

HERITAGE TRAILS

Religious Freedom Trail



Trail Summary

It is often heard that Europeans came to this country seeking religious freedom, to worship in the way they desired without negative consequences. This was true for Pilgrims, Puritans, and Presbyterians. The Fayetteville area has a rich diversity of religious heritage. From very early, on religious institutions of all denominations developed throughout the area. Though primarily Christian congregations settled the area first, other religions arrived as the county's population diversified in ethnicity and nationalities. The Fayetteville area boasts 40 churches that are at least 100 years old or older. Prior to the 1760s, places of worship included private homes, scattered meeting houses, and brush arbors.

20



The Stops

- 1. Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 2. Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church
- 3. Saint Ann Catholic Church
- 4. First Presbyterian Church
- 5. Saint John's Episcopal Church
- 6. Saint Joseph's Episcopal Church
- 7. First Baptist Church

- 8. Hay Street United Methodist Church
- 9. Saint Patrick Catholic Church
- 10. MacPherson Presbyterian Church
- 11. Camp Ground United Methodist Church
- 12. Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church
- 13. Main Post Chapel
- 14. Long Street Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

- 15. Sandy Grove Presbyterian Church
- 16. Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church
- 17. Saint John A.M.E. Zion Church
- 18. Old Bluff Church and Cemetery
- 19. Sardis Presbyterian Church
- 20. Historical Markers

Hay Street United 08 **Methodist Church**

Religious Freedom

The large number of Highland Scots who immigrated to Cross Creek were primarily Presbyterian. Here, they were able to worship freely apart from the established Church of England. Reverend Hugh McAden, a Scottish minister, was the earliest Presbyterian minister to visit area settlements. McAden enlisted the help of Reverend James Campbell, who created three major assemblies: Long Street Church in 1756, Bluff Church in 1758, and Barbecue Church also in 1758. Services were initially in both English and Gaelic. Presbyterianism grew, and today, at least seven churches have remained in existence for over 100 years.

For many settlers, however, it was ministers and missionaries who brought religion to them. The early Christian denominations, which include Quaker, Baptist, Episcopalian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic, were able to establish themselves freely and without persecution, mainly because the Lords Proprietors tolerated religious differences as a way to entice settlement to their colony.

Quakers took advantage of this tolerance and established themselves early in North Carolina's history. In 1701, for example, they were the most numerous in the Albemarle region. Quakers worked and resided throughout the Cape Fear region. The Dunn's Creek Quaker Meeting, which met along the river in the southern part of what is now Cumberland County, began in 1746, and was discontinued in 1781.

The earliest known Baptist congregation was Cape Fear Baptist Church, which began in 1756. This sect was known as "Particular Baptist." Baptist congregations collectively made it one of the largest denominations in town. The 1850 census records 12 Baptist churches in the area. First Baptist Church occupied a frame structure built on the corner of Old and Union (now Anderson) streets. Its first pastor, James McDaniel, served as president of the State Baptist Convention for 19 years. He also served a longtime tenure as a trustee of Wake Forest College (now Wake Forest University), where he was a student in 1837-38. Like many early churches, the original building contained a second story gallery in which slaves worshiped, and, also like many churches, a black congregation eventually separated to establish their own house of worship.

For some enslaved and free blacks to worship as they desired, they had to do so in secret. Hidden among trees, slaves did gather and worship, observing religious customs and traditions that were uniquely their own. Their individual worship, filled with handed-down traditions and beliefs, helped them to rise above their oppression. Their churches began as brush arbors, also referred to as hush arbors. It was forbidden by law for slaves to congregate or assemble without supervision of their owners, and free blacks were constantly seen as possible suspects for causing a slave insurrection.

In January 1817, Reverend Bethel Judd conducted the first Episcopal services in Fayetteville. These services were held in a large school building. Three months later on April 9, the church elected an administrative vestry, chose the name St. John's Church, and elected Reverend Bethel Judd as rector. Reverend Jarvis B. Buxton, rector from 1831 to 1851, stated that one fourth of his ministry was to "colored people." The 1850 census lists five Episcopal churches in Cumberland County. During this early settlement, the religious doctrine of the Episcopal Church closely resembled the Church of England.

Methodism came to Fayetteville by way of a free black cobbler (shoemaker) named Henry Evans, originally from Virginia, who arrived in Fayetteville on his way towards Charleston in the late 1700s. Here, he began preaching to the black people of the area. Worried that Evans might incite slaves to revolt, he was forbidden to preach. However, he continued to do so, changing locations of his services to avoid capture. Eventually, when he was no longer seen as a threat, he preached to racially mixed congregations which later separated into two churches, the first being Evans A.M.E. Zion Church and the second, Hay St. United Methodist Church. Henry Evans died in 1810, and is buried under the church that bears his name.

Irish immigrant and merchant John Kelly was influential in beginning a Catholic congregation that eventually led to its consecration in 1829 by John England, Bishop of Charleston. Their first church building burned in the great fire of 1831. The next year, John Kelly deeded land to the Bishop for the construction of a new building. Known as St. Patrick Catholic Church, it has had three different locations around the city and is still in existence, with the current parish located on Village Drive.

International Pentecostal Holiness Church originated in 1911 in the town of Falcon, located in northeast Cumberland County. It is recognized as the oldest conference in that denomination. A few years earlier, ca. 1900, the Falcon camp meeting consisted of 2,000 worshipers in attendance. Today, the Falcon Children's Home is one of the church's established charities.

Although Christianity was the most prominent in Cumberland County, other major religions became established. Though initially fewer in number, people belonging to the Jewish tradition resided in the community. Judah P. Benjamin, the son of an English Jewish father and Portuguese Jewish mother, lived in Fayetteville from 1813 to 1822. He served as a United States Senator and held three cabinet positions in the Confederate government. In 1910, a synagogue was built to accommodate a growing Jewish community. The Jewish population reached 8,252 by 1927, in North Carolina.

A local mosque was established in 1987, and as of 2001, served approximately 100 families. Its association is with the American Muslim Society. In 1991, the mosque was renamed Masjid Omar Ibn Said, in honor of an African-born Muslim slave named Omar Ibn Said. Said was captured in Africa in 1807 and sold into slavery after landing in Charleston. Eventually, he ran away and was captured in Fayetteville. He was purchased by the Owen family of Milton Plantation, which was located along the shores of the Cape Fear River in Bladen County. He continued practicing his Muslim faith for several years. Said was probably one of the first known practicing Muslims in the area. In 1820, he practiced Christianity with local Presbyterians at the First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville. As a slave, he moved with the Owen family to Wilmington in 1835 and was involved with attempts to convert native Africans. In 1864, Said died. His Bible and additional material reside at the Davidson College archives.

Major religions have been present throughout the area's history, from early settlers and slaves, to the present transient community that has evolved. What began with Presbyterianism practiced by immigrant Scots was followed by missionaries of many denominations and newcomers from other religions. Later, early 20th-century arrivals included Greek Orthodox and Lebanese Maronite Catholics among others. Today, each has its own history helping to forge our region's religious freedom.



Fayetteville Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (FACVB)

The Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau positions Fayetteville and Cumberland County as a destination for conventions, tournaments, and individual travel. We operate a Visitors Center with a drive-through window. We are located just minutes from the heart of downtown. Signs from I-95 provide clear directions to the Visitor Center. Call us for information and help planning your visit to the area, or stop by when you arrive for maps, brochures, and more.

• HOURS:

Open to the public Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

NEXT STOP

Exit the FACVB parking lot, making a left onto Person Street, enter into roundabout, take third exit on to North Cool Spring and Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church will be on your left.



Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church

This church was chartered in 1801, and the current building was built in 1893. The congregation was founded by Henry Evans, a black shoemaker and Methodist preacher. His arrival into Fayetteville was the beginning of Methodism in Fayetteville and eastern North Carolina. Evans preached to a congregation of both blacks and whites. By the 1870s, the church became a part of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. A tablet in the basement marks the grave of Henry Evans.

301 North Cool Spring Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-483-2862

02

• HOURS :

Daily, before dusk. Exterior view only.

NEXT STOP

Continue on North Cool Spring Street. Saint Ann Catholic Church is on your left.



Saint Ann Catholic Church

This church was created in 1934 because a group of African Americans were tired of attending Mass near a sign that read, "Colored Catholics Sit Here." Historically, St. Ann's served the blacks while St. Patrick's was predominantly white. However, the St. Ann Catholic School was the first school in North Carolina to be integrated from its inception. Another unique aspect of St. Ann Church is the beautiful collection of stained-glass windows depicting the church's history.

365 North Cool Spring Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

5108

910-483-3216

03

• HOURS :

Daily before dusk. Exterior view or by appointment only.

NEXT STOP

Continue on North Cool Spring
Street and take the first right out of
the roundabout onto Person Street.
Veer right on Bow Street. Turn right
onto Ann Street. First Presbyterian
Church is on your right.



First Presbyterian Church

102 Ann Street FAYETTEVILLE, NC

910-483-0121

04

The history of the Presbyterian Church in Cumberland County can be directly traced to Scots who settled here in the early 1700s. Services were held in the State House, located where the Market House now stands. The first church building was constructed in 1817, but it burned in the Great Fire of 1831. In 1832, a new structure was built, incorporating the surviving brick walls of the earlier church.

• HOURS:

Daily before dusk. Exterior view or by appointment only.

NEXT STOP

Turn around on Ann Street. Make a right onto Bow Street. Make a right onto Green Street. The Church is on the right.



Saint John's Episcopal Church

302 Green Street FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-483-7405

05

Saint John's, Fayetteville's first Episcopal Church, was formally organized on April 7, 1817. The original church building was completed in 1819, but was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1831. The rector at the time traveled North to seek aid to rebuild the church and returned with \$7,600 and a bell (later given to the confederate cause) from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Troy, New York.

• HOURS:

Daily before dusk. Exterior view or by appointment only.

NEXT STOP

Continue on Green Street. Green Street becomes Ramsey Street. Make a left onto Moore Street.



Saint Joseph's Episcopal Church

The church, built in 1896 to serve a black congregation formed in 1873,

represents the second-oldest Episcopal congregation in Fayetteville. Most notable are five Resurrection windows from Tiffany & Co. in New York. A pipe organ built in 1857 is one of the oldest still in use in America and has been powered by hand, water, gas, and now electricity.

509 Ramsey Street FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-323-0161

06

• HOURS:

Open to the public daily, before dusk. Exterior view only.

NEXT STOP

Turn around on Moore Street. Make a right onto Ramsey Street. Ramsey Street becomes Green Street. Make a right onto Maiden Lane. Make a left onto Anderson Street.



The First Baptist Church of Fayetteville was found November 25, 1837. At this time, there weren't any Baptist churches in Fayetteville. The movement to organize had begun in the county's rural areas several years earlier. The church included 28 charter members. Until 1854, baptisms were administered in nearby Cross Creek.

• HOURS:

Open to the public daily before dusk. Exterior view only.

NEXT STOP

Turn around on Anderson Street. Make a left onto Maiden Lane. Make a left onto Burgess Street. Make a right into the parking lot.

320 Hay Street FAYETTEVILLE, NC

910-483-2343

08



Hay Street United Methodist Church

First Baptist Church

Henry Evans, a free black, built the first Methodist meeting house on Cool Spring Street. The church purchased its current lot at the corner of Hay Street and Ray Avenue in April of 1832. The first building at this site was dedicated on June 23, 1835. It was replaced by the current structure in 1908, the centennial anniversary of the official organization of the church. The stained-glass windows that surround the sanctuary were made in Salisbury, England, and feature the rare "Robing Glass" technique, a process in which the folds of the figures' robes are actually blown into the glass. The creation of such "robing" is now a lost art. Bricks to build the current structure came from the brickyard of E.A. Poe, whose home is now known as the 1897 Poe House (part of the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex). Mr. Poe served as the chairman of the Building Committee.

• HOURS :

Daily before dusk. Exterior view or by appointment only.

NEXT STOP

Make a right onto Burgess Street from the parking lot. Make a right onto Hay Street. Make a left onto Robeson Street. Make a left onto Village Drive.



Saint Patrick Catholic Church

On March 17, 1829, Bishop John England (Bishop of Charleston) celebrated the dedication and solemn blessing of Saint Patrick Church, the first Roman Catholic Church dedicated in the State. The first building was destroyed in Fayetteville's Great Fire of 1831. The second church building, constructed near the same site as the first church on Bow Street, served the parish for more than 100 years. In 1936, Saint Patrick parishioners relocated to Arsenal Avenue (the present location of St. Michael the Archangel Maronite Catholic Church). St. Patrick Catholic Church has been at its Village Drive location since 1963.

2840 Village Drive FAYETTEVILLE, NO

910-323-4410

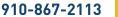
09

• HOURS:

Open to the public daily before dusk. Exterior view only.

NEXT STOP

Continue on Village Drive. Make a right onto Owen Drive. Owen Drive becomes All American Freeway. Make a right onto Cliffdale Road.





MacPherson Presbyterian Church

The current building of MacPherson Church was built in 1868 and features brick salvaged from the U.S. Arsenal. However, the first minister, Reverend Angus McDiarmid (who is buried at Long Street Church Cemetery), held open-air services in Gaelic and English since 1793, as the original congregation was of Scottish descent, like many other churches in the area. Today, inside the church, a visitor may see many objects from its past: the first communion service, handmade tin sconces from the original building, the sounding board, and the communion bench. The cemetery consists of many early, prominent Scottish families of the area; including the Shaws and the McPhersons, as well as individuals such as Theopolis Holmes, a Lieutenant General in the Confederate Army.

• HOURS:

Daily before dusk. Exterior view or by appointment only.

NEXT STOP

Turn around on Cliffdale Road.

Make a right onto Skibo Road. Make
a left onto Camp Ground Road.



Camp Ground United Methodist Church

Campground United Methodist Church was organized in 1860. Its name derived from regular camp meetings held for several days in the early 1840s at this location. Land was eventually purchased, and a log structure was built. The nearby cemetery contains graves from as early as 1838.

4625 Camp Ground Road FAYETTEVILLE, NC

NC STO

910-867-9436

11

• HOURS:

Weekdays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Exterior view or by appointment only.

• NEXT STOP

Turn around on Camp Ground Road.

Make a left onto Skibo Road. Make
a left onto Yadkin Road.



Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

According to a deed dated November 18 1873, a piece of land was sold by Henry McDonald to the Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America. With this tract of land, the first substantial building was constructed with the name of Beaver Creek Chapel, and steps of progress were seen. In 1887, under the leadership of Reverend M. N. Levy, an antique church bell was purchased. In October 1923, under the administration of Reverend E. Johnson McKoy, the church building was remodeled. The name was changed from Beaver Creek A. M. E. Zion Church to Simon Temple A. M. E. Zion Church on November 9, 1976, in recognition of Simon the Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry his cross.

• HOURS:

Daily before dusk. Exterior view or by appointment only.

NEXT STOP

Turn around on Yadkin Road and head back towards Sante Fe Drive. Make a left onto Santa Fe Drive. Make a left onto All-American Freeway. Take All-American Freeway into Fort Bragg. ***Only U.S. Citizens may enter the post. All visitors must stop at All-American Welcome Center, on left, show ID and receive Visitors Pass to access Fort Bragg.*** Once through gate, take All-American to Longstreet Road. Turn Right onto Longstreet Road. Turn Right onto Sedgewick Street. Proceed to Sedgewick and Jackson Street.



Main Post Chapel

FORT BRAGG, NC 910-396-8016

Sedgewick and Jackson Streets

13

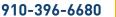
This non-denominational chapel was completed in March 1934, financed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and represents one of the finest military chapels in existence. Numerous colorful stained-glass windows were added in 1945, and the breezeway in 1964. Its Classical Revival style is highlighted by stucco walls, arched windows, and a monumental steeple. The interior acoustics provide enhanced sound for musical and spiritual events which continue to serve the military community stationed at Fort Bragg, both active duty and retired soldiers.

• HOURS:

Daily before dusk. Exterior view or by appointment only.

NEXT STOP

Long Street Presbyterian Church & Cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the Fort Bragg Cultural Management Resources Program (CRMP). It can only be accessed with a CRMP guide present. Please call the CRMP to see if access is available. They will direct you as to how to get to their location once you reach Fort Bragg. ***Only U.S. Citizens may enter the post. All visitors must stop at All-American Welcome Center, on left, show ID and receive Visitors Pass to access Fort Bragg.***





Long Street Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

This two-story wooden frame church represents the third formal structure associated with the Highland Scots community known as Argyle, the origins of which date to 1756. This church, completed in 1846-1847, was partially built by slave labor using all local materials. Built in the classical Greek Revival style, it features a symmetrical entrance way, large columns on the front portico, no steeple, tall windows, and a central Palladian window. The interior features a second-story gallery around three-quarters of the room, accessible by opposing stairways from the exterior rear walls. The gallery was built for enslaved Africans and African-Americans to join their owners and other community members in the congregation. Early church services were held in the Gaelic language. In accordance with early Presbyterian doctrine, the sexes also sat segregated during services, so this church features two front doors and a dividing partition extended down a central bank of pews. This structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The adjacent cemetery, surrounded by a dry-laid stone wall, contains over 233 marked graves along with one mass burial dating to the Civil War era. This graveyard served the community from the early 1770s until 1930s. Markers made of granite, marble, sandstone, and wood reflect the names and origins of many community members, including one marker in Gaelic. Annual reunions of congregation descendants still meet at this church.

• HOURS :

Weekdays 8 a.m.-4 p.m. By appointment only.

NEXT STOP

Sandy Grove Presbyterian Church is under the jurisdiction of the Fort Bragg Cultural Management Resources Program (CRMP). It can only be accessed with a CRMP guide present. Please call the CRMP to see if access is available. They will direct you as to how to get to their location once you reach Fort Bragg. ***Only U.S. Citizens may enter the post. All visitors must stop at All-American Welcome Center, on left, show ID and receive Visitors Pass to access Fort Bragg.***



Sandy Grove Presbyterian Church

This single-story wooden church was completed in 1854 on land once owned by Peter Monroe. It served a rural community in what was once western Cumberland County, until purchased by the Army in 1922. Members of the church were Highland Scots and organized by parishioners from the early Long Street Presbyterian Church several miles to the east. Architecturally, it contains elements of a Greek Revival style, with its symmetrical floorplan and tall windows. Modifications were made in 1917 to add a front vestibule, steeple, and arches to the windows. According to Presbyterian doctrine, the sexes and races would also have sat segregated during services. Double front doors are still visible, now on the interior. A rear door once provided access for the enslaved members. The adjacent cemetery contains 214 known graves, the earliest of which dates to 1859, and the latest is 1977. Various surnames reflect the Scottish heritage of the area. Veterans from several wars are also interred at this graveyard. Annual reunions of congregation descendants are still held here.

Call for directions to location, FORT BRAGG, NC

910-396-6680

15

• HOURS :

Weekdays 8 a.m.-4 p.m. By appointment only.

NEXT STOP

From Randolph Street make a left onto Bragg Blvd. Continue on Bragg Blvd. Make a left onto Vass Road.



Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church

The Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church was founded in 1873 as a mission, known as the "Little Ark." The late Jack Murchison built a brush shelter to preach to two neighboring plantations. A few years later, a Presbyterian minister preached at Little Ark and established it as a Presbyterian church. Subsequently, a Methodist minister from Fayetteville arrived and converted them to Methodism, which later became a part of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church movement.

• HOURS :

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only.

NEXT STOP

Turn around on Vass Road, Make a right onto Bragg Blvd. Follow Bragg Blvd until it merges with NC 210, Murchison Road. Follow Murchison Road. Turn right onto Pamelee Drive. Make a left onto Bragg Blvd. Continue on Bragg Blvd. Make a right onto Glenwood Drive. Make a left onto Woodland Drive.



Saint John A.M.E. Zion Church

This church began with Mrs. Elsie Wright holding Sunday School classes in her home. In 1905, the cornerstone of the church was laid for the present structure.

1204 Woodland Drive FAYETTEVILLE, NC

910-483-3274

• HOURS :

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only.

NEXT STOP

Turn around on Woodland Drive. Make a right onto Kooler Circle. Make a right onto Glenwood Drive. Make a right onto Bragg Blvd. Turn left onto Hay Street. Make a left onto North Eastern Blvd. Continue on North Eastern Blvd/US-301 North until the Middle Road exit on the right. Take the exit and make a left onto Middle Road. Make a left onto Dunn Road (301 N). Bear straight/left onto Sisk Culbreth Road. Make a left onto Old Bluff Church Road.



Old Bluff Church and Cemetery

Old Bluff Church Road

910-891-5019

18

Organized in 1758, Old Bluff Presbyterian Church is one of oldest Presbyterian churches in Cumberland County. This church, along with Long Street Presbyterian and Barbecue Presbyterian Churches, provided the Scottish population of the Upper Cape Fear Valley with longtime formal congregations. The adjacent cemetery is one of the oldest in the county. Many early Scottish settler, and merchant families are buried there, including Colonel Alexander McAllister (a leading county patriot in the American Revolution), Farquhard Campbell and David Marshall (Carbine) Williams (invented the semi-automatic M1 Carbine rifle used in World War II). The present Greek Revival structure was built in 1858. This church still holds regular services.

• HOURS :

Daily before dusk. Exterior view or appointment only.

NEXT STOP

Turn around on Old Bluff Church
Road. Make a left onto Sisk
Culbreth Road. Make a left onto
Burnett Road. Burnett Road
becomes NC 82. Make a left to stay
on NC 82. Follow NC 82 bearing left
towards Erwin. Make a left onto Old
Cutoff Road. Make a left onto NC
217 (sign says 513th Street). Make a
right onto Main Street/NC 217.
Continue on Main Street/NC 217 as
it becomes Linden Road/NC 217.



Sardis Presbyterian Church

Sardis Presbyterian Church was organized on May 5, 1816, by a group of 27 dedicated Christians who met for worship at Hodges Meeting House on the bank of Little River. Like other early Presbyterian churches, services were delivered in both English and Gaelic.

4654 Linden Road LINDEN, NC

N, NC

800-255-8217

19

• HOURS:

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only.

Historical Markers



A) First Presbyterian Church - Green Street at Bow Street

Organized in 1800. The original building, begun in 1816, rebuilt on same walls after fire of 1831, stands one block east.



B) MacPherson Church - Raeford Road at MacPherson Church Road

Presbyterian. Founded by early Scottish settlers. Graves of Alexander MacPherson and T. H. Holmes, a Confederate general, 1 1/2 miles N.



C) John England 1786-1842 - Owen Drive at Village Drive

Bishop of Charleston. He organized Roman Catholics in N.C. at Fayetteville Convention, & consecrated St. Patrick Church, 1829. Present church 4/10 mi. E.



D) Old Bluff Church (Historical Marker) - US 301 at SR 1802 (McLellon Road) northeast of Wade

Presbyterian. Organized in 1758 by Rev. James Campbell. Present building erected about 1858. N.W. 1 mi.



E) Cape Fear Baptist Church - NC 87 at SR 2234 (Blossom Road) south of **Fayetteville**

Constituted in 1756 as Particular Baptist. Stephen Hollingsworth, first minister. Present (1859) building 2 mi. E.



F) Omar Ibn Said - NC 210 (Murchison Rd.)

Muslim slave & scholar. African-born, he penned autobiography in Arabic, 1831. Lived in Bladen County and worshipped with local Presbyterians.