

MYERS PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

History

In 1926, a group of leaders (Lee, Henderson, McKay, Lambeth, Pease, Wilson, Wardlaw, Barron, White, Sparrow and others) began discussing the need for a suburban Presbyterian church. They met at the Chamber of Commerce, the dining room at Ivey's Department Store and in homes in the new Myers Park neighborhood.

As a result of these efforts, Myers Park Presbyterian Church was formed and became the twenty-second Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. Although many of its 239 charter members came from the First or the Second Presbyterian Church, Myers Park was not formed or sponsored by a parent church; rather it was said to be like an orphan, supporting itself from the beginning.

The church elected its first four officers – Elders Thomas M. Glasgow and Hunter Marshall and Deacons Eddie E. Jones and John A. Tate – at an organization meeting at Queens College on November 7, 1926. Shortly thereafter, two immediate priorities of the young church were addressed, the need for a minister and the need for an initial building program.

Dr. Edgar G. Gammon came in June of 1927 to serve as the first minister, and the first worship service in the new sanctuary was held on April 7, 1929. At that time the new Sanctuary was known as Unit # 1 in the church's building program.

That was the beginning. The rest, as they say, is history.

Myers Park Presbyterian Church – Historical Highlights

1920s

- Mecklenburg Presbytery organized a congregation of 250 charter members meeting at Queens College.
- Dr. Edgar G. Gammon was installed as the first pastor.
- On Easter Sunday, the sanctuary cornerstone was laid.
- The congregation first worshipped in the new sanctuary.

1930s

- Dr. Gammon left the congregation of approximately 1,000 members to become President of Hampden-Sydney College.

1940s

- Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church was colonized.
- Myers Park Presbyterian founded its Weekday School.
- 51 Myers Park Presbyterian members began meeting in the Queens College Chapel to organize Trinity Presbyterian Church.

1950s

- In this 25th anniversary year, a children's building was built.
- Dr. Jones accepted a call to become president of Union Theological Seminary.
- Dr. James E. Fogartie was installed as the third pastor.
- Ground was broken to expand the sanctuary.

1960s

- A new organ was installed with 3600 pipes, 61 ranks (or rows) of pipes and 66 drawknobs.

1970s

- Our first women officers, Willie Choate Hampton and Jessie Rankin, were elected as deacons.
- Myers Park Presbyterian helped create the Presbyterian Family Life Center.
- The session voted that Myers Park Presbyterian become a catalyst for a neighborhood health clinic in Piedmont Courts/Earle Village.
- Dr. Fogartie accepted a call to First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg, S.C. The congregation had grown to 3000 members during his 19-year tenure.
- Dr. J. Randolph Taylor was installed as the fourth pastor.

1980s

- Dr. Taylor was elected the first moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- The carillon was installed.
- Dr. Taylor left to become the president of San Francisco Seminary.
- Timothy Lent Croft was installed as the fifth pastor.

1990s

- The Christian Life Center was built.
- Dr. Terry Van Swicegood was installed as the sixth pastor.
- Dr. Swicegood accepted the call to Briar Creek Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Miss.

2000s

- MPPC celebrates its 75th anniversary.
- Dr. Steven Phillip Eason installed as the seventh pastor of Myers Park Presbyterian.
- The *Campaign For Deeper Discipleship* raises \$30 million in pledges for campus expansion and significant outreach efforts.
- Grier Heights Community is identified as an outreach partner and CrossRoads Corporation is formed as a 501(c)3 to concentrate on community development.
- The Myers Park Presbyterian Outreach Center is built to accommodate outreach activities and to foster wellness.