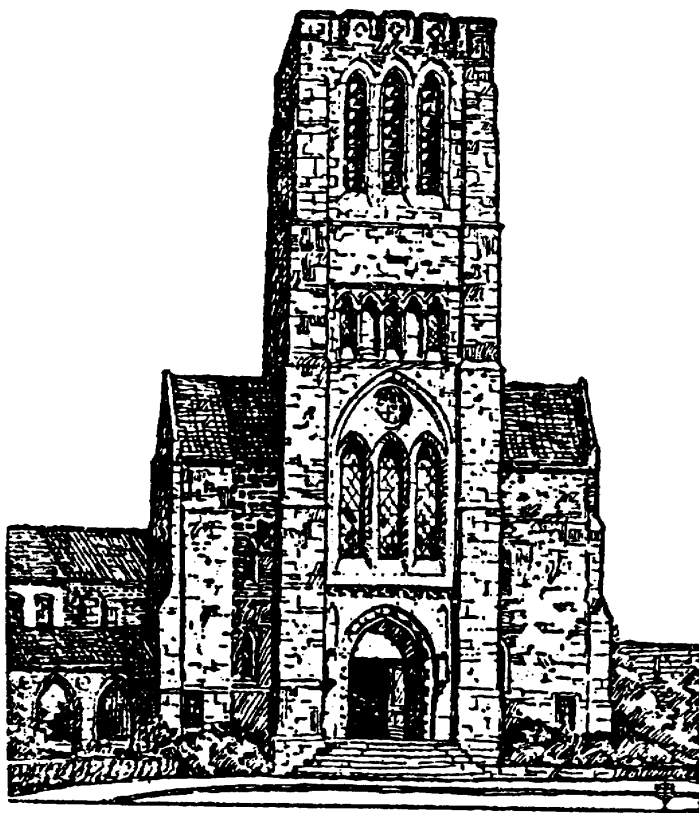


Trinity *celebrating*
United *Heritage,*
Methodist *Faith,*
Church *Promise*
175 YEARS
1832 - 2007



1921 through 1965

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, July 4 — Independence Day
Sunday, August 12 — Gray Southern preaching
Monday, September 3 — Labor Day

The New Trinity

A church inventory taken early in the 1920s listed Trinity's membership at 1,031. The Sunday School had a staff of 35 officers and teachers. Trinity and the surrounding community were thriving. Then, early Sunday morning, January 23, 1923, fire that probably started in the Sunday School annex destroyed the church building. Members arriving for services were joined by friends and other onlookers to watch the devastating loss.

With the pastor, Dr. A. D. Wilcox, the congregation quickly began to plan to erect a new church building on the site. A building committee was appointed and began the campaign to raise funds. In the meantime, regular services were held in a nearby theatre and Sunday School was conducted at Fuller Elementary School.

On October 2, 1924, Rev. W. W. Peele (later to become Bishop Peele) presided over the laying of the cornerstone of the new building designed by Ralph Adams Cram of the Boston firm, Cram and Ferguson. The cornerstone contains the Program of the event, the Bible, the Methodist Hymnal, the Book of Discipline, the NC Christian Advocate, copies of the Durham Morning Herald and the Durham Sun, History of Methodism in Durham, photograph of Gen. Julian S. Carr, minutes of Board of Stewards, minutes of Trustees, and photographs of the building under construction.

The opening service took place on September 20, 1925. One of the ushers was Paul Neff Garber, who was a young professor of history at Duke University and later became Bishop of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church.

Financing the new church was made extremely difficult by the financial panic of the late 1920s and early 1930s. Dr. E. L. Hillman began his ministry at Trinity in 1934. In 1936 the church held a Diamond Jubilee Celebration commemorating 75 years of service. From Sunday, May 3 to Sunday, May 10, there were special services with the themes "Our Heritage From the Past," "An Old Faith in the New World," and "Trinity Faces the Future."

In 1941, the church entered a campaign to retire the debt that lasted twenty months under the leadership of Rev. James G. Huggin and the lay leadership of William B. Umstead (who later became Governor of North Carolina). With the entire debt repaid, the church held a service of dedication on May 21, 1944. The program of that service was sent to the church members who could not attend because they were serving in the military, many of them overseas. Letters from two members received in response are enclosed. Over 100 of Trinity's members were in service.

During the 1930s and 1940s, Trinity participated in a worldwide movement known as the Crusade for Christ. During that period the members of Trinity provided the entire support of a pastor in one of the churches of Poland.

Dr. Childs, in his *Centennial History of Trinity Methodist Church* published in 1961, writes: "As a downtown church Trinity shares with several other churches the problem and challenge of survival. Such a situation is not singular to Durham. Only a little while ago one of the best known Methodist ministers in America wrote an article for a popular magazine under the caption, 'Can City Churches Survive?'" In his final paragraphs, Dr. Childs suggests that the answer lies in "...meeting the challenge with a challenge.... That [Trinity Church] should make the outward reach."

Significant People and Events

- 1923** — Dedication ceremony for the Unity Monument at Bennett Place. The state took over the Training School established in 1910 by Dr. James Shepard and renamed it first Durham State Normal School and then North Carolina College for Negroes, the first state-supported, liberal arts college for African Americans in the country.
- 1924** — Death of Julian Shakespeare Carr. James B. Duke establishes an endowment of \$40 million, with 32 percent of the proceeds going to Trinity College on the small condition that it assume the name of "Duke" in honor of Washington Duke.
- 1924-25** — The Academy of Music on Chapel Hill St. was torn down and replaced by the 16-story Washington Duke Hotel. The Durham High School on Morris Street became the first City Hall and Durham Auditorium became known as the Carolina Theatre.
- 1927** — Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
- 1926** — A new baseball field, El Toro Park, was built just down the street from City Hall and a Greek revival library was built on Main Street.
- 1928** — Doris Duke laid a ceremonial cornerstone for the first building on the new West Campus of Duke University. In 1930, the hospital and medical school building opened and the cornerstone for the Chapel was laid.
- 1932** — Amelia Earhardt first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.
- 1934** — A general strike closed the mills of Durham for several weeks in September, idling 7,000 workers.
- 1935** — C. C. Spaulding convened a meeting that led to the formation of the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs, later named the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. The social security system was formed covering only the indigent aged, dependent children, and the blind. In 1940 it was extended as the compulsory pension system.
- 1941** — The Durham-Raleigh Aeronautics Authority bought land in Cedar Fork Township of Wake County. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and war was declared, the airport land was leased to the U.S. government.

- 1941** — A powerful Duke football team, coached by Wallace Wade, was invited to the Rose Bowl in 1938 and 1941. After California authorities called off all large public gatherings in 1941, Duke and Durham offered to host the game and a Rose Bowl parade on Main Street.
- 1942** — Camp Butner, a military training camp covering 30,000 acres at the junction of Person, Granville, and Durham counties, opened.
- 1943** — The first airline authorized to use the airport was Eastern Airlines.
- 1944** — On June 6, D-day, Allied forces launched the invasion of France.
- 1945** — On May 8, V-E day, the war ended in Europe. On August 6, an atomic bomb was exploded over Hiroshima and on August 9, over Nagasaki. On August 15, V-J day, the Japanese surrendered. First computer built.
- 1947** — Children's science museum opened at Northgate Park. Dead Sea Scrolls discovered.
- 1948** — Berlin airlift. State of Israel founded.
- 1950** — Korean War begins.
- 1951** — The first women were elected to Durham's City Council: Kathrine Everett and Mary Duke Biddle Trent (now Mary D. B. T. Semans).
- 1953** — Several cultural groups came together as Allied Arts (later the Durham Arts Council). R. N. Harris was the first African American elected to the Durham City Council.
- 1954** — The Supreme Court rendered the decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. Hurricane Hazel, one of the most destructive hurricanes in state history, batters the Carolina coast.
- 1955** — Governor Luther Hodges established the Research Triangle Development Committee, which led first to the incorporation of the Research Triangle Institute in 1958, and later that year to the incorporation of the Research Triangle Foundation.
- 1957** — The Durham Bulls' first three African American players took the field at Durham Athletic Park. Soviet satellite *Sputnik* launches Space Age. NASA founded in 1958.
- 1959** — Durham's white schools accepted their first few black students. Research Triangle Park opens ushering in an era of high-tech growth in North Carolina.
- 1961** — Duke University admitted four African American graduate students. President John F. Kennedy formed the Peace Corps. Berlin Wall built.
- 1962** — Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1963** — JFK Assassinated. Martin Luther King Jr. Makes His "I Have a Dream" Speech. African American undergraduates entered Duke University. Governor Terry Sanford established the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women and appointed a Duke history professor, Anne Firor Scott, to head it.
- 1964** — Civil Rights Act passes in U.S. An affiliate of Goodwill Industries of America was chartered in Durham and began its work in 1966 as Goodwill Industries, Inc.
- 1965** — U.S. sends troops to Vietnam.

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 Jim Wise, *Durham, A Bull City Story*, (Arcadia Publishing, 2002)

LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS IN SERVICE

Starting today we are going to print letters received from our members in service. These letters are in response to the letter we wrote announcing the Dedication of our Church and also the special morning worship service honoring our members in the armed forces.

"The greetings and church message sent through you on May 10, 1944 are very much appreciated and help a great deal.

Although it is a day late, I will celebrate with you in spirit since it is not possible for me to be there in person at this time.

All of the comforts of the past are now discarded, and we are surviving in tents at the present time in a cold damp climate. We have had plenty of excitement recently. I wish that it were possible to describe it to you.

Thank you again for your letter. Kindest regards and best wishes to all."

(England
May 22, 1944)

Lt. Col. W. B. McCutcheon, 0464311
304 Station Hospital
A.P.O. 163
c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS IN SERVICE

"Thanks for your nice letter a few days ago. It helps more than one can realize to know that our friends' thoughts and prayers are with us.

I am very happy to know that our church debt has been paid in full and that the dedication service was last Sunday. I am proud that I was able to participate in such a great cause. Even though I have not been able to be there, very few Sundays have passed since I have been in the E.T.O. that I have been unable to attend some church on Sunday morning.

My work has made it possible for me to travel thousands of miles on the Island, and my experiences have been very interesting at times. There are many people whom I am sure that I could help in many ways if I could only talk with them. I have had the opportunity to visit many historic places, including schools as Corpus Christi, the one that Duke was designed from; abbeys, as Westminster and the ruins of the Glastonburg Abbey; Cathedrals, as Wells, and St. Paul's; homes of George Washington's father, as well as the home and birthplace of Shakespeare and his family. Stratford-on-Avon is a very beautiful place.

The greatest thrill of all was my visit to John Wesley's home and the Wesley Memorial. It is the most beautiful church that I have ever been in. While there you feel as if you are walking on Holy Ground. At one time when flames of fire from a nearby building had reached within a few feet of the church, a change of wind saved the memorial from destruction. I wish that all of you could have enjoyed this experience with me."

(England,
May 26, 1944)

Sgt. Wayne G. Starnes, 34674039
605th Q.M. Gr. Regis. Co.
A.P.O. 649, c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.