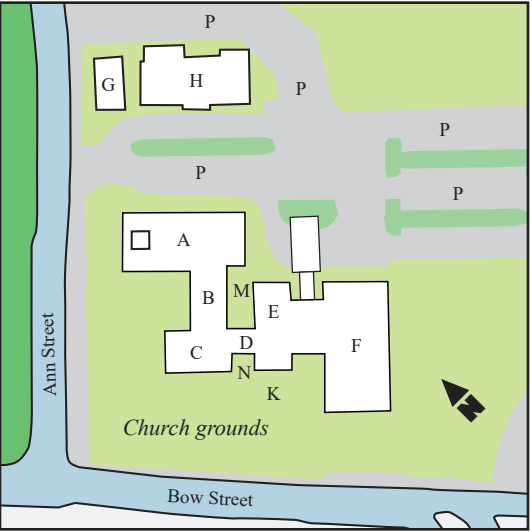


- 1985– Manse on Hillside Avenue sold.
- 1986– Ray Memorial Carillon computerized and bells are added. There were additional improvements in 2003.
- 1988– Early worship service began during the summer months, later expanded to year-round in 1995. Organ embellished and ranks added to total forty. Soffe chimes are moved to the Sanctuary.
- 1990– The 190th-year celebration.
- 1992– Annual Mission Conference to support worldwide needs initiated.
- 1994– Sanctuary concert grand piano, given by the congregation, dedicated in September.
- 1995– Chapel organ given in memory of Brenda McFadyen.
- 1997– Chapel piano given in memory of Alton and Anne McInnis Edmondson. Fayetteville Main Fire Station property purchased. Sanctuary renovated after substantial damage by Hurricane Fran.
- 1998– Aid given to northeastern North Carolina after Hurricane Floyd. First mission trips to Haiti and Mexico.
- 2000 –Bicentennial celebration. Chapel completely renovated. Columbarium dedicated. Godwin Garden re-landscaped.
- 2002 –Nursery rooms redecorated in memory of Hubert Love Jones. Gift of Steinway piano by Frank Thompson.
- 2003 –New library in memory of John Wright Coker, Sr. with Helen Shaw Newbold reference collection. Recreation Hall refurbished.
- 2004 –Fayetteville Symphony Christmas Concert, continued for several years.
- 2005 –Aid to Gulf states after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Tom McInnis Garden landscaped.
- 2006 –Sanctuary Pipe Organ is completely renovated.
- 2007– Playground remodeled.
- 2010– Sent aid to earthquake-ravaged Haiti
- 2010- Third Century Project. Extensive renovation improvements to the steeple and carillon. Reactivation of the 1832 Hanks bell. Groundbreaking for the new Education Building.
- 2011 – Thirteen-rank pipe organ installed in the Chapel.
- 2012 – Third Century (Education) Building completed.
- 2013 – Dedication of the Third Century Project with the completion of renovations to the old church wing.



REGISTER OF MINISTERS

The Reverend John Robinson .....	1800-1802
The Reverend Andrew Flinn .....	1803-1805
The Reverend John Robinson .....	1805-1808
The Reverend William Turner .....	1809-1813
The Reverend Jesse H. Turner .....	1814-1819
The Reverend William D. Snodgrass ..	1819-1822
The Reverend Robert H. Morrison .....	1822-1825
The Reverend James G. Hamner .....	1826-1829
The Reverend Josiah J. Kirkpatrick.....	1830-1830
The Reverend Henry A. Rowland, Jr. ....	1831-1834
The Reverend James W. Douglass .....	1834-1837
The Reverend D. McNeill Turner.....	1837-1840
The Reverend Adam Gilchrist.....	1841-1861
The Reverend John M. Sherwood.....	1861-1867
The Reverend Halburt G. Hill .....	1868-1886
The Reverend Alex L. Phillips .....	1886-1889
The Reverend Thomas P. Barclay.....	1889-1891
The Reverend A. J. McKelway.....	1892-1898
The Reverend Henry T. Graham.....	1898-1904
The Reverend Watson M. Fairley .....	1905-1916
The Reverend William E. Hill.....	1917-1926
The Reverend Francis C. Symonds .....	1926-1932
The Reverend A.W. Dick.....	1932-1938
The Reverend John M. Alexander .....	1939-1946
The Reverend Walker B. Healy.....	1947-1957
The Reverend J. Rupert McGregor .....	1958-1960
The Reverend J.V.C. Summerell.....	1961-1974
The Reverend A.A. Markley .....	1975-1984
The Reverend Joseph W. Walker.....	1985-1993
The Reverend John Wright Coker, Jr....	1994-2015
The Reverend Michael W. Garrett ..	2015-present



AREA USE LEGEND

- A. Sanctuary
- B. Church Parlor and Lounge
- C. Chapel
- D. Historical Room
- E. Administration and Classroom Wing
- F. Third Century Education and Music Facility
- G. Charles Rankin Memorial Building
- H. Recreation/Fellowship Building
- K. Playground
- M. McInnis Garden
- N. Columbarium
- P. Parking

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fayetteville, North Carolina

ORGANIZED 1800

A Brief Historical Introduction



*This is none other but  
The House of God.*  
Genesis 28:17

# A SHORT HISTORY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Possibly as early as 1725 a few hardy Scots had settled in the Cape Fear Valley. Beginning in 1739, clans from the Highlands and western isles literally flooded the Valley. Many came with few worldly possessions, but obsessed with love of God, freedom, and family. They came speaking a strange Gaelic tongue that told of Presbyterian beliefs as laid down by Calvin and John Knox. These Scots were the principal founders of Campbellton, and later linked it with a thriving village a mile to the west – Cross Creek, aptly named after two streams within its boundaries that crossed paths. In 1783, the combined settlement was named Fayetteville, honoring the Marquis de La Fayette.

As early as 1757, preachers of the Presbyterian faith traveled throughout the area holding services in private homes and public buildings. In 1758, The Reverend James Campbell, a Presbyterian preacher of Argyleshire, Scotland, came from Pennsylvania and established three nearby churches: Bluff, Longstreet, and Barbeque. Later in 1791, The Reverend David Kerr, who lived in Fayetteville for three years, established a school and held religious services in the State House.

In the final quarter of the eighteenth century, the inhabitants of Fayetteville proudly watched their community, with its river and plank road traffic, grow into the most prosperous trading center in North Carolina. But still no organized church of any faith existed in Fayetteville prior to 1800. Then in that year The Reverend John Robinson received a call to head the Fayetteville Academy and establish a Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Robinson, a native of Cabarrus County, born January 8, 1768, came to Fayetteville from his first pastorate in Duplin County. The necessary steps of organization were soon taken, and six elders were elected to form the Session: David Anderson, Robert Donaldson, Duncan McLeran, Colonel John Dickson, Duncan McAuslan, and Archibald Campbell. On September 6, 1801, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered for the first time in the town. About one hundred and fifty sat down to the table; seventeen of these belonged to the Fayetteville church and the others to surrounding congregations. A tablet hangs in the vestibule to perpetuate the memory of The Reverend John Robinson, D.D.; his portrait is in the Historical Room. Following the arrival of Dr. Andrew Flinn, the first public baptism took place in 1802. As early as 1809 plans were made to erect a church building. Members pledged generously, and The Reverend Colin McIver, stated clerk of the Session, was appointed to make a Northern and Southern excursion to solicit funds. From his "Northern Excursion" he collected \$293.00. Among the contributors to this sum



Robinson

were James Monroe, President of the United States, \$25.00; George Washington Campbell, Ambassador to Russia, \$10.00; John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State \$10.00. His "Southern Excursion" netted \$55.00.

During the pastorate of the Reverend Jesse H. Turner, on April 21, 1816, the cornerstone of the original church building was laid with appropriate Masonic ceremonies. This building was used continuously for church services and civic gatherings until the Great Fire of May 29, 1831 destroyed the church and over six hundred homes and businesses within the village. The Reverend Henry Rowland recorded on the day of the fire the following for the National Gazette: "The tall steeple of the Presbyterian Church seemed a pyramid of fire; for a while it stood firm, soon the bell descended with a crash – the steeple trembled, tottered and fell."

After a fund-raising journey to the North that produced \$7,146.56 1/2, the church was rebuilt on the old walls. The date of completion and dedication of the new building was August 12, 1832. The original steeple bell was destroyed in the fire; a second, and the one still in use, bears the Latin inscription translated as: "I perished in the flames the 29th of May 1831. I arose from the ashes through the generosity of friends in the Second Presbyterian Church in Troy, New York."

The handsome chandeliers that hang in the vestibules on the first and second floors of the church sanctuary are the original lighting fixtures installed after the great fire of 1831. The lamps of the chandeliers burned whale oil. When gas lighting was installed these chandeliers were removed and sold to Big Rockfish Church. Around 1933 through the efforts of various women of the church, the chandeliers were brought back home and restored to their original beauty and hung, two to a side, from the balconies of the Sanctuary. During the restoration of 1960 they were placed in their present position.

The years since 1800 have seen tremendous growth in mission, membership, and facilities. First Church has contributed to the formation of the following congregations: Rockfish, Comfort, Campbellton, Highland, Spring Lake, Palestine, Village, Haymount, Ashworth, Reilly Road, and Korean Presbyterian. It supported work locally as well as foreign missions in China, Japan, and Korea; and more recently in Zimbabwe, the Congo, Brazil, the Yucatan, Haiti, Zambia, Mexico, and Cuba. From the original seventeen worshippers the membership has swelled to nearly fifteen hundred, with an annual budget of \$1.5 million. The Sanctuary has been renovated and enlarged, wings added, and the Fellowship and Rankin buildings erected. Four different steeples have pointed to the heavens as a beacon, calling God's people to work and worship. The latest addition of some 25,000 square feet – an education building with offices – was completed in 2012.

# KEY DATES IN THE LIFE OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 1757 – Preaching by visiting ministers.
- 1791 – The Reverend David Kerr became first resident Presbyterian preacher.
- 1800– Church organized by The Reverend John Robinson.
- 1801 – Communion service first observed.
- 1802 – First public baptism.
- 1809– First minutes compiled by The Reverend Colin McIver.
- 1816 – Cornerstone laid for original church building.
- 1824 – Communion silver consisting of a breadbasket and two cups given by the Society of Young Ladies.
- 1828 – A tankard added to service. During the War between the States, the silver was removed for safety, but mistakenly placed in the path of Sherman's Army. However, this silver escaped looting and is still used in Communion today.
- 1831 – Church destroyed by fire.
- 1832 – Church rebuilt and dedicated. Steeple bell donated. Steeple repaired several times including latest in 2010.
- 1855 – First organ purchased.
- 1873 – Property for manse willed to church by Robert Donaldson, Jr. This land was later sold to form the Donaldson Trust.
- 1887 – New steeple designed by T.A. Klutz erected.
- 1895 – New Sunday School building attached to the sanctuary dedicated. This structure was removed in 1922.
- 1901 – New organ installed. Hundredth anniversary celebrated.
- 1922 – Designed by Hobart Upjohn, the south wing including the chapel, and the portico and steeple were built. The steeple was given by Mrs. Annie Gilmore in memory of her husband, J. F. Gilmore.
- 1923 – Marble baptismal font was donated by Mrs. Charles Rankin.
- 1924 – Sundial on the west lawn, copied from one in the garden of Sir Walter Scott, was presented in memory of Mrs. Henrietta Choice Smith by her sons. The sundial is the work of George Lauder, who carved many of the tombstones in Cross Creek Cemetery One.
- 1925 – The one hundred twenty-fifth celebration observed.
- 1932 – Celebration of the bell.
- 1934 – Dedication of Ray Memorial Chimes, given by Mrs. Laura Pearson Ray in memory of her husband, Neill W. Ray and her son Donald Fairfax Ray.
- 1942 – Opening of the Fuller Memorial Education



1832 - 1894 -- As rebuilt after fire of 1831

- Building, given in memory of Caroline Douglas Whitehead Fuller by her son Williamson Whitehead Fuller. It was through the generosity of this exceptional benefactor that the grounds were beautified, herringbone walks laid, Catholic Church property acquired, and countless other gifts received. His portrait hangs above the mantle in the Historical Room.
- 1944 – Chapel renovated and chandelier installed.
- 1949 – Charles Rankin Memorial Building completed, honoring the memory of a former elder and teacher of the Calvin Bible Class.
- 1951 – Sesquicentennial Celebration. Recreation building completed. New organ, made possible through generosity of Dr. R. L. Pittman and Dr. Wade Parker families. Manse on Hillside Avenue built on lot given by the family of elder J. R. Boyd.
- 1960– Renovation of the Sanctuary and an addition to the Education Building are completed.
- 1966– Cross Creek Park property leased to city.
- 1967 – West wall and steps to Sanctuary completed.
- 1968 – Janie Culbreth Lounge and Study of the Associate Pastor furnished.
- 1969– Clothes Closet opened.
- 1971 – Renovation of the Memorial Chapel and installation of the Soffe Memorial Chimes.
- 1975 – The hundred and seventy-fifth year celebration with laying of the second cornerstone.
- 1978 – First School for two, three, and four year old children organized.
- 1979 – First Presbyterian housed Korean Presbyterian Church.
- 1981 – Heritage Place construction began.
- 1983 – Reunited with northern church, became PCUSA. Stephen Ministry established.
- 1984 – Calvin Lectures began.