

IN MEMORIAL

JOSEPH BINGHAM MACK
1838-1912

Pastor
Winder Presbyterian Church
1896

Joseph Bingham Mack was born on Christmas Eve, 1838, in New York City, the eldest son of the Reverend William Mack and Elizabeth Scoville Bingham Mack. The Mack family moved to Tennessee where the father became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia and also president of Jackson College. Young Joseph was graduated from Jackson College at the very young age of fifteen and a half years and was apprenticed to a carriage builder. Soon he became associated with the Dutch portrait painter Van Stavern, who was introducing the new process of photographing called daguerreotype. Several of their photographs, delicately hand tinted, are still in existence. They traveled from town to town and it was on one of these trips, while attending a revival service that young Joseph made his decision to become a minister. He was graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in May 1861, and shortly afterwards was called to the Salem Church in Sumter County. He was ordained there on January 9, 1862, the first minister to be ordained in the Southern Presbyterian Church after separation from the northern branch. Here he remained until 1867, except for time spent serving in the Confederate Army as Chaplain of the 53rd Tennessee Regiment:

On account of serious illness induced by exposure and hardships Mr. Mack was furloughed from the army in the last months of the war and returned to his home in Sumter County. Soon, however, Sherman began his famous march through South Carolina and the young preacher joined Wheeler's Cavalry in order to protect his people. He had several narrow escapes during this part of his war service.

After the war Mr. Mack preached for two years in Charleston and became evangelist of Charleston Presbytery in 1870, being associated with Dr. John L. Girardeau in mission work among the Negroes, and frequently he crossed over to the islands in a rowboat to preach to them. He left this work in February, 1871 to become pastor of the Rocky River Presbyterian Church in Cabarrus County, North Carolina.

An interesting account of Mr. Meek's pastorate is given in the History of Rocky River by Dr. T. H. Spence, Jr. At the same time Mr. Mack's father-in-law, Mr. William Banks, was preaching at Providence. Mr. Mack left Rocky River in 1875 and supplied Unity and Waxhaw churches in Bethel Presbytery, South Carolina, and the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia. He became financial agent for Columbia

Theological Seminary, then closed for lack of funds; later, agent for Davidson College and at the same time he served several pastorates. He collected over \$100, 000.00 for these colleges, on which they were able to operate for many years. Considering the destitute condition of the South at that time, this was a herculean task. He was on the Board of Trustees of Davidson College and sent his five sons there, two of whom were graduated with honors. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Jackson College Columbia, Tennessee, in 1878.

After serving about twelve years as evangelist, some of this time being spent in the Synods of Florida, Georgia and Alabama. Dr. Meek returned to his home in Fort Mill in 1903 and attempted to retire but he was immediately drafted as minister for Providence and Banks Churches. Although he was by this time in his late sixties, he was indefatigable in his labors and made a profound impression on the Providence congregation.

In February; 1906, Dr. Mack requested the pastoral relations with the two churches be dissolved in order that he might return to Georgia. He remained there at the College Park Church, which he had organized and called the "son of his old age," until 1910 when ailing health forced him to return to Fort Mill. Dr. Mack died in Fort Mill on May 24, 1912.

It is unusual that Dr. Mack and his father-in-law, the Reverend William Banks, both served Providence Church, though their terms were many years apart. Likewise they both served in the Confederate Army, one well past middle age and the other a young man.