

Dedication of Memorial
To The
Rev. William Gordon Flagler Wallace

June 24, 2007

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IN MEMORY OF
REV. WILLIAM GORDON FLAGLER WALLACE
22 JANUARY 1852 - 23 JUNE 1901

PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER

ORGANIZED THIS CHURCH FEBRUARY 1882

*At rest among the pines near Wewahitchka, Florida
His grave unmarked and known but to God
He awaits the glorious resurrection*
* *

SERVICE

- ⌘ **THE PRAYER**
- ⌘ **REMARKS**
- ⌘ **THE PRESENTATION**

⁹For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

— I Corinthians 3:9-11

**First Presbyterian Church
Bartow, Florida**

Our First Minister

Rev. William Gordon Flagler Wallace, the founder of First Presbyterian church in Bartow, was born in Kingstree, South Carolina on January 22, 1852. His father was preaching at Kingstree when he was born but soon afterward removed to Bullock County, Alabama. Most of his childhood was spent in the bounds of Bethel Church where his father was the pastor. In the fall of 1869 he entered Davidson College as a candidate for the Gospel Ministry. In June 1873 he entered Columbia Seminary for two years where after he was licensed to preach by the East Alabama Presbytery. He continued his education at the Dutch Reformed Seminary at New Brunswick, NJ where he graduated in 1876. He immediately went to pastor the Broadway Presbyterian Church in Sedalia, MO for three years.



Photo & biographical information courtesy of Jean Gayle, collateral descendant of Rev. Wallace.

He came to Florida in 1880 and served as an evangelist of the Presbytery of St. Johns until 1885. During his evangelistic work in the middle part of the state he was away from home constantly and literally lived in a small covered wagon. He would often travel over 125 miles in a buggy to fill his appointments. There were no railroads and roads were in a primitive state. After establishing churches in the wilds of Florida and suffering from illness he returned to South Carolina, then to Virginian and back to South Carolina.

In 1895 he returned to Bloomingdale, Florida in Hillsborough County for three years and then moved to Sanford to pastor for another year. After Sanford he moved to Marianna Presbyterian for a year and then south into the wilderness area of Wewahitchka to take charge of a group of small Presbyterian churches. He was unable due to the illness contracted some years earlier in the wilds of central Florida to fully enter his new work. He was removed from his earthly labors on June 23, 1901 and as the *Christian Observer* reported, "His body sleeps among the pines, unmarked as yet, far away from friends and relations".

The *Christian Observer* further stated that, "Brother Wallace was a good man, unselfish and genial, full of kindly humor and gentleness. He was a diligent student of books, and his store of information remarkable, not only on Biblical subjects, but also on natural science. He did not seek churches that other men wanted but was content to labor in the difficult and undesirable fields, and in doing so he suffered great hardness as a good soldier. He was a pious and consecrated servant of God, and a faithful and scriptural expounder of the Word. He was absolutely without guile, his faith was of the sweetest type, He simply believed in God, he believed in Christ, and had no doubts and no shadow of fear. He just talked with God, and had no doubt that God heard him."

Rev Wallace was married to Susan Myers of Lexington, Virginia and together had six children.