

Episcopal Church

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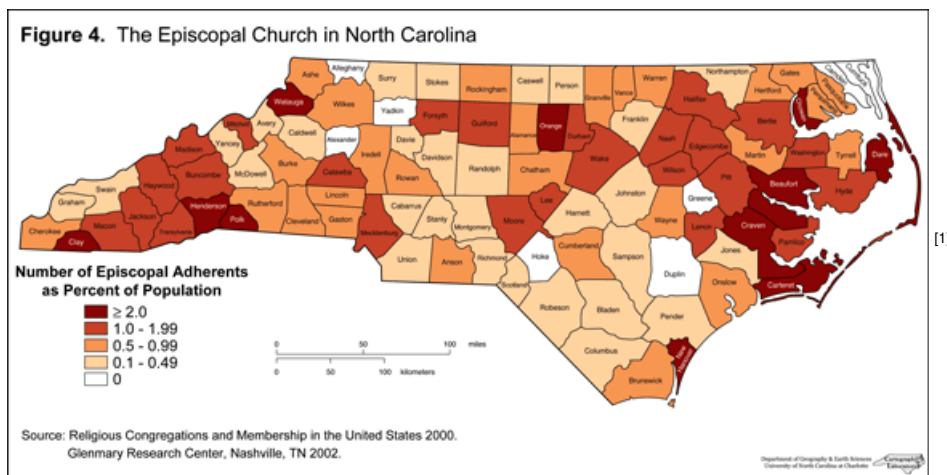
The Episcopal Church

See Also: [Episcopal Church](#) (Encyclopedia of North Carolina)

by Alfred W. Stuart

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Historically, the Episcopal Church represented the English colonists who settled in eastern North Carolina, many moving in overland from Virginia. Over time this association has weakened, of course, and, as shown in Figure 4, above, but Episcopalians are still concentrated relatively heavily in northeastern North Carolina and in the [Wilmington](#) [2] area. It may be that a number of in-migrants, both retirees and otherwise, are Episcopalians, as indicated by the somewhat higher proportions in the Triangle, the Triad and in the [Charlotte](#) [3] area. In addition, proportions are higher in several retirement areas, notably [Moore](#) [4], [Polk](#) [5] and [Watauga](#) [6] counties, along with others in the far western part of the state. These congregations average 316 adherents apiece.

The relative strength of the Episcopal church in western North Carolina is another example of the holdover of historic patterns. In the pre-Civil war period, numerous plantation owners from eastern North and South Carolina would move to the mountains to escape the hot summers and the threat of [malaria](#) [7]. They were predominantly Episcopalians and brought their denomination with them. Also, some Episcopalian missions were established in the west, an example being in the Valle Crucis community in [Watauga](#) [6] County.

Additional Resources:

2012 Statistical Abstract. Population: Religion. U.S. Census Bureau.
<http://www.census.gov/library/publications/2011/compendia/statab/131ed/p...> [8]

Guide to Researching the History of Religion in North Carolina: Episcopal Church. UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries.
<https://library.unc.edu/wilson/ncc/> [9]

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. <http://www.hartfordinstitute.org/> [10]

State Membership Report, North Carolina. The Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) <https://www.thearda.com/> [11]

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