

REVEREND D. G. REECE

July 10, 1920 - July 1924

Rev. Dearing Gilroy Reece was Richmond Hill's fourteenth pastor. He was born in Yadkin County near Boonville in the Shady Grove area on July 23, 1882. He was one of six children born into the family of James and Mary Lineberry Reece.

He spent his boyhood days on the family farm. His education consisted of what could be obtained at the community school, known as Reece's School. Growing up, the family were regular church attenders. His initial decision for Christ was made as a youth at Shady Grove Baptist where he remained an active member until entering the ministry.

At age 22 he married Lela Davis on October 13, 1904. At his wife's death in 1958 they had been married almost 54 years. They had eight children: three sons and five daughters, one daughter dying in infancy. He and his wife ran a boarding house in Boonville until the family moved to the Jonesville-Elkin area in 1921. They lived there for the remainder of their lives.

While living in Boonville, he was very active in the church life of Shady Grove Baptist. He served as church clerk for some 13 years, served as Sunday School Superintendent for about 10 years, and also did some lay speaking. As a layperson, he was also involved in the Association, serving on the Sunday School and Orphanage Committees. Though active as he was in the life of the church, he began hearing God's persuasive voice calling him into active pastoral work. Affirmatively responding to God's call, on November 12, 1920, at the age of 38, he was ordained by Shady Grove Baptist. One of his first pastorates was Richmond Hill. He actually began serving as pastor even before his ordination, beginning in July of 1920. He remained with the church four years.



He pastored churches in Wilkes, Yadkin, and Surry Counties. Some of the churches he pastored in this area, in addition to Richmond Hill were: Island Ford, North Oak Ridge, Shady Grove, Rockford, and Jonesville First. Active in the Association, he served on the Orphanage, Temperance, Sunday School, and Foreign Missions Committees.

He was a hard working man. He ran a general merchandising store in Jonesville for a while, later working at Chatham Manufacturing Company, but working hard all week never tired the spirit and soul he had for preaching. His weekends were filled with traveling and preaching.

He was a knowledgeable man, the result of being an avid reader. The Bible was the book he read the most. He was a man who loved the Scriptures. It was a book he thought should not be neglected for it contained God's plan of salvation and God's plan for daily living. In the 1922 Associational minutes he said, "I want to recommend a more careful, prayerful, systematic and daily study of the Bible, the Old Book of Truth, the message of God to the world." That's still good advice worth following.

Toward the end of his life, his health began to decline. A few years before his death he was in the Golden Age Nursing Center in Lexington, North Carolina. It was there he slipped into the presence of the Lord on October 2, 1972. He was 90. At the time of his death he was a member of Jonesville First. He is buried in the Boonville Baptist Cemetery.

He is remembered as a man who loved children and always had time for them, a hard worker, and a man who always strived to be an example for Christ in and out of the pulpit. We need more of his kind today.

(BF)

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1972

Rev. Reece, Father Of Lexington Bankers, Dies

Rev. D. G. Reece, 90, of Jonesville, died at 10:45 a.m. Monday in the Golden Age Nursing Home after an illness of two years.

He was born in Yadkin County July 23, 1882 to James J. and Mary E. Lineberry Reece. He had served as pastor of several churches in Wilkes and Yadkin Counties and at the time of his retirement he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Jonesville. His wife, Mrs. Lila Davis Reece, preceded him in death.

Surviving are three sons, Davis J. Reece of 218 Westover Drive, Dothan D. Reece of 307 Duke Drive, and Rev. Thomas L. Reece of Kannapolis; four daughters, Mrs. J. C. Brown,

Mrs. A. G. Biggs and Mrs. James Miller, all of Elkin, and Mrs. A. L. Boles of Jonesville; 15 grandchildren; and one sister, Mrs. Olva Moxley of Boonville.

A graveside service will be held at 12 o'clock noon Wednesday at the Boonville City Cemetery conducted by Rev. Ray Hamilton. A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church of Jonesville.

The family will see friends at Alexander-Stevenson Funeral Home in Elkin from 7 to 9 o'clock tonight.

The family requests that any memorials planned may be made to the building fund of First Baptist Church of Jonesville.

(1882-72)