

WORSHIP

Boyce Memorial ARP Church to celebrate 150th anniversary

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

Events leading up to the 150th anniversary celebration of Boyce Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church begin on Wednesday, March 15, and culminate with the dedication of the bell tower at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 19.

Rich Rochford, chairman of the committee which includes numerous church members, said the public is invited to all events.

"A Night of Memories" will feature the family night supper at 6 p.m. March 15. Circle members are decorating five tables, each depicting 30 years of history involving the church and community, in the fellowship hall.

A night of prayer, thanksgiving and song will feature the Thursday, March 16 7 p.m. service.

Saturday night, March 18, at 7 p.m. Brandon Williams of Bessemer City will play his electronic wind instrument and at 8 p.m. the Kings Revue from Kings Mountain High School will present a concert. Gene Bumgardner directs the ensemble and Sherri Young is director. The concerts will be performed in the church sanctuary.

The Sunday, March 19, dedication of the bell tower will be followed by morning worship at 10 a.m. and a catered lunch. Reservations are requested for the luncheon.

Boyce Memorial has a rich heritage which has encompassed four church buildings and began in 1872 just as the American Revolution was coming to a close and many of the Reformed Presbyterians and Associate Presbyterians living in America decided to merge and called their new church the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Fourteen years later, in 1796, while George Washington was still president, the ARPs living in the general vicinity of Kings Mountain organized a church near Kings Pinnacle in Gastonia. It was called Kings Mountain ARP Church but later came to be known as Old Pisgah ARP Church. The church, which met in a simple log building, was not only the mother church of the ARP churches in this area, but through migration it is the mother church of ARP churches in western Tennessee and Arkansas.

In 1856, Rev. E. E. Boyce, the pastor of Pisgah and Bethany ARP churches, was told to divide the Pisgah church into two congregations. The new congregation built a church building on Nebo Hill just outside the present city of Kings Mountain. The church, now called Boyce Memorial, was organized on March 17,

1856. The members called their new church Mount Nebo ARP Church and Boyce also became pastor of Mount Nebo.

In 1876 the church moved into the newly established city of Kings Mountain, changing its name to Kings Mountain ARP Church. Part of the congregation had earlier left to form the Bethel ARP Church north of Kings Mountain. Only the cemetery still remains of the Bethel Church.

The Kings Mountain ARP church was the first of any denomination to construct a church building in the new city. The building was located on East King Street near Mountain Rest Cemetery on land donated by Robert Falls, who also gave the land for the cemetery, the railroad and the town. The building was made of wood and cost \$700.

In 1898, the church moved into a new brick building costing \$4,000 at the corner of King and Piedmont. The name of the church was again changed to Boyce Memorial in honor of its first pastor. Boyce died in 1902 just as Synod was convening at Pisgah. The Synod adjourned to conduct his funeral.

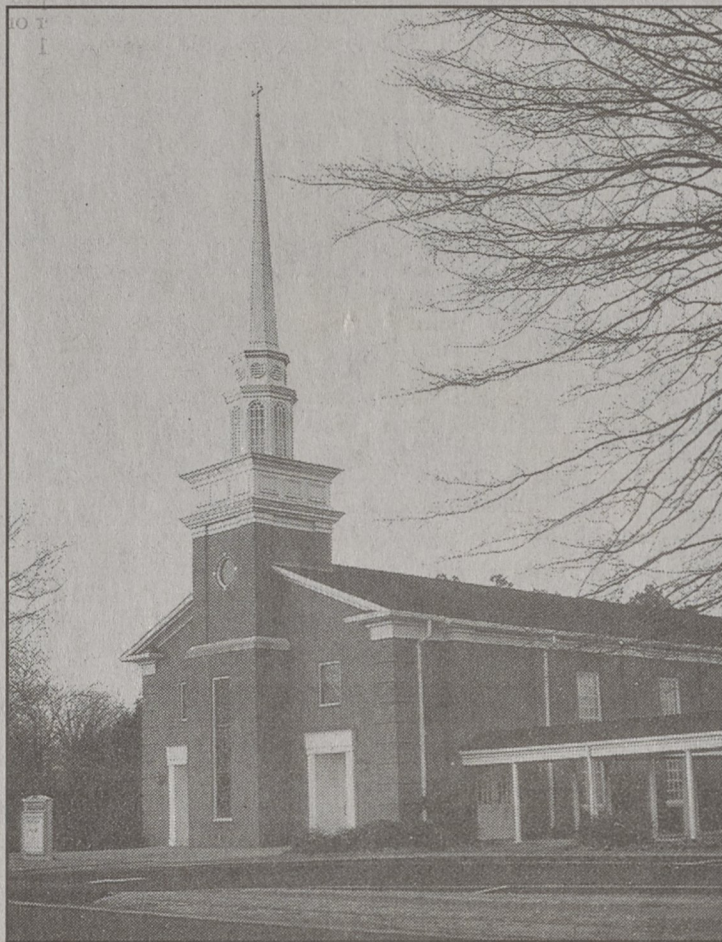
In 1962 Boyce Memorial was on the move again as it began worshipping in a new building, now the fellowship hall of the present church facility. In September 1975 the present sanctuary was dedicated. In addition to its large and valuable church campus, the church also owns a cottage at Bonclarken Conference Center and a house for its pastor, Rev. Doug Peterson, on Sherwood Lane.

The church history pointed out that "God has worked through our forefathers to preserve Boyce Memorial through the Civil War, Reconstruction, two world wars, a depression, social upheaval and the apostasy into which many churches have fallen."

Today Boyce Memorial is an active con-



Boyce Memorial when it was located on the corner of King Street and Piedmont Avenue. Below, Boyce Memorial at its present location.



gregation and in addition to its many regular programs, the church sponsors a pre-school, several missionaries, and supports a host of ARP agencies including World Witness, Outreach North America, Bonclarken, Covenant Discipleship, the ARP Magazine and Erskine College and Seminary and a paid staff of five people.

Our strength is on the inside

Malcolm Forbes reportedly said, "Failure is success if we learn from it." I suspect this is true of many aspects of our lives,



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

including how we deal with failure, tragedy and rejection. History - both past and present - is filled with examples of people who have proven Forbes' observation to be true in more than one sense. Consider just a few examples.

There were two American Presidents who were struck with tragedy as they prepared to take over their responsibilities as President of the United States. One of them was Andrew Jackson, who served from 1829 to 1837. The other was Franklin Pierce, who served from 1853 to 1857.

Andrew Jackson, our seventh president, faced the tragic loss of his wife Rachel, who died after he was elected but before he was inaugurated. Franklin Pierce, our four-

teenth president, faced the tragic loss of his only son Bennie, who was killed in a train wreck as Pierce and his family prepared to move to Washington to assume his new role.

Both of these leaders were wracked with sorrow as they faced their losses, but each responded differently to their sorrow. Jackson rallied and became a two term President whose policies reshaped America during the first half of the nineteenth century. Pierce, on the other hand, languished in his sorrow and consequently became one of the most ineffective presidents of American history. After leaving the White House, Pierce turned more and more to the bottle and died in obscurity as an alcoholic.

Of course, Jackson and Pierce are figures of history that none of us knew first hand, so it may be that a more contemporary example is helpful. Consider the case of Oprah Winfrey. Most of us know about Oprah Winfrey because of her popular talk show, her book club and other appearances, and the many articles or books that have been written about her.

Early on in her career, however, Oprah got a break with an invitation to do a talk

show on Baltimore station WJZ-TV with co-host Richard Sher. The talk show was called, "People Are Talking." By the end of the year, the program was a hit locally, so the director tried to persuade the executives in Los Angeles to give Oprah and "People Are Talking" a shot at the national stage. They rejected the offer with a response that went something like this: "She's pretty good. She'd certainly appeal in the major urban markets, but beyond that we just don't think she's got a future."

Each of these examples illustrates the truth that it isn't what happens to us but how we deal with what happens that shapes our lives. This truth applies to positive experiences as well as painful ones. Furthermore, we should be mindful of how we judge other people, for the people we value the most may dissolve in importance as time passes, while the people we value the least may only grow in importance. Ultimately, the strength of any person is on inside.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

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Published every Thursday
Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611
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AUCTION
Breakfast, Bake Sale, Hotdogs
Christian Freedom Baptist Church invites you to join us for an auction on Saturday, March 11th. Some items to be auctioned range from like new golf clubs and TV's to jewelry and antique collectibles. We will have a buffet breakfast beginning at 7am and the auction will begin at 10am. We will also be serving a hotdog lunch at 12pm along with a bake sale of some of our most requested desserts! The auction will conclude at 2pm. Come join us for a day of fun, eating, and shopping! If you have any questions, please contact us at 704-739-4152.

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