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SURVEY OF

PREBYTERIAN CHURCHES

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

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St. James
1952

A
STUDY
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCHES
OF
METROPOLITAN
CHARLOTTE
N. C.

Hal Hyde
Urban Church Department
Board of Church Extension
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FOREWORD

The writer certainly wishes to express his deep appreciation to all those who aided him so wholeheartedly in collecting the materials for this study of Charlotte, North Carolina. People along the common walks of life as well as those having influential and responsible positions helped the writer gain a better understanding of this seat of Presbyterianism.

Mr. R. H. Stone, the Executive Secretary of Mecklenburg Presbytery was most helpful, along with others, in giving the writer every conceivable help. He gave unstintedly of his time, and also made his car available for field trips whenever necessary. This study could not have been made without his interest and cooperation.

Hal Hyde

YOUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S OUTREACH

Truly, since Charlotte was founded in 1768 our Presbyterian constituency has been in the warp and weave of this community - playing a vital role not only in the spiritual well being, but also an equally important part in the cultural and business life of this thriving city.

The past decade has seen the city expanding - spreading unceasingly from its center to the periphery. Your Church Extension Committee along with your Executive Secretary, therefore asked that this two-fold study be made - first that as the city grew populationwise there should be ascertained in what areas future developments should be projected for bringing them into the Lord's vineyard, and, secondly, also to make an appraisal of the work already started.

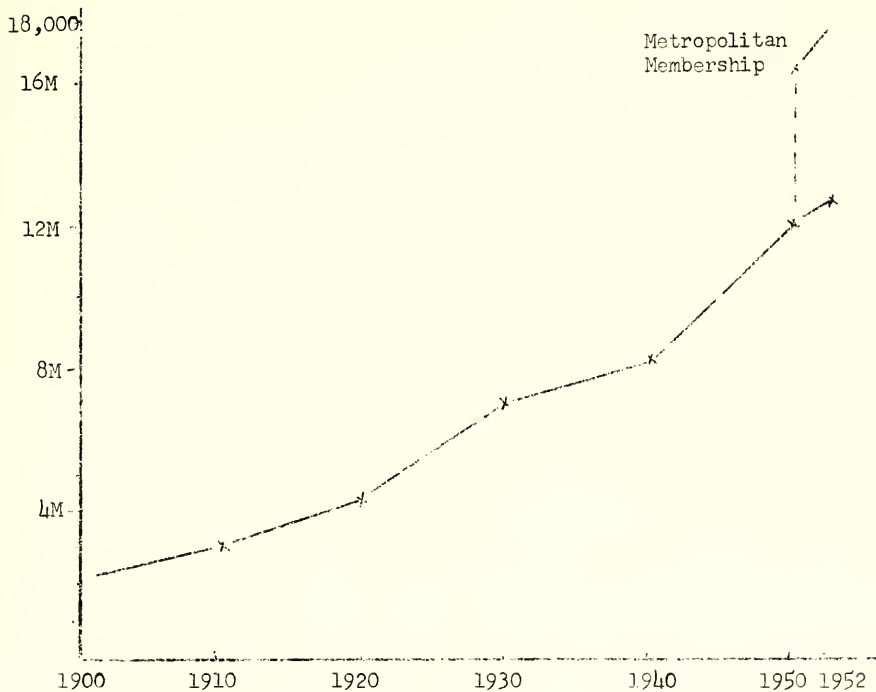
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The membership of our churches in the Charlotte metropolitan area, from the date of the establishment of the first church of our denomination, Sugaw Creek Church, in 1756 up to the present time, shows a growth that has for the most part paralleled the population increase. The past ten years, from 1940 to 1950, has seen the membership in our Presbyterian Churches within the city gain 46.8%, whereas the population grew only 32.8% in the same period of time. Metropolitanwise our membership increase in the same period was 52.4%.

A sidelight of interest also is that, while churches have constantly been started, there were organized during the last ten years from 1940 to 1950 exactly twice as many churches as were begun in any previous decade - ten churches to be exact. The membership in the metropolitan area would have been 2,476 members less had not these churches come into being.

Graphically, the membership is shown below from 1950 thru 1952 both for the city wide church membership as well as the metropolitan membership for 1950 and 1952

CHART NO. I



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GRAPH - CHARLOTTE, N. C.

There are thirty-seven churches being considered in this study - twenty-three within and fourteen in the area immediately outside the city.

Grouping the churches on the basis of their 1952 reported membership, they are summarized as follows:

TABLE NO. I
1952 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BY GROUPS

<u>NO. OF CHURCHES</u>	<u>MEMBERS PER CHURCH</u>	<u>MEMBERS PER GROUP</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
4	Over 1,000	6,621	37.8
7	500 to 999	4,529	25.9
16	200 to 499	5,021	28.7
8	100 to 199	1,208	6.9
2	Less than 100	122	.7
37	TOTAL	17,501	100.0

TABLE NO. II1952 MEMBERSHIP

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>1952 MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>1952 MEMBERSHIP</u>
Amity	244	Robinson	153
Avondale	301	Seigle Ave.	296
Caldwell Memorial	1,200	Selwyn Ave.	421
Camp Greene	220	Sharon	341
Central Steel Creek	194	Smallwood	106
Clanton Memorial	164	South Park	117
Commonwealth	301	St. Andrews	218
Cook's Memorial	395	St. Paul	317
Covenant	2,411	Steele Creek	844
First	1,140	Sugaw Creek	749
Mallard Creek	307	Sunset Hills	193
McGee	131	Tenth Ave.	446
McQuay Memorial	75	Thomasboro	511
Morris Field	47	Trinity	252
Mulberry	282	West Ave.	551
Myers Park	1,870	Westover Hills	502
Nevin	353	Williams Memorial	327
North Charlotte	150	Wilmore	574
Plaza	798	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	17,501
		AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP	473
		MEDIAN MEMBERSHIP	301

From the foregoing one can see that there are only four churches, representing 10.8% of the total, that have memberships of over 1,000, yet these four did account for 37.8% of the total membership. The next two groups of twenty-three churches accounting for 54.6% of the membership representing 62.2% of the number of churches. Lastly, in two groups we find 21.6% of the churches numerically having but 6.9% of the total membership in the final category 5.4% of the churches having only .7% of the membership.

It would seem most opportune to here call attention to the fact that 54.6% of the total membership is in twenty-three medium sized, neighborhood churches. Such a condition is extremely healthy for the continued growth of our church in this the largest city in North Carolina.

Let us, before becoming too complacent however, analyze further to see which of our churches are growing and which are declining - and to what extent, for the present size may be less significant than the recent increase or decrease in membership.

TABLE NO. III

PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERSHIP INCREASE OR DECREASE 1942 vs 1952

Avondale	New	1944	Smallwood	New	1950
Clanton Memorial	New	1948	South Park	New	1945
McQuay Memorial	New	1950	Sunset Hills	New	1947
Morris Field	New	1948	Trinity	New	1951
Seigle Ave.	New	1945	Westover Hills	New	1947
<u>INCREASING</u>		<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>INCREASING</u>		<u>PERCENT</u>
Nevin		498.3	Mallard Creek		51.2
Selwyn Ave.		493.0	Caldwell Memorial		44.6
Commonwealth		262.7	St. Andrews		42.5
Thomasboro		154.2	Sugaw Creek		38.7
Camp Greene		144.4	North Charlotte		37.6
Cooke Memorial		113.5	Amity		35.6
St. Paul		103.2	McGee		32.3
Plaza		99.0	West Ave.		29.7
Wilmore		70.3	First		28.7
Myers Park		60.4	Mulberry		24.8
Sharon		57.1	Robinson		9.3
Williams Memorial		53.5	Tenth Ave.		1.4
<u>DECREASING</u>			<u>PERCENT</u>		
Covenant (merger Second and Westminster)			19.4		
Central Steele Creek			3.5		
Steele Creek			3.5		

Now let's look at the comparison from a different angle - the numerical category as follows:

TABLE NO. IV

NUMERICAL MEMBERSHIP INCREASE OR DECREASE 1942 vs 1952

<u>CHURCHES</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>		<u>INCREASE</u>		<u>DECREASE</u>	
	<u>1942</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Amith	180	244	64	35.6		
Avondale		301	301	- -		
Caldwell Memorial	830	1,200	370	44.6		
Camp Greene	90	220	130	144.4		
Central Steele Creek	201	194			7	3.5
Clanton Memorial		164	164			
Commonwealth	83	301	218	262.7		
Cook's Memorial	185	395	210	113.5		
Covenant	2,995	2,411			584	19.4
First	886	1,140	254	28.7		
Mallard Creek	203	307	104	51.2		
McGee	99	131	32	32.3		
McQuay Memorial		75	75			
Morris Field		47	47			
Mulberry	226	282	56	24.8		
Myers Park	1,166	1,870	704	60.4		
Nevin	59	353	294	498.3		
North Charlotte	109	150	41	37.6		
Plaza	401	798	397	99.0		
Robinson	140	153	13	9.3		
Seigle Ave.		296	296			
Selwyn Ave.	71	421	350	493.0		
Sharon	217	341	124	57.1		
Smallwood		106	106			
South Park		117	117			
St. Andrews	153	218	65	42.5		
St. Paul	156	317	161	103.2		
Steele Creek	875	844			31	3.5
Sugaw Creek	540	749	209	38.7		
Sunset Hills		193	193			
Tenth Ave.	440	446	6	1.7		
Thomasboro	201	511	310	154.2		
Trinity		252	252			
West Ave.	425	551	126	39.7		
Westover Hills		502	502			
Williams Memorial	213	327	114	53.5		
Wilmore	337	574	237	70.3		
	11,481	17,501				

Average Net Increase Numerically 163

Average Net Increase Percentage 52.4

From the preceding table one can ascertain that our church's constituency had a nice increase in the ten year span of time - averaging per church an increase of 163 more members for a grand total increase of 6,120 members. Three churches it will be noted showed decreases. Two of these churches showed identical percentage-wise drop offs of 3.5% accounting for 7 and 31 members respectively. While these are small losses the underlying causes should be determined and the corrective measures taken if necessary. In the case of the Covenant Church's 19.4% loss, or 584 members, this is caused we feel sure by the fact that this church is an amalgamation of two churches, Second and Westminster, and that these members were absorbed into other Presbyterian churches when the new church moved to its new location .

EVANGELISTIC INDEX

Yet still another way to ascertain the vitality of a church's program is to find out how many people are brought into church membership for the first time through their realization that they need to accept and follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. So many times, in fact far too many times, this vital phase of any church's program is left solely to the pastor. It is to be wondered whether one's religion means much to a church member unless he not only has the urge to tell others, but also has the desire to bring them into the fellowship of the church. The Evangelistic Index is an excellent criterion as to how each church's membership react to this part of the program of reaching others for Christ.

As a measuring stick to mark each church's progress, Dr. Herman C. Wicker in studies made, found for Protestantism as a whole that there were received an average of 5.6 members annually for every 100 church members. On the next page is given the Evangelistic Index for each church for 1950, 1951 and 1952.

TABLE NO. VTHREE YEAR EVANGELISTIC INDEX

<u>CHURCHES</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Amity	1.3	.0	.4
Avondale	2.3	5.9	6.0
Caldwell Memorial	1.6	3.0	2.3
Camp Greene	7.4	8.4	6.8
Central Steele Creek	2.0	2.6	1.6
Clanton Memorial	.0	17.0	4.3
Commonwealth	5.3	9.2	4.3
Cook's Memorial	2.8	4.9	.8
Covenant	1.3	1.4	1.6
First	1.7	.8	1.6
Mallard Creek	2.4	1.6	2.3
McGee	8.6	11.1	1.5
McQuay Memorial	2.0	.0	.0
Morris Field	12.5	3.3	.0
Mulberry	2.3	2.9	.4
Myers Park	2.6	2.4	2.2
Nevin	10.9	5.1	2.0
North Charlotte	11.6	4.1	8.7
Plaza	3.5	2.0	1.9
Robinson	.0	2.6	.0
Seigle Ave.	8.0	17.4	9.5
Selwyn Ave.	4.5	4.3	5.0
Sharon	2.2	1.9	3.3
Smallwood	31.3	25.8	4.7
South Park	.0	4.3	5.1
St. Andrews	9.9	6.2	5.5
St. Paul	3.2	5.1	4.1
Steele Creek	1.3	6.2	3.4
Sugaw Creek	3.6	3.5	1.9
Sunset Hills	8.3	13.7	4.7
Tenth Ave.	2.6	1.0	.4
Thomasboro	1.7	9.7	1.8
Trinity	- -	1.9	2.4
West Ave.	3.0	7.3	2.7
Westover Hills	10.3	7.5	6.6
Williams Memorial	1.9	5.8	1.8
Wilmore	1.7	3.4	4.0
Evangelistic Index For All Churches	3.1	4.1	2.7

Mecklenburg Presbytery 2.6
 Synod of North Carolina 2.7
 Assembly 2.7

The foregoing figures readily show those churches that are doing a good job in this vital phase of any church's program. It is refreshing to note that 43% of the churches have averages in 1952 that are above the 2.7 average for all the churches. It is to be wondered, even though the average for the 37 churches was the same as that of the Synod of North Carolina and the Assembly, what caused the drop off from the 1951 figure of 4.1. During that year 51% of the churches had averages better than 4.1.

Below there is shown the number of Professions of Faith for each church, the total opposite each church representing the total number so received for the years 1950, 1951 and 1952. It is interesting to note that some of our newest churches have received quite a few members in this manner.

TABLE NO. VI

NUMBER OF PROFESSIONS OF FAITH

1950 - 1951 and 1952

<u>MORE THAN 50</u>		<u>26 TO 50</u>		<u>25 OR LESS</u>	
Myers Park	134	St. Andrews	47	McGee	28
Covenant	114	First	45	Sharon	24
Westover Hills	95	Camp Greene	43	Tenth Ave.	20
Seigle Ave.	89	No. Charlotte	41	Hallard Creek	19
Caldwell Memorial	81	Sunset Hills	41	Mulberry	17
West Ave.	81	Avondale	38	Morris Field	11
Steele Creek	79	St. Paul	37	South Park	10
Thomasboro	67	Cook's Memorial	32	Trinity	8 (2 Yrs)
Sugaw Creek	64	Clanton Memorial	30	Amity	4
Smallwood	63			Robinson	4
Nevin	58			McQuay Memo.	1
Plaza	55				
Commonwealth	54				
Selwyn Ave.	54				
Wilmore	50				

AVERAGE PER CHURCH
PER YEAR

25

13

5

TABLE NO. VII

EVANGELIZATION PROGRAM

SOURCES FROM WHICH NEW MEMBERS WERE RECEIVED

CHURCH	THRU SUNDAY SCHOOL	THRU SPECIAL EVANGELISTIC SERVICES	BY THE PASTOR OR STAFF	BY THE CHURCH OFFICE	BY SOCIAL FRIENDLINESS OF CHURCH MEMBERS	BY RESULT OF EXTERNAL PRESSURE	BY RESULT OF INNER EXPRESSION	TOTAL
Camp Greene	10		78					88
Clanton Memorial	5	5	50	15	10	2		87
Commonwealth	20	4	10	7	6		2	49
First	4		45	57	5			111
McGee	3	3	3	1	1			15
McQuay Memorial			11					11
Nevin			20					20
North Charlotte	6	3	10		5			24
Selwyn Ave.	29		29		5			63
Sugaw Creek	20		27					47
Sunset Hills	10		45					55
West Ave.	31		20		40			91
Westover Hills	6		96	10	10			122
Wilmore	5	8	20		10			43

This information furnished only by the above churches



SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

One of the important criterions of the strength of a denomination is shown by the Sunday School enrollment of its churches. One should ever be mindful that it is from this department of each church that the members not only of today but of tomorrow as well, are receiving their training. While the total enrollment in the Sunday Schools is 16.7% below the figure shown for Church membership the encouraging factor is that during the past decade, when the church membership was increasing at the rate of 52.4%, that we find for the same period of time that the Sunday School enrollment increased a whopping big 67.3%.

It should also be noted that the average enrollment increased from 348 Sunday School Members per church in 1942 to 394 per church in 1952. Only three churches showed any decline during the period - Central Steele Creek, Tenth Ave., and West Ave. It is always well to study the reasons for either a decline or a seemingly fixed enrollment. A committee, appointed by the Session of each church, should evaluate the program, personnel as well as the equipment of their Sunday School, constantly looking for ways and means to improve and enlarge its scope.

Let us just look at the Sunday School membership by groups:

TABLE NO. VIII

1952 SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP BY GROUPS

<u>NUMBER OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS</u>	<u>MEMBERS PER SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>	<u>MEMBERS PER GROUP</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
2	Over 1,000	3,028	20.8
5	500 to 999	3,588	24.6
20	200 to 499	6,555	45.0
9	100 to 199	1,329	9.1
<u>1</u>	Less than 100	<u>71</u>	<u>.5</u>
37	TOTAL	14,571	100.0

TABLE NO. IXSUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, 1952 - 1942

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>		<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>
	<u>1952</u>	<u>1942</u>		
Amity	225	172	53	
Avondale	362		362	
Caldwell Memorial	897	634	263	
Camp Greene	236	98	138	
Central Steele Creek	190	199		9
Clanton Memorial	200		200	
Commonwealth	316	149	167	
Cook's Memorial	446	- -	446	
Covenant	1,959	1,725	234	
First	660	449	211	
Mallard Creek	275	208	67	
McGee	141	103	38	
McQuay	71		71	
Morris Field	143		143	
Mulberry	276	204	72	
Myers Park	1,069	831	238	
Nevin	323	- -	323	
North Charlotte	210	125	85	
Plaza	807	308	427	
Robinson	112	104	8	
Seigle Ave.	393	- -	393	
Selwyn Ave.	455	85	370	
Sharon	247	216	31	
Smallwood	143	- -	143	
South Park	110	- -	110	
St. Andrews	155	66	89	
St. Paul	276	174	102	
Steele Creek	639	600	39	
Sugaw Creek	585	494	91	
Sunset Hills	182	- -	182	
Tenth Ave.	353	503		150
Thomasboro	383	222	161	
Trinity	153	- -	153	
West Ave.	354	389		35
Westover Hills	403	- -	403	
Williams Memorial	384	219	165	
Wilmore	438	363	75	
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	14,571	8,712		
AVERAGE ENROLLMENT	394	348		

It should again be stated for emphasis that the major enrollment in the Sunday Schools is in the medium-sized churches. In Table VIII on Page 10 we find 69.6% of the enrollment in twenty-five churches.

Looking now at the number enrolled in each Sunday School per 100 church members brings some most enlightening conditions to the front - conditions over which we feel you should be justly proud.

In the first place the average enrollment of 83.3% per 100 church members is extremely high. Yet of even greater significance is the fact that there are twelve churches, almost 33.3%, that have Sunday School enrollments larger than their church membership. Upon closer examination it will be found that six of these churches were organized from 1885 to 1931. It is usually found that the enrollment in the newly established church is greater for the first five to eight years - yet again we find two churches in this bracket which were chartered back in 1941. The foundations for your churches have been well laid when one finds conditions such as the above prevailing.

TABLE NO. X

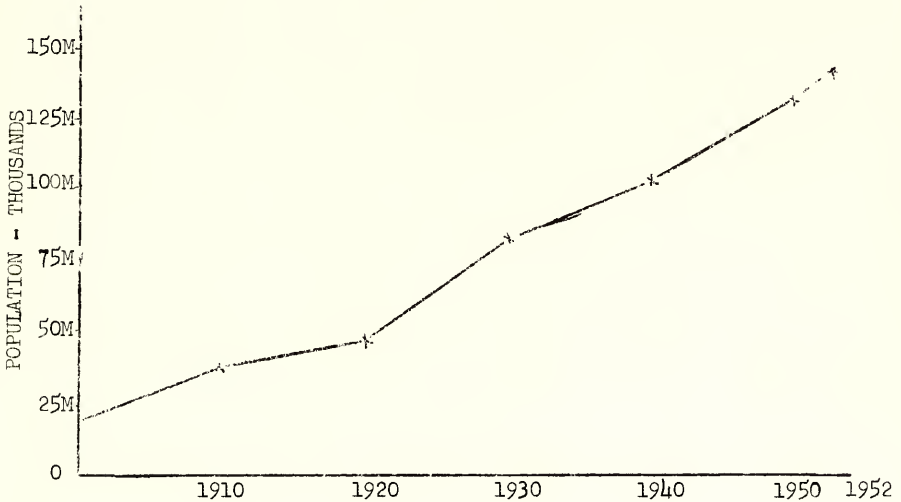
NUMBER ENROLLED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL PER 100 CHURCH MEMBERS

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT PER 100 CHURCH MEMBERS</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT PER 100 CHURCH MEMBERS</u>
Amity	92.2	Robinson	73.2
Avondale	120.9	Seigle Ave.	132.8
Caldwell Memorial	74.8	Selwyn Ave.	108.1
Camp Greene	107.3	Sharon	72.4
Central Steel Creek	97.8	Smallwood	134.9
Clanton Memorial	122.0	South Park	94.0
Commonwealth	105.0	St. Andrews	71.1
Cook's Memorial	112.9	St. Paul	87.1
Covenant	81.3	Steele Creek	75.7
First	57.9	Sugaw Creek	78.1
Mallard Creek	89.6	Sunset Hills	94.3
McGee	107.6	Tenth Ave.	79.2
McQuay Memorial	94.7	Thomasboro	75.0
Morris Field	304.3	Trinity	60.7
Mulberry	97.9	West Ave.	64.3
Myers Park	57.2	Westover Hills	80.3
Nevin	91.5	Williams Memorial	117.4
North Charlotte Plaza	140.0 101.1	Wilmore	76.3
		AVERAGE ENROLLMENT PER 100 CHURCH MEMBERS)	83.3

OUR CHURCH'S GROWTH vs THE GROWTH OF CHARLOTTE

Our churches can be justly proud of the collective membership growth in the past decade. While the population within the city limits grew 32.8% in this ten year period we find our membership of those churches located inside the city growing exactly 14% more, or 46.8%. Numerically the population went up 28,733 people, whereas our churches increased 3,824 members.

CHART NO. II



POPULATION GRAPH - CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Another revealing study is the picture of how well we have collectively driven our Presbyterian stakes in Charlotte - which can be determined by the following comparison of the Church and Sunday School membership per 1,000 population. A very realistic picture is portrayed in Table XI, next page.

TABLE NO. XI

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP PER 1,000 POPULATION - CHARLOTTE

	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1952	
Population	34,014	46,338	82,675	100,899	134,042	140,671	Est.
Membership	<u>3,061</u>	<u>4,364</u>	<u>7,202</u>	<u>8,176</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,623</u>	
Members per 1,000 Pop.	90.0	94.2	87.1	81.0	89.5	89.7	

One can readily see from the foregoing table that our church penetration populationwise is excellent. In fact, it would be remiss not to call attention to the fact that this penetration is the highest for our denomination in cities of 100,000 and more population.

Although the figures for the metropolitan area can't be substantiated, still they are well worth consideration for they also show how well the overall job has been done by every church in this survey.

TABLE NO. XII

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP PER 1,000 POPULATION - METROPOLITAN CHARLOTTE

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1952</u>	
Population	140,930	169,116	Est.
<u>Membership</u>	<u>16,643</u>	<u>17,501</u>	
Members per 1,000 Pop.	118.1	103.5	

From the foregoing tables can be seen that while we have much to crow about, yet the 1920 and 1910 penetration figures come into view. Yet with our constantly staying at the task we can in the future attain an even better position.

Looking also at the Sunday School on the same basis we find virtually the identical picture except for two minor differences. First, our penetration is not as great, and second, the difference between the high mark in 1920 is more nearly approached by the 1952 penetration of 72.5.

TABLE NO. XIII

SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PER 1,000 POPULATION - CHARLOTTE

	<u>1910</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1930</u>	1940	<u>1950</u>	<u>1952</u>	
Population	34,014	46,338	82,675	100,899	134,042	140,671	Est.
Membership	<u>1,843</u>	<u>3,461</u>	<u>5,840</u>	<u>5,684</u>	<u>9,142</u>	<u>10,202</u>	
Members per 1,000 Pop.	54.2	75.7	70.6	56.3	68.2	72.5	

In the metropolitan area in 1950 we increased a little less than we did for the church membership - it being 92.3 for this year. The 1952 figure is lower, being but 86.2 and we should find out the reason for this drop.

HOW YOU SUPPORTED YOUR CHURCH FINANCIALLY

The "amount we spend on ourselves" and the equally important "amount we give to others" are the two ways in which any church expends the money given by its members.

The churches of Metropolitan Charlotte, thirty-seven in all, "spent on themselves" (exclusive of salaries) an average of \$99.26 per capita or an increase of 36.5 percent over the 1942 per capita figure of \$72.70. While the amount per capita figure for the "amount we give to others" nowhere near approached this figure, it did come to \$28.63 per capita in 1952 over the \$13.84 per capita amount for 1942 - a 106.9% increase.

In a nutshell, we find that for every dollar expended for current expenses, salaries and building expenses there was only 27 cents given for benevolences.

Below, by groups there is shown the "amount we spent on ourselves" or current expenses (exclusive of salaries) as well as the "amount we gave to others" or benevolences:

TABLE NO XIV

<u>CURRENT EXPENSES</u>		<u>Churches</u>	<u>BENEVOLENCES</u>		<u>Churches</u>
<u>(What We Spent on Ourselves)</u>			<u>(What We Gave to Others)</u>		
Less than	\$ 1,000		Less than	\$ 100	1
1,000 to	2,499.	2	100 to	499	4
2,500 to	4,999	5	500 to	999	5
5,000 to	9,999	7	1,000 to	2,499	6
10,000 to	14,999	9	2,500 to	4,999	8
15,000 to	19,999	4	5,000 to	9,990	5
20,000 to	29,999	5	10,000 to	19,999	4
30,000 to	49,999	1	20,000 to	49,999	
Over	50,000	<u>4</u>	Over 50,000		<u>4</u>
		37			37
Average \$46,950			Average \$13,546		

During 1951-52 one finds that all but two of the thirty-seven churches had some monies to be spent either in building a brand spankin' new edifice or in adding to or in repairing the present church.

A right revealing fact is that fourteen of the churches spent more for Building Expense than they did for Current Expenses, and ten of these fourteen spent more for this item than they did for the combined figure of Current Expenses and Salaries.

TABLE NO XV

BUILDING EXPENSE, 1952

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Amity	\$ 1,250	Robinson	\$15,814
Avondale	3,670	Seigle Ave.	4,904
Caldwell Memorial	7,733	Selwyn Ave.	36,363
Camp Greene	96	Sharon	2,349
Central Steele Creek	3,702	Smallwood	1,053
Clanton Memorial	1,674	South Park	1,425
Commonwealth	- -	St. Andrews	2,984
Cooks Memorial	9,935	St. Paul	6,239
Covenant	879,290	Steele Creek	23,147
First	54,677	Sugaw Creek	3,758
Mallard Creek	13,059	Sunset Hills	3,463
McGee	1,188	Tenth Ave.	760
McQuay	1,982	Thomasboro	19,277
Morris Field	- -	Trinity	10,433
Mulberry	1,104	West Ave.	1,777
Myers Park	80,505	Westover Hills	8,000
Nevin	15,841	Williams Memorial	10,000
N. Charlotte	5,433	Wilmore	7,268
Plaza	10,759		

On the following two pages is a breakdown, first, of each church's "amount spent on themselves" and, secondly, the per capita amount given by churches to Benevolences and Current Expenses. It should be especially noted that while the benevolent giving of all the churches was good, the Caldwell Memorial Church's was nearly twice that of their Current Expenses, and Myers Park came within nine dollars per capita of giving as much to Benevolences as to Current Expenses.

TABLE NO. XVI

CHURCH	CURRENT EXPENSE	SALARY	BUILDING EXPENSE	"WHAT WE SPENT ON OURSELVES"
Amity	\$ 6,630	2,900	1,250	10,780
Avondale	8,350	3,600	3,670	15,620
Caldwell Memorial	33,590	(6,600) (3,600)	7,733	51,523
Camp Greene	2,320	3,100	96	5,516
Central Steele Creek	2,782	2,400	3,702	8,884
Clanton Memorial	1,371	3,480	1,674	6,525
Commonwealth	12,298	(3,840) (600)	- - -	16,738
Cook's Memorial	3,885	3,058	9,935	16,878
Covenant	87,785	(7,800) (6,000)	879,290	980,875
First	64,079	7,800	54,677	126,556
Mallard Creek	3,777	3,000	13,059	19,836
McGee	1,489	3,000	1,188	5,677
McQuay	1,482	(738) (900)	1,982	5,102
Morris Field	1,606	1,279	- - -	2,885
Mulberry	6,457	2,700	1,104	10,261
Myers Park	82,490	(5,700) (11,000)	80,505	179,695
Nevin	4,418	4,084	15,841	24,343
North Charlotte	1,421	3,000	5,433	9,854
Plaza	15,427	4,650	10,759	30,836
Robinson	1,939	2,500	15,814	20,253
Seigle	5,401	1,500	4,904	13,305
Selwyn Ave.	21,067	1,500 4,525	36,363	61,955
Sharon	5,064	3,597	2,349	11,010
Smallwood	1,747	875	1,053	4,969
South Park	2,032	1,294 250 1,250	1,425	4,957
St. Andrews	5,241	4,000	2,984	12,225
St. Paul	7,742	3,600	6,239	17,581
Steele Creek	13,042	4,500	23,147	40,689
Sugaw Creek	10,227	4,200	3,748	18,175
Sunset Hills	5,229	3,120	3,463	11,812
Tenth Ave.	10,990	3,000	760	14,750
Thomasboro	10,637	3,600	19,277	33,514
Trinity	7,301	4,230	10,433	21,964
West Ave.	12,597	4,500	1,777	18,874
Westover Hills	4,395	3,600	8,000	15,995
Williams Memorial	11,280	3,710	10,000	24,990
Willmore	8,741	3,600	7,268	19,609
	<u>486,229</u>	<u>156,780</u>	<u>1,250,902</u>	<u>1,895,011</u>

TABLE NO. XVII
PER CAPITA GIVING 1952

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PER CAPITA BENEVOLENCES</u>	<u>PER CAPITA CURRENT EXPENSES</u>	<u>TOTAL PER CAPITA GIVING</u>
Amity	\$ 7.72	\$ 44.18	\$ 51.90
Avondale	9.55	51.89	61.44
Caldwell Memorial	<u>72.45</u>	42.94	115.30
Camp Greene	3.36	25.07	28.43
Central Steele Creek	7.46	45.79	53.25
Clanton Memorial	3.00	39.79	42.79
Commonwealth	34.95	55.61	90.56
Cook's Memorial	12.83	42.73	55.56
Covenant	27.84	406.83	434.67
First	46.05	111.01	157.06
Mallard Creek	10.16	64.61	74.77
McGee	4.84	43.34	48.18
McQuay	6.01	68.03	74.04
Morris Field	18.09	61.38	79.47
Mulberry	20.16	36.39	56.55
Myers Park	87.61	96.09	183.70
Nevin	2.18	68.96	71.14
North Charlotte	6.52	65.69	72.21
Plaza	10.81	38.64	49.45
Robinson	7.17	132.37	139.54
Seigle Ave.	1.47	44.95	46.42
Selwyn Ave.	9.40	147.16	156.56
Sharon	10.26	32.39	42.55
Smallwood	.19	46.88	47.07
South Park	3.67	42.37	46.04
St. Andrews	15.33	56.08	71.41
St. Paul	9.29	55.46	64.75
Steele Creek	22.53	48.21	70.74
Sugaw Creek	18.52	24.27	42.79
Sunset Hills	12.01	61.20	73.21
Tenth Ave.	13.83	33.07	46.90
Thomasboro	5.19	65.59	70.78
Trinity	49.32	87.16	136.48
West Ave.	13.99	34.25	48.24
Westover Hills	2.53	31.87	34.40
Williams Memorial	12.33	76.42	88.75
Wilmore	<u>2.98</u>	<u>34.16</u>	<u>37.14</u>
AVERAGE	\$28.63	AVERAGE \$108.28	AVERAGE 136.91
Presbytery	21.41	Presbytery 81.68	Presbytery 103.09
Synod	16.85	Synod 54.81	Synod 71.46
Assembly	16.28	Assembly 50.17	Assembly 66.45

LOOKING AT YOUR CHURCH

Thirty-one of the thirty-seven churches returned the questionnaire reporting on the various institutional characteristics. While in some instances all questions were not answered, the information as given is summarized in this section and is right revealing.

(1) Date of Organization

When Charlotte was incorporated in 1768 we Presbyterians had already had one church there for some twelve years and another for eight years. Sugaw Creek Church was the first and Steele Creek Church the second.

From these earliest years right up to the present our Presbyterian Churches have constantly felt the urge to organize churches that the population might know the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ. It would be well here to commend the Church Extension Committee for the magnificent piece of work they have done in the past ten years - from 1941 through 1951 they have brought into being thirteen churches, a little better than one per year.

TABLE NO. XVIII

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>DATE ORGANIZED</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>DATE ORGANIZED</u>
Sugaw Creek	1756	Wilmore	1914
Steele Creek	1760	Thomasboro	1921
Mallard Creek	1827	Iyers Park	1926
Sharon	1831	Nevin	1929
First	1832	Camp Greene	1931
Amity	1882	Commonwealth	1941
Central Steele Creek	1883	Selwyn Ave.	1941
Williams Memorial	1885	Avondale	1944
Robinson	1887	Seigle Ave.	1945
Hulberry	1888	South Park	1945
Tenth Ave.	1890	Covenant	1947
Cook's Memorial	1892	Sunset Hills	1947
St. Andrew	1902	Westover Hills	1947
St. Paul	1906	Clanton Memorial	1948
Flaza	1907	Morris Field	1948
North Charlotte	1909	McQuay Memorial	1950
West Ave.	1909	Smallwood	1950
Caldwell Memorial	1912	Trinity	1951
McGee	1913		

(2) Current Status of Your Membership

Every church should periodically check their membership role to ascertain those who have either moved to another city that the church there might be notified or to find those who are still residing in the city but for some reason or other are inactive. Some of the figures below should cause the pastor and Session to find out the reason or reasons and then take steps to correct if need be.

TABL. NO. XIX

CURRENT STATUS OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>CHURCH MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>NOT RESIDENT IN CITY</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>RESIDENT BUT INACTIVE</u>	<u>%</u>
Avondale	301	6	2.0	1	.3
Caldwell	1,200	50	4.2	50	4.2
Camp Greene	220	6	2.7	6	2.7
Clanton	164	-	-	15	9.1
Commonwealth	301	20	6.7	8	2.7
Covenant	2,411	180	7.5	75	3.1
First	1,140	31	2.7	165	14.5
McGee	131	0	-	0	-
McQuay	75	1	.1	0	-
Morris Field	47	19	40.4	0	-
Myers Park	1,870	0	-	50	2.7
Nevin	353	40	11.3	17	4.8
North Charlotte	150	0	-	0	-
Plaza	798	30	3.8	0	-
Seigle Ave.	296	4	1.4	17	5.7
Sharon	341	60	17.6	30	8.8
Smallwood	106	18	17.0	30	28.3
South Park	117	19	16.2	6	5.1
Sugaw Creek	749	15	2.0	100	13.4
Sunset Hills	193	7	3.6	31	16.1
Thomasboro	511	50	9.8	50	9.8
Trinity	252	0	-	0	-
West Ave.	551	25	4.5	0	-
Wilmore	<u>574</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>4.4</u>
24	12,851	581	4.5	676	5.3

(3) Constituents

Twenty-seven of the churches reported either the number of families as well as individuals or both that were in their constituency (constituents being those who were members plus anyone having specific contact with the church in any part of its program.)

There was found on the average to be, for every 100 church members, an additional 26 people being served in some way by the churches.

TABLE NO. XX

CHURCHES CONSTITUENCY

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>YOUR CONSTITUENCY</u>	
		<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>FAMILIES and/or INDIVIDUALS</u>
Amity	244	120	-
Avondale	301	135	400
Caldwell	1,200	400	1,200
Camp Greene	220	110	250
Clanton Memorial	164	150	500
Commonwealth	301	100	350
Covenant	2,411	1,330	3,000
First	1,140	720	1,980
McGee	131	40	160
McQuay	75	35	65
Myers Park	1,870	900	2,500
Nevin	353	144	-
North Charlotte	150	55	148
Plaza	798	385	775
Seigle Ave.	296	95	450
Selwyn Ave.	421	300	700
Sharon	341	200	600
Smallwood	106	75	250
South Park	117	38	100
Sugaw Creek	749	275	-
Sunset Hills	193	100	-
Thomasboro	511	300	700
Trinity	252	151	325
West Ave.	551	325	700
Westover Hills	502	150	500
Williams Memorial	327	125	400
Wilmore	574	202	-
27	12,759	3,294	16,053

(4) Membership - Distance From the Church

The First Church, a downtown place of worship, with 41% of their membership living over three miles away and the Smallwood Church with 95% of their membership being within a half mile of the church represent the two extremes. It is interesting to note the neighborhood churches with their membership close at hand as well as the large downtown and city wide churches with the scattering of their members all over the city.

TABLE NO. XXI

MEMBERSHIP - DISTANCE FROM THE CHURCH

CHURCH	WITHIN 1/2 MILE	1/2 TO 1 MILE	1 TO 3 MILES	OVER 3 MILES
Avondale	50%	30%	18%	2%
Caldwell	50	25	20	5
Camp Greene	50	25	20	5
Clanton	50	35	15	-
Commonwealth	60	20	15	5
Cook's Memorial	30	40	20	10
Covenant	25	40	20	15
First	9	5	45	41
McGee	70	13	11	6
McQuay Memorial	90	5		5
Myers Park	15	20	60	5
Nevin	34	17	28	21
North Charlotte Plaza	60 35	30 45	10 17	- 3
Seigle Ave.	55	10	25	10
Selwyn Ave.	80	10	8	2
Sharon	30	30	30	10
Smallwood	95		3	2
South Park	50	10	15	25
Sugaw Creek	20	20	50	10
Sunset Hills	75	20	5	
Thomasboro	30	50	10	10
Trinity	3	12	75	10
West Ave.	40	20	30	10
Westover Hills	-	90	8	2
Williams Memorial	15	25	50	10
Wilmore	85	10	5	

(5) Attendance at Regular Services

The average number of people attending the morning services was 244 or 48.4% of the membership. Two of the churches, one will note, reported average attendance of better than 100%. The others ranged from a low of 36% to a high 80.2%.

A 50% attendance of membership is, for the most part, the figure usually looked upon as average - although there are always exceptions to every rule.

Nineteen of the thirty-one churches reporting on this stated that they had a Sunday Evening Service. It might be well to state here that often this service takes on new significance as well as a renewed vigor when it is made one especially for the younger generations of our constituency.

TABLE NO. XXII

ATTENDANCE AT REGULAR SERVICES

(5) CHURCH	SEATING CAPACITY OF SANCTUARY	AVG. SUNDAY MORNING ATT'D.	PER 100 MEMBERS	SUNDAY EVE. SERVICE
Amity	200	150	61.5	Yes
Avondale	250	140	46.5	-
Caldwell Memorial	500	450	37.5	Yes
Camp Greene	200	175	79.6	Yes
Clanton Memorial	100	100	61.0	-
Commonwealth	275	150	49.8	Yes
Cook's Memorial	400	275	69.6	-
Covenant	675	1,000	41.5	Yes
First	600	410	36.0	Yes
McGee	200	90	68.7	1 monthly
McQay Memorial	140	40	53.3	Yes
Morris Field	300	50	106.4	Yes
Mulberry	250	150	53.2	-
Myers Park	675	950	50.8	-
Nevin	300	-	-	Yes
North Charlotte	250	75	50.0	Yes
Plaza	350	425	53.3	Yes
Seigle Ave.	300	125	42.2	Yes
Selwyn Ave.	300	200	47.5	-
Sharon	450	180	52.8	Yes
Smallwood	200	85	80.2	Yes
South Park	100	65	55.6	-
Sugaw Creek	450	300	40.1	-

(Continued next page)

TABLE NO. XXII (Continued)

ATTENDANCE AT REGULAR SERVICES

<u>(5) CHURCH</u>	<u>SEATING CAPACITY OF SANCTUARY</u>	<u>AVG. SUNDAY MORNING ATT'D.</u>	<u>PER 100 MEMBERS</u>	<u>SUN. EVE. SERVICE</u>
Sunset Hills	120	120	62.2	Yes
Tenth Ave.	525	185	41.5	Yes
Thomasboro	330	225	44.0	Yes
Trinity	-	300	119.1	-
West Ave.	400	225	40.8	Yes
Westover Hills	120	200	39.8	-
Williams Memorial	400	250	76.5	-
Wilmore	500	225	39.2	Yes
31		244	48.4	
		AVERAGE	AVERAGE	

(6) Sunday School Attendance

It is indeed gratifying to note the average attendance per 100 enrolled is 56.2% even though the average number attending is slightly lower than the average church attendance - being 10 people less. Percentagewise it is stimulating to notice the large number of churches that are just above or below this average. The highest average is that of the West Ave. Church of 76.3%, whereas the lowest is the First Church with 40.8%; yet in the same breath one must make mention of the new Sunday School building this church now has which will, we feel sure, be a big help in bringing this percentage higher in the future.

TABLE NO. XXIII

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

<u>(6) CHURCH</u>	<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>AVERAGE SUNDAY MORNING ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>PER 100 ENROLLED</u>
Amity	225	150	66.7
Avondale	362	220	60.8
Caldwell Memorial	897	500	55.7
Camp Greene	236	150	63.6
Clanton Memorial	200	100	50.0
Commonwealth	316	190	60.1
Cook's Memorial	446	250	56.1
Covenant	1,959	1,000	51.1
First	660	269	40.8
McGee	141	85	60.3
McQuay Memorial	71	45	63.4

TABLE NO. XXIII (Continued)

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

<u>(6) CHURCH</u>	<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>AVERAGE SUNDAY MORNING ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>PER 100 ENROLLED</u>
Morris Field	143	90	62.9
Mulberry	276	160	58.0
Myers Park	1,069	650	60.8
Nevin	323	190	58.8
North Charlotte Plaza	210	115	54.8
Seigle Ave.	807	450	55.8
Selwyn Ave.	393	210	53.4
Sharon	455	275	60.4
Smallwood	247	160	64.8
South Park	143	70	49.0
Sugaw Creek	110	55	50.0
Sunset Hills	585	304	52.0
Tenth Ave.	182	125	68.7
Thomasboro	353	179	50.7
Trinity	383	285	74.4
West Ave.	153	85	55.6
Westover Hills	354	270	76.3
Williams Memorial	403	150	37.2
Wilmore	384	225	58.6
	<u>438</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>57.1</u>
31	AVERAGE	234	AVERAGE 56.2

(7) Members of Subsidiary Organizations

There was found to be an average of two subsidiary organizations for adults - one for the Women of the Church and the other the Men of the Church. Twenty-seven churches reported one or both of such groups while five churches also had a mixed adult group. The average membership of those churches reporting was 44.3 members per 100 church members, yet attendance was but 20.9 members per 100 church members.

The activity in the Youth and Children's groups, while being reported by only twenty-two of the twenty-seven churches in one or both of the divisions, covered from one organization to a high of four in one group. It was gratifying to note also that five of the churches had one or more weekday Kindergartens.

This is an excellent way to get the neighborhood children started in your church, will eventually bring in their parents too, plus the fact that it teaches the pre-school children something about the Bible.

TABLE NO. XXIV

NUMBER, MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE - SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

(7)	CHURCH MEMBER- SHIP	WOMEN		MEN		MIXED	YOUTH			CHILDREN			CHOIRS	
		1	2	1	2		No.	1	2	No.	1	2	A	Y
Avondale	301	150	80	60	33		2	31	24	*3	96	85		
Caldwell Mem.	1200	400	75				2	92	75	1	32	30	1	2
Camp Greene	220	100	50	50	25		1	18	10					
Clanton Memorial	164	50	40	40	35		1	15	12	1	20	15		
Commonwealth	301	97	80	45	25		1	25	20	4	87	74		
Cook's Memorial	395	185	115	30	20		2	52	37				1	1
Covenant	2411	750	420	500	250	1-150	3	180	150	*1	36	35	1	2
First	1140	502	200	389	100	1-190	1	34	21	*2	134	95	1	
McGee	131			20	14		1	20	12		12	10	1	
Morris Field	47	22	15	15	8					2	35	30		
Myers Park	1870	500	400	350	125	2-340	3	250		*3	107		1	1
Nevin	353	95	40	60	25		1	15	10	1	15	10	1	1
Plaza	798	325	50				4	73		4	70		1	
Seigle	296	85	65	25	20					2		27	1	5
Selwyn	421	200	100	150	50		3	65	53	*5	200	60	1	
Sharon	341	100	25	80	35		3	65	45	2	29	24	1	2
Smallwood	106						1						1	
South Park	117			20	12		2			1	20	10	1	
Sugaw Creek	749			50	35		1			1			1	
Sunset Hills	193	48	48	25	25					2	31	31	1	1
Tenth Ave.	446			40			1			1			1	
Thomasboro	511	250	95			1-30				1	13	12	1	
Trinity	252	125	50	110	50		1	16	15				1	
West Ave.	551	268	96	60	35	1-25	1	25	18	5	92	71	1	
Westover Hills	502	200		100			1	15		4			1	
Williams Mem.	327	60	30	30	20		1	26	20	1	18	15	1	1
Wilmore	574			50	40								1	

* Indicates 1 or more weekday kindergartens

1 - Membership

A - Adult Choir

2 - Average Attendance

Y - Youth Choir

(8) Staff

The staff-size very closely parallels the size of the church, yet is also often governed by the extent of the program being carried on by a particular church.

All of the twenty-two churches reporting on this had a full-time pastor with the exception of two churches having temporary supply pastors. The two largest churches, Covenant and Myers Park, have an associate pastor as well.

The paid staff at three of the reporting churches showed the employment of one or more teachers in the weekday kindergarten.

It would be well for each church to seriously consider where they might greatly better the overall ministry of their church by having an adequate staff to carry out such an improvement.

TABLE NO. XXV

CHURCH STAFF

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>ASSOC. PASTOR</u>	<u>CHURCH EXEC.</u>	<u>DRB</u>	<u>PASTOR SEC'Y</u>	<u>CHOIR DIR. AND/OR ORG.</u>	<u>HOSTESS</u>	<u>JANITOR</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Avondale				1			1	1*
Caldwell Mem.			1	1	2	1	2	
Camp Greene				1			1-	
Covenant	1	1	2	1		1	4	4
First		1	1	1	2	1	2	3
McGee							1	
Morris Field			1					
Myers Park	1		2	1		1	2	9*
Nevin					1		1	
Plaza				1	1	1	1	
Seigle Ave.			1	1	1		1	1
Selwyn Ave.			1	1	1		1	4*
Sharon					2		1	
South Park			1					
Sugaw Creek			1				1	
Sunset Hills				1	1		1	
Tenth Ave.					2		1	
Thomasboro					1		1	
Trinity				1	2			
West Ave.			1		1		1	1
Williams Mem.		1					1	
Wilmore			1		1		1	
22	2	3	13	10	18	5	25	23

* Churches having one or more teachers for weekday kindergartens.

(9) Church Activities

The activities carried on by each church in addition to the Sunday services are revealing as to how large an overall program is being supported by the congregation. Below is the report showing seventeen activities and the number of churches integrating each into its program. Thirty-one of the churches reported on this.

TABLE NO. XXVI

CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORTED

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CHURCHES CARRYING ON ACTIVITY DURING PAST YEAR</u>
1. Regular Mid-Week Prayer Meeting	23
2. Sunday Evening Service Held Weekly	19
3. Junior Church (Other than S.S. Worship Service)	5
4. Nursery During Church Service	28
5. Regular Choir Practice	27
6. Systematic Training Classes for Sunday School Teachers (Approximate No. Meetings - 12)	11
7. Special Evangelistic Services	23
8. Visitation Evangelism Program	24
9. Pre-Easter Services	10
10. House to House Religious Services	24
11. Every Member Financial Canvas	30
12. Delegates Sent to Denominational Conferences	24
13. Delegates Sent to Young People's Conferences	26
14. Regularly Adopted Church Budget	32
15. Church Night Supper (Weekly <u>8</u> , Monthly <u>2</u> , Quarterly <u>1</u>)	11
16. Church Open Daily For Prayer	7
17. Preparatory Classes for Church Membership	18
Average Number of Classes 4	

(10) Church Facilities

The Facilities as reported by thirty-one of the churches are itemized below.

TABLE NO. XXVII

<u>FACILITY</u>	NUMBER OF CHURCHES HAVING
Organ	18
Typewriter	23
Mimeograph	28
Addressograph	10
Card Files for Members	18
Outside Bulletin Board	19
Stereoptican	11
Sufficient Parking Space	27
Motion Picture Machine	19
Radio Broadcasting Connections	4
Gymnasium	1
Showers	2
Toilets	Average Per Church 4 29
Playground	17
Stage	7
31	

(11) Curriculum Materials

The Thirty-one churches reported as follows in the use of the curriculum materials in the Sunday School: Twenty stated that they used the materials as furnished by our Board of Education in Richmond, five churches reported the use of our material plus some departments using either materials from the U.S.A. Church's Board in Philadelphia or from an outside publishing house, one church showed the use of U.S.A. material 100% and five churches gave no report on this at all.

(12) Church Plants

The property of the thirty-one churches is reported valued at \$7,997,000 or an average of \$275,759 per church. However the median value is only \$90,000.

Below is shown the reported approximate value of each of the churches as well as the value of the manse if owned and the Current Building Debt, if reported.

There is also tabulated the number of Departmental Rooms and Class Rooms in each Sunday School.

TABLE NO. XXVIII

CHURCH PLANT

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>REPORTED VALUATION</u>	<u>MANSE</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE CURRENT BUILDING DEBT</u>	<u>NO. OF AVAILABLE ROOMS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>	
				<u>DEPARTMENTAL</u>	<u>CLASS RMS.</u>
Amity	30,000	Yes			12
Avondale	70,000	No		8	9
Caldwell Mem.	250,000	Yes	12,000	6-10	30
Camp Greene	35,000	Yes			10
Clanton Mem.	20,000	No			7
Commonwealth	125,000	Yes	25,000	4	18
Cook's Memorial	25,000	Yes		10	10
Covenant	3,000,000*	Yes			37
First	2,000,000	Yes		9	10
McGee	32,000	Yes	1,100		9
McQuay Memorial	40,000	No		2	5
Morris Field	- -	No			6
Mulberry	80,000	Yes		3	12
Myers Park	850,000	Yes	20,000	5	41
Nevin	90,000	Yes	13,500	3	23
North Charlotte	40,000	Yes	8,000	2	10
Plaza	125,000	Yes			
Seigle Ave.		No		5	8
Selwyn Ave.	125,000	Yes	40,000	7	14
Sharon	150,000	Yes	3,600	4	13
Smallwood	20,000	Yes			4
South Park	30,000	Yes	2,700	2	6
Sugaw Creek	125,000	Yes		5	13
Sunset Hills	50,000	Yes		2	6
Tenth Ave.	75,000	Yes	5,000	3	14
Thomasboro	150,000	Yes	24,000	10	19
Trinity	105,000	Yes			
	no bldg.				
West Ave.	90,000	Yes		1	18

TABLE NO. XXVIII (Continued)

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>REPORTED VALUATION</u>	<u>MANSE</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE CURRENT BUILDING DEBT</u>	<u>NO. OF AVAILABLE ROOMS FOR SUNDAY SCHOL</u>	
				<u>DEPARTMENTAL</u>	<u>CLASS RMS.</u>
Westover Hills	40,000	Yes		4	5
Williams Mem.	100,000	Yes	25,000	4	16
Wilmore	125,000	Yes	33,000		20

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* Estimated completed cost of buildings

(13) Lay Leadership

Looking at the lay leadership of each church we find the following number of Elders and Deacons reported serving each church, as well as the information as to whether they use the rotating system for electing church officers. The preponderance of the churches do not use the rotating system in electing the Session while they are split evenly in the electing of the Diaconate.

TABLE NO. XXIX

NUMBER OF OFFICERS IN EACH CHURCH

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>		<u>ROTATING SYSTEM USED</u>	
	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Amity	12	13	No	No
Avondale	6	12	No	Yes
Caldwell Memorial	18	27	No	Yes
Camp Greene	6	10	Yes	Yes
Clanton Memorial	4	4	No	No
Commonwealth	10	15	No	Yes
Cook's Memorial	15	18	Yes	Yes
Covenant	51	67	No	No
First	25	29	No	No
McGee	7	7	No	No
McQuay Memorial	4	5	No	No
Morris Field	4	5	Yes	Yes
Mulberry	12	15	No	No
Myers Park	23	30	Yes	Yes
Nevin	6	9	Yes	Yes
North Charlotte	6	6	Yes	Yes
Flaza	16	18	No	Yes
Seigle Ave.	6	12	No	No
Selwyn Ave.	12	18	Yes	Yes

TABLE NO. XXIX (Continued)

NUMBER OF OFFICERS IN EACH CHURCH

CHURCH	NUMBER		ROTATING SYSTEM USED	
	ELDERS	DEACONS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Sharon	9	9	No	Yes
Smallwood	6	6	Yes	Yes
South Park	5	5	No	No
Sugaw Creek	20	20	No	No
Sunset Hills	6	10	No	No
Tenth Ave.	17	18	No	Yes
Thomasboro	15	16	No	No
Trinity	8	12	No	No
West Ave.	13	18	No	Yes
Westover Hills	11	11	-	-
Williams Memorial	14	14	No	No
Wilmore	16	22	No	No

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Below is shown both the age group of the elders and deacons as well as the average number of years they have been serving for the twenty churches reporting this information.

TABLE NO. XXX

AGE GROUP OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

AGE	ELDERS	DEACONS	AVERAGE PER CHURCH	
			ELDERS	DEACONS
26-30	1	30		1
31-35	15	54	1	3
36-40	23	65	1	3
41-45	42	65	2	3
46-50	38	52	2	2
51-55	51	38	2	2
56-60	34	16	2	1
61-65	24	15	1	1
66-70	25	5	1	
Over 70	25	6	1	
TOTALS	278	346	13	16

TABLE NO. XXXI

AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS SERVING

NO. YEARS	AVG. PER CHURCH		NO.		AVG. PER CHURCH				
	ELDERS	DEACONS	ELDERS	DEACONS	ELDERS	DEACONS			
1	16	56	1	3	11	2	1		
2	15	37	1	2	12	12	1		
3	22	22	1	1	13	1			
4	17	13	1	1	14	7			
5	13	9	1		15	10	1		
6	21	40	1	2	16	1			
7	9	3	1		17	1			
8	19	9	1		18	1			
9	3				19	1			
10	8	11		1	20	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	
					TOTAL	246	247	12	13

RECOMMENDATIONS

The churches of metropolitan Charlotte stand on the threshold of nearly two hundred years of Presbyterianism - for as stated at the very beginning of this paper, with the advent of the Sugaw Creek Church in 1756, when the city was only the junction of several Indian trading paths, our Church was given a strong impetus to go ever forward. Today there are thirty-seven churches in and immediately surrounding this center of industrial trading and wholesale distribution with a membership of 17,501 people - almost equal numerically to the entire population of your fair city in 1900 of 18,091 people.

When queried - "What do you think is the most encouraging advance which is now being made throughout our Southern Presbyterian Church," Mr. W. E. Price, former moderator of our General Assembly and beloved Charlottean replied - "The spirit of Evangelism being manifest by different groups in our church - men particularly, also the women of the church and young adults." This pertinent remark by him, while applying to our whole church, tells very simply and yet most explicitly why our church in Charlotte has done so much toward the winning of souls for Christ.

While one should always have one's eyes ever on the future, still it wouldn't be remiss here to call to the attention of all the fact that our Southern Presbyterian Church has more members in Mecklenburg County than either of the next two largest denominations, the Baptists and Methodists. However, before becoming too complacent because of our strong constituency, one should realize that our lead is only by a few hundred - we having 19,574 members to 19,229 and 18,534 for the Baptists and Methodists respectively. Also, the increase in membership from the 1936 U. S. Census of Religious Bodies to the 1950 Religious Survey of your county finds the denominations ranked percentagewise as follows: Baptist 364 percent,

Methodist 71 percent and we Presbyterians 53 percent. One can, therefore, realize the reason for the statement that we must look ever to the future.

Charlotte has not long been the rapidly growing city that it is today. In the fifty years from 1850 to 1900 this thriving crossroads community increased in size from a little over 1,000 people to 18,091. But in the thirty years that followed phenomenal gains were experienced. While gaining nominally during the depression years from 1930 to 1940, the upward trend was accelerated during the war years and the population grew from 100,899 people to 134,042 in 1950, for an increase of 32.8 percent. Compared to the other urban centers of the state, Charlotte ranks first as to the total number of inhabitants both within the city as well as metropolitanwise, and while outranked by Raleigh percentage-wise in the first category, yet leads in the total overall population with a 29.8 increase.

POPULATION PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE 1940-1950

<u>CITIES</u>	<u>ASHEVILLE</u>	<u>CHARLOTTE</u>	<u>DURHAM</u>	<u>GREENSBORO</u>	<u>RALEIGH</u>	<u>WINSTON-SALEM</u>
1950 Pop.	53,000	134,042	71,311	74,389	65,679	87,811
1940 Pop.	<u>51,310</u>	<u>100,899</u>	<u>60,195</u>	<u>59,319</u>	<u>46,897</u>	<u>79,815</u>
% Increase	3.3	32.8	18.5	25.4	40.0	10.0

METROPOLITAN AREA

1950 Pop.	124,403	197,052	101,659	191,057	136,450	146,135
1940 Pop.	<u>108,755</u>	<u>151,826</u>	<u>80,244</u>	<u>153,916</u>	<u>109,544</u>	<u>126,475</u>
% Increase	14.4	29.8	26.6	24.1	24.6	15.5

Not for the purpose of in any way attempting to substantiate the population figures above, for they are taken from the records of the U. S. Census of Population, but to show how the big increase has taxed the facilities of the public utilities. On next page is given the number of water meters, electric meters and telephones in use in 1940

and then the greatly increased number in 1950 and showing likewise the percent of increase of each.

RECORD OF GROWTH

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. WATER METERS</u>	<u>NO. ELECTRIC METERS</u>	<u>NO. TELEPHONES</u>
1950	35,843	65,288	54,134
1940	<u>18,402</u>	<u>28,822</u>	<u>22,217</u>
Number	17,441	36,466	31,917
% Increase	94.8	126.5	143.7

It is also foreseen, by the research department of one of the largest concerns in Charlotte, that the city and its surrounding areas will have a population in 1971 - less than twenty years away - of 288,000 people. That is an anticipated increase of 114.8 percent in this period of time.

Now let us look for a moment, and with quite a bit of pride, to the combined membership of our churches. During the 1940-1950 decade, while the city was growing 32.8 percent, our membership was up in the same period a whopping big 46.8 percent. One can readily see that our churches have more than kept pace with the growing city.

But let us delve a little deeper into this remarkable increase in church membership. During the period from 1940 to 1950 there were brought into being eleven churches which had a combined membership of 1,802 by 1950. Had these churches not been started our percent of membership increase would only have been 24.7 for the decade instead of the 46.8 figure. By 1952 the membership of these churches had risen to 2,523, increasing 721 members or another 40 percent. One finds, for instance, that the membership increase for the Selwyn Avenue Church from 1942, a year after it was formally organized, to 1952 was 493 percent, and the Commonwealth Church increased in the same time 262.7 percent. The

Westover Hills Church is another example of where from a small beginning in 1947, it grew to 103 members in 1948 and then blossomed forth in 1952, only five years after it became a church, with 502 members - an increase of 369.1 percent in the four years. Yet all of the remaining eleven of these new churches are shining examples of the same trend in growth.

Which brings the main reason for this survey to the front, namely, places where your Committee should consider the purchasing of sites for future churches.

The first three locations, although not naming them in the matter of preference since the development and growth of each place should be closely watched to ascertain which should come first, etc., are:

1. Central Avenue and Eastway Drive area
2. Plaza Hills - Plaza Forest area
3. Pleasant Grove - Oakdale area

These three places are where we should immediately start looking for property. Yet in addition there are one or two other locations that should be watched carefully also for there is the possibility that these areas will support a church before too long. These locations are in the area of the intersection of Independence Boulevard-Monroe Road, as well as the location on the Nations Ford Road, which when we investigated it had between forty and fifty homes with building continuing. Also, it would be well to keep under close surveillance the areas around Scaley Bark-Woodlawn Roads or the development around Perk Road in the vicinity of its intersection with Cortland Road. This last location was suggested by Mr. Rufus Grier and everyone knows the fine work he has done for the Committee in years gone by.

In considering sites the location of the Eastminster Chapel as well as the new site for the Trinity Church on Providence Road at Westbury Road were taken into the picture.

As to the picking of a proper site there can be no rigid formula for such a selection - each one must ultimately be decided upon in terms of its own possibilities - so it might be well to reiterate several factors that should normally be considered in picking out an adequate location.

Heavily traveled arterial highways, railroads, rivers as well as industrial property frequently limit the accessibility of a church to people beyond them. In locating a new site your Committee should avoid getting property near such a barrier.

Another important factor in the selection of a site is its visibility. A good visible site is worth thousands of dollars, which cannot be compensated for by other techniques. For this reason it is well to select a site which has above the average elevation, is near but preferably not on a major highway or is near the natural center of community life.

Yet still another good rule to follow whenever possible is to get a site of not less than three acres. While this is not always possible to secure in many urban situations, there are frequently more difficult problems involved in securing of too little land rather than too much.

In considering the site get sufficient land for the total building program, plus enough for proper landscaping as well as off the street parking.

Let me also bring one other thought to your minds as regards the building of a new church. It has always been found most advantageous when building the first unit to let it be the Fellowship Hall and Sunday School. The Fellowship Hall can be used temporarily for the services

while a church really needs the Sunday School space for reaching not only the children but the grown ups as well. It would be well also to keep the floor of the sanctuary as near ground level as possible - the reason for this statement is that our population is living longer today and we should make it easy for them to attend our services.

The work that has already been done in Metropolitan Charlotte stands as a beacon light to other cities over our Southland. Particular reference needs to be made to the number of Presbyterians per 1,000 population since it is the highest of any place studied this far, both in the city and more especially in the immediate environs. When one finds 89.7 per 1,000 population in Charlotte proper in 1952 and 118.1 in greater Charlotte it truly behooves one to give credit where it is due. It is felt that the reason for such a condition is because through the years the established churches having been more than willing to help other of our churches take their first step in becoming a church both by their efforts and with their money. The example of the Myers Park Church, whereby when they needed \$150,000.00 for a building of their own, Dr. J. A. Jones and his officers asked the congregation for \$300,000.00. They thought as much of others as they did themselves, and it is such acts as this that build more and better churches and members for Christ's Kingdom.

It is well, from time to time, to halt momentarily and look appraisingly at the work that has been done up to the present. While it is the writer's humble opinion that the program as well as the personnel of each church is taking advantage of every opportunity to expand the work for Christ in an ever enlarging way, there is always a problem or two that should be solved. For instance, in the near downtown area of Charlotte the blight caused by the transition from an area of home to one of business is taking place.

The population residing in the four wards, namely 1, 2, 3 and 4 decreased 5,106 people in the past ten years. While there were living in 1950 in the four wards mentioned 29,165 people, the trend has been going on and will continue. There is need always for a good strong downtown church with a virulent program, and at the present we have two such churches. First and West Avenue, with a possible third church in such a category, Tenth Street. The First Church has the best location and plant, and should be the church to stay right where it is. So it would be well for the West Avenue Church to consider a possible relocation, especially before doing additional building to their present plant. It is always well to consider making a possible move before one is forced to do so, even though the moving of this church might be two or three years away.

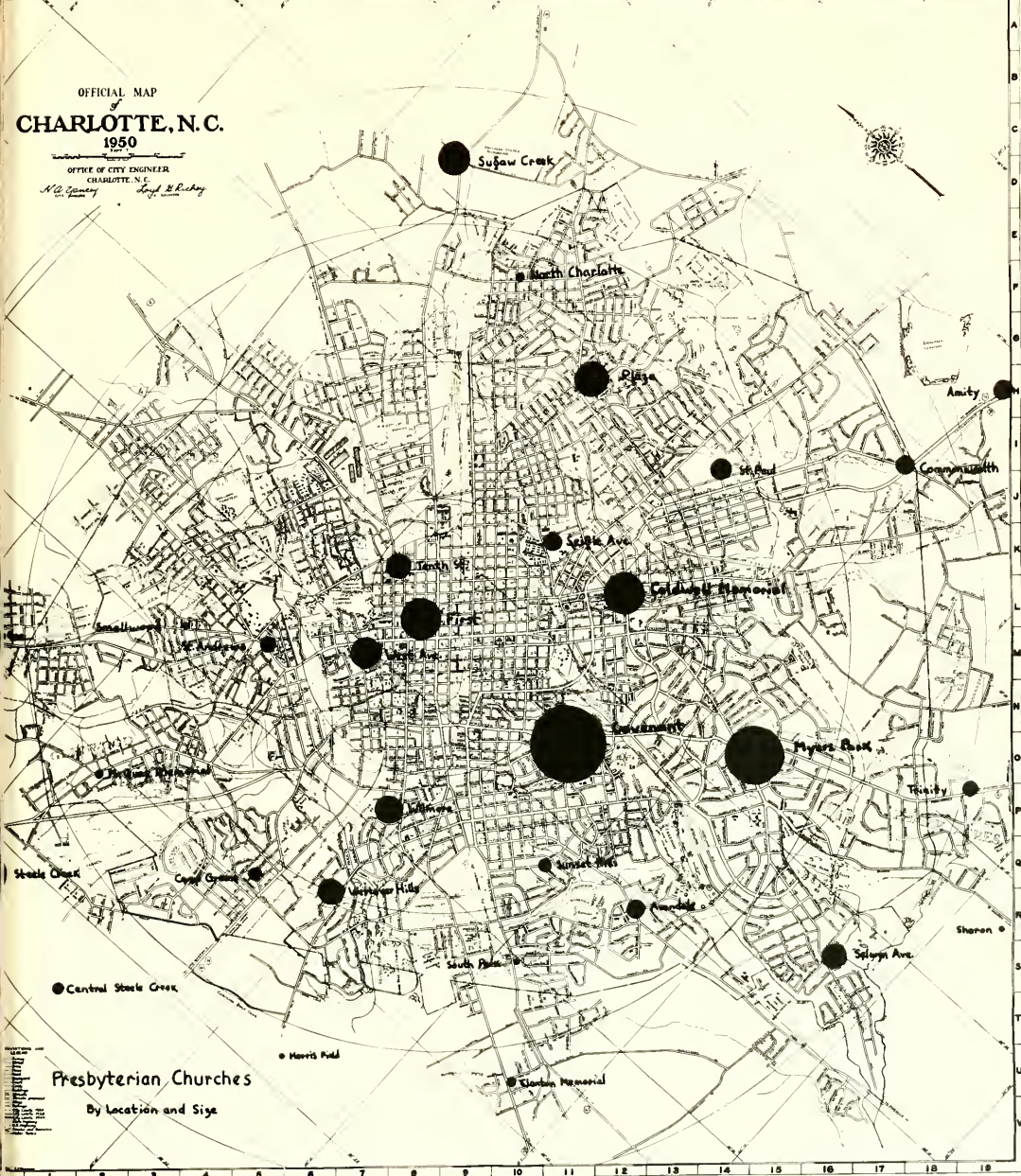
It would be well to give serious thought to the possible establishment of an executive committee of your Church Extension Committee, composed of qualified laymen who would, upon request by any church, meet with the Session of that church in an advisory role.

In closing let me leave this one additional thought in your minds - that there are 392 additional Presbyterians moving into the Charlotte area each year. This figure is arrived at by multiplying 118.1 Presbyterians per 1,000 population by the increased number of people moving into your city each year. The past census gave this figure as an increase of 33,143 people in the 10 year span or 3,314 per year. So, with these plus those won through personal evangelism, let us, with a prayer on our lips that God will ever guide us on the way, dedicate anew our lives to the further advancing of Christ's Kingdom here at home.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

OFFICIAL MAP
of
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
1950

OFFICE OF CITY ENGINEER
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
N. O. Spangenberg *Joseph H. Peckay*

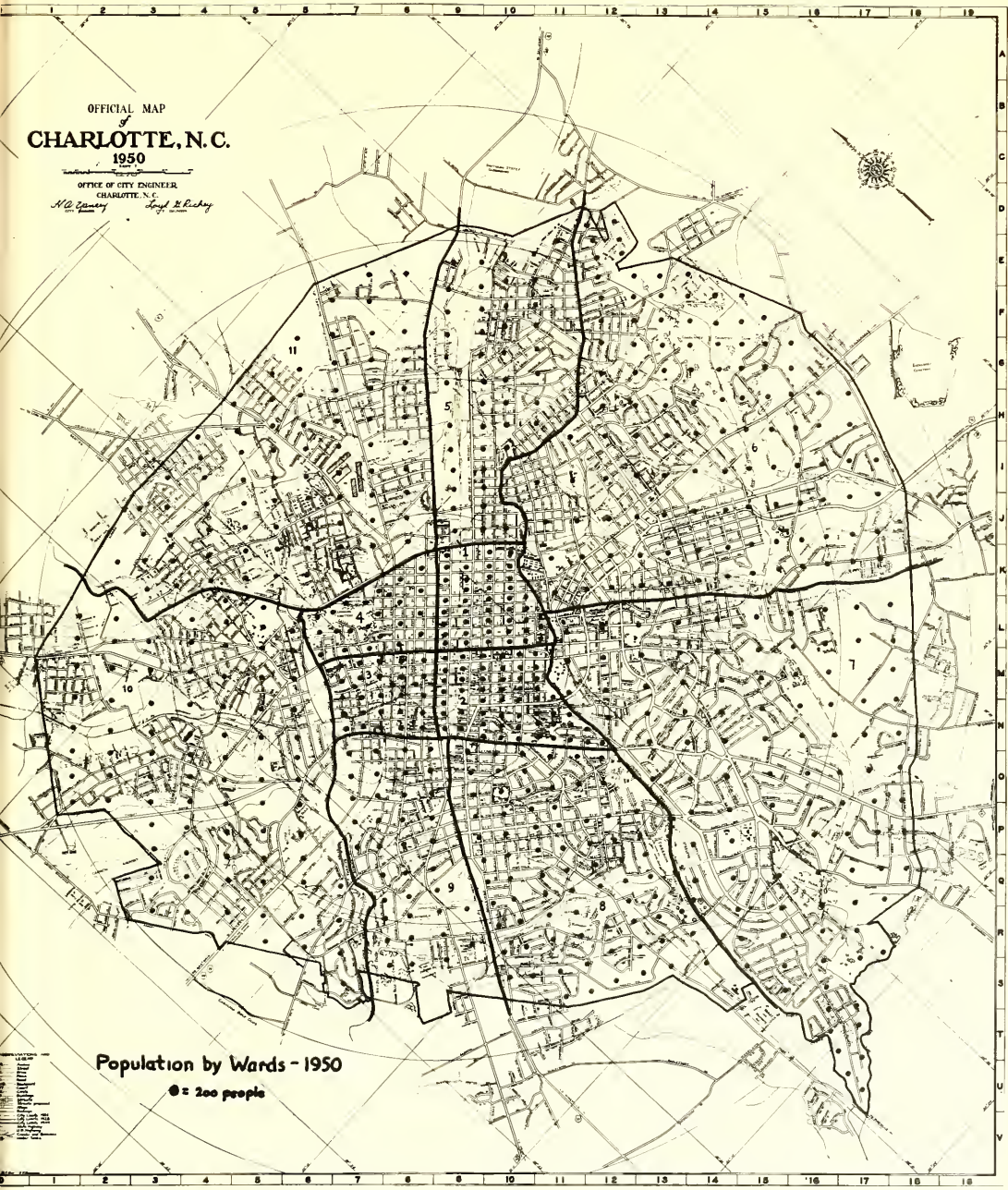


Presbyterian Churches
By Location and Size

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

OFFICIAL MAP
of
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
1950

OFFICE OF CITY ENGINEER
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
W. D. Spaworth *Joseph B. Peabody*



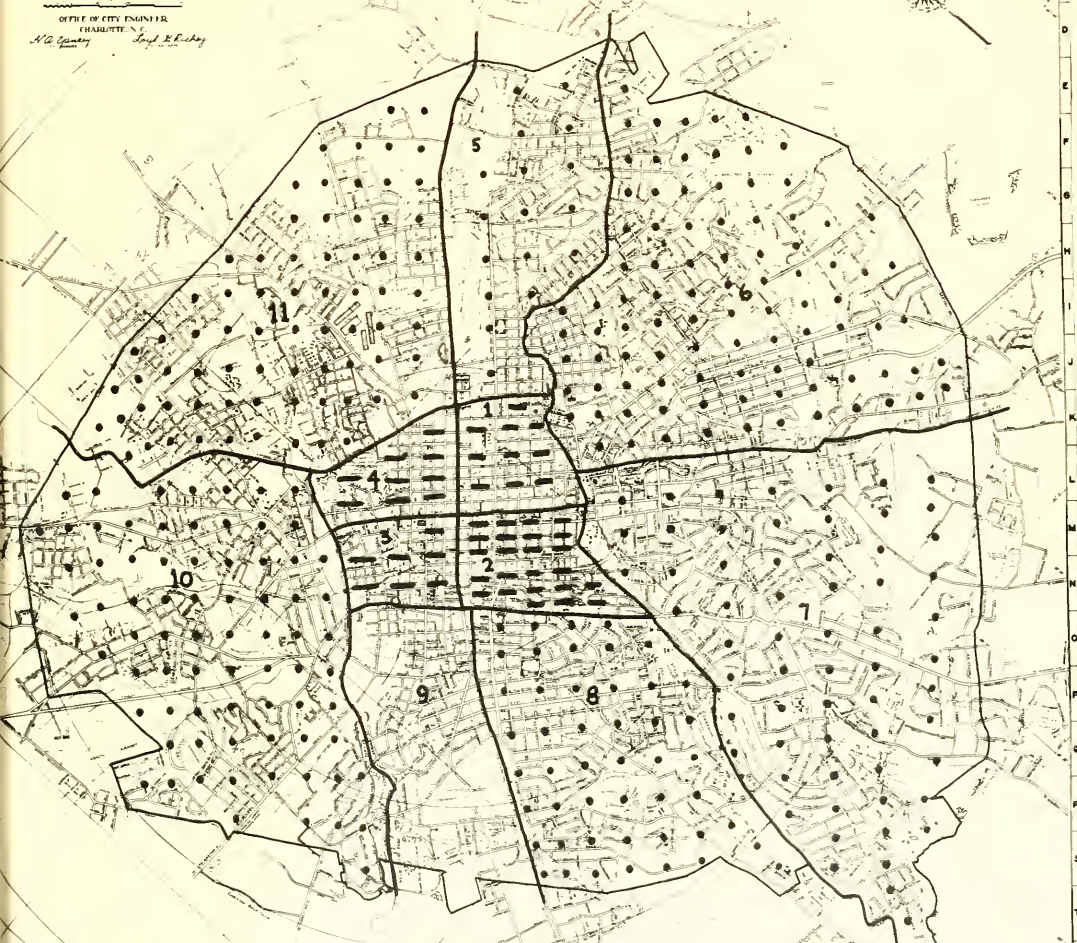
Population by Wards - 1950

● = 200 people

Scale of Feet
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

OFFICIAL MAP
of
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
1950

OFFICE OF CITY ENGINEER,
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
H. B. Gentry *Joseph K. Beckley*



Population Increase or Decrease

By Words - 1950

- = Increase 100 people
- = Decrease 100 people

Scale
1 inch = 100 feet
1 mile = 3200 feet

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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Hyde, Harold Edward.
A study of the Presby-
terian churches

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A study of the Presby-
terian churches of
metropolitan Charlotte,
N.C.

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON BOOK POCKET

DUE	INITIALS AND SURNAME	CAR.
Cataloging room	FEB 23 71	

REGULAR LOANS
(2 WEEKS)

1. Sign both cards with initials and surname.
2. Leave both cards (signed) at desk.
3. Before leaving desk, secure DATE DUE CARD and place it in this pocket.
4. A charge will be made for overdue books.

RESERVE BOOK LOANS AND CARREL LOANS
APPLY AT DESK

BORROWERS MUST BE REGISTERED
PLEASE REPORT CHANGE OF ADDRESS

11A 12 75 111
2-1161

