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Peek into the Past: Samuel Jefferson Hood served as Pastor from 1929-1940. He grew up in a home on Idlewild Road and attended Bain Academy. He had previously served several Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in South Carolina. Mr. Hood was received by the Mecklenburg Presbytery on October 22, 1929 and presented him with a call from Philadelphia Church promising a salary of \$2000 and a manse. The Thursday after Mr. Hood was received by the Presbytery became known as "Black Thursday". This was the day the stock market experienced its cataclysmic fall. By 1932 the stocks had only about 10% of their 1929 value. Cotton, the main money crop, had fallen from \$.80 to \$.06 a pound.

Against this background, the congregation struggled to meet its obligations. The crunch was so severe that the financial report showed the congregation was more than \$600 behind in the pastor's salary. Mr. Hood agreed to reduce that debt by one half and to accept a minimum salary of \$100 per month.

Although financial problems continued throughout Mr. Hood's pastorate, the work did go on. The 1930 Presbytery met at Philadelphia Church and had good dinners served in the grove each night. Mr. Hood gave particular emphasis to the work of the young people. He added a Sunday School class for boys to his preaching responsibility. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Interesting Fact: March 31, 1929: There were 418 Communicants (members), the pastor's annual salary was \$1,508, and \$446 went to benevolent causes. (Vol. VI, page 71 of Session Notes)

A Musical "Note": His (Mr. Hood) gift in music reached the young people as he taught them to play different stringed instruments. The Mint Hill String Band was organized and became popular in the church and community. Among those who played in this group were: John Dennis, H.B. Forbis, Jr., Charles Bruce Haigler, Victor Jordan, and Ed Jordan. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Important National Events: March 4, 1929: Herbert Hoover is inaugurated as the 31st president. October 29, 1929, the Stock market crash precipitates the Great Depression.