"Rev. Artemus Boies was ordained and installed pastor of the Wilmington church May 12, 1819, at an adjourned meeting of presbytery in Wilmington. The church is reported vacant until this time."

For many years prior to that, Presbyterian ministers had visited Wilmington, where there had been more or less of a contingent of that denomination among the Scottish residents and others who had been reared in that faith. The first sermon preached in Wilmington by a regular Presbyterian minister was by Rev. Hugh McAden on February 15, 1756. He was followed by other missionaries who came from the North and from Scotland to work among the Presbyterian settlers in the Cape Fear section. Rev. George Whitefield, the Calvinistic-Methodist preacher and great evangelist of the eighteenth century, visited Wilmington and preached on December 29, 1739. He also preached in the town on March 29, 1765, and perhaps at other times.

The church built in 1818 was on Front Street between Dock and Orange. The cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies. Its existence was of short duration, for it was destroyed by fire on November 3, 1819. Meantime, Rev. Artemus Boies had been installed the first regular pastor of the church on May 12, 1819.

A new building was erected, but it also suffered destruction by fire on April 13, 1859, when another site was chosen for the erection of a church for the congregation. This was on Third and Orange Streets. There was no insurance on the old church, and a subscription towards the new building was started on the spot at the time of the fire. On the evening of the same day a meeting was held in the office of James H. Dickson, M.D., and a committee was appointed to secure further subscriptions. At a later meeting, the sum of $14,000 was reported as having been raised. The new building was subsequently erected at a cost approximating $20,000, in addition to the cost of the lot, and was dedicated on April 28, 1861. It still stands, and is used by a congregation which has become noted throughout the South for its missionary and evangelistic influences. The present membership of the church (1915) numbers eight hundred and forty-nine; and, besides its large benefactions to other religious objects, it maintains a considerable foreign mission enterprise at Kiangyin, China, and numerous missions and chapels in its immediate section of North Carolina.

The ministers who have served the church are: Revs. Artemus Boies, Leonard E. Lathrop, Noel Robertson, Thomas P. Hunt, James A. McNeill, W. W. Eells, Thomas R. Owen, J. O. Stedman, M. B. Grier, D.D., Horace L. Singleton, D.D., A. F. Dickson, D.D., Joseph R. Wilson, D.D., LL.D., Peyton H. Hoge, D.D., and John M. Wells, Ph.D., D.D. President Woodrow Wilson was a youth when his father, the late Dr. Joseph R. Wilson, served the church as its pastor.

As illustrating the missionary and enterprising spirit of the church, it might be stated that on November 6, 1858, fourteen persons were dismissed to form the Second Presbyterian Church, which later became St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church; also, that on March 1, 1859, a plan was formed to build a mission schoolhouse in the southern part of the city, which later developed into Immanuel Presbyterian Church. This was before the burning of the old church on Front Street. A lot for the use of the mission was donated by John A. Taylor.

Seven ministers have gone out from the First Presbyterian Church: Revs. Thomas R. Owen, Sidney G. Law, George W. McMillan, William H. Groves, Alexander Sprunt, William E. Hill, and Andrew J. Howell. It has also furnished the following foreign missionaries, who are at this time laboring in China: George C. Worth, M.D., and his wife, Mrs. Emma Chadbourn Worth, of Kiangyin, and Miss Jessie D. Hall, of Tsing-Kiang-Pu, who is supported entirely by the Jane Dalziel Sprunt Missionary Society, composed of her immediate family and relatives. The foreign mission force entirely supported by the church numbers thirteen, all of them in China, besides twenty-five native helpers. In addition, there are several home missionaries and mission school teachers connected with the church.

The large addition to the church building, containing the Anniversary Hall and the Chadbourn Memorial Hall, was completed in 1894 and bears an important part in the activities of the congregation.

As a matter of general historic interest, which affected the life of the Presbyterian Churches of the city, as well as those of other denominations, mention should be made of the great revival of 1858, and the special services conducted by noted evangelists since as follows: Rev. R. G. Pearson, beginning March 18, 1888; Rev. D. L. Moody, beginning March 18, 1893; Rev. R. A. Torrey, D.D., beginning March 6, 1910; and Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, D.D., and Mr. Charles M. Alexander, be-