

North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society

Winter, 2019

Spring Tour 2019: April 26-27

Faith, Education, and Inspiration in Charlotte, the Queen City



On the weekend after Easter, we have planned a wonderful visit to Charlotte, the Queen City. It is surely one of the most Presbyterian places in the country, with two Presbyterian universities, a seminary, and 48 PCUSA congregations within the city limits! For part of our tour, we will be learning about the very interesting past and the exciting present of Presbyterian higher education in this part of our state. We will also be inspired by beautiful historic churches and their missions withing the city.

Education has always been of great importance to Presbyterians. In Mecklenburg County, almost all of the early churches had a school taught by the minister. Pupils seeking higher education, however, had to leave the state, most going to the College of New Jersey, later Princeton. In 1771 the colonial legislature and governor passed an act to establish Queen's College in Charlotte. Although the act was disallowed by the king, who did not want a Presbyterian institution, the college continued as the Queens Museum, without a charter. In 1777 the revolutionary assembly granted a charter to the school, re-named Liberty Hall Academy. It did not flourish during the war, though, and was replaced by a state university in Chapel Hill.

Now, however, there are two excellent Presbyterian universities in Charlotte, and we will have the opportunity to visit both. Queens University began as Charlotte Female Institute in

1857 in downtown Charlotte. In 1912 it became Queens College and moved to its beautiful Myers Park campus. The college became fully coed in 1987, and in 2002 it was recognized as a university. It encompasses the Presbyterian School of Nursing, as well as numerous Master's programs.

After the Civil War, Presbyterians were also concerned for the education of the former slaves. Catawba Presbytery, established by the northern branch of the church, met in 1867 in what is now the First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte. There it was decided to establish the Freedmen's College of North Carolina for the preparation of Negro teachers and ministers. The Rev. S. C. Alexander of Concord Presbytery and Rev. Willis L. Miller of Orange Presbytery were appointed to be its founding teachers and fundraisers. Mrs. Mary Biddle of



Philadelphia made the first pledge of \$1,400 to the school, which was then chartered by the legislature as Biddle Memorial Institute. In 1876 Col. W. R. Myers donated 8 acres for the school, and it became Biddle University. Biddle Hall was built in 1883. In 1922 the name was changed to Johnson C. Smith University in response to very generous donations by Smith's widow. Other major donors have been James B. Duke, the Duke Endowment., and Irwin Belk. Today JCSU is a thriving university on a beautiful modern campus.

Of course, we will be visiting interesting and beautiful churches as well! Near Queens University is Myers Park Presbyterian. It was begun in 1926 by neighbors in
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Meeting of the Board of Directors January 26, 2019

On the fourth Saturday in January, the board met at The Cypress, a retirement community in Raleigh, arranged for us by Dan and Flo Durway. President John Goodman opened the meeting with prayer. All officers attended except Sam Martin, who was attending a funeral.

The appointed officers – treasurer, historian, newsletter editor, and publicity chairman – were unanimously approved without change for another year. The minutes of our annual meeting on October 13, 2018, were also approved, and the treasurer reported on our financial health, which

is good. We will continue our membership in the NC Federation of Historical Societies.

Steve McRae, our program chair, then presented a number of good suggestions for the Spring Tour, to be held on April 26-27, 2019. After much discussion, it was decided to go to Charlotte, and to try to include both of Charlotte's Presbyterian institutions of higher education: Queens University and Johnston C. Smith University. Some people may wish to travel by train to Charlotte, and transportation in Charlotte will be provided.

Our Fall Meeting will be held on October 12, 2019. It was suggested that the meeting be held in Raleigh again. The program may be on the many communing African-American members of Presbyterian churches before the Civil War, and their establishment of separate Presbyterian churches. The next Spring Meeting and Tour will be on April 17-18, 2020, destination as yet undecided.

Only one new church history had been suggested for an award – Crossnore's 100th anniversary history. The possibility of awarding a monetary sum in addition to a certificate was discussed. It was decided that, in the future, an award of \$100 may be given each year to an outstanding church history publication or project. Criteria will be established, and the awards chair, historian, and newsletter editor will serve on a committee to review any submissions. Other historical projects will still be recognized and appreciated. (See p. 3.)

After lunch, Sarah Alexander reported on our membership, which includes nine new members. The historian had had no recent inquiries about church history. Sam Martin had reported three churches celebrating significant anniversaries this year (see p. 3). Barbara Cain reported that the typesetter had stopped working on the book by Dr. Dudley, and it was necessary to find someone else. Nevertheless, it should be published this year. As newsletter editor, she will try to get updated church email lists from the presbyteries. She will also contact retirement homes about our spring meeting.

There was a vote of sincere thanks to Flo Durway for arranging our meeting and lunch. The meeting was then adjourned with prayer. ♦

Historic Churches Celebrating Anniversaries in 2019

This year our society will be recognizing two churches that have reached significant anniversaries of their founding. Sam Martin will be presenting the certificates of recognition and congratulation from the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society to each of the following:

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Beth Car Presbyterian Church, Tar Heel, Bladen County, NC	200 years
Euphronia Presbyterian Church, near Sanford, Lee County, NC	200 years
Bunnlevel Presbyterian Church, Bunnlevel, Harnett County, NC	100 years

Although there is no surviving official record of the founding of Beth Car Church, the congregation certainly existed in 1819. Its beautiful church building is thought to have been built before then. Probably the church's most famous member was Omar Ibn Said, a well-educated, Arabic-speaking slave belonging to Governor John Owen, a neighboring landowner. Said was a devout Muslim, but was baptized at Beth Car in 1820 and continued to worship there until his death in 1864. His autobiography, written in Arabic, now belongs to the Library of Congress. For whatever reason, the church is not mentioned in the General Assembly minutes until 1836.

Euphronia is a beautiful country church on the border of Lee and Moore counties. The lovely frame building dates from 1886, but its historic cemetery is much older.

Bunnlevel Church grew from a Sunday School established by laymen in 1909. It was organized as a Presbyterian church in 1919 with ten charter members. In 1947 their building was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt with the help of members, and the new building opened in 1952. Their minister is the Rev. Tom Brown, and they will celebrate their 100th anniversary this year.

Congratulations to these congregations! If you have an upcoming anniversary, we hope you will let us know how you are planning to celebrate it. Send us a copy of any published history; and describe for us any historical project completed as part of your celebration. We'd like to share this information and recognize your good work. ♦

History Awards Given by NCPHS -- A New Policy

Since 1968, the NC Presbyterian Historical Society has given awards in recognition of well researched books or projects on some part of Presbyterian history in North Carolina. Usually these have been published books, often histories of a particular church or a presbytery. Once or twice they have been given for the preparation of an excellent historical room or display. Once the award was given for three plays written about the history of a church and presented during its anniversary year. Once it was given for a detailed study of the large cemetery of an historic church. And once an honorable mention went to a quilt displaying the history of a church. These were all given to projects that were brought to our attention. Doubtless there have been many worthy histories that we did not know about.

These awards have been given by the society in order to encourage sound research into the history of Presbyterians in our state and the publication of that history. The awards have had no monetary value – only recognition and appreciation, together with publicity within our society. Some years there have been no submissions for an award, although more churches have become interested in documenting their history. Therefore at the January board meeting, it was decided that if a submitted history or project meets the agreed-upon criteria for excellence, the award will include a check for \$100. Other worthy projects will still receive certificates of recognition and appreciation. The awards chair, historian, and newsletter editor will draw up criteria for this award and will review the submissions.

If you know of a recently published church history or a completed church history project that you feel is worthy of consideration for an award, please send the book or a description and photographs of the project to Awards Chairman Mrs. Connie Hudson, 2305 Byrd St., Raleigh, NC 27608; ibchudson@webtv.net. Awards are given in the spring for works published or completed in the previous year or in a recent year. ♦

Report on the Fall Meeting, Oct. 13, 2018

William Peace University, Raleigh, NC

Photos and text by Barbara Cain

On Saturday, October 13, our society held its Fall Meeting in the beautiful Blue Parlor Room upstairs in the Main Hall of William Peace University. A footrace through neighboring streets and a program for prospective Peace College students made the parking challenging, but everyone finally arrived at the meeting for coffee and fellowship.

Our president, Rev. John Goodman, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. He then introduced Ellie Barker, Director of Alumni Relations, who welcomed us to Peace and gave us much information about its history and its recent transition to the status of a university.

Our main speaker, Mr. Donald C. McLeod of Southern Pines, was introduced by Steve McRae, program chair. With the help of many excellent photographs, Mr. McLeod shared his research on "Highland Scot Churches and Ministers in North Carolina." He talked about when the Highlanders began to arrive, where they settled, and how long it was before they could persuade ministers to come, especially ministers who spoke Gaelic. Among the most interesting pictures were the ones of the early 19th-century Union Presbyterian Church sanctuary that had been serving as a barn.

Lunch was provided by the university's dining services, and our annual business meeting followed. President John Goodman thanked Don McLeod for his excellent presentation. After brief reports from the committee chairs and the treasurer, Sam Martin spoke about his presentation of certificates to those historic churches that have been celebrating significant anniversaries in 2018.



Steve McRae and Don McLeod

As our awards chair could not attend the meeting, Barbara Cain introduced this year's award recipient Dr. Peter Fish, retired political science professor at Duke. Dr. Fish has written a very fully researched history of his church, *Downtown by History and Choice: First Presbyterian Church of Durham, North Carolina, 1871-2013*. Illustrated with photographs, tables, maps, and graphs, the book covers all aspects of church life, including worship, education, fellowship, and outreach, as well as staff and the physical plant. It also reflects the history of Durham during these times and how the church responded to change. A bibliography and index complete the work. Dr. Fish said he started the book in 1996 at the suggestion of his pastor, Joe Harvard. He really enjoyed doing all the research, even creating a graph of budgets over the years, adjusted to current dollars! President John Goodman presented the award to Dr. Fish.



The concluding business of the society was the election of officers. Connie Hudson, awards chair, and Steve McRae, program chair, were both elected to second two-year terms. The meeting was then closed with prayer. ♦

Grants Available for Preserving Church Records

For the year 2019, the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia has awarded seven Heritage Preservation Grants to PC(USA) congregations in six states and Puerto Rico. Twenty-eight congregations had applied. Each in-kind grant of \$500 will cover much of the cost of digitizing a congregation's vital records, including session minutes and church registers. If your congregation is older than 50 years and has fewer than 250 members, you can apply for the next grant cycle. The deadline is October 31 every year. Information on how to apply for a grant may be found at <https://www.history.pcusa.org/hpg>. ♦

(continued from p. 1)

the new subdivision, and it now is one of the largest churches in the denomination. Its large size and its cooperation with other churches has enabled it to support an amazing number of missions in Charlotte.

Dinner Friday night will be a real treat! We'll be at the Midwood Smokehouse, featured in *Our State Magazine* and sought out by President Obama! Afterwards, our Book Award for 2019 will be presented. We are so pleased that excellent church histories are continuing to be written, and we look forward to recognizing another fine history in April.

Sharon Presbyterian Church was organized and its brick sanctuary built in 1831. Set on a beautiful green campus, its five buildings include the home of the Charlotte branch of Union Presbyterian Seminary, which we will visit. They have also partnered with a Korean congregation, which meets in their chapel.



Covenant Presbyterian came into being in 1947 with the merger of Second Presbyterian, (org. 1873) and Westminster (org. 1894). Both had outgrown their facilities, and they decided to join together to build a large new sanctuary on Morehead Street. Its tall spire has become a Charlotte landmark, and it has beautiful stained glass windows in the chapel and sanctuary. Following a \$10 million capital campaign, the church is investing in a mixed-income housing development nearby and building an addition that will include a year-round, all-day daycare facility with subsidies for lower-income parents.



Caldwell Presbyterian will be an exciting experience for all of us. The church was about to be closed a few years ago, when people in the diverse urban neighborhood around it began to come and found themselves welcomed. Since then, Caldwell has opened itself to the community and has been embraced by it. While continuing in the Reformed tradition, it has become a dynamic church, proclaiming the Gospel in both word and deed.



After lunch at Caldwell, our meeting will end about 1 p.m. If you have the time when you leave Caldwell, you may wish to head north on E. 4th St. right into the center of Charlotte. One block over, at 200 W. 5th St., is the Old Settlers' Cemetery across from the First Presbyterian Church. It was the first municipal cemetery in Charlotte, with graves dating from 1776 to 1884. Since Charlotte was only established in 1768, most of the early citizens of the town were buried here, as well as veterans of the Revolutionary War and Civil War. Many, of course, were

Presbyterian. A large bronze marker lists most of the burials with a key to locations shown on a bronze map. The cemetery is now a very pleasant shady park in the middle of Charlotte. ♦



Travel by train? An Amtrak train leaves Raleigh at 6:30 a.m. Friday, with other stops along the way, arriving Charlotte at 9:40 a.m. A returning train leaves Charlotte at 3:15 p.m. Saturday. If you would like to ride the train, let us know on the registration form (p. 7) and we'll arrange to meet you. We will have a van or two for transportation in Charlotte. ♦

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News from the Presbyterian Heritage Center, Montreat

On August 29-30, 2019, the PHC will host a National Conference on Christian Heritage Education. The online and on site conference will bring together Christian educators, church historians, church archivists and pastors to explore state-of-the-art practices and innovative ways to use church history and heritage to reach and energize today's and tomorrow's generations. There will be general sessions and breakout workshops, plus take-home materials (DVDs, printed and online).

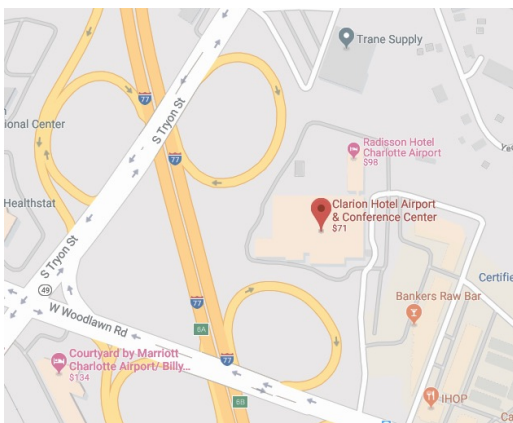
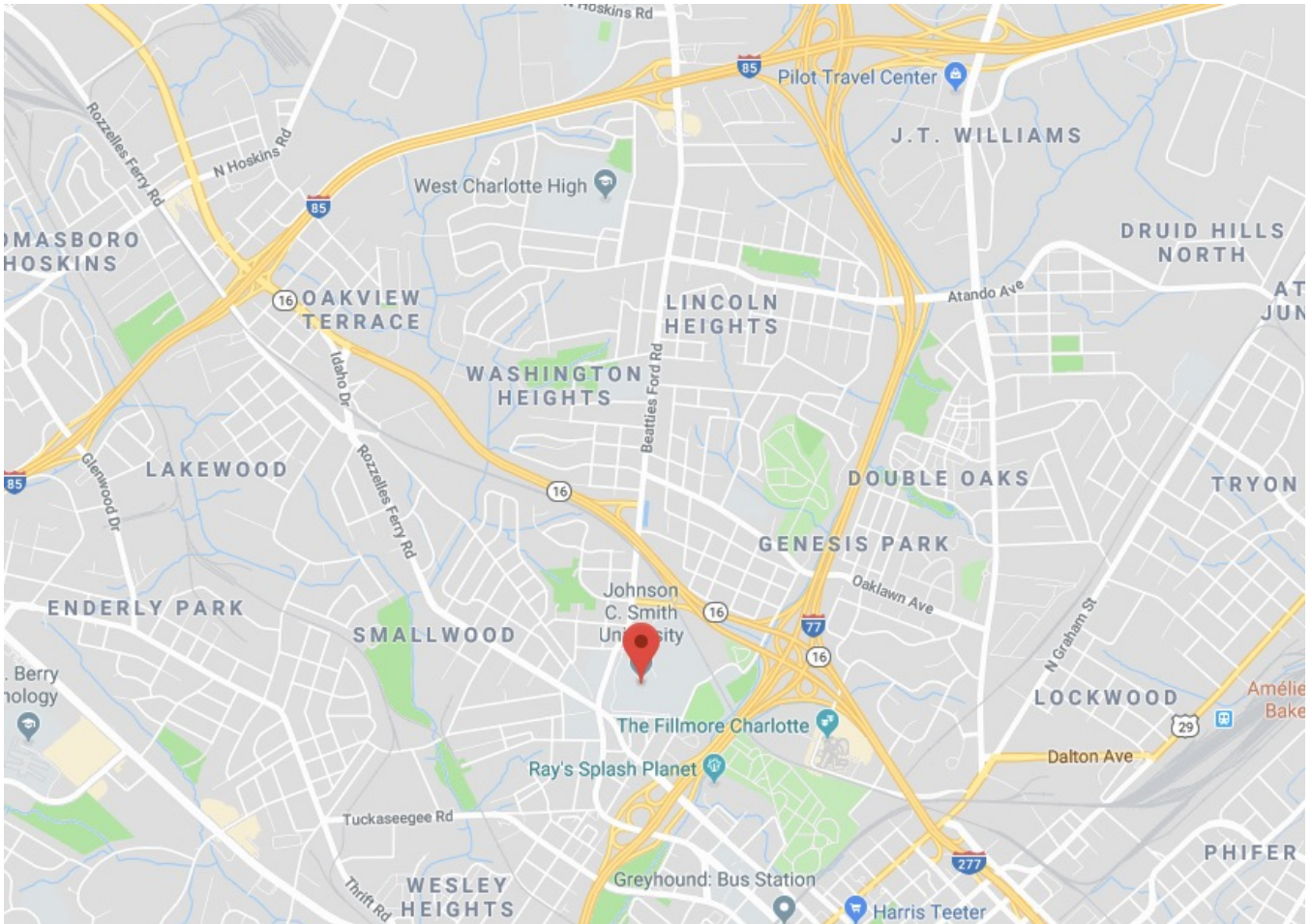
On Nov. 6-8, there will be an international symposium at PHC on C. S. Lewis, His Influence and Relevance Today. Scholars on Lewis, Tolkien, Sayers, and others of the Inklings group at Oxford will offer insights into their lasting influence. Lewis's stepson, Douglas Graham, will be a featured speaker. He has been working with Netflix to create a series of the Narnia novels, bringing them into the 20th century. Attendance is limited, and registration is open now.

They will also tape your memories of Montreat camps and conferences for an exhibit this summer. ♦

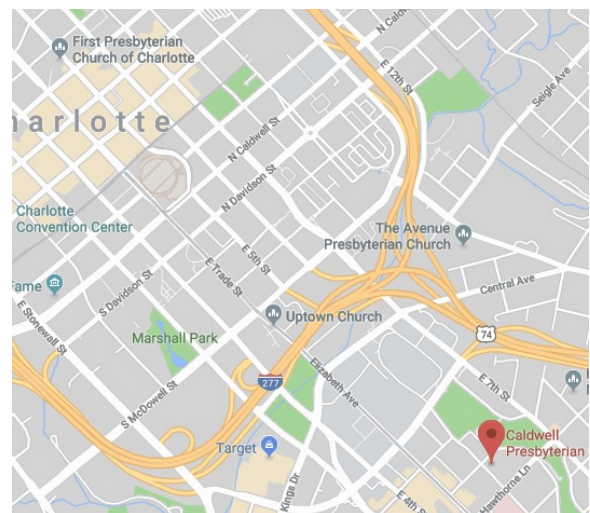
Directions:

Registration will be on the second floor of the James B. Duke Library on the campus of **Johnson C. Smith University**, 100 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte 28216. Beatties Ford Road is Exit 37 from I-85, and can also be accessed from NC Hwy 16 (W. Brookshire Freeway).

At the entrance to JCSU, opposite Dixon St., an attendant will direct you to visitor parking near the library. Any unmarked parking space is open to visitors.



Location of the Clarion Hotel



Caldwell to Settlers Cemetery, across from 1st Presby. Ch.

North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society 2019 Spring Tour, Charlotte

Friday, April 26

10:30 – 11:00 Johnson C. Smith University, 100 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte, 28216.
 10:30 – 11:00 Registration and social time, James B. Duke Memorial Library.
 11:00 – 12:00 Video and campus tour.
 12:00 – 12:45 Lunch.
 1:00 Queens University, 1900 Selwyn Ave., Charlotte, 28274.
 3:00 Myers Park Presbyterian Church, 2501 Oxford Place, Charlotte, 28207.
 4:30 Check in at Clarion Hotel, 212 W. Woodlawn Rd., Charlotte, 28217.
 7:00 – 8:30 Dinner at Midwood Smokehouse, 540 Brandywine Rd., Charlotte, 28209.
 Presentation of the Book Award for 2019.
 8:45 Meeting of the Executive Board at the Clarion.

Saturday, April 27

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast and check out
 8:30 – 9:30 Sharon Presbyterian Church & Union Presby. Seminary, 5201 Sharon Rd., 28210.
 9:45 – 10:45 Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1000 E. Morehead St., 28209.
 11:00 – 1:00 Caldwell Presbyterian Church, 1609 E. Fifth St., 28204.
 Tour and Lunch
 1:00 – 2:00 Optional visit to the Old Settlers' Cemetery, 200 W. 5th St., Charlotte, 28202.

Our recommended accommodation is the Clarion Hotel, 212 W. Woodlawn Rd., Charlotte, 28217.

Please call the Clarion directly for reservations at (704) 688-9944 and ask for the group discount rate for the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society, which should be \$74. Motel has free wi-fi, but breakfast is a la carte from their menu.

Registration fee is \$25, including lunch Fri. and Sat. Please send the form below and a check (payable to NCPHS) by April 18 to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804. If you have questions, please contact our Program Chairman Steve McRae, (336) 693-1929, smcrae@stevemcraelaw.com.

Registration, Spring Tour, April 26-27, 2019

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Registrations: ____ @ \$ 25.00 = \$ _____ Transportation needed? _____

Dues if included (Individual \$15; Family \$20; Individual Life Membership, \$125): \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____ Please send this form **by April 18** with a check (payable to NCPHS) to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804.

If you can do so, please put the following announcement in your church bulletin or newsletter:

The North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society will be in the very Presbyterian city of **Charlotte** for this year's **Spring Tour** on Friday and Saturday, April 26-27. Registration is \$25. We will visit two Presbyterian universities, a seminary, four beautiful churches, and the Settlers' Cemetery! The schedule, registration form, and address are on our website at www.ncphsociety.org, or contact the newsletter editor for a copy. If you would like transportation from Raleigh, please contact Barbara Cain, btcain@nc.rr.com, 919-782-0944.

If you haven't paid your 2019 dues yet, please send them with the registration form.

**** Individual \$15; Family \$20; Individual Life Membership, \$125. ****

North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society
P.O. Box 20804
Raleigh, NC 27619-0804

Charlotte—Spring Tour, April 26-27, 2019
See registration form on p. 7.