of any denomination ever built in the city of Kings Mountain. The building was a weather-board structure painted white which was built at a cost of \$700.00. The land was given by Mr. Robert Falls. This building served the congregation until 1898.

In 1898 the name was changed to Boyce Memorial to honor the church's first pastor. At that time the congregation moved into a new building on the corner of Piedmont Ave. and King Street. With the rapid growth of the membership an educational building was added to the church in 1925. This site remained as the church's home until 1962 when they held the first worship service in their new educational building on the corner of King Street and Edgemont Drive. The old facility had been sold to the Catholic Church.

The educational building served as a sanctuary during the pastorate of Rev. L. Thomas Ritchie. In 1969 Boyce Memorial called Dr. Charles Edwards as pastor and in 1974 the congregation held a ground breaking service to prepare for the building of its present sanctuary. A dedication service was held in 1975 when the congregation moved into the new building. Dr. Edwards remained at Boyce Memorial until 1979 when he retired. Rev. William Tyson was called and led the congregation until 1989 when he moved to a church in Florida. Boyce Memorial was fortunate to have Rev. Harold Mace serve as interim pastor during the search for a new minister. A formal call was issued to Rev. William Barron and he began his pastorate on July 1, 1990. Boyce Memorial continues to be a force in this community where its roots are deep.



REV. WILLIAM BARRON

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