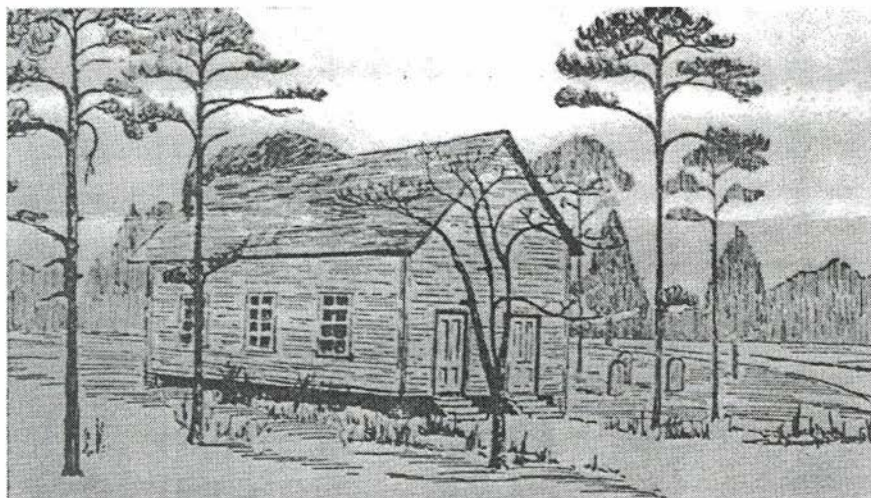


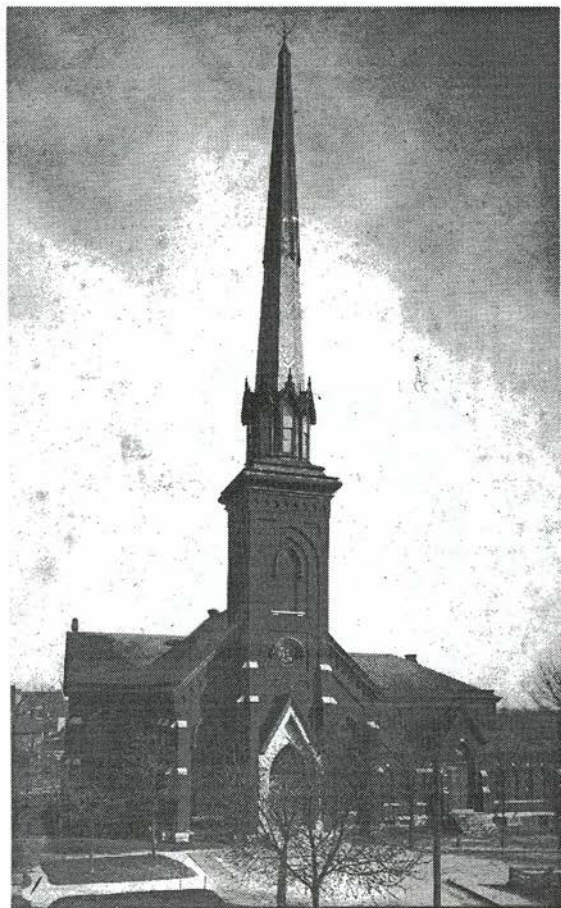
A History of
Trinity
United
Methodist
Church

1832-1999
(167 years)

Pentecost Sunday May 23, 1999



**The 1861 wood church
was the first Trinity
Church built on the
land where the present
stone church stands.**



**The 1881 Trinity
Methodist Church
215 North Church St.
Destroyed by fire
January 26, 1923.**

A HISTORY OF TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A congregation grew from an 1830 revival at a place called Orange Grove and "the record reads that on the 25 of April, 1832 one William R. Herndon donated a house and an acre of ground to the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be used as a house of worship and an academy." 1832 marks the beginning of Methodist church history in this area. The first Methodist church organized with some thirty members was on the Raleigh road about one mile east of Durham. For many years this little building served as both church and school and some of its congregation formed the nucleus of the initial Methodist church organized in the little hamlet of Durham.

It was in 1861 that an acre and a half of land, the present site of Trinity Church, was purchased for \$150.00 and a frame building erected thereon. The little pine church represented an outlay of some \$650.00 and seated two hundred people. Its first minister was Rev. J. B. Alford; and William Duke, Washington Duke, Archibald Nichols, D. M. Cheek, James Stagg, Z. I. Lyon, and James Barbee were the trustees. During the Civil War the building was damaged by Sherman's army. It was used as a temporary hospital for the wounded soldiers. In spite of all difficulties, the church continued its services and at all times had a regular preacher. For a time after the war a school was conducted in the church building.

Known originally as Orange Grove Church, its name was changed to Durham Methodist Church in 1866, in which year it became a part of the Chapel Hill circuit. The village of Durham was growing in this reconstruction period and so was the church, which in 1870 could claim a membership of 200.

Physically the church had been remodeled and improved, and in 1872 sufficient funds were raised to paint and plaster the building. General Julian S. Carr had come to Durham in 1870 and immediately became active in the church, helping with his own hands to shingle the roof of the building.

A movement for the erection of a new church house began about 1879, and resulted in the dedication of a new structure in June 1881. The membership continued to grow and numbered approximately 350 souls three years later. It was in this same year, 1884, that plans were made to organize another church in the western part of the town. The West End Church was established in 1886 and became known as Main Street Church, later to be Duke Memorial. Thus was born the first of many daughters of Trinity Church. Subsequently came Carr, Mangum Street (now Calvary), West Durham, Branson, Lakewood, and many more as the years went by.

During the pastorate of Rev. W. S. Creasy, 1886 and 1887, the original Durham Methodist Church was named "Trinity." These years and the following ones were characterized by much activity and by a considerable growth in membership, the total at the close of 1890 numbering more than 500. The years 1888

to 1890 were made memorable by the administration of Dr. E. A. Yates as pastor and also by the moving of Trinity College to Durham. The Trinity pastor was instrumental in arousing the interest and cooperation of General Carr and Mr. Washington Duke, and these two men were largely responsible for bringing the college to Durham. General Carr gave as a site for the college, Blackwell Park, and Mr. Washington Duke donated the sum of \$85,000. These gifts assured the success of the plans to transplant Trinity from Randolph County to Durham.

A revival meeting held by Sam Jones during the pastorate of Dr. Yates was long remembered by many of Trinity Church's older citizens. Nearly two hundred persons were taken into the church during that period. A Sunday School addition projected in 1892 during the ministry of Rev. R. C. Beaman was completed in 1894 when Rev. B. R. Hall was appointed pastor. This addition provided greatly improved facilities, the plant then including the red brick church and adjoining Sunday School building. The high and slender steeple served for more than a quarter of a century as a striking landmark of the city. The auditorium of the church was remarkable for its excellent acoustic properties.

Between 1896 and 1906 the church was served successively by Reverends J. N. Cole, W. C. Norman, and R. C. Beaman. Growth in church membership and special activity in the development and expansion of the Sunday School characterized these years. By the end of Dr. Beaman's tenure an additional two hundred members had been acquired.

The reorganization of the women of Trinity Church for the cause of home and foreign missions formed one of the noteworthy achievements of the next few years during the pastorate of Rev. G. T. Adams. This work had been begun several years earlier as a Home Mission Society, but in 1910 it combined with the Foreign Society and from then on these two interests were one in the program and objectives of the most active women of the church. The great contribution made by these women through the years both to Trinity and to the church at large cannot be over estimated.

Reverends R. C. Craven, A. McCullen, and Costen J. Harrell will be remembered for their service to the church from 1911 to 1920. Various foreign missionary endeavors were supported by the Trinity organization in this period. Some \$40,000 within five years was contributed to sustain missionaries in China, Japan, Korea, Brazil, and Mexico. A special fund of \$16,000 contributed by General Carr and administered as the Nannie Carr Foundation was used to support the work in China.

Dr. A. D. Wilcox was pastor from 1920 to 1923. A count of Trinity's membership during the early part of his pastorate revealed a total of 1,031—just one thousand more than the number listed on the roll of the little Orange Grove Church sixty years before. It seemed that now the institution was strong enough in members and adequately equipped to render the maximum of service: but there was a dramatic interruption. A fateful day was that Sunday morning,

January 21, 1923, when the church was destroyed by fire. The entire plant, representing an investment of \$175,000, was lost and 1,000 people were without a church home. The old church was rich in memories, and its destruction marked a sad day for many families. It had witnessed so many marriages, so many funerals, and so many other occasions dear to the people who made up its congregation. With regret they recalled the beautiful paintings on the walls and the marvelous marble representation of "The Lord's Supper." These could never be replaced.

Immediately plans were made to rebuild. The official board appointed a building committee, and a campaign for building funds was soon inaugurated. In the meantime, the congregation held regular services in theatres and in the Fuller School auditorium, the organization thus being held together pending the time when a new church home could be provided. Rev. W. W. Peele, later Bishop Peele, was the pastor in the conference year 1924 when the reconstruction efforts attained their first material objective with the laying of the cornerstone of a new church on October 2 of that year. The new plant included a stone church auditorium and brick Sunday School building, together with all needed equipment, involving an outlay of \$379,000. Nearly a year was required for its completion. The opening service was held on September 20, 1925.

Starting with \$71,000 received as insurance on the old church, the financing and liquidation of the remaining \$308,000 constituted a major financial problem. After payment of more than \$150,000 in pledges it was necessary to mortgage the property for \$150,000; and for many years the congregation struggled to take care of this heavy obligation. During those years of financial stress, and following Dr. Peele, the pastors in charge were John W. Smith, W. A. Lambeth, G. R. Combs, E. L. Hillman, and George W. Perry. As the personalities and services of these ministers are clearly remembered by some members for an enduring long time it is unnecessary to do more than name them as a part of this brief history.

Rev. James G. Huggin began his ministry at Trinity in 1941 and was presiding minister at the morning service on January 30, 1944 when the Chairman of the Board of Stewards reported the final results of a financial campaign extending over the past twenty-two months, announced to an expectant congregation the glad news that Trinity Church was at last free of all indebtedness.

Dr. James G. Huggin was succeeded by Dr. D. D. Holt. Free of debt Trinity Church began an era of worship in its beautiful gothic revival stone structure. With renewed energy with enlarged activity and broader ministries, Trinity employed a director of Christian education, an entirely new program of Christian training was effected through a reorganized church school. Two stand-out programs were the Nursery Department and a revitalized youth program.

World War II ended and a new home front era began. In 1948 a Trinity Church Welfare Fund was made possible by the beneficence of several generous members of the congregation.

In 1949 the Silver Anniversary of the new Trinity stone building was celebrated in commemoration of the laying of the corner stone in 1924. Membership was about 1,500. The celebrating included improved church facilities such as a renewed Pine Room and a more efficient heating system. The last decade of the

one-hundred-year old Trinity Methodist Church had been very interesting. World War II ended and people undertook to adjust to a postwar reconstruction. It seemed that the time had arrived for the Christian Church to stretch every nerve towards helping to make this a better world.

In 1951 Dr. Holt was succeeded in the pastorate by C. D. Barclift and he served Trinity until 1956 when the bishop named him Superintendent of the Durham District.

In 1953 the city of Durham celebrated its own centennial. The significance of church life and influence upon the growth and development of the city was duly recognized and that there were 17 Methodist Churches in greater Durham. Trinity was referred to as the Mother of Durham Methodism.

Rev. M. W. Lawrence succeeded Dr. Barclift as Trinity's pastor. During the 50's decade Trinity continued to hold her place among the leading churches of the Conference. As a passing interest of this time Trinity was experiencing gratifying growth and development and had more or less kept pace with the growth of the North Carolina Conference as a whole. This conference had achieved a record of expansion unequalled by the advances made during any previous decade in its 125-year history and unsurpassed by any of its sister conferences in American Methodism.

As Trinity came into the 1960's Christian ministry challenges continued and its members always tried to meet them. Some of Trinity's future lay within needs of things that might be done within her own church congregation; another lay in the community about her and a third was implied by a declaration quoting John Wesley: "The world is my parish." There were some in the early sixties who dreamed that some day another spire might rise heavenward as did the one destroyed by fire in 1923. It is believed, too, that continuing to upgrade facilities and equipment was ever necessary for better Christian training and nurture of the children and youth in the Trinity family. Another challenge that began in the 1960's was surviving as a downtown church in American cities like Durham where ever growing suburban areas were eroding downtown church attendance.

Rev. William M. Howard, Jr. became Trinity's pastor in 1960 and Trinity Church continued to keep a significant membership in a downtown church. In 1962 the official pastor's report stated that the church had 1,460 members and 117 preparatory members. The membership for Trinity showed a decline in membership in 1963. The decrease of 120 members was due to deaths and transfer to other churches and the removal of a large number of persons who had moved from Durham or whose whereabouts were unknown. In the Conference year 1962-1963 it was decided that wall-to-wall carpet be installed in the sanctuary. The carpet added considerably to the comfort and beauty of the church.

In 1964 the Methodist Men's organization sponsored a program to remodel the pastor's study. The refurbished study met a need that had been apparent for many years. More improvements to the church during the mid 1960's once again included repairs to the furnace, work on the church lawn, improvements to the Church Parlor and painting in several areas. Mrs. W. M. Glenn donated funds to re-furnish and re-decorate the auxiliary kitchen adjacent the Parlor.

In November of 1965, Trinity Church suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Dr. Edgar Lafayette Hillman. Dr. Hillman became pastor of the church

in 1933, during the most trying years of the Great Depression. His inspiring leadership challenged the faith and commitment of the congregation to the Diamond Jubilee Celebration and through the following years, which marked the beginning of the removal of the staggering indebtedness due to the building of the stone church.

In 1965-66 the Mattie Toms Buchanan memorial garden was designed and planted with private donations. The garden is the open court between the sanctuary and the education building. The beautiful garden has been used for church gatherings since the year it was planted.

During the church year 1966-67, it was reported that the sanctuary organ was no longer in satisfactory condition, and plans were made to repair the organ. This same year 600 copies of the new Methodist Hymnal were purchased.

A new home for the church minister and family was purchased at 1108 West Knox Street during the conference year 1967-68. The house exterior is red brick in the Georgian style on a lot that is 150' by 150'. The house was about 26 years old.

In late December 1967, a significant trust was established at Trinity by C. Knox Massey and children, Kay Massey Weatherspoon and C. Knox Massey, Jr. The fund was lovingly established and was named the "Louise S. Massey Fund" to honor her while she lives and to enrich for future generations the total program of Trinity Methodist Church. The initial gift was \$10,000.

The 1968-69 conference year was the ninth and last year of Dr. W. M. Howard's distinguished ministry at Trinity. Dr. William R. Cannon, of Emory University, was elevated to the episcopacy and assigned to the Raleigh Area.

The sanctuary organ was renovated and pronounced ready for use in November, 1968.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The church year of 1968-1969 witnessed a most significant change in the meaning and mission of American Methodism. The General Conference of 1968 formed the United Methodist Church by merging The Methodist Church and the Church of the Evangelical United Brethren. This new body would contain approximately eleven million members.

It was not until the 1968-1969 church year that the new structure was realized at Trinity. "The new era" was begun as The United Methodist Church.

At the 1969 Annual Conference, bishop Cannon assigned Dr. William Kellon Quick as minister of Trinity United Methodist Church. The Carr Fellowship Hall was thoroughly renovated wall to wall and floor to ceiling. The heating, plumbing and electrical facilities were vastly improved. Work on the roof and other necessary repairs were made to the sanctuary. George W. Newton was chairman of the building committee.

One of the most valued improvements on the education building's first floor was the installation of a beautiful memorial Chapel. The Chapel, impressively fitted with stained glass windows, chancel furnishings and organ, among other facilities, provided Trinity with most appropriate places for a numerous small gatherings.

Under the devoted leadership of the Reverend William Quick, outstanding progress was achieved in ecumenical affairs, education, evangelism, missions, stewardship, social concerns, worship and other areas. A Center City Ministry was established by a number of religious congregations. In 1971 the North Carolina Conference voted Trinity the Urban Church of the Year. 1974 was Rev. Quick's last year at Trinity. He continued a most notable ministry, but not in the North Carolina Conference. Rev. Quick became the Pastor of Metropolitan United Methodist Church a large congregation in Detroit Michigan.

In 1974 Rev. Paul Carruth became minister to Trinity. The Church had an average attendance of 350 for Sunday Services. Rev. Carruth was an excellent administrator as well as a gifted preacher and he did an outstanding job of guiding us in retiring debts that accumulated from a variety of church projects. Rev. Carruth served Trinity for four years and then moved to the Fayetteville District as Superintendent.

Rev. F. Belton Joyner, Jr. became Senior Pastor of Trinity in 1978. The church celebrated the sesquicentennial or the one hundred- fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of Trinity United Methodist Church in April 1982.

During Rev. Joyner's leadership at Trinity the church received a gift from the estate of Mrs. Henrietta Shaw Glenn. Mrs. Glenn's will offered to finance a steeple for the the church tower. The gift was accepted and a committee chaired by Felix Markham, IV was appointed to have the steeple built and erected. The dedication of the steeple was December 12, 1984, but the steeple had not arrived. With anticipation the long awaited steeple arrived and on March 8, 1985 the steeple was lifted by a large crane and placed on top of the church tower. Many church members watched from across the street and cheered as the gleaming stainless steel Cross topped out the new steeple about 5:00 p.m. Once again Trinity Church had a steeple that towered over Durham and a tower bell from France to ring out the presence of a church in the city.

In 1985 Rev. J. Edward Morrison became Senior Pastor of Trinity. Rev. Morrison's brother, Rev. Charles Morrison, had been Trinity's Associate Pastor 1976-78.

In 1986, for the Lenten season, Neighborhood Bible Study Groups were formed in eight different areas of Durham, because the Trinity congregation comes from all over the city and county. The groups met for study and fellowship.

At Christmas time Rev. and Mrs. Morrison invited the congregation to a reception in their beautiful holiday decorated parsonage.

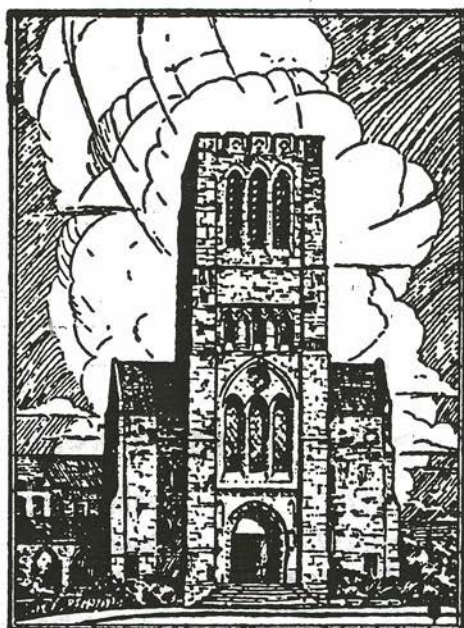
Rev. David Brownlee was appointed to Trinity as Senior Pastor in 1988. The Associate Pastor was Rev. Shelley Fogleman. Rev. Fogleman, her husband Jan and their three young children were on a Christmas season trip to visit her family in Florida when their van was struck by a truck driven by a drunk driver on a highway in Georgia. Rev. Fogleman and all three children died as a result of this accident. Jan, her husband survived and has maintained a loving relationship with this congregation.

One of the exciting events during Rev. Brownlee's leadership at Trinity Church was hosting Lyman Coleman's "Serendipity" small groups ministry workshop for North Carolina. Mr. Coleman motivated his audience of over 800 people on the way to use small groups for Bible study, and Christian nurturing.

In 1991 H. Gray Southern became minister to the Trinity congregation. In 1992 a capital improvements fund was approved and pledges were made to finance painting the sanctuary, education building classrooms and hallways, the Carr Fellowship Hall, redecorate the parlor, repair the church roof and many other improvements were included in this effort during a period of several years.

In 1997 the church parking facility was enlarged and landscaped principally from a gift from the estate Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Barnes.

On May 9, 1999, Mother's Day, during the Sunday eleven o'clock service the family of Aubigne "Babs" Lermond Gergen Hickson presented in her memory a concert grand piano for Trinity's sanctuary.



**The stone church before
the steeple addition.**

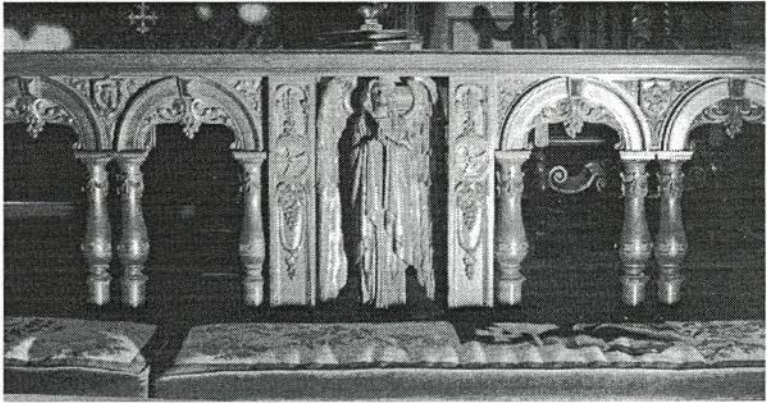
The Pastors Who Have Served Trinity Church Since 1859

J. B. Alford, 1859-60	R. C Craven, 1911-14
J. W. Tinnin, 1860-61	A. McCullen, 1915-16
W. M. Welsh, 1862-63	C. J. Harrell, 1917-19
W. M. Jordan, 1864-65	A. D. Wilcox, 1920-23
R. S. Webb, 1866-69	W. W. Peele, 1924-27
John Tillett, 1870-71	J. W. Smith, 1928-30
J.J. Renn, 1872-75	W. A. Lambeth, 1931
W. H. Moore, 1876	G. R. Combs, 1932-33
W. H. Call, 1877	E. L. Hillman, 1934-36
J. H. Woods, 1878-80	G. W. Perry, 1937-40
J. A. Cunninggim, 1881-82	J. G. Huggin, 1940-45
T. A. Boone, 1883-84	D. D. Holt, 1945-51
B. C. Phillips, 1885	C. D. Barclift, 1951-56
W. S. Creasy, 1886-87	M. W. Lawrence, 1956-60
E. A. Yates, 1888-90	W. M. Howard, Jr., 1960-69
R. J. Moorman, 1891	W. K. Quick, 1969-74
R. C. Beaman, 1892-93	Paul Carruth, 1974-78
B. R. Hall, 1894-95	F. B. Joyner, Jr. 1978-85
J. N. Cole, 1896-99	J. E. Morrison, 1985-88
W. C. Norman, 1900-02	David Brownlee, 1988-91
R. C. Beaman, 1903-06	H. Gray Southern, 1991-
G. T. Adams, 1907-10	

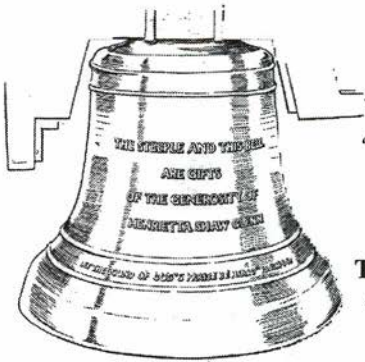
The Associate Pastors

Charles M. Smith, 1970-71	William W. Snotherly, 1981-83
Dennis M. Campbell, 1973-74	Susan P. Jones, 1985-87
R. Edgar Bonnewell, 1974-75	Michael R. Barker, 1987-88
Paul L. Couch, 1975-76	Shelley Fogleman, 1988
Charles K. Morrison, 1976-78	Brian Wingo, 1994-95
William Cottingham, 1978-81	Para Rodenhizer Drake, 1998-

Minister of Visitation: John J. Rudin, 1982-91



Altar rail detail.

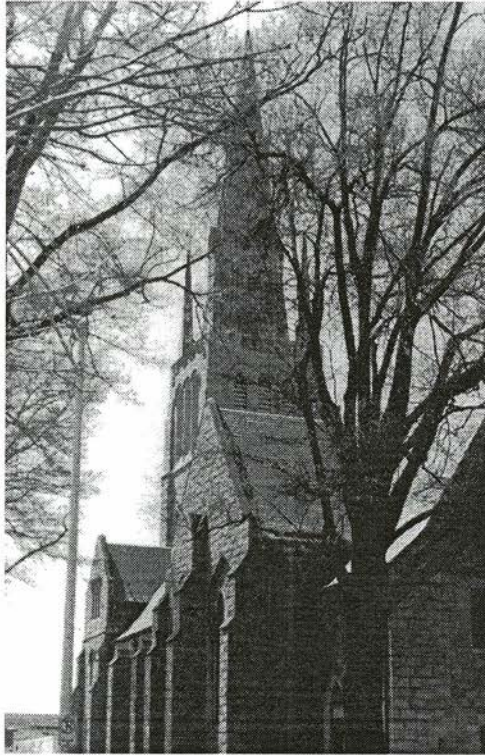


*"The Steeple And This Bell Are Gifts
Of The Generosity Of
Henrietta Shaw Glenn"*

**The French bell in
the church tower.**



**The brick church
after the 1923 fire.**



**Trinity United Methodist Church
215 North Church Street
Durham, N.C. 27701**

Phone: (919) 683-1386

Fax: (919) 688-0974

ADDENDA

Page 7: At the same time organ repairs were made, the antiphonal organ was installed as a gift from The Ralph Rogers Family.

Page 7: The Idol Family members were the donors of the chapel.

Page 8: It was during The Rev. Carruth's ministry that a destructive fire occurred early one morning. Much of the current educational building was damaged. Mrs. Estelle Hillman was Chair of the Board at that time. At 10:00am Southgate Jones had the insurance adjuster at the church and at 4:00pm the Board met to approve the necessary clean up and repairs!

Other Major Gifts of recent years: During the 1970's renovation program, The Chambers and Teer Families gave money to remodel the church parlor. Mrs. Benson McCutcheon Sr., established a Pastor's Study Fund at the same time.

An elevator was installed in the late 1980's as a gift from Marguerite C. Pate, in loving memory of her sister, Geraldine Crews Rhodes, a Trinity member. The building was renovated to accommodate this addition with Dennis Nicholson designing and supervising the project.