

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A. D. P. GILMOUR, D. D., PASTOR
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

May 1, 1939.

Rev. J. S. Montgomery,
Leesburg, Va.

Dear Mr. Montgomery:-

Thank you very much for your kind invitation contained in your letter of April 27th to Nancy Lee and myself to be present at the Home Coming Service of your Church on May 7th, in commemoration of the 135th anniversary of the organization of the Church. We both appreciate this invitation very much indeed and would love to be with you if it were possible. However, that is the very day when we celebrate our May Communion, the largest Communion service in our Church during the year, for which we are making preparation by having early morning services during this week.

You will see, therefore, how impossible it is to be present with you in body, but we shall certainly be present with you in spirit.

I wish to take this occasion of sending you felicitations and greetings on such a memorable occasion. To be set down in the midst of that splendid old community and to have served Christ and His Church there for 135 years is an honor and a glory which any Christian Church might well covet. And how well you have served! To how many people you have preached the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ during this long time! How many little children have been baptized in the Christian faith there and how many have made a profession of their faith in their Lord and Saviour before that pulpit! How many have been instructed in the Christian faith in the Sunday School and how many have been built up in their most holy faith and calling by the preaching of the gospel! It is indeed a wonderful record of signal service. And I congratulate you.

As a citizen of the state from which came the Minister who organized your Church and as a grandson of one who preached there for five years ninety years ago, I am deeply interested in your present and future welfare as well as in your glorious past.

May the Heavenly Father guard and guide you into an even more glorious future.

May the Lord bless you and keep you;

May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you;

May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

With renewed thanks for your kind invitation, and every good wish for you and your wife and your people on this happy occasion, I remain,
Most cordially,

A. D. P. Gilmour