Durham Presbyterianism began in 1860 with the arrival in "Durham's" as it was then called of its first Presbyterian family, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Blacknall, their two daughters and three sons. A Baptist church was here then and a Methodist church was soon to be organized. Mrs. Blacknall for a while carried on a Presbyterian Sunday School for her children Sunday afternoons in the Baptist church.

Occasionally two famous Carolinians and Presbyterians, Dr. James Phillips and his son, Dr. Charles Phillips, came from Chapel Hill to hold services in either the Methodist or Baptist church.

On the last Sunday of 1871 eleven Presbyterians of Durham organized the First Presbyterian Church. Worship in their own sanctuary was first held in the spring of 1876.

During the first year of his pastorate at the First Church Dr. L. E. Turnbull led in establishing a mission in the Pearl Hill community using as its first meeting place one of the cottages on Washington Street. This was in 1895. Later in that same year a chapel was built and dedicated on the southeast corner of what is now Trinity Avenue and Duke Street. Sunday School on Sunday afternoons and Prayer meetings on Friday evenings were the regular parts of the mission's schedule. Unique features in our beginning were a Parochial School conducted by three of the ladies, the last of whom was Mrs. Hallie Pope (Cadwalender) Garrison, and a Sewing School formed to teach the girls and young ladies plain and fancy sewing in a Christian atmosphere.

For a number of these early years Mr. George W. Watts was a leader and guiding influence in the Pearl Hill Mission. It is said that often he returned from a business trip to New York long enough to teach his Bible Class or conduct Prayer Meeting and then return to New York and his business. The sight of Mr. Watts driving his horse down the road to the mission was a punctual reminder to all who saw him at the hour of service. Our pipe organ was given when the present church was first occupied in 1924 as a memorial to Mr. George W. Watts.

The balance of our church's story until its organization as the Second Presbyterian Church of Durham cannot be briefly told. Its fortunes rose and fell frequently. Its very existence was several
times in peril. Its survival was due not only to the many ministerial leaders, who came and went all too rapidly principally because of the organization's weakness financially, but also to lay men and women too many to mention here but certainly known to the Lord for their sacrifices of time, effort, and devotion and substance.

Our church was organized as the Second Presbyterian Church on December 13, 1902. Rev. R. G. Matheson, assistance Pastor of the First Church, was the minister. By 1905, death, illness, removal and lack of interest in the leadership and membership made it seem wise to Presbytery to dissolve this church organization.

Mr. Hill C. Linthicum who was superintendent of the Sunday School for a number of years following Mr. Leo C. Heat, a co-worker of Mr. Metts, was succeeded by Mr. Z. A. Rochele to whom with his wife much credit is due for continuous leadership following the dissolution of the church organization.

The years between 1905 and 1921 were filled for our church with uncertainty. Once again from its pulpits were heard a number of voices, ministers, who came, stayed for a brief period, sometimes just months, and then were gone. The record is not clear just what the status of the church was prior to its re-organization. However, the Session record states that the Rev. O. C. Jones, D. D., evangelist for the Synod, held a series of services at the mission May 8-17, 1921 and as a direct result of these meetings on May 16, 1921 the former Second Presbyterian Church was re-organized as the Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church.

What has transpired since this re-organization the present church, its organizations, the Christian devotion and service of its officers and members must tell.

We are proud to salute on this our 22nd Birthday, May 16, 1943, the following charter members who continue actively with the church:

Clyde Dunnegan
E. E. Dunnegan
Miss Hassie Dunnegan
J. T. Dunnegan
Miss Octavia Dunnegan
Mrs. A. J. Fargo

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hicks
Mrs. Miltie Matlcy
Mrs. Alonzo G. Philips
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Khoo
I. L. Tilley
Mrs. Henrietta W. Watson

The Officers of the Church

The SESSION

Class of '44
Murray G. Jobe
Geo. F. Kirkland, Clerk
O. D. Kirkland

Class of '45
John L. Kirkland
Provan F. Phillips
Dallas Pickard
E. M. Preston

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of '44
R. D. Garrison
C. B. Goswick, Clerk
H. R. Kirkley
H. L. Nollic

Class of '45
R. G. Carr
E. W. Harris, Jr.
W. B. Kirkland
George Oldham

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Circeo Chairman
President Mrs. S. C. Brawley
1st Vice-Pr. Mrs. L. V. Kirkland
2nd Vice-Pr. Mrs. H. L. Hassell
Secretary Mrs. F. G. Settlesfield
Treasurer Mrs. L. L. Collins

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent Provan F. Phillips
Secretary-Treasurer C. C. White, Jr.

DEPARTMENTAL SUPERINTENDENTS

Mrs. Harold Bowdon Mrs. Blair Parks
Mrs. P. M. Bassell Mrs. Frank T. deVvyvor
Mrs. C. C. White, Jr. Lowistine H. McCoy
Henry C. Carr

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUPS

League Blanche Russell
Nancy Parks
David Black
Annie Sarah Higgins
Advisor: Mrs. Provan F. Phillips

Pioneers
Norma Page Barringer
Dallie Pickard, Jr.

Advisor: Mrs. R. B. Yowell
THE CHOIRS
Children and Adult
W. L. Hodgkin, director
Mrs. H. C. Carr, organist

THE SCOUTS
Scoutmaster, Troop #69, B.S.A.  Mr. Beard
Chm., Troop Committee        Mr. E. M. Preston
Leader, Troop #25, G.S.A.     Mrs. Max Schiebel
Leader, Brownies              Mrs. J. F. Burroughs

DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN STUDENT WORK

President       James F. Coehnut
Director        Miss Mary Winston Crockett
Minister        Rev. Charles M. Ramsay

Ministers and Pastors of This Church

Prior to its Organization
Rev. R. L. Wharton      1895 - 1897
Rev. C. W. Maxwell      1897
Rev. R. L. Wharton      1898 - 1899
Rev. C. L. Wickor       1899 - 1900*

As Second Presbyterian Church
Rev. R. G. Matheson     1902 - 1905

Pulpit Supplies
Rev. T. F. Hancy        1906
Rev. M. M. McIver       **
Rev. J. L. Yandell      **
Rev. J. A. Satterfield  1915 - 1918
Rev. C. D. Whitely      1918

As Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
Rev. George L. Cooper   1921 - 1930
Rev. George H. Matthys  1930 - 1939*
Rev. Paul Leslie Garbor, Ph. D.  1939 -

* Death terminated his pastorate here.
** Records are inadequate to give exact date.