

A Good Man

A good man walks among us
with a kind and gentle smile
and in pastoral ministries
he goes the extra mile

Our church is full of people
as different as can be
from the basement to the steeple
there is much diversity

But this man reaches all of us
with words of love and grace
he makes this house of worship
a warm and friendly place

We thank the good Lord for him
and for the progress we have made
he has earned the title "Doctor"
but to us....he is Billy Wade

by Reed Blakeney



*A Time of Celebration and Recognition
Honoring
The Reverend Doctor William Barnett Wade, Jr.*

*First Presbyterian Church
Covington, Georgia*

Sunday, January 30, 2011

The December 1985 issue of the *Presbyterian Party Line* of First Presbyterian Church of Covington, Georgia, ran the following lead article:

WILLIAM B. (BILLY) WADE, JR., CALLED AS PASTOR

The Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 24, the congregation voted by an overwhelming majority to call as its pastor the Reverend William B. (Billy) Wade, Jr. of Charleston, South Carolina. Billy has served as the Associate Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church there since June of 1980. He and his wife, Theodosia, have three sons: Graham (age six), Campbell (age two), and Grady (age sixteen months.) The Wades are expected to be in Covington sometime in mid-January – as soon as housing and moving arrangements can be made. They have already made plans to join us for our second annual Congregational Retreat on January 17-18 at Calvin Center, and Billy's first sermon will be delivered on Sunday January 19. A picture of the Wade family can be found on the bulletin board in the Educational Wing of the church.

In a prior letter to the congregation Steve W. Jordan, Chair, Pastor Nominating Committee, referred to Billy's *strong Presbyterian heritage*, stating that generations of his family before him were Presbyterian, many having served as ordained ministers.

Billy grew up in Decatur and graduated from Presbyterian College in 1975, where he was named outstanding Senior, and from Columbia Theological Seminary in 1980, where he was recipient of the Columbia Fellowship, Fred J. and Mildred Hay, and Herk Wise Scholarships. He was ordained for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Charleston Presbytery, Charleston, South Carolina, on August 10, 1980.

He has served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Covington since 1986 and has been vitally active as a leader in the surrounding community. He served as co-founder and president of the Newton and Morgan Counties' Habitat for Humanity and founded and chaired the board of the Community Food Pantry of Newton County. He has served as board member of Newton County's Red Cross, Salvation Army, and United Fund and as member of the Advisory Board of the Care and Counseling Center of Newton and Rockdale Counties. For twenty-five years he has served on the Martin Luther King Day Committee, and in 1990 received Newton County's *MLK I Have a Dream Award*.

Billy has been active in the higher governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA), having served as Moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta 2003-2004 and as Chair of the Coordinating Council of Presbytery 2004-2005. He has served as Chair of the Board of Visitors and member of the President's Task Force of Presbyterian College and as member of the Alumni Board of Columbia Seminary. Billy is currently a representative to the Synod of South Atlantic on behalf of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, and has twice served as commissioner to the General Assembly.

Billy for six years coached baseball, football, basketball, and soccer through the Newton County Recreation Department, and is an avid fan of the sports in which his grandson Bryson is now involved. Billy is a regular golfer and member of the Covington Family YMCA.

The 1985 Pastor Nominating Committee stated to the congregation of First Presbyterian: *Billy has impressed us as being an excellent preacher as well as a very warm, good person and a thoroughly dedicated servant of God. We feel that we will receive innumerable blessings if he comes to work in our midst.*

And indeed we have and continue to have!
Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

PRELUDE *Toccata in D Minor* J S. Bach
Allegro from Concerto Grosso in C Minor G. F. Handel
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee David Cherwien

WELCOME
Louly F. Hay Parish Associate, First Presbyterian Church, Covington

PRAYER
Lane Alderman Pastor, Roswell Presbyterian Church

SHARING OF MEMORIES
E. L. (Pat) Patrick Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Covington
Randy Calvo Director of Alumni/ae and Church Relations,
Columbia Theological Seminary
Steve Jordan Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Monticello, GA
Tiffany Mattice Kinnaird Grace Covenant Presbyterian, Asheville, NC
Chris Mattice Moss Roswell United Methodist Church
Emily Prince First Presbyterian Church, Covington
Hezekiah Benton Pastor, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Covington
David Bradley Pastoral Counselor, Asheville, NC

PRESENTATION
Louise White First Presbyterian Church, Covington
Jon Williams First Presbyterian Church, Covington

BLESSING
Carl Jones Pastor, Bethabara Baptist Church, Covington

HYMN 371 *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

POSTLUDE *Toccata from Symphony No. 5* Charles-Marie Widor