

Trinity celebrating
United Heritage,
Methodist Faith,
Church Promise
175 YEARS
1832 – 2007



1876 through 1920

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, April 1 — Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 5 — Maundy Thursday
Sunday, April 8 — Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 22 — Celebration of 175th Anniversary
Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr., preaching

The Mother Church

With the completion of the new church in 1881, the old church building was moved to a spot not far from the present church school building and a school was begun under the name of the Methodist Female Seminary. Mrs. Julia R Williams managed the school. Trustees were all members of Trinity Church.

It was also in 1881 that a young Chinese man named Charles Jones Soong was brought to Durham and introduced to Julian S. Carr and his wife. Soong had landed in Wilmington in 1880, joined the Fifth Street Methodist Church, and began an English education under the tutelage of that church's pastor. Mr. and Mrs. Carr took Charlie into their home "not as a servant, but as a son." Charlie first entered Trinity College, then transferred to Vanderbilt University to prepare for religious work in his native land. Upon his return to China, he became a man of considerable means, his daughters and sons came to America for higher education, the family came to be one of the first in China.

The congregation had scarcely adjusted itself to new surroundings in the new sanctuary until it began to sense the need and feel the inspiration of the outward reach. With the rapid growth of Durham and under the leadership of Pastor T. A. Boone, the congregation opened discussions which led the 1885 conference to appoint a building committee for the "West End Church." Thus was born the first of the daughters of Trinity Church, Mother of Methodism in Durham. Main Street Church became Duke Memorial Church in 1924.

The same conference appointed a similar committee for "East End Church," which became Carr's Methodist Church (later, Carr Methodist Church).

In a quarter of a century, Trinity's congregation had grown from 30 to over 430 members. Church attendance and activities as well as the excellent Sunday School growth encouraged the congregation to embark on a renovation program, completed in 1893. Dr. Childs' description follows:

It was built of brick with granite trimmings; the interior was both artistic and inspiring in design and finish as well as useful and convenient in arrangement. Handsome pews were placed in the sanctuary and in the new Sunday School annex, while a large pipe organ was installed

continued

in the choir loft at the rear of the pulpit. A number of murals and other decorations were placed on the walls and several large stained-glass windows were built as memorials to the departed loved ones of members of the congregation.

Soon after the turn of the Century, the women of the church reorganized for the cause of home and foreign missions. A Home Mission Society was formed in 1903 with 25 charter members. In 1910, the Home Mission Society joined with the Foreign Missions Society in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church. (The two organizations merged throughout the Methodist Church in 1940.)

From 1915 to 1920, Trinity Church supported missionaries and native workers in China, Japan, Korea, Brazil, and Mexico, investing over \$40,000.00. During the same period, the Nannie Graham Carr Foundation established by General Julian S. Carr, contributed over \$16,000.00 to support workers and helpers in China. General Carr also memorialized his dear wife by donating to Trinity a sculptured interpretation of Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper. It was installed inside the west wall of Trinity Church in February, 1920. Inscribed on the memorial were the words: "In loving memory of Nannie Graham Parrish Carr by her husband, General Julian S. Carr.—In Remembrance of Me—A Devoted Wife, An Ideal Mother, A Friend of the Needy, A Faithful Christian."

Significant People and Events

1876 — James H. Southgate moved from Hillsboro to Durham to enter the insurance business. His oldest son and namesake became one of the state's outstanding citizens. A lifelong, faithful member of Trinity Church, he served as member or chairman of the Board of Trustees at various times, as well as an officer and teacher in the Sunday School. For twenty years he was chairman of the Board of Trustees of Trinity College, and after his death one of the women's dormitories was named in his honor.

1877 — Rutherford B. Hayes is inaugurated as the 19th president. The first telephone line is built from Boston to Somerville, Mass.; the following year, President Hayes has the first telephone installed in the White House.

1880 — Cornerstone laid for Trinity Church's new sanctuary to replace the little wooden meeting house.

1881 — The North Carolina Senate passed a bill establishing Durham County with Durham as the county seat.

1884 — Dr. Albert Carr proposed the construction of a hospital to serve the Durham community.

1887 — A city water system under private operation was described as "...second to none, if not superior to any system in the state." Superintendent of Durham Water Works was J. C. Michie.

1890 — At a mass meeting held in Trinity Church, leading citizens including Washington Duke, Benjamin N. Duke, and Julian S. Carr, began to lay plans to bring Trinity College to Durham. The Cornerstone of Trinity College was laid on November 11.

1892 — The formal opening of Trinity College occurred on October 12 in the old Epworth Inn. Washington Duke presented the Main Building and Inn to the trustees and General Carr presented the land known as Blackwell's Park.

1895 — With \$30,000 and a gift from George Watts of \$20,000, Durham's first 22 bed, wooden hospital was constructed (Boyd, 1925) – a humble beginning for a town that would eventually bear the title of "City of Medicine."

1897 — The first bill to give women the right to vote in North Carolina is proposed, but is sent to a committee on insane asylums and is never passed.

1898 — Dr. Aaron Moore, John Merrick and other black leaders met to discuss the institution of North Carolina Mutual and Provident Association – the first black-owned insurance company in Durham.

1901 — Washington Duke, his sons, and Dr. Moore established Lincoln Hospital with the influential black citizen John Merrick as president. The leaders of Durham passed a bill to improve the city's condition by creating paved roads, sidewalks, and sewer facilities.

1901 — Governor Charles B. Aycock introduced a far-reaching program of education throughout the state.

1903 — The Wright brothers made the first successful powered flight by man at Kill Devil Hill near Kitty Hawk.

1910 — North Carolina College for Negroes, later North Carolina Central University, was established on Fayetteville Street. Parrish Street downtown was the home of the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company and the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, earning it the name The Black Wall Street.

1915 — First long distance telephone service, between New York and San Francisco, is demonstrated.

1917 — The United States enters World War I. First regular airmail service begins, with one round trip a day between Washington, DC, and New York.

1918 — Fort Bragg is established. Worldwide influenza epidemic strikes; by 1920, nearly 20 million are dead. In U.S., 500,000 perish.

1920 — The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution passes, giving women the right to vote across the country, including in North Carolina.

Historical information was drawn from Benjamin Guy Childs, *Centennial History of Trinity Methodist Church*, (1961) , Jean Bradley Anderson, *Durham County* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1990) , and *Hand-Book of Durham*, The Educator Co., 1895.