

The Carr Family

Henry C. Carr and Mary Lou Carr (1898-1999) moved from Wallace, NC to Durham after World War I. The family joined the First Presbyterian Church. At that time Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church (TAPC) was a mission church under the care of First Presbyterian. In 1923 the membership and financial situation of TAPC had reached a dangerous point. Mr. Cooper, minister of TAPC, visited the Men's Bible Class at the First Church and his prayers and passionate pleas resulted in 38 members moving their membership to TAPC in January 1924. Henry C. Carr was a leader of this delegation, and he and his family joined the church at that time. Henry C. Carr is listed as an elder in 1924. It is H.C. Carr's initials that are found on the inside of our stained glass windows. He was part of the building committee in 1924. His wife Mary Lou Carr was the church organist for many years. Mary Lou Carr was President of Presbyterian Women 1966-68. Mary Lou Carr was the first Historian of Trinity Avenue and wrote the "Historical Sketch of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC from 1893-1933". In 1973 a beautiful bell tower on the church grounds standing 28 feet tall and housing 5 bells from Van Bergen Bell Foundries of the Netherlands was dedicated in honor of Dr. Henry Carr. The Bells were a gift of Dr. Carr's wife, Mary Lou Williams Carr, and his daughters, Eleanor Stokes Carr Boyd and Frances Sprunt Carr Parker, together with memorial gifts of friends.

Dan Carr and Annie Carr came to Durham (~1928) where Dan practiced orthodontics for many years. Dan Carr was Henry's younger brother (also a dentist). Dan practiced first in Chapel Hill but then went on to study orthodontics. He and his family also joined TAPC. Daniel T. Carr was named an elder in 1948. Dan and Annie were very active in the church. Annie Carr was President of Presbyterian Women 1950 – 1952. The Dan Carr family made a significant contribution to establish the TAPC Library in honor of Annie Carr. Dan and Annie's daughter is Florence Dickerson (husband Bill). At the time our archives were established (2015), they lived at 1925 Meeting St, Durham, 27705.

Henry and Dan had a younger brother, Robert G. Carr. Robert moved to Durham ~1930. Robert G. Carr was named a deacon in 1947. Robert sold furniture and later moved to Morehead City, NC

There were several Carr families in the early history of Durham. These Carrs are no relation to Julian S. Carr (1845-1924), a NC industrialist and philanthropist or Albert G Carr who was George Watts (1851-1921) doctor.