

Kentyre Presbyterian Church (USA)

Established 1871

When the Synod of South Carolina divided Harmony Presbytery in 1889 to create Pee Dee Presbytery, only nine of the twenty churches in the area sent commissioners. One of these was Kentyre Presbyterian Church, and another was the nearby church from which most of the early members came, Little Pee Dee Presbyterian Church. Most of the early churches had small memberships, but in 1891, according to Elizabeth Davidson's HISTORY OF THE PEE DEE PRESBYTERY, 1889-1978, the largest churches in the presbytery included Kentyre that ranked as fourth in membership with 138 members; the largest church was Darlington with 187 members. Today, Kentyre has a membership of 26 and is proud to be your host for the 2002 Winter Meeting of New Harmony Presbytery.

Kentyre Presbyterian Church was officially begun with the issuance of an order to organize by Harmony Presbytery on April 29, 1871. From Reedy Creek Presbyterian Church came two members: from Little Pee Dee Presbyterian Church came thirty-seven members who transferred to our church located nearer to their homes.

Most of the early members of Kentyre Church were first generation Americans whose parents came from the community's namesake, Kintyre, Scotland, later spelled Kentyre. A reading of the names of these communicants would easily remind one of the make up of the typical congregation from their homes over the sea. They brought with them their love of the land, their strong family values, their conservative views, their Presbyterian heritage, and their tough work ethic. You are seated in the same building erected 130 years ago by these hardy, thrifty pioneers of (now) Dillon County. All Presbyterians are proud, of course, but we are especially proud of our church home and its history of service to the God we all worship, serve, and praise. Hallelujah!

Kentyre is sometimes referred to as the "daughter" of Little Pee Dee Presbyterian Church since most of its early membership came from this church that was organized in 1828. In this post Civil War period, in 1871, several weeks after being organized, Kentyre, itself, was instrumental in the establishment of a "sister" church when a group of "colored" worshippers petitioned the Kentyre Session to assist them in the organization of their Presbyterian church. Being unable to accede to this request, Kentyre instead welcomed this group of believers into its fellowship as members. Later with the help of Kentyre, these members founded their own church, Old Bethel Presbyterian Church, located just down Kentyre Road on the state line.

"This is the day that the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24