

CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMS

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN

ON THE PARKWAY AT 22ND AND P STREETS N. W.

ANDREW REID BIRD, D.D., MINISTER

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 4th 1939

Dear Fellow Christians of the  
Leesburg Presbyterian Church:-

In behalf of your brethren of Potomac Presbytery and from my own heart, I rejoice with you on this glad day upon which you meet to celebrate the one hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the Presbyterian Church at Leesburg. I recognize that even this full mead of years does not do full justice to the length of time in which Presbyterians in this section of Virginia have served God and man, and that for nearly half a century before the organization of the "Presbyterian Society" of Leesburg, by Rev. Dr. James Hall, Moderator of the General Assembly, on the first Sabbath of May 1804, some of the families which later composed that organization, had been active in Christian service in this vicinity.

So it is not surprising, dear friends, that deepest feelings of gratitude to God well up in your hearts today, as you contemplate the wide perspective of your history, covering as it does more than a century and a half, including the five wars in which our country has been engaged, those of the American Revolution, the Mexican War, the War between the States, the Spanish War and the World War. During all these times of strain, your congregation has witnessed to the Almighty and All loving God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But what seems to me an even greater service, during the many years of peace, your Church has held aloft the standards of Christian living and combated the spiritual relaxation and deterioration that ever threatens people who feel themselves secure. No one can measure the value to this community and to the Nation of the quiet constant ministries of such a Church in maintaining high standards of moral character, of family life, of business integrity, and in giving comfort in the days of physical weakness, of suffering and sorrow that come to us all, and in keeping the beacons of the life eternal burning brightly for generation after generation of pilgrim souls.

With what a peculiar courage such a Church as this must face the future! "He Who has begun a good work in you, will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ". He Who has sustained the Fathers in hours of crisis and amid the frailties of common days through these many years, will also make their sons conquerors and more than conquerors over difficult days as they arrive, and over the petty problems of passing life. "If God be for us who can be against us?" "He that spared not His Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things".

We of the Presbytery truly rejoice with you. We thank you from our hearts for the inspiration of your long brave patient faithful history, and we thank you as well for the hopefulness and devotion with which, this day, you with us rededicate yourself to the glad service of our glorious Lord, never perhaps in all your history more needed than at this very hour

Faithfully your fellow-servant,

*Andrew R. Bird*