The Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE:
Choral: O Hail This Brightest Day of Days..........J. S. Bach
Cantabile in B Major..................................Cesar Franck
Benedictus ................................................Max Reger

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 121..........................Scottish Psalter, 1615

INVOCATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER
The Rev. John Jackson Brown, Jr., Presiding
Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster
Moderator of Bethel Presbytery

HYMN NO. 342:
God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand........National Hymn

RESPONSIVE READING: Selection No. 34, Psalms 146 and 150, Page 31
The Rev. Henry Dockery Brown, Jr., D. D.
Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill

ANTHEM: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Traditional Southern Hymn-Tune, arranged by Virgil Thomson

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 55 and Ephesians 1
The Rev. James Wyly Jackson, D. D.
Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia

ANTHEM: The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune
Daye's Psalter, 1560-1, arranged by R. Vaughan-Williams

PRAYER
The Rev. W. Hammond Bowman
Minister, Clover Presbyterian Church, Clover

OFFERTORY: Offertory Anthem:
How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling-Place from "Requiem"
Johannes Brahms

Prayer

HYMN NO. 19: Our God, Our Help In Ages Past....................St. Anne

INTRODUCTION OF THE MODERATOR OF THE SYNOD
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
The Rev. John Jackson Brown, Jr.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Francis B. Mayes
Minister, Park Circle Presbyterian Church, Charleston
Moderator of the Synod of South Carolina
Order of Service (continued)

SERMON
The Rev. Wade Hamilton Boggs, Sr., D. D., LL. D.
Moderator of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church in the United States

PRAYER
The Reverend Dr. Boggs

HYMN NO. 88: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross............Hamburg

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
The Rev. John Jackson Brown, Jr.

The Honorable James P. Richards, M. C.
Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Major General James C. Dozier
Adjutant General of the State of South Carolina

Mr. Sam L. Latimer, Jr.
Editor and Publisher of The State

(Other special guests whose names do not appear on the printed program will be introduced at this point in the service.)

HISTORICAL ADDRESS: Great Presbyterians of South Carolina and Their Contributions to Their Native State and to the United States: The Presbyterian Heritage in South Carolina.

The Rev. Francis Whitlock Gregg, D. D.
Former Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill
Former Judge, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Rock Hill
Senior Minister of Bethel Presbytery

PRAYER
The Reverend Dr. Gregg

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BENEDICTION
The Rev. E. C. Clyde
Minister, Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, Lancaster County

CHORAL RESPONSE: The Sevenfold Amen................Sir John Stainer
POSTLUDE: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God................Ein' Feste Burg
Through Two Centuries

Waxhaw Presbyterian Church is the oldest church in the Piedmont section of South Carolina. Concerning this church, Dr. James Henley Thomwell, who was pastor from 1835 until 1838, wrote:

"About eight miles from Lancaster is the historic Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, the mother of us all, whose history can be traced back to the time whereof the memory of man runneth not to contrary and whose origin is lost in antiquity. While of course not the first organized church in the state, yet it is the cradle of Presbyterianism in the Piedmont Belt and indirectly that of Georgia and Texas. . . . Embracing about six miles of territory, in the first sixty years of its history, it had given a President of the United States (Andrew Jackson), a Foreign Ambassador (William Richardson Davie), a Governor and United States Senator (Stephen D. Miller), and a Congressman (James Blair) . . . . It was here in her (church's) schoolhouse the classics were first taught in South Carolina. It was here in one of her camp meetings that the singing of hymns was introduced in public worship. . . . It was in this historic church on April 12, 1785, that the Presbytery of South Carolina held its first meeting . . . . "

One hundred years later on the 12th of April, 1885, according to the Minutes of the Session, Bethel Presbytery, then in session at Lancasterville, made a pilgrimage to Waxhaw Church to celebrate the centennial of the organization of the Presbytery of South Carolina. Rev. J. H. Thomwell, Jr., a son of the noted divine, preached the historical sermon on that occasion.

"The Waxhaws" takes it name from a tribe of Indians that once inhabited this section. The land vacated by the Waxhaw Indians, after war and disease had reduced their number, was advertised abroad as "The Garden of the Waxhaws." Attracted by this name and the promise of cheap land and greater freedom, settlers from Virginia and Pennsylvania began moving into this region by 1751. They were soon joined by other immigrants who came through the port of Charles Town, South Carolina.

The first sermon in the Waxhaws of which there is any record (Howe's HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA) was delivered by John Brown, a young probationer from Pennsylvania in February, 1753. Between 1753 and 1755, both the Charles Town Presbytery and the northern presbyteries sent ministers through the settlement to preach.

This predominantly Scotch-Irish community had erected a meeting house by 1755, for Hugh McAden, a missionary evangelist, in his JOURNAL, which has been largely preserved in Foote's SKETCHES OF NORTH CAROLINA, states: "... crossed the Catawba River and came to Henry White's . . . . was able to preach on Sabbath, the 23d (November, 1755), at the 'meeting house' (five miles off; and went home with Justice Pickens (Andrew Pickens, father of General Andrew Pickens), . . . ."

In November, 1755, at the request of the people of the Waxhaws, Robert Miller, a man "well advanced in years" who had followed the profession of a school teacher, placed himself under the care of Charles Town Presbytery and on February 7, 1756, was appointed to go as soon as possible to the Waxhaw Settlement. When he and his wife, Jean Pickens, left the Waxhaws, they deeded the 4½ acres on which was located "an house Built for Divine Service Including a Spring" to Robert Daviess, Robert Ramsay, John Linn, Samuel Dunlap, and Henry White, planters, as trustees for the use of the Presbyterian Congregation of the Waxhaws as long as it followed "the Principles of ye Church of Scotland as by Law Established." This deed, dated March 9, 1758, was witnessed by Robert McLanahan, John Crockett and Andrew Pickens.
Around this meeting house the community grew in numbers and significance. The Reverend William Richardson, an Englishman with a master’s degree from the University of Glasgow, became their pastor in 1759, after an unsuccessful mission among the Cherokee Indians. His widely extended ministry, lasting until his death in 1771, did much to make the Waxhaws the Presbyterian center of the South Carolina back country.

The first meeting house stood on the east side of the graveyard. It was burned by the British when they overran this section near the close of the Revolutionary War. The next building, although it is recorded as being “a commodious place of worship,” could not accommodate the thousands that attended the Great Camp Meeting of 1802, and an encampment was laid out on a hillside. The substitution of Dr. Watts’ Psalmody for that of Rouse’s version during this “Great Revival” caused a split in the Congregation that resulted in the establishment of other churches.

The third church was built on a 4½ acre tract, purchased from Robert Thompson and Jane, his wife, on December 23, 1808, by Robert Montgomery, Alexander Carns, Charles Miller, Robert Davis, Robert Cousar, Doctor Samuel C. Dunlap, Robert Dunlap, William Dunlap, and William Carns, as trustees for the Waxhaw Congregation. This land adjoined the original church property. Almost from the beginning of the settlement, there had been a school in operation in the Waxhaws. Robert Mills, in his STATISTICS, published in 1826, said: “... at one period this part of the state could boast of having the best institution for learning in the upper country; nay, the only one above Charleston. It was conducted with ability and was highly respectable. In this institution many gentlemen, who afterwards distinguished themselves, were educated...”

Besides those who acquired fame in the political, military and medical professions, there are a number of ministers who were either born or received their early training in the bounds of this congregation; among these were Rev. Robert Finley, Dr. Samuel Finley, Rev. Robert B. Walker, Rev. James W. Stephenson, John Brown, D. D., Rev. David E. Dunlap, Rev. John B. Davies, Rev. John Cousar, Rev. James McElhenney, Dr. John McElhenney, Rev. W. G. Roseborough, Rev. Robert W. Dunlap, Rev. Andrew Jackson Witherspoon, and Rev. James E. Dunlap.

Old Waxhaw is the mother of five churches in this section, which is the principal reason her membership has not been larger.

This church has passed through some trying times but has survived them. She has had many pastors during her two hundred years and all have served well. For quite a number it was their first pastorate. Waxhaw has been grouped with other nearby churches at different times, having the same pastor. She and Tirzah have thus been united for almost seventy-five years. Rev. E. C. Clyde is the present pastor.

Old Waxhaw was made the official name of the church recently by action of Bethel Presbytery, out of deference to her age and to distinguish this church from the one in Wrochaws, North Carolina.

Today a visitor to the remodeled church might not realize the age and history connected with this old settlement, but a walk through the burying ground will carry one into the past and give the visitor a feeling of reverence and respect for those God-fearing pioneers who wrought in this red clay a community that still worships at the shrine of its forefathers.

It is also to be remembered that, from the Waxhaws and the surrounding country, have come the men who were the greatest sons of their native State and Southland.

The hand of blessing from Almighty God has assuredly been upon this hallowed spot.

-(Written and prepared by Miss Nancy Crockett.)