



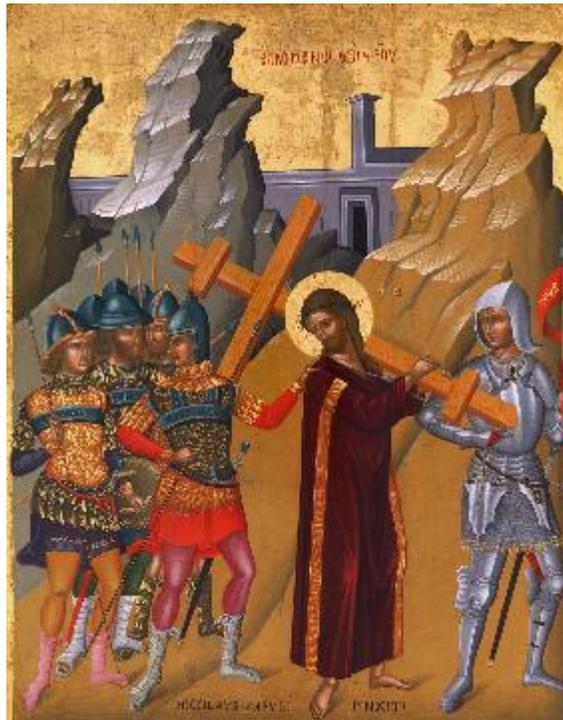
Spring 2018

New Eyes

As I write to you, we are in the midst of Lent, but you will not hear from Bruton Parish again until after Easter. It is tempting to speak of resurrection, but we must follow through passion and cross, first. Let's dwell with the way of the cross, and wait for the Paschal Feast. I trust you will celebrate the feast with joy.

The season of Lent is focused on Jesus' sacrificial way, but that is not the end of the story. We marvel at God's capacity for love and the cost of loving, but we are called to do more than exercise wonder; we are called to participate in Jesus' sacrificial way. There are many "things" we can do, but it is more about an orientation. Jesus' way is God's view of the created order and all things. Is it possible for us to see, considering how God views all things?

This is a major challenge for us. We see with our own eyes with our own view of what matters most. God sees beyond individual creatures. God sees the relationships and the small spaces between us, rather than the gulfs we see.



Take the remaining days of this holy season and avert your eyes. The depth of God's love is known in suffering, but it is suffering pregnant with meaning. Look for the connections. See the small spaces that God in Christ occupies. Jesus bridges those small spaces in his death, and in his new life.

Chris Epperson +

6th Annual Friends Day

Start the day by visiting with [Martha Washington](#) at the Church. Born Martha Dandridge, her roots run deep at Bruton. Her great grandfather, the Rev'd Rowland Jones, was, in 1674, the first rector of Bruton Parish Church. Two of the four children Martha bore while married to Daniel Parke Custis died young — Daniel at age three and Frances at age 4. Their grave stones are near the north transept door of the church. In 1757, at age 26, she became a widow. Two years later she married George Washington and in 1789 became the first First Lady of the United States. Join Martha (portrayed by Colonial Williamsburg Interpreter, Katherine Pittman) as she recalls time spent in Williamsburg and her ties to Bruton.

You will want to attend the [6th Annual Friends Day Luncheon](#) at 12:15pm in the Parish House following the morning program at the church. The guest speaker will be [The Very Rev'd Andrew McGowan](#). He is the McFaddin Professor of Anglican Studies at Yale Divinity School. He also serves as Dean and

President of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. Born in Melbourne, Australia, he received his BA from the University of Western Australia in 1983. Following his ordination as an Anglican priest, he undertook doctoral studies in Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana where he was awarded a PhD in 1996. His research interests include ancient Christianity, the Eucharist and Anglican theology.



The Very Rev'd
Andrew McGowan

The afternoon program will offer a very special opportunity for Friends Day participants to be introduced to the [New Heritage Center](#) where Bruton historians will conduct guests through the displays that describe Bruton's rich past and reveal an active present-day church. Groups will be limited in size, so that all participants will have the opportunity to hear the narrators and have questions answered.

For the sixth consecutive year, Friends Day will conclude with the [Annual John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Concert](#) in the church at 8pm.

The only charge for the day's events is \$15 per person for the luncheon. However, prior reservations are required for the morning, the luncheon, and the afternoon events. Please use the form on the last page to make reservations.

Members of Bruton's local congregation and all members of Our Worldwide Congregation are welcome to participate in the 6th Annual Friends Day on April 28.

Photo courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation



Martha Washington as portrayed by
CW's Katherine Pittman



Bruton Parish Shop & Heritage Center

An Excellent
Program Planned!

Don't Miss Out!

Register
Today!

Why The Cornerstone Circle?

Jim Morford, Chair, Friends of Bruton

I'm often asked, why the Cornerstone Circle and how does it relate to Friends of Bruton?

It was at the Annual Friends Day Luncheon in 2016 that the Cornerstone Circle was launched. The purpose of the Circle is to provide the opportunity for those who have an affection for Bruton Parish Church, whether members of the local congregation or those who live distant from Williamsburg, to support Our Worldwide Congregation. Through an annual contribution of \$100 or more, Cornerstone Circle members support the work and specific projects of Friends of Bruton.

Sustaining membership in the Cornerstone Circle helps defray expenses such as providing speakers and presenters for Friends Day. Circle membership helps support projects that enhance the Bruton experience for local and distant Friends.

The Friends of Bruton Committee designates projects to be supported by the Cornerstone Circle. Recently Friends of Bruton was able to support the project that has resulted in the digitization of the Bruton & Middletown Parish Register (1662-1797) and A Guide to the Memorials of Bruton Parish Church books, the creation of software and the computer terminal at the Heritage Center. This support was made possible as a result of a generous gift to the Cornerstone Circle by Don and Elaine Bogus. Visitors and genealogists are now able to easily search the records for information about ancestors who may have had an association with Bruton Parish Church simply by going to the website at brutonparish.org.

Other projects that Friends of Bruton seeks to fund include revising and printing the Guide to the Memorials of Bruton Parish Church and the book Bruton Parish Church, Its Spiritual and Historical Legacy. Another project under consideration is to expand, into booklet form, the text behind the photos and brief descriptions in the Heritage Center exhibits.

Al Louer, Chair of the Friends of Bruton Advisory Council and Chair of the Heritage Center Committee, stated, "Our most critical task will be the proactive development of related projects and programs at the Center that enhance the mission and message of Bruton Parish."



2nd Year Cornerstone Membership Gift



1st Year Cornerstone Membership Gift

As the Friends Bruton Committee considers and identifies additional projects, membership contributions to the Cornerstone Circle are welcome as are donations designated to the support of projects that can be funded in whole or in part by contributions to the Cornerstone Circle.

For information about how to join the Cornerstone Circle or to make specific contributions, visit our website at www.brutonparish.org/fobowc or email Hilary Cooley, Communications Director, at hcooley@brutonparish.org.

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The Hymns We Sing: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Jim Morford

On Easter Sunday morning worshipers crowd into Christian churches of all denominations with most raising their voices to the tune of Charles Wesley's great hymn, Christ the Lord is Risen Today.* It first appeared in 1739 in a collection by John and Charles Wesley called Hymns and Sacred Poems. Charles was said to have averaged 10 poetic lines a day for 50 years. He wrote 8,989 hymns composing some of the most memorable and lasting hymns of the faith including, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," and "Rejoice! The Lord Is King!" Because his brother John is often cited as he founder of the Methodist movement, Charles is frequently referred to as the "forgotten Wesley."

In Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Charles Wesley wrote a hymn in praise of the power of Christ. Only a few minor



changes have been made since the hymn was first published. Of the original eleven stanzas, six have been adapted for the hymn we sing today. It is interesting to note that the text of the hymn is written in the present tense.

"Christ the Lord is risen today" -- not "has risen" or "rose." Master of Sacred Music, Peyton Strouth observes, "This (present tense) is powerful because it places us in community with those who witnessed the resurrection in their own lifetimes, and reaffirms our own hope of being set free from death."

The melody is from The Lyra Davidica ("the harp of David") a collection of hymns by John Baptist Walsh, first published in 1708. It is the only tune that has survived since the original publication in 1708.

Charles Wesley was the eighteenth of Samuel and Susannah Wesley's nineteen children (only 10 lived to maturity). When of sufficient age, Charles joined his siblings each day as his mother, who knew Greek, Latin, and French, tutored them for six hours. Charles then spent 13 years at Westminster School, where the only language allowed in public was Latin. Westminster was followed by nine years at Oxford, where he received his master's degree.

While at Oxford, Charles formed the "Holy Club", and with two or three others celebrated Communion weekly and observed a strict regimen of spiritual study. Because of the group's religious regimen, which later included early rising, Bible study, and prison ministry, members were called "methodists."

By 1735 Charles and John, both ordained, accepted the opportunity to become missionaries in the colony of Georgia — John served as chaplain at a rough outpost and Charles as secretary to Governor Oglethorpe. Shot at, slandered, suffering sickness, shunned even by Oglethorpe, Charles and John dejectedly returned to England the following year.

John Wesley is considered the organizational genius behind the founding of Methodism, an outgrowth of the 18th century Church of England. But without the hymns of Charles, the Methodist movement may have gone nowhere. As one historian put it, "The early Methodists were taught and led as much through [Charles's] hymns as through sermons and [John] Wesley's pamphlets."

*Methodists, associated with the Wesley brothers, and a number of other protestant denominations sing the words Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Episcopalians, using the 1982 Hymnal, sing Jesus Christ is Risen Today.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

If you will be in town, we invite you to please join us for worship during Holy Week and Easter!

**Holy Monday, Tuesday
& Wednesday - March 26, 27 & 28**
Holy Eucharist @ 6 pm

Maundy Thursday, March 29

Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar @ 6 pm

Canterbury-led Vigil with Footwashing
@ 8 pm in St. Mary's Chapel

Good Friday, March 30

The Hours from Noon to 3 pm

Stations of the Cross @ 3 pm

Good Friday Liturgy @ 6 pm

Holy Saturday, March 31

The Great Vigil of Easter @ 9 pm
begins in the churchyard (with incense)

Easter Sunday, April 1

Holy Eucharist in the Church @ 7 am, 8:30 am,
10:15 am, 12 noon & 5:30 pm

Holy Eucharist in the Churchyard
@ 10:15 am - Egg Hunt follows

Friends Choice: Books You Might Enjoy

Jim Morford

There are many books, both historical and theological, that may be of interest to readers of The Bruton Fount. As a regular feature we plan to include books suggested by our Bruton Clergy and others that may be of particular interest to our readers.

It seems quite fitting that we should launch this feature with Dennis Montgomery's book, *A Link Among the Days*, an excellent biography of the Rev'd Dr. W. A. R. Goodwin, Bruton Rector and the Father of Colonial Williamsburg.

As the book jacket describes, when young William Archer Rutherford Goodwin, "came first to Williamsburg and walked in the 18th century footsteps of such men as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry, Goodwin recorded that visit, and much of the rest of his long life, in dairies, letters and poems, unpublished manuscripts and thoughtful books that capture an imaginative man's inspiration and vision."

"Twice rector of Williamsburg's Bruton Parish Church, the Rev. Dr. Goodwin lived and worked at the center of what had been, and what he would make again, Virginia's 18th century capital. One of the keys to his success was the Phi Beta Kappa device that depended from his watch chain; another was the charm that distinguishes an ace fundraiser. Both helped him open the heart, as well as pocketbook, of America's wealthiest man and foremost philanthropist, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. From his college years

through the decades of his ministry to the afternoon Rockefeller last visited him on his deathbed, Goodwin committed his life to paper, leaving for posterity the words that linked his days."

David Rockefeller, John D. Jr.'s longest surviving son, wrote, at the time of the book's 1998 publication, "In this well-written and thoroughly researched work, Dennis Montgomery has beautifully evoked a sense of (the) sleepy Tidewater Virginia town that was transformed by returning to its past. I enjoyed the book immensely."

A Link Among the Days, published by Dietz Press, Richmond, VA in 1998, is available through the Bruton Parish Shop. Please either contact them at dkoun@brutonparish.org or 757-220-1489.



Rev'd Dr. W.A.R. Goodwin (l)
& John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Visit our Website and Stay in Touch with Bruton whether near or far

Whether you live near or far, there are many ways to stay in touch with Bruton Parish. Visit our website at www.brutonparish.org to see worship schedules, Candlelight Concert schedules, The Link Library, calendar of events, ministries, children's and youth programs, adult formation, history, parish records, and much more!

Bruton Sermons on the web

"Snakes! There's a scene in the movie where Harrison Ford's character Indiana Jones and his companion are at an archaeological dig in Egypt. They're staring down into the Well of Souls, a stone chamber where the Ark of the Covenant is supposed to be. As they look down, Indiana's companion asks, "Why is the floor moving?" Indiana tosses his torch down into the tomb so he can see what's down there. "Snakes! Why did it have to be snakes?" In the movie, after Indiana Jones looks up from seeing the snakes, his companion says, "Asps. Very dangerous. You go first." Very different from what I imagine Jesus saying. "Suffering and death on the cross. Very dangerous. I'll go first."



Visit our website to view or read the entire sermon given on the Fourth Sunday in Lent by the Rev'd Lauren McDonald, Associate Rector of Outreach & Women's Ministries. Each week, the sermons given by our clergy at the Sunday morning services are recorded and posted online for the members of our community — both local and worldwide — who are not physically present or for those who would like to revisit a particular sermon. Along with other videos of parish life, they can also be viewed on our YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/BrutonParish>.

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The Rev'd John Bracken: Rector, W&M President, Bishop

Linda Rowe

The article below is the second in a series of biographical sketches featuring former Rectors of Bruton Parish Church. The articles are written by Mrs. Linda Rowe, Historian, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (Retired) whose specialty is eighteenth and early nineteenth century religious history of colonial Virginia.

The Reverend John Bracken was born in 1745 and died July 15, 1818. He was Rector of Bruton Parish (1773-1818), Grammar master, professor, and ninth president of the College of William and Mary and second bishop of Virginia.

Little is known of Bracken's early life except that he was born in England and was licensed for Amelia County by the Bishop of London in 1772. He did not stay long in Amelia County, if indeed he went there at all, for in June 1773 he was elected rector of Bruton Parish after the death of Josiah Johnson.

His ministry began with a major distraction: Samuel Henley, Robert Carter Nicholas, and Bracken were embroiled in a paper war over eligibility for the position at Bruton and various theological disagreements. These published disputes appeared in the Williamsburg press for more than a year. One reader begged the editors "to get your Bruton Parish Disputants, if they intend appearing again in the Gazette, to make Use of Hebrew, or some Language that we common Folks don't understand." Naturally, with such letters to the editor the story was soon dropped.

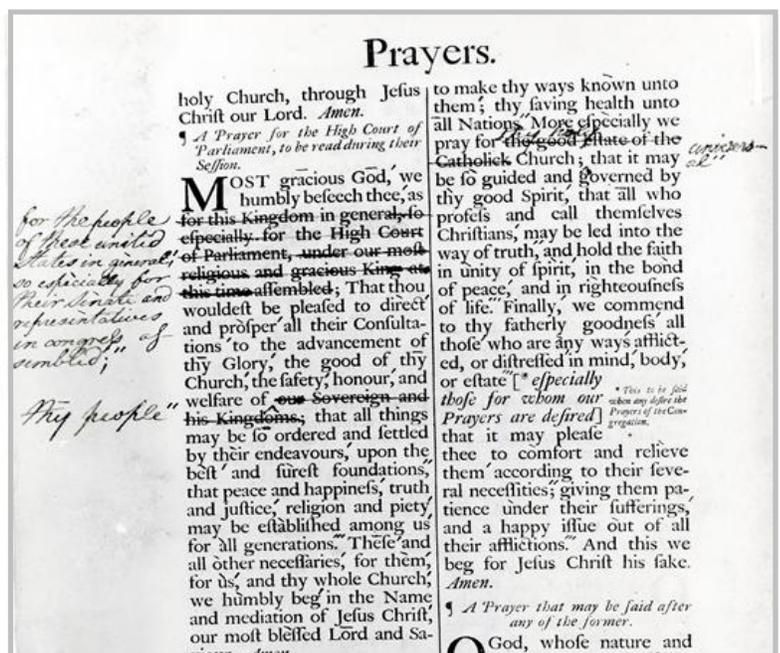
Bracken chose to remain in Williamsburg during the American Revolution and beyond. His long tenure (1773-1818) as rector gave Bruton Parish a certain stability during the war and the decade-long struggle to separate church from state in Virginia that ended with the adoption in 1786 of Jefferson's Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. Then forced to rely on voluntary contributions rather than a mandatory annual church tax on parishioners as in pre-revolutionary Virginia, the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia fell on hard times. Reduced membership, vacant pulpits, and abandoned churches were not uncommon. Although Bruton experienced smaller membership in these times exacerbated by the move of the capital of Virginia to Richmond in 1780, Bracken's tenure gave the parish continuity and continued tradition.

Bracken was rector in 1787 when the United States Constitution was ratified. It was likely Bracken who marked through prayers for the king and royal family in the 1752 Book of Common Prayer (still owned by Bruton Parish). In the margins, he penciled new appropriate wording "for the people of these United States, in general; so especially for their Senate and representatives in congress assembled."

Bracken became master of the Grammar School at the College of William and Mary – perhaps on a temporary basis – in late 1775 when professor Thomas Gwatkin returned to

England. In April 1777 Bracken was appointed "grammar master and professor of humanity" but was removed by the board of visitors on 4 December 1779. Bracken sued the College for £553 of lost salary. He lost the suit, appealed, and lost again. Edmund Randolph, attorney for the College, wrote that if Bracken had "no right to the office . . . he could have no right to the salary."

In September 1776 Bracken married Sally Burwell, daughter of Carter Burwell of Carter's Grove. The Gazette published a romantic (if gushing) poem on that happy occasion. The Brackens had three children: John born in 1779, Julia Carter born in 1781, and Sarah born in 1785.



Bracken received a Doctor of Divinity degree from the College in 1793. Upon Bishop Madison's death, Bracken was elected both bishop of Virginia and president of the College (the latter with no professorship). Of course, the Revolution and the elimination of the professorship of divinity had severed the College's official relationship with the Episcopal/Anglican Church but did not wholly wipe out its heritage. Thus, prominent clerics continued to fill the office of president of the College. Bracken served the College as president until October 1814, having been asked by the visitors to resign. In May 1813 Bracken also resigned as bishop-elect, apparently willingly and because of his advanced age and ill health. He died on 15 July 1818 and was buried in the family graveyard at Carter's Grove.

Sources: Rutherford Goodwin, "The Reverend John Bracken (1745-1818)," Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Vol. X, No. 4 (December 1941), pp. 354-389 and Free Religion Resource Book, Colonial Williamsburg.



Bruton Parish Heritage Center adds Parish Historic Records

Bryant Cureton

After several years of planning, design, and construction, Bruton Parish's new Heritage Center is complete and open. In a special ceremony on Sunday, February 18, it was dedicated in memory of Nancy W. Fogarty by Bruton's rector, the Rev'd Christopher L. Epperson.

Located in the Parish House with the Bruton Parish Shop, the Heritage Center tells the story of the parish, past and present. Interpretive displays trace the arrival of Anglicanism in America in the 17th century, the role of Bruton as the court church of the colonial capital in the 18th century, the years as a small-town parish in the 19th century, the restoration of the church along with Colonial Williamsburg in the 20th century, and the strong and vibrant church of today. Important artifacts are on display, such as the 1769 weathervane and a Bible presented to the church by England's King Edward VII.



Of special interest to Friends of Bruton is the Bruton Parish Historic Records project that has been sponsored by Friends as part of the Heritage Center and funded by Cornerstone Circle members Don and Elaine Bogus.

The records themselves are on the parish's website at <http://www.brutonparish.org/heritage>, so they can be used from home computers. A short video showing how to use them is available at <http://bit.ly/bpcparishrecords>.

The first two documents available are (1) our earliest Parish Register of 1662-1797, showing births, baptisms, deaths and burials through the colonial years, and (2) A Guide to the Memorials of Bruton Parish Church, with the inscriptions on the tombstones and memorial plaques in the churchyard and church.

Both are easily searchable goldmines of genealogical information. To use the Register, open the Parish Records website and select the Register at the top of the page. You can browse page by page using the Previous and Next Page buttons. Tabs on the sides of pages allow zooming in and out on a single page, seeing a page full screen, and returning it to its original size.

There is also a verbatim transcription and a version with modernized spellings. You can print the page and transcription, send it by email or save a PDF to your computer.

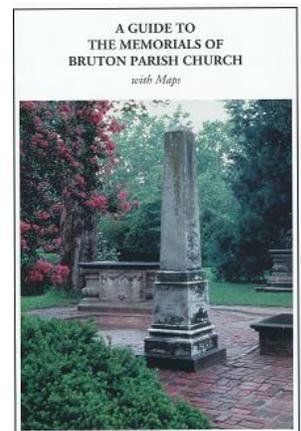
You can search for a word or phrase by typing it into the box at the upper right corner. If you are typing a full name or a phrase, use quotation marks so that your search returns only that phrase.

The list of records matching the search term can be further filtered by category or date.

Another way to search uses the Browse by Record Type button. Filter by category and/or date or date range, then explore the pages in the filtered group one by one.

The Guide to the Memorials of Bruton Parish Church is also available in a flipbook form that you can browse through. The index will direct you to where particular names are found, and maps will show where the inscriptions are found. Though many burials were unmarked, the monuments that survive constitute one of the largest group of colonial-era tombstones in Virginia.

The Heritage Center will complement the tours of the church provided by the Bruton Guides and, together with the Shop, will serve as a place of welcome and engagement for Friends of Bruton and our many visitors.



Annual John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Concert

Psalm Set to Music

Beckie Davy

The 2018 John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Concert on Saturday, April 28, at 8pm will open with Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Bernstein's birth.

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, to Jewish-Russian immigrants, Leonard (or Lenny) was raised without music as an optional career. Nevertheless, his family was given an old upright piano when he was ten, and Bernstein immediately began teaching himself to play. His natural abilities were readily apparent, and he saved his own money for occasional lessons.

Bernstein attended Harvard, included some composition and piano lessons in his coursework and began attending Boston Symphony concerts, which convinced him that he should pursue his passion for music as a career. He spent one year of concentrated study at the Curtis Institute of Music and was one of five students selected to be part of a conducting master class at the Tanglewood Berkshire Music Center, given by the renowned orchestral conductor, Serge Koussevitsky, who became Bernstein's mentor. Two years of mostly unemployment followed before Bernstein received a life-changing break.

Barred from military service in WWII due to severe asthma, he was offered the position of assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic, in part because of the consequential shortage of musicians in the war years. In November of 1944 with fewer than 12 hours' notice and no rehearsal, he stepped in for an ill Bruno Walter. The young Bernstein was an immediate sensation, and a front-page article in the New York Times about his achievement cemented his sudden fame. Many guest conducting positions followed, and in 1958 he became the music director of the New York Philharmonic, one of the first American-born conductors to hold such a prestigious post.

Bernstein composed Chichester Psalms in 1965 while on sabbatical from the Philharmonic. A commission from the Very Rev'd Walter Hussey, Dean of Chichester Cathedral in Sussex, came through as Bernstein struggled to compose a new musical that never materialized. Hussey, a staunch supporter of the arts, asked that Bernstein consider writing something based on a psalm, perhaps incorporating some of the popular style of his West Side Story, for the August, 1965 festival at the Cathedral. Bernstein responded with a three-movement choral work, in Hebrew (no English translation offered) that incorporates three complete psalms, one per movement, and excerpts from three others. About the style, Bernstein wrote a poem that was published in the New York Times:

"For hours on end I brooded and mused
On materiae musicae, used and abused;
On aspects of unconventionality,
Over the death in our time of tonality...
Pieces for nattering, clucking sopranos
With squadrons of vibraphones, fleets of pianos
Played with the forearms, the fists and the palms —
And then I came up with the Chichester Psalms.
... My youngest child, old-fashioned and sweet.
And he stands on his own two tonal feet."



Chichester Psalms is the first work he composed after completing his mournful Kaddish Symphony, which he wrote in memory of President Kennedy after his tragic assassination. Bernstein wrote about his experiments with then avant-garde compositional styles and how they seemed contrary to his nature. Chichester Psalms stands as a testament to his belief that new music could still be written using aspects of tonality and even popular music styles. Beyond his extraordinary influence as a conductor and teacher, Bernstein's lasting legacy was his ability to bridge the popular style of Broadway musicals with the concert hall, in a refreshing yet accessible idiom.

John Rutter's Psalmfest will fill the remainder of the concert. This too, as its title suggests, derives its texts from the Psalms. The individual nine movements, of which we'll perform eight, were composed over a long period and include three that our choirs have sung as Sunday anthems with organ only accompaniment. Others were newly composed for this larger work, and all were revised to be accompanied either by full orchestra or harp, organ, flute, oboe, and clarinet, as we'll perform it.

John Rutter is one of the most recognizable composers of our times, having written hundreds of well-loved choral works, both large and small. Rutter was born in London in 1945 and was the son of a noted scientist. He had the good fortune to attend Highgate School in London, where fellow students included John Tavener and David Cullen (future orchestrator of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals). Because of this schooling, Rutter was already an experienced composer when he began his degree at Cambridge and published his first compositions while still a student there. He served as director of music at Cambridge from 1975-79 but resigned to focus on composition, which he has done for the remainder of his career. Also a well-established conductor, Rutter continues to divide his time between composing and conducting.

Bruton Parish Guides: A Ministry of Hospitality

Anne Conkling

An online dictionary defines hospitality as "... friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors or strangers." While Virginia is famous for good old-fashioned Southern hospitality, our Guide Ministry is exemplary in carrying on the tradition.

We are a cool, refreshing break for the August traveler who is sunburned and weary. For the annual snowbirds, we are a traditional stop while they drive from North to South. For returning military, we offer sacred space in which to give thanks for their safe arrival. School groups by the dozen delight in the cross shape of the building. Newly minted American citizens from myriad nationalities reverently touch the name of George Washington or Thomas Jefferson on pew doors, often humbly asking, "This is real? He was here?" They have studied for a test, and are now learning the lessons Williamsburg shares.



Guide Bill Libby with visitors

We meet and greet countless visitors. For far too many, we are the only face of Christ they see, particularly as the vast numbers of unchurched continue to grow. While some of our stories are sadly funny, they are far surpassed by the numbers of visitors for whom the church is a beacon, a safe place, a

magnet. For every young person who wants to know if James Monroe was Marilyn Monroe's father (!!!), we can just as easily be asked about complex church/state issues, the true nature and behaviors of our American heroes, or sensitive political views. There are very few dull days as a guide!

We all carry our baggage, some of us keep it tightly closed and others share. When someone has been thinking about an issue, or trying to find an answer to a thorny question, often it surfaces verbally in the church. So many come in needing peace and prayer.

Since we are not part of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, visitors do not need a ticket to come inside. This can mean we welcome those who have seen only the outside of everything else. We frequently explain the geography, bus routes, give directions and make suggestions for their visit to the Historic Triangle. Included in all that, we invite guests to worship with us, attend our concerts, and visit our Bruton Parish Shop and the new Heritage Center.

Some days we give structured interpretations, some days we carefully oversee unending tour groups. We meet



people from all fifty states, and most foreign countries. We share our history, our music, our worship, and our selves. Thankfully, many of the visitors do come back for a concert and/or service. As they walk in historic footsteps, they take away a sense of history, of destiny, of faith, and surely a feeling of welcome. Returning pilgrims can tell us exactly when they visited and often their feelings.

We truly have a worldwide following — well beyond the 2000 plus who are on our registers. The Friends of Bruton are a growing group, a constant connection and welcome company whenever they return.

Reserve a Private Tour

When planning your next trip to Williamsburg, you may want to arrange for a private tour of the church and/or churchyard with one of our experienced Bruton Parish guides. Whether it be for a group of two or twenty, we are pleased to offer you the convenience and personalized attention of a private tour by reserving a specific date and time in advance of your visit. To make a reservation, please email BPC@brutonparish.org.

A very simple way you can give for the preservation of the unique history and spiritual legacy of Bruton Parish Church.

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A Shadow Cast Covering Centuries: John Blair, Jr.

Anne Conkling

Growing up in Williamsburg in the middle of the eighteenth century afforded a front row seat to the birth of a nation. Our nation. Figures we have immortalized in marble, myth and name walked our Duke of Gloucester Street, worshipped in Bruton Parish Church, often danced in the famous taverns and were entertained at the Palace. In the familiar litany of Virginia history, the name Blair has a special luster. It has provided a tartan thread in the tapestry of history — in both church and state.

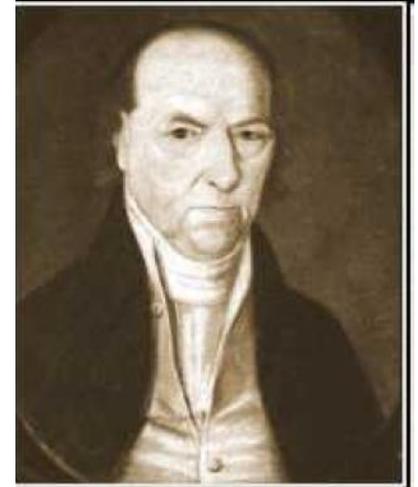
The prime mover with whom we are most familiar is naturally James, in that he was Rector of Bruton, founder of the College of William and Mary, and a consummate politician. He also married wisely, knitting the Blairs to the Harrisons, and setting a pattern his family would continue. Charmed, interlocking circles of kinship dictated marriage, land ownership, political positions and generational power. Our focus here is on the great-nephew of James and Sarah Harrison Blair. He was John Blair, Jr., and while he walked in impressive family footsteps, the shadow he cast covers centuries.

Born and raised in Williamsburg, he graduated with honors from the College of William and Mary, before sailing to London to read law. This was a normal route for sons of the gentry. As a young Burgess, he voted against the resolves introduced by a vocal Patrick Henry. Other elder leaders joined in the nay vote — and it is fascinating to see the eventual change to supporting the revolutionary attitude. Each person seems to reach a tipping point from which there is no return.

John was well suited to the law, and served in numerous positions. Working here in the Colonial Capitol provides hands-on, first person experience — an educational apprenticeship with the finest minds in Virginia. Soon John was clerk to the Governor's Council, then stretched his voice and vote toward the activists who were ready to stand against the mother country. He served as Chief Justice, then with George Wythe in the High Court of Chancery, and on to the Virginia Court of Appeals. George Washington admired his character. Other judges

commented on his integrity. Clearly respected for his intellect, Blair continued the work Jefferson did on revising the Virginia laws.

1787 saw Blair in Philadelphia, a strong, silent, hard working and influential member of the Constitutional Convention. His gift for interpreting the law is legendary, and when



Washington appointed him to the Supreme Court, he was confirmed in two days, and stuck to the Constitution as a primary source document. For further study, see *Chisholm v Georgia*, the story of the 11th amendment, and learn about judicial review!

He retired to Williamsburg, returned to Bruton, and lived a solitary life as a widower. Many years before he had brought a lovely bride from Edinburgh, and she and all their children predeceased him. As you come through the Palace Green gate, pause for a moment by the low grave stones close to the gate. John and his wife Jean are resting there, and on Constitution Day pilgrims from many states come to visit the site. Their epitaphs speak volumes.

A Prayer for Friends

We know that prayer changes things. Prayer gives us strength when we need it and discernment when we are looking for answers. Visit bit.ly/friendsprayers online if you have a prayer request. Your confidential requests will be forwarded to our clergy, who will lift you up in prayer daily for a month.

A Sailor's Blessing

Disturb us Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity. And in our efforts to build a new earth we have allowed our vision of the new heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wilder seas, where storms will show Your mastery where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; And to push back the future in strength, courage, hope and love. This we ask in the name of our captain, Who is Jesus Christ.

Attributed to Sir Francis Drake

Sixth Annual Friends Day at Bruton Parish

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Reservation Form

(please complete and return by Friday, April 20)

YES, I/We plan to attend the 6th Annual Friends Day at Bruton on Saturday, April 28.

Name(s) of those attending:

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

YES, please reserve _____ (number of persons) for Presentation by Martha Washington as portrayed by Colonial Williamsburg's Katherine Pittman in the church at 10am. Since this program will also be open to the public, it will be wise to both reserve and arrive early for this event.

YES, please reserve _____ (number of persons) for the Friends Day Luncheon at the Parish House at 12:15pm. The cost for the luncheon and the Sixth Annual Friends Day meeting is \$15/person. The Very Rev'd Andrew McGowan will be our guest speaker. He is the McFaddin Professor of Anglican Studies at Yale Divinity School and serves as Dean and President of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

YES, please reserve _____ (number of persons) for a special Tour of the Bruton Heritage Center in the afternoon (tour times to be determined). Groups will be limited in size, so it will be important for those wishing to take advantage of this opportunity to make advance reservations.

Friends Day will conclude with the Annual John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Concert at 8pm at the church.

Please make your reservation check payable to Bruton Parish Church (note "Friends of Bruton Day" in the memo) and mail it to the address below. Seating is limited, so you are urged to make your luncheon reservation as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Hilary Cooley at 757-345-2252 or hcooley@brutonparish.org.

Please mail your completed form along with your check to:

Bruton Parish Church, Attn: Hilary Cooley
P.O. Box 3520
Williamsburg, VA 23187-3520

Friends of Bruton Advisory Council

Albert Louer, Advisory Council Chair
Bruton Member Charter Member
& Cornerstone Circle Member

Colin Campbell, Former President
& CEO Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Jeff & Jo Anne Coy, Friends of Bruton, Charter &
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Rebecca Davy, Bruton Music Director & Organist

Channing Hall, III
Bruton Member, Attorney

Marcia Hibbitts, Bruton Guide
& Cornerstone Circle Member

The Rt. Rev'd Herman Hollerith IV
Bishop, Diocese of Southern Virginia

Valarie Holmes, Colonial Williamsburg
Interpreter

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Dr. William Kelso, Director of Research
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