



Timeline *with regard to racial equity*

- c. 8,000 BCE** First archeological evidence of Paleo-Indian residence in modern North Carolina piedmont.
- c. 1,000 BCE** Woodland Indian culture appears in the Southeast, including modern North Carolina. These are the ancestors of North Carolina's Indian tribes, including those who live near Chapel Hill. Woodland Indians lived in small, semi-permanent villages, cultivated corn, beans, and squash, used bows and arrows to hunt for modern game animals such as deer, fished in rivers and ocean sounds, made pottery and simple textiles such as cords for fishnets. Their artifacts, dating to 2,000 years ago, have been found in excavations at the Love House, a block from COTC. We do not know the names used by local tribes until c. 1700 CE.
- 1584** Sir Walter Raleigh sponsors first English efforts to occupy North Carolina, but his colonists disappear (likely adopted into local Native groups) at the settlement on Roanoke Island, NC.
- 1585** Manteo, adult son of the (female) leader of the Croatoan people, and the infant Virginia Dare, granddaughter of English governor John White, baptized in a Church of England baptism on Roanoke Island, NC.
- 1607** Establishment of Jamestown in Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in North America.
- 1619** First recorded group of enslaved Africans forcibly brought to Jamestown, VA.
- 1660s** The Carolina Charter and Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina—permitted Protestant religious toleration. Also provided for establishment of Anglican parishes, but did not provide funding, clergy, or buildings until 18th century. This constitution also established slavery as a legal institution in the colony of North Carolina.
- 1701** English traveler John Lawson tours Piedmont North and South Carolina. Visits Occaneechi Town in modern Hillsborough.
- 1701**
1703 Vestry Acts establish the first parishes, vestries, and church taxes.
- 1705** Church of England establishes first school in North Carolina in Pasquotank County.

1711 Settling in Bath, NC, Lawson becomes the first casualty of the Tuscarora War, the last, largest Indian conflict in colonial North Carolina which led to seizure and displacement of native tribes.

1732 **Population (approximate)**
NC 36,000 (30,000 White, 6,000 Black)

Percent Enslaved
NC 16.6%

1734 Construction begins on St. Thomas, Bath, the first permanent church building in North Carolina.

1752 Establishment of Orange County and St. Matthew's Parish, Hillsborough as secular and ecclesiastical entities covering the same space.

Establishment of New Hope Chapel, log cabin chapel of ease near the modern Carolina Inn.

1775-1783 War for Independence—The American Revolution.

1785 Organization of the US Protestant Episcopal Church.

1789 The University of North Carolina founded; the town of Chapel Hill takes its name from the former chapel of ease.

1790 **Population**
NC 393,751 Orange County 12,216

Total Slaves
NC 100,572 Orange County 2,060

Percent Enslaved
NC 25.5% Orange County 16.9%

1794 A constitution for the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina approved. Rev. Charles Pettigrew named bishop-elect, but never consecrated.

1804 Absalom Jones, first African American Episcopal priest ordained in the Episcopal Church.

1817 Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina established after a fallow period.

1823 John Stark Ravenscroft consecrated first bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

1840 Population
NC 753,419 Orange County 24,356

Total Slaves
NC 245,817 Orange County 6,954

Percent Enslaved
NC 32.6% Orange County 28.6%

1842 Rev. William Mercer Green and 15 communicants found the Chapel of the Atonement, Chapel Hill.

1848 Consecration of the Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, with 22 communicants. Constructed by enslaved workers and brickmakers, some owned by Rev. William Mercer Green (later the first bishop of Mississippi and a founder of the University of the South).

1854 Baptism of Cornelia Smith (an enslaved person and a niece of Mary Ruffin Smith, benefactor of the Chapel of the Cross), grandmother of The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray (1910-1985), first African American woman ordained an Episcopal priest.

1858 Susan Holden, a free woman of color confirmed as member of the parish. First recorded parishioner of color.

1860 Population
NC 992,622 Orange County 16,947

Total Slaves
NC 331,272 Orange County 5,108

Percent Enslaved
NC 33.4% Orange County 30.1%

1861-1865 The Civil War

1862 Diocese of North Carolina joins the Episcopal Church in the Confederate States of America.

1865 As a result of emancipation, the Protestant Episcopal Freedman's Commission formed at General Convention to aid in education and evangelism.

1867 St. Augustine's Normal School and Collegiate Institute founded in Raleigh. The founding of St. Augustine's was the first major result of the work of the Freedman's Commission.

1870 Population

North Carolina	1,071,361		Orange County	17,507
White	678,470	63.3%	11,087	63.3%
Colored	391,650	36.6%	6,420	36.7%
Indian	1,241	0.1%	0	0%

- 1870-1875** UNC closed during Reconstruction. The town of Chapel Hill becomes destitute. The Chapel of the Cross comes close to closing with barely enough parishioners to form a vestry and without a priest.
- 1875** Donation from Mary Ruffin Smith restores roof of the Chapel. She is one of the only supporters to keep the parish open through reconstruction.
- 1876** Kemp Plummer Battle, parishioner of The Chapel of the Cross, named president of UNC.
- 1878-1881** Joseph Blount Cheshire rector. Would go on to become Bishop of The Diocese of North Carolina (1893).
- 1887** St. Titus Episcopal Church, a historically African American congregation, established in Durham, NC.
- 1896** Plessy v. Ferguson—Supreme Court upholds segregation in the name of “separate but equal.”
- 1898** Wilmington coup overthrows biracial city government; state Democratic party forms Red Shirts to intimidate black voters and institute whites-only state government by the turn of the century.
- 1900** NC Legislature passes a poll tax and literacy test for voting, disenfranchising Black voters.
- 1918** Henry B. Delany was unanimously elected suffragan bishop for Negro Work at the North Carolina diocesan convention.
- 1917-1920** Maynard Marshall rector. Leaves after vestry complains of job performance. Returns home to South Carolina and becomes openly supportive of the Ku Klux Klan.
- 1925** Consecration of new church building for the Chapel of the Cross. Alfred Lawrence rector. Building funded by William Erwin.
- 1941-1945** World War II
- 1945-1959** David Yates called as rector. Noted pacifist and supporter of integration.
- 1947** The Journey of Reconciliation (sometimes called “the first Freedom Ride”), an interracial group testing the Supreme Court’s decision overturning bans on racial segregation in interstate travel, stops in Chapel Hill. A group of white residents confronts them with violence and the riders are prosecuted for “disturbing the peace.” Among those sentenced to the chain gang as a result is Bayard Rustin, later the main organizer of the 1963 March on Washington.
- 1951** Following a court order, Harvey Beech, James Lassiter, J. Kenneth Lee, Floyd McKissick and James Robert Walker enrolled in the UNC School of Law, becoming the first African

American students at UNC.

1952 Oscar Diggs became the first African American student to attend Carolina's medical school. Diggs graduated in 1955, becoming the first Black Doctor of Medicine from the University. Diggs and his family become members of The Chapel of the Cross under David Yates.

General Convention adopts a resolution on racial discrimination that states: "[w]e consistently oppose and combat discrimination based on color or race in very form, both within the Church and without, in this country and internationally." A survey sponsored by the Church's Department of Christian Social Relations showed, however, that Episcopalians generally favored a moderate approach to issues of racism and that 27 percent of the laity were not opposed to segregation within the Church.

1954 Supreme Court ruling *Brown v. Board of Education* begins nationwide integration, spurs much resistance, and serves as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

1955 Following a court order, John Brandon, Ralph Frasier, and LeRoy Frasier enroll as the first African American undergraduates at UNC.

1956 Elizabeth Amis Cameron Blanchard (1873-1956), a descendant of several slaveholding families, leaves a bequest of \$20,000: "...so as to insure a clergyman of mental ability to preach the doctrine of the Trinity to the students of the University of North Carolina and to interpret our Lord Jesus Christ." Blanchard also left a fund "to augment the salary of the rector of Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill."

1960 Population

	North Carolina	Orange County
	4,556,155	42,970
White	3,399,285 74.6%	32,765 76.3%
Black	1,116,021 24.5%	10,131 23.6%
Indian	38,129 0.8%	3 0%

1960-1970 The Rev. Thomas Thrasher of Montgomery AL called as rector. Had participated in the Selma Peace March and was reputedly the most trusted white clergymen by the African American community in Montgomery.

1960 The Chapel Hill Nine, students at Lincoln High School, the all-Black high school in Chapel Hill, stage sit in at Colonial Drug on Franklin Street.

1963 The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The Episcopal Church participated in the planning of the March on Washington. Observers at the march estimated more than half of the banners and signs were from churches, synagogues, and related agencies and organizations.

1963 cont'd The North Carolina Fund established to lessen poverty all across North Carolina and to further the cause of civil rights. Fund managed by George Esser, who with his wife, Mary were longtime parishioners of The Chapel of the Cross.

Civil rights protests at UNC and Speaker Ban Controversy.

The Interfaith Council for Social Services (IFC) founded in Chapel Hill by members of Church Women United including a parishioner from the Chapel of the Cross.

1964 Passage of the Civil Rights Act.

1965 Passage of the Voting Rights Act.

1969 The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina donates \$45,000 to fund the establishment of Malcolm X Liberation University which closes after three years.

Howard Lee, first African American mayor of Chapel Hill elected, and the first African American mayor elected of any majority white city in the South.

1970 John Burgess of Massachusetts became the first African American bishop of the Episcopal Church.

John Cates, a lifelong resident of Northside, was murdered outside the UNC Student Union during an all-night dance marathon co-sponsored by the Afro-American Studies Committee and Carolina Union.

1977 At the invitation of The Rev. Peter J. Lee, The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray celebrates her first Eucharist in the Chapel, where her grandmother had been baptized 123 years earlier as a slave girl. Pauli Murray was the first Black woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood, and she was also the first woman to celebrate the Eucharist at Chapel of the Cross and in the state of North Carolina.

1980s Sister parish covenant between The Chapel of the Cross and St Paul AME a historically African American church in Chapel Hill.

2001 St. Paul AME and the Chapel of the Cross as sister parishes become part of the Community of the Cross of Nails, a network of churches, charities, training organizations, chaplaincies and schools who share a commitment to working and praying for peace, justice and reconciliation.

2015 Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, becomes the 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

2016 The Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna called as the first female rector of the parish.

2018 Silent Sam, prominent confederate statue on UNC campus comes down.

2020 Population	North Carolina 10,439,397		Orange County
White	6,312,148	60.5%	64.9%
Black	2,107,526	20.2%	10.5%
Hispanic	1,118,596	10.7%	10.6%
Multi-Race	406,853	3.9%	4.7%
Asian	340,059	3.3%	8.5%
American Indian, Alaska Native	100,886	1.0%	.2%
Other	46,340	0.4%	0.1%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	6,980	.1%	0.0%