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## Bear Creek Community Churches



During the days of reconstruction and Jim Crow laws, churches played an important role in helping the people of the Bear Creek area maintain a community spirit and identity. The Shady Grove C.M.E. Church was founded in the Bear Creek community in 1884. The congregation moved to a larger building in 1897. The church is still active today. This photo is a picture of the second church building as it appeared in 1925.



In the photo on the left are members of a Shady Grove C.M.E. church group, c. 1945. Another church group gathers in the picture on the right, 1961.



In the photo on the left members of the Ben Washington Baptist Church lay the cornerstone for a new building, 1967. The Ben Washington Baptist Church was founded in 1941. In the photo on the right members of the Shady Grove C.M.E. Church pose for a photo in 1989.