

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHEDULES

HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Calvary Episcopal Church (East Church and St. David Streets)
 - 8:00 am Holy Eucharist in All Saints Chapel
 - 11:00 am Holy Eucharist
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Panola and East Pitt Streets)
 - 9:00 am Holy Eucharist
- First Baptist Church (Main and East Wilson Streets)
 - 10:30 am Blended Worship
- Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church (St. James and St. Patrick Streets)
 - 11:00 am Worship
- St. James United Methodist Church (St. James and St. Andrew Streets)
 - 8:45 am and 11:00 am Worship
- St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church (St. Patrick and East Granville Streets)
 - 11:00 am Worship
- St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church (St. David and East Philips Streets)
 - 9:00 am (English Mass) and 12:00 noon (Spanish Mass)

PRINCEVILLE

- Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church (Church and Dancy Streets)
 - 11:00 am Worship

Historic Church Tour



The first Baptist worship service was held in Tarboro in 1819. Following controversies over missionary movements, education and benevolent ventures, two Baptist churches were formed in 1828.



Primitive Baptist Church (corner of Albemarle Avenue and St. James Street) Established 1828. Current building constructed in the 1840s.

Led by Joshua Lawrence, the Primitive or Old School Baptists actively opposed “the materialistic” activities they felt to be against Baptist principles. Known as “hard shell”, members of the Primitive Baptist Church could not find scriptures to back up “New School” practices. Tarboro played a significant role in the Old School movement where George Howard published the *Primitive Baptist*.

The church building reflects the Primitive Baptist belief in simplicity. The land where the church stands was originally part of the Town Common and the cemetery was established before the building was constructed. Several Civil War veterans and members of Tarboro’s first families are buried in it.

OTHER HISTORICAL TARBORO AND PRINCEVILLE CHURCHES

Italics Indicate historic building destroyed

B’nai Israel Synagogue (no longer exists)

Cobb Memorial Presbyterian Church

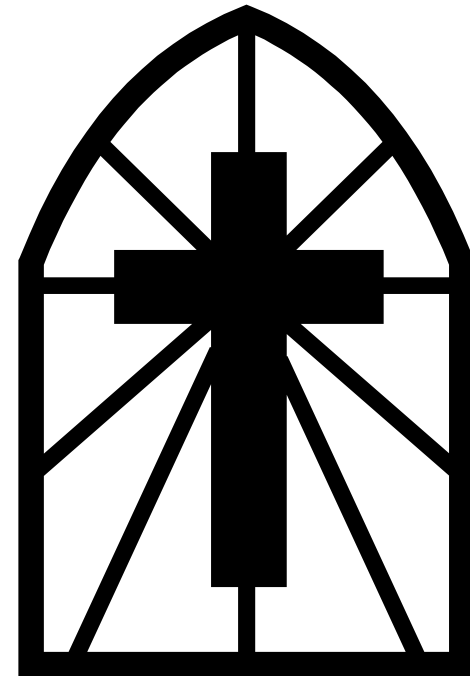
Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

Union Baptist Church

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Princeville

St. Luke Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ), Princeville





St. James United Methodist Church (corner of St. James and St. Andrew Streets) Founded in 1784. Present building completed in 1918.

Methodism is rooted in an English movement within the Anglican Church begun in late 1730s. Evangelical-leaning Church of England priests John and Charles Wesley sent ministers and bishops to the post-Revolutionary War United States due to shortage of priests. In the post-Revolutionary War United States. These missionaries pursued itinerant open-air preaching and one of them, Bishop Francis Asbury (one of the

founders of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784) visited Tarboro in 1803 to preach in the new chapel to a congregation comprised mostly of Africans (unclear if they were slave or free). He presided over the Virginia Conference that met in Tarboro in 1809 with 84 ministers present and over 2,000 people attending two services.

Methodism went dormant in Tarboro after the 1815 death of Bishop Asbury but was revitalized in the Tar River Circuit. In 1830, the congregation built a chapel, held a camp meeting, and began to grow. A new church dedicated in 1856 on the eve of the Civil War and the church bell was given to the Confederate government for war work.

In 1888, St. James was made a separate station with 284 members and a church/parsonage property worth \$8,000. Missionary chapels were built in West Tarboro and in the Hart Mill Village. When fire destroyed building in 1915, the congregation met in the synagogue until construction of a new church was completed. The first service held in 1918 and the church dedicated in 1931. An educational building completed in 1953 at cost of \$40,000.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at Edmondson and Lloyd streets is significant architecturally as an eclectic late 19th-century church with rich and abundant wooden decoration and dramatically irregular massing. It is historically significant as the home originally of a prominent Baptist congregation and as a 20th century prominent black congregation, which it has served for nearly 150 years.

This wood frame church was originally on North Main Street, serving the Baptist Church congregation established in the early 19th century when the Primitive and Missionary Baptist denominations separated. This was evidently the third church building of the group, under the ministry of Rev. J.D. Hundley.

O.C. Farrar, a prominent postwar business leader, gave the land and financed the construction. His funeral is said to have been the first service held in the new building. He died in 1891, and his obituary described his last project: "The crowning act of his life was the building of the Missionary Baptist Church at this place. It is an ornament to the town."

In 1865, St. Paul Baptist Missionary Baptist was organized with 16 members from the black community, following the leadership of George C. Caine, a Virginia native, who settled in Tarboro soon after the Civil War with his wife, Agnes Edmond Caine.

They initiated a weekly prayer service because of the lack of black churches in the community, and, within a few years, the new church was established under the leadership of Rev. S.A. Davis, assisted by A.F. Flood, Samuel Perry, and the Rev. Thomas Owens, the last being the minister of the white Baptist church. The church building was moved (in three sections with the connecting seams visible on the building) from its Main Street site to the present location about 1928. The central portion has a multigabled belvedere that serves the interior space as skylight. Projecting from the core are multiple gabled wings and a corner tower. Windows occur singly and in trios, and with the tiny outlining panes typical of the Queen Anne style.

The wall surfaces are weather boarded and enriched with bands of panels, brackets, heavy labels over windows, and other ornamentation, all beautifully preserved. The corner tower, which rose to a dramatic multigabled belfry, was truncated about 1976 and topped with a reduced upper level. Otherwise the church is unaltered. Inside, the dominant space is a large open sanctuary with a dome and oculus above. Most of the original woodwork is intact and typical of the turn of the century. Reflecting the circular orientation created by the dome was the curved pews and being in bad condition have been replaced because of the difficulty finding craftsmen to repair them.



First Baptist Church (corner of Main and Wilson Streets)

Established 1828. Current building completed in 1928.



In 1820, what was known as the Missionary Baptist Church was built at Church Street and Hendricks Creek near the Tarboro Male Academy. In the 1828 schism, this building went with Missionary faction.

With just 25 members, the church acquired the current Main Street lot in 1890 for

\$3,500 and incurred debt because of the land purchase and construction costs. The building was dedicated in 1893 after the congregation subscribed reduce the debt and brought a minister from Scotland Neck to revitalize the congregation. In order to generate income, a five-room rental cottage, that later served as the parsonage, was built behind the church 1905. The note burned in 1913.

Called "First" Baptist Church in 1923, the congregation launched plans for a new building with \$60,400 pledged. Ground was broken in 1926 and, with members doing much of the construction work, the building was completed in 1928. The old church was sold to St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and moved to East Tarboro in three sections. It was not until 1945 that the mortgage was burned.

The congregation grew to a post-World War II membership of over 600. To accommodate new ministries, a building program

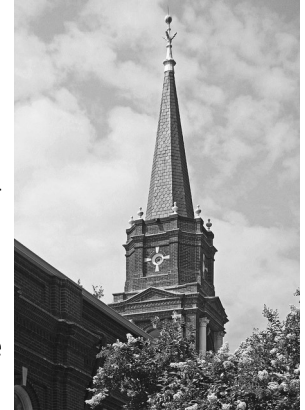
Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church and Old Town Cemetery (the block bordered by St. James, St. Patrick, Church, and Church Streets)

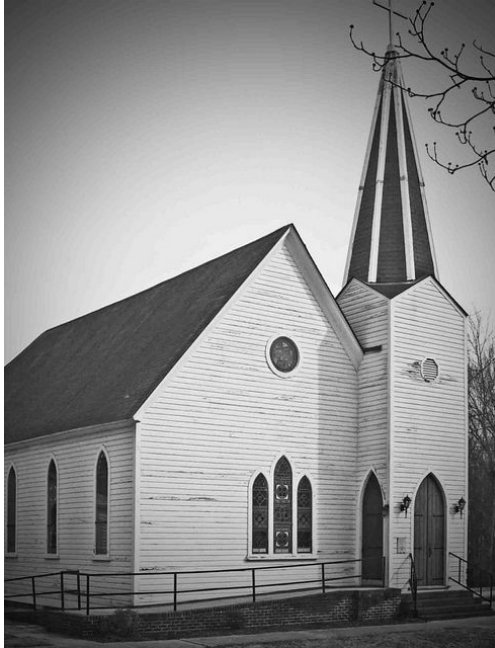
Founded 1874. Current building completed in 1909.

A small group of Presbyterians began meeting in the Methodist Church in 1867. Led by three women who were all named "Anna", the congregation received permission to build a church on one corner of Old Town Cemetery, the public burying grounds. The "Three Annas" designed a Gothic Revival building that was erected in 1874 at a cost of \$5,500 by the initial twenty-four members.

In 1905, George Howard, a leading Tarboro citizen, announced his desire to erect a new church building as a memorial to his parents. The congregation petitioned the Albemarle Presbytery to change the name to Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church and the new sanctuary was dedicated in 1909. The education wing was added in the late 1950s. The original building was moved to East Tarboro where it served Eastern Star Baptist Church until its demolition following the 1999 floods of Hurricane Floyd. The Town of Tarboro conveyed Old Town Cemetery to Howard Memorial in 2012.

Howard Memorial was active in establishing five mission churches throughout Edgecombe County during the 1920s. It was also during this period that the well-known hymn, "Spirit of the Living God", was written by the Rev. Daniel Iverson in the original pastor's office.





St. Luke's Episcopal Church
(corner of Panola and East Pitt
Streets)

Founded in 1872. Building completed in 1892. A *Living Historic Church* of the Diocese of North Carolina.

Early members of this parish worshipped in Calvary Church but were moved to their own chapel in the corner of the Calvary Churchyard in 1870. Under the guidance of the Rev. John William Perry and with support of Calvary's Rector, the Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire, the congregation made plans for a permanent structure. The current building

was completed in 1892 and St. Luke's was consecrated as a parish in 1899.

The Rev. William Perry served as Rector until 1908 and was succeeded by his son-in-law, the Rev. Milton Moran Weston who served until 1958. At that time, St. Luke's reverted to mission status and is served by a Vicar from Calvary Church and its own Lay Readers.

The St. Luke's building is simplified Gothic Revival style and contains the original flooring, pews, and altar. The stained glass windows are a combination of memorials to parishioners and donations from other Episcopal parishes in the eastern United States.

St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church (St. Patrick
Street south of East Granville Street) Founded in
1883.

The Tar River property was purchased in 1884 to serve 2nd Baptist Church (Colored), founded in 1883. St. Stephen's was served for many years by the Rev. T. V. Foster who died in 1974.

The vernacular Gothic Revival structure was severely damaged in the 1999 floods following Hurricane Floyd. Unlike its neighboring church, St. Paul AME Zion, St. Stephen chose to repair and restore its sanctuary and affiliated buildings.

Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist (200 Church Street,
Princeville)

The Radicue Primitive Baptist congregation formed in Princeville in 1876 under the leadership of John Bell of Fairfax, Virginia. The congregation built Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church circa 1890. It is the oldest surviving church building in Princeville.

An Italian white marble monument (painted white) honoring Elder Abraham Wooten, an early church and community leader, was erected in 1896 and stands today on the church steps.

The Abraham Wooten monument may be the oldest monument to an African American in North Carolina.

Site of St. Paul AME Zion Church (St. David and East Granville Streets)

Founded circa 1864.

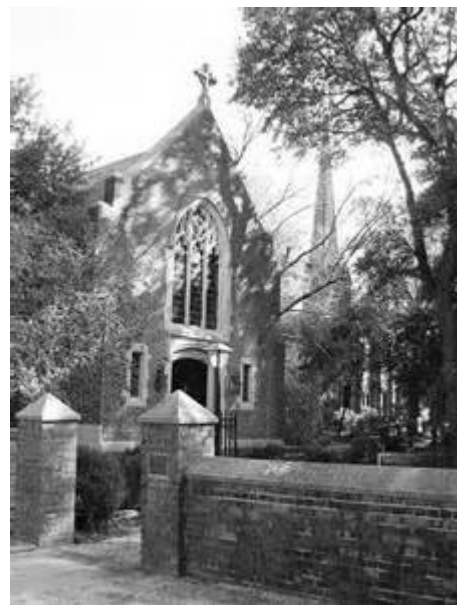
Following the Civil War, black Methodists, both former slaves and free, were evangelized by two new national denominations – AME and AME Zion. Bishop James Walker Hood was active in eastern North Carolina and founded the North Carolina AME Zion Conference in 1864. Shortly thereafter, the Rev. William Pitts organized the Tarboro church.

Formed as direct result of Bishop James Walker Hood's persuasion of black Southern Methodist congregations to convert to AME Zion faith, the North Carolina Conference founded in 1864 and the Rev. William Pitts organized Tarboro church shortly thereafter. The American Missionary Association sent Jamaican-born teacher Robert Taylor to begin a school for former slaves in the AME Zion structure.

Built in the 1870s, the church was severely damaged by 1999 floods of Hurricane Floyd and demolished in 2002. The site also contained church bell that was later relocated to new church structure on West Wilson Street that was constructed over a weekend by a missionary group.



Calvary Episcopal Church and Churchyard (the block bordered by Church, Panola, St. James, and St. David Streets)



Founded 1833. Church building completed in 1867; Parish House and All Saints Chapel completed in 1922. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a *Living Historic Church* of the Diocese of North Carolina.

Only the Episcopal church in Tarboro can trace its roots to pre-Revolutionary War Tarboro when an Anglican chapel, St. Mary's, was established on the banks of the Tar River. Organized services were dormant until after the 1789 founding of the Episcopal Church in the newly formed United States. Calvary Parish was incorporated by Tarboro citizens and admitted into the Diocese of North Carolina in 1833.

The block upon which Calvary stands is comprised of lots conveyed as gifts to the parish. A wooden structure was consecrated in 1840, used by St. Luke's Church, and demolished in 1929. English architect William Percival designed the Gothic Revival church and construction was begun before the Civil War during which the walls were boarded up. A good cotton crop allowed the parish to complete the church by 1867. Hobart Upjohn, son of famed architect Richard Upjohn, designed Memorial Hall and All Saints Chapel, which were completed in 1922. A new book on Calvary's magnificent stained glass windows is available for purchase in the gift shop.

Two Rectors of Calvary Church played a significant role not only in the parish but also in the larger community. The Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire served as Rector from 1842 until his retirement in 1886. An avid amateur horticulturist, Cheshire sought botanical samples from around the world to plant in the Calvary churchyard, which is today known for its diverse plantings. In the 1920s, Calvary embarked on a mission program to establish congregations across Edgecombe County including in Tarboro's mill villages. The Rev. Bertram Brown's endeavors were recognized with a sundial on the Town Common.

The Calvary churchyard contains many significant graves – those of slaves, Civil War soldiers including the Rev. Dorsey Pender, the Rt. Rev. William Cheshire (Bishop of North Carolina), and Tarboro families. It is still an active cemetery and is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.