

## Orthodox Church <sup>[1]</sup>

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

<sup>[2]</sup>

The Orthodox Church <sup>[3]</sup> 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 <sup>[4]</sup>. 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 <sup>[5]</sup>, Burlington, Charlotte <sup>[6]</sup>, Durham <sup>[7]</sup> (which traces the Parish of Saint Barbara from 1945), Fayetteville <sup>[8]</sup>, Greensboro <sup>[9]</sup>, Raleigh <sup>[10]</sup>, Wilmington <sup>[11]</sup>, and Winston-Salem <sup>[12]</sup>.

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 <sup>[13]</sup>community. In that year, on land acquired from Wilmington <sup>[11]</sup> real estate <sup>[14]</sup> promoter Hugh MacRae <sup>[15]</sup>, the tiny red brick church began with 15 charter members and their families. By 2006 Russian Orthodox congregations could be found in the Piedmont <sup>[16]</sup> and Mountains <sup>[17]</sup> as well as the Coastal Plain <sup>[18]</sup>, 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/> <sup>[3]</sup>

### Image Credit:

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### Subjects:

Religion <sup>[19]</sup>

### Authors:

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### From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. <sup>[21]</sup>

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