Gentilly Presbyterian Church

3708 Gentilly Boulevard

A year before incorporating as Gentilly Terrace Presbyterian Church in 1911, the Presbyterian fathers and mothers of this area opened a Sunday school and other religious activities. Storm damage from the 1915 hurricane, plus a rapidly growing congregation, pointed to the need to replace the original building, and in 1920 the present property was acquired for a new Sunday school. Adjacent property was purchased in 1932.

After World War II, the congregation removed the word Terrace from its name and raised funds for a new sanctuary. Ground was broken in October 1949. August V. Perez and Associates were the architects, and D. D. Pittman and Sons were the contractors. Shortly after the 1950 dedication, the first of the stained glass windows was installed: the beautiful Good Shepherd behind the altar. Other windows were added beginning in 1962.

These windows are the work of Glass City Specialty, Inc., of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The content is traditional and figurative, including scenes such as the Nativity and the Agony in the Garden. In each window the principal subject seems to float in the center of plain opalescent glass. The distinctive format and dramatic impact of each window are further enhanced by the pleasingly simple décor of the church interior.

The organ, installed in 1958, was built by the M. P. Möller Company (Opus 9224), with thirty-four stops and 12 ranks of pipes. Like many instruments of that period, the organ had electropneumatic wind chests and action. Its 1937 predecessor, Möller Opus 6440, was moved to Holy Comforter Church and then to St. Annas Episcopal Church. The Möller Company was founded by a young Danish immigrant in 1881 and was the worlds largest builder of organs for a while. It is now closed.

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Gentilly Presbyterian Church closed. The building is now (2020) home to the New Hope Community Church East (Baptist).

**Windows**

The Good Shepherd

Altar

The Lords Supper The Agony in the Garden

Blessed are those who hunger Christ carrying the cross

 after righteousness

John baptizing Christ Angel at the empty tomb

The Nativity Christ giving the blessing

*Toured March 1996*

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