



Kerr Kronicles Volume XXX

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Peek into the Past: In 1940, a pulpit committee consisting of W.M. Junker, John McEwen, R.J. McEwen, L.B. Hough, Mrs. S.N. McEwen and Mrs. J.M. Black recommended calling Rev. Fred Ranson McAlister as pastor of Philadelphia Church. At that time he was serving the Watauga Ave. Presbyterian Church USA in Johnson City, Tennessee. He was a graduate of the Citadel SC Military College and Erskine Theological Seminary. Rev. McAlister served as pastor from 1941 to 1952.

A resolution was adopted by the Session and read at the morning worship on Feb. 9, 1941. *“We the elders and deacons consider the coming of our new pastor on next Sunday as a most important event in our church life and as the beginning of this new era in our church history, we hereby renew our ordination vows to study the peace, unity, edification, and purity of the church, and in order to promote the growth of these Christian graces in our midst, ... We realize that a most important part falls upon our new pastor in his leadership in the progress of our church work, but we realize also that the degree of his success is largely dependent on the loyalty, cooperation and support of the individual members of this church...”* (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Interesting Fact: July 6, 1934 – Clerk ordered to write the Principal of Bain School requesting that he stop School boys from smoking and gambling on Church grounds. (Vol. VI, page 145 of Session Notes)

A Musical “Note”: “The Mann Sisters”: Mamie Mann Davis was the organist for the church and later a choir member. After she retired as organist, she continued as substitute organist and was regularly called on when the active organist was not available. Minnie Belle Mann McEwen was a long time choir member as well as a leader in the women’s work. Mrs. McEwen was one of the proprietors of the McEwen -Thompson Dress Shop where the other sisters worked. When a choir was needed for a funeral, it was common practice to call the Dress Shop and tell the need – a choir and an organist would appear. A third sister, Jeanette Allen Mann Flowe was a dependable choir member and circle worker through all these years. During the Billy Graham Crusade, she and Mrs. Davis were present in the Crusade Choir without missing a single service. A fourth sister, Ruth Wilson, was also a long time choir member. Martha Mann Griffin, a sister also found her special service in the choir, and she reached out into many parts of the life of the church. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Important National Events: 1939 – President Roosevelt, appearing at the opening of the 1939 New York World's Fair, becomes the first President to give a speech that is broadcast on television. 1940: Franklin D. Roosevelt is reelected president to a record third term,.