

Orthodox Church ^[1]

Orthodox Church



"St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church." Image by Wiley J. Williams, 2006courtesy of Flickr user David Hoffman.

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The Orthodox Church ^[3] has 225 million members worldwide and 6 million members in North America. In North Carolina, the church is represented by the Greek Orthodox Church and, to a lesser extent, the Russian Orthodox Church. From 1900 until about 1920-parallelizing the nation's "third wave" of immigration-the number of Greek and Russian immigrants to the state increased. Orthodox churches were subsequently established, beginning in about 1905 with a Greek Orthodox Church in Asheville ^[4]. Some 30 years later, the number of Greek Orthodox churches in the state had grown to three, with a total membership of about 400 communicants. By the early 2000s there were about 1,000 members altogether in Greek Orthodox churches in several metropolitan areas, including Asheville ^[5], Burlington, Charlotte ^[6], Durham ^[7] (which traces the Parish of Saint Barbara from 1945), Fayetteville ^[8], Greensboro ^[9], Raleigh ^[10], Wilmington ^[11], and Winston-Salem ^[12].

North Carolina was, for many years, home to the only Russian Orthodox Church in the South-Saints Peter and Paul, formed in 1932 in St. Helena, a small Pender County ^[13]community. In that year, on land acquired from Wilmington ^[11] real estate ^[14] promoter Hugh MacRae ^[15], the tiny red brick church began with 15 charter members and their families. By 2006 Russian Orthodox congregations could be found in the Piedmont ^[16] and Mountains ^[17] as well as the Coastal Plain ^[18], in the form of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Durham and St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Fletcher.

Reference:

Paula Maria Stathakis, "Development of a Greek-American Community in the South: Charlotte, North Carolina, 1900-1940" (M.A. thesis, UNC-Charlotte, 1988).

Additional Resources:

Orthodox Church in America: <http://oca.org/> ^[3]

Image Credit:

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Subjects:

Religion ^[19]

Authors:

Williams, Wiley J. ^[20]

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Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. ^[21]

1 January 2006 | Williams, Wiley J.

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