



First Presbyterian Church

Bartow, Florida

1882 - 2007

125 Years Sharing Christ

June 2007

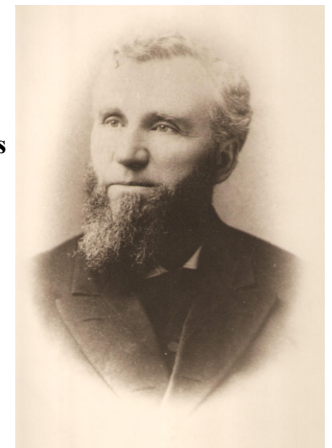
Issue #5

A Banner Issue

Psalm 60:4 says "For those who fear you, you have raised a banner to be unfurled against the bow." Banners were used as rallying points for troops in preparation for battle and for leading them into action. A banner was composed of color and symbols that held special meaning for those who were united under them. In this issue of our historical bulletin you will be introduced to the banner logo for our 125th year celebration. It is designed to be a sort of rallying point encouraging us as we continue to remember God's goodness to us in the past and as we face our promising future in the gospel ministry.

OUR HISTORY...

The Reverend Samuel Geary Hair, Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Bartow was the first full time minister called by the congregation. He was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania on November 9, 1828 the son of Rev. Samuel Hair Sr. and Eliza (Sample). He attended Mount Union College, Ohio no doubt with an eye to following in his father's footsteps by further attending Western Theological Seminary in Allegheny City (now Pittsburgh) Pennsylvania. In 1861 he was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Chicago, Illinois and moved to Franklin Grove, Il where he was a Stated Supply Pastor through 1864.



He moved to New Boston and taught school, while there he was ordained by the Rock River, Illinois Presbytery and continued to teach to 1871. He accepted the call to Pastor the First Presbyterian Church at Sigourney, Illinois from 1871-1879. He then moved to

Youngstown, Ohio accepting the call at the Belmont Avenue Presbyterian Church. He left Youngstown in 1884 to become the Pastor elect of the Third Presbyterian Church of Wheeling, West Virginia. During his time at Wheeling the church was continually under construction and he never became the full time pastor. He and his wife were faithful to the church at Wheeling and presented an organ to that church. Moving south to Florida in 1886 he accepted the call to pastor the First Presbyterian Church at Bartow. On March 1, 1886 he diligently began working. His home was located directly east of the church on Florida Avenue.



He guided the church through its infancy, reorganization, and construction of its first sanctuary, dedication, and establishment. His wife Kathleen was an accomplished pianist, singer, and music instructor. Together they served God, and touched the hearts of the people and community. Rev. Hair died while pastor of the church on June 10, 1889 and was buried in Bartow's Oak Hill cemetery. Kathleen remained in Bartow teaching music for sometime until moving to Ohio in the early 1900s.

LET EVERY THING THAT HATH BREATH...

“Let every thing that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.” Psalm 150:6

The evening of June 17, 1888 witnessed a memorable event in our church history. The entire service was dedicated to worshipping the Lord in songs and hymns! The program was simply called the “*Song Service*”, and consisted solely of congregational and choral singing. The corporate praise and worship was enhanced by a presentation of selected hymns after which Rev. Hair shared their origin, history, influences, and results.

DID YOU KNOW?

? The first service dedicated to our youth was held on June 10, 1888. The church observed “Children’s Day” with special programs and songs during the 7:30 evening service. The young people presented recitations, addresses, readings, and songs.

TAKE NOTE...

✍ June 24, 2007 Rev. James Hatch following morning services will lead the congregation in further celebration of 125 years of sharing Christ in our community by the unveiling and Dedication Service of a bronze tablet to the memory of Rev. William G. F. Wallace who organized the church in February 1882.



Let’s Study!

📖 Presbyterian Lectionary for June 18, 1882

Lesson XII Mark 9: 33-50 Commit to Memory vs. 35-41

Title: *“The Childlike Believer”*

Golden Text: *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (Isaiah 57:15)*

📖 Lessons Doctrinal and Practical:

- (1) Self seeking and pride are very offensive to God*
- (2) An humble man is as a little child*
- (3) Humility is one of the best evidences of piety*
- (4) Christ regards himself as treated just as his people are treated*
- (5) The dearest sins may be our greatest danger. They or the favor of God must be parted with. Which shall it be?*
- (6) “If Christ speaks of hell, then there is a hell. If he says it is eternal, then it is so.” — Barnes*

◆ HISTORICAL COMMITTEE ◆

Rev. Jim Hatch, Eric Ehrhart, Lloyd Harris, Chairman, Mariann Holland, Louise Lang

READ ALL ABOUT IT...

The National Guard was formally organized in 1903. Prior to that year local volunteer military units were embodied in the State Militia. Southern states after the Civil War were slow in rebuilding any local military associations. It wasn't until after a new state constitution was passed in 1885 that Florida began to reorganize its State Troops.

Bartow had supplied a company of infantry representative of the county in the Civil War and not until two decades had passed coupled with the new prosperity and resurgence of patriotism joined the martial commitment. In response to the State Adjutant General's call Bartowans and several other communities answered the call to form a Regiment of Florida State Troops. The local volunteers were mustered into the Florida Militia under the command of Captain W. L. Jewel. Following old military traditions nicknames in addition to regimental designations were accepted and the local men chose the name "*Bartow Rifles*".



First appearance of the Bartow Rifles in uniform 1888. Photo by Bartow's first photographer and member of First Presbyterian, G.P. Freeman

The unit was constituted on March 16, 1888. Their first public appearance in uniform was at the morning services of the First Presbyterian Church June 10, 1888. The following article appeared in the *Bartow Advance-Courier* issue on June 11, 1888.

The Bartow Rifles attended services at the Presbyterian Church last Sunday morning to listen to a special sermon by the Pastor, Rev. Dr. Hair. The text used was "A Good Soldier" and the discourse a good one, one which we are sure was appreciated by the soldier boys. Quite a large congregation was in attendance as it was known beforehand that the Rifles would be out in uniform on this occasion for their first public appearance.

By special invitation the Bartow Rifles were invited to attend in body the Sabbath morning services following July 4th. Their uniforms consisted of a blue coat, gray trousers with a blue stripe, and a blue cap styled after the French "kepi". Accoutrements and stripes were gold or yellow.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of BARTOW, FLORIDA ***125TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO***

The First Presbyterian Church of Bartow's 125th Anniversary logo is rich in meaning. It incorporates overall a Celtic cross, an open Bible, the 1887 Bell tower, and a gothic arch. The base consists of 3 graded steps leading to the cross. The flanks of the arch display the years 1882 and 2007. The anniversary slogan "125 Years Sharing Christ" appears below the base of the entire achievement.

Symbolism of Logo



The Cross is the most precious symbol of the Christian Faith and stands as an everlasting sign of the compassionate love and sacrifice of God which brings redemption to mankind through Christ Jesus. In particular the Celtic cross is appropriate to Presbyterian Churches recalling their strong Scottish heritage descendant from John Knox and the Reformation in Scotland. The cross with the circle is an ancient cross of western Scotland. The circle having no beginning or end symbolizes the eternity of God and our faith in everlasting life. The cross is central to the design and heralds the faith of the body of believers, the Grace of God, and Salvation.

The Holy Bible is depicted as the ancient “Book of Books”, reflective upon the scripture that relates “*Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart*” Ps 119:111. The Bible is unlocked and open inviting all to read and receive freely the witness of God to mankind. The depiction of an archaic book with clasps symbolizes the faith of our fathers passed to us through His Word.

The Bell Tower is a rendering of the original 1887 bell tower of our church. The church bell conveys an inner meaning, though not depicted yet represented by the tower, calling the worshipers to come and give the worship and adoration that are due God. The tower calls to mind the Name of God who is a strong tower (Proverbs 18:10) to whom we should come for refuge. The three arches in the belfry are reflective of the original towers design and symbolize the Holy Trinity.

The Gothic Arch chosen for the anniversary emblem echoes the arch of the renovated 1887 sanctuary built in 1932 of stone and the archway forming the front elevation of the new sanctuary dedicated in 2000. The Gothic arch on our church is called a “Quinto Acuto” arch or “pointed fifth” arch. The arcs forming the design are 4/5 of the span. The centers of the arc forming the span are inside the span of the arch giving a broader appearance. The arch was chosen as a representation of our presence in the community. Since arches join together the pillars and the walls of a church, they may serve as reminders of Jesus Christ and the sacraments by which God and man are joined together. The arch is also said to be symbolic of the beneficence of God and the hospitality of the Christian faith. The massive and rugged character suggests authority and dependability. The high and pointed nature of the Gothic arch further alludes to aspiration and sanctuary.

The Graded Steps three in number and supporting the cross are an age old symbol indicative of the Cross of Calvary. They symbolize the finished redemption, of Christ risen from the dead, and reigning from His throne in heaven. The steps further symbolize each in its order faith, hope, and love. The bottom step represents love and the foundation of our faith found in John 3:16 which expresses, “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son: that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life*”.

The Open Door is represented by the center portion of the arch being open or voided, and alludes to the present and former sanctuary being entered in like manner through an arch. The open church door itself may remind one of Jesus who said, “*I am the door*” (John 10:9). In addition the open entrance way is meant to convey a twofold message. The first is that of entering God’s presence through prayer and the second would articulate an open invitation for all to “come and worship, learn, and serve”. The open doorway is drafted with a hatchment of lateral lines which in heraldry represent the color blue. The depiction of blue even though only alluded to by the drawing represents the main decorative tincture of the present sanctuary both in carpeting, and upholstery. The further intent is that blue has a special meaning. In the fifteenth chapter of Numbers God told Moses that the children of Israel were to place a fringe on all their garments for all generations and upon the fringe a ribbon of blue. It was to be a token that when they looked at the blue ribbon it would be a reminder to them to keep all the commandments, be Holy unto the Lord, and to acknowledge that He was the God of Salvation.

The years **1882-2007** give record to the one hundred and twenty five years that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed through the ministry of the saints making this anniversary proclamation even more meaningful:

125 Years Sharing Christ

The 125th Celebration Seal was designed by Lloyd Harris.

Artwork and graphics by Alex Harris.

Seal approved by Rev. Hatch on January 24, 2007.