



Summer 2019

## 7TH ANNUAL FRIENDS DAY: RECOGNIZING, HONORING, REMEMBERING

Jim Morford

For the first time since Friends of Bruton was founded over eight years ago, all of the Friends Day events were held outside Colonial Williamsburg at Historic Jamestowne and Jamestown Settlement. In planning for the Seventh Annual Friends Day, the Friends of Bruton Committee determined that, due to the significance of three events that took place in 1619, it would be appropriate to recognize each of them at Jamestown during this 400th anniversary year.

The day began as the group gathered at the site of the 1608 church at Historic Jamestowne. The Rev'd Lauren McDonald, speaking a few feet from the burial site of Jamestown's first "chaplain," the Rev'd Robert Hunt, told of the faith those first settlers brought with them. She shared collects and prayers from the 1559 Book of Common Prayer which the settlers would have used.

Mark Summers, the Director of Educational Programs for Jamestown Rediscovery, took us through the many trials and tribulations faced by those early settlers who, although they originally came for commercial purposes, brought their religion with them. Mark concluded his presentation at the newly reopened brick church, the site of three Jamestown churches. The building has been reimaged to define the size of the 1617 church where the New World's first representative assembly met from July 30 to August 4, 1619. Presided over by Governor Sir George Yeardley, the 22 "burgesses" sought to enact "just Laws for the happy guiding" of the people. The gravestone, presumed to have been for Gov. Yeardley, is located at the center of the "quire" (choir). The Governor's remains have yet to be positively confirmed through DNA matching.

Following Mark's presentation, the group of some 75 participants moved from Jamestown Island about one and a half miles to Jamestown Settlement – a living history museum and educational center operated by

the Commonwealth of Virginia. Following an opening prayer by the Rev'd Josh Stephens, a box luncheon was enjoyed while Katherine Gruber, Special Exhibition Coordinator for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, offered a presentation on the work and research that went into producing Tenacity, Jamestown

Settlement's exhibition about women in Jamestown and early Virginia. This was an important part of our Friends Day trilogy of recognition because it was in 1619 that the Virginia Company of London began placing ads to attract "... maids young and uncorrupt, to make wives for the inhabitants and by that means to make the men there more settled ...".

Our keynote speaker, the Honorable Judge John Charles Thomas, was introduced by the Rev'd Dr. Dan McClain, who noted that, in addition to being a distinguished jurist, the

Judge is also a gifted poet. Judge Thomas was the youngest man and first African-American to be named to the Virginia Supreme Court. Basing his remarks on the theme of Religion and Politics: Faith and Faction in Early Jamestown, when in the fall of 1619 the first enslaved Africans were introduced into Jamestown, the Judge spoke of the racial divide that still plagues America. He concluded his remarks with one of his poems and, in response to a standing ovation, offered a second!



The Rev'd Lauren McDonald speaks to Friends at 1608 church site.



Friends Chair Jim Morford with Judge Thomas

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FRIENDS DAY cont'd from page 1

Video of his presentation is now available on our website or at [bit.ly/JUDGETHOMAS](http://bit.ly/JUDGETHOMAS).

Following his remarks, the Judge drew tickets for two door prizes, copies of the recently published 1619, Jamestown and the Forging of American Democracy, signed by the author, Dr. Jim Horn, President of Jamestown Rediscovery.

The Rev'd Jan Brown, Deacon, offered the benediction. Friends Day participants were then invited to visit the Tenacity exhibit and explore the rest of Jamestown Settlement.

The Friends of Bruton Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the staff of Jamestown Rediscovery for guidance in developing that portion of the program that took place on the island. A big debt of gratitude is owed to Jamestown Settlement for the gracious hospitality extended to us for our luncheon and afternoon program at the Settlement.

The Committee believes that all who participated had an informative, inspiring and truly enjoyable Friends Day. We hope to see you next year for our 8th gathering!

Top Photo: Friends assembled at site of 1608 church

Middle Photo: Rev'ds Josh Stephens & Dan McClain chat with a Friend near site of 1617 church.

Bottom Photo: Jamestown Rediscovery's Mark Summers talks with Friends where the first representative assembly was held.



## CORNERSTONE CIRCLE 4TH YEAR RENEWALS NOW DUE

Jim Morford

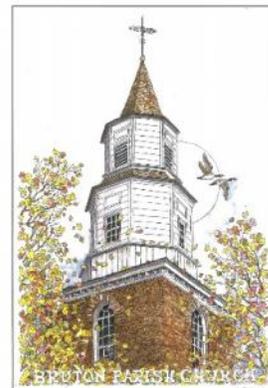
Friends Day on Saturday, May 4, marked the beginning of the fourth year of the Cornerstone Circle. With a donation of \$100 or more, individuals can renew or join for the first time. Every first-time member receives a Bruton Weathervane lapel pin. Each time the pin is worn, it displays your support for Our Worldwide Congregation.

The Friends of Bruton Committee is currently exploring two projects that will benefit from support of the Cornerstone Circle. One project is to select articles from the first six years of quarterly issues of the The Bruton Fount and assemble them into a book. It is anticipated that the published book would be available to all Friends of Bruton as well as at the Heritage Center and Gift Shop. The second project under consideration is to conduct interviews with senior members of the Bruton congregation to capture their memories of church life going back as far as the late 1930s. The subcommittee working on this project is also considering how best to preserve and share this historic resource.

Your support for the Cornerstone Circle will assure that these and other projects may be pursued to a conclusion that will preserve and promote the rich history of Bruton Parish Church.

As is customary, each year's renewal is recognized with a commemorative gift. Members renewing for the 2019/2020 year will receive a rendering of Bruton's tower pictured above especially created for us by local artist, Gary Robertson.

For additional information about how to sign up for or renew membership in the Cornerstone Circle, please contact Hilary Cooley, Communications Director, at (757) 345-2252 or [hcooley@brutonparish.org](mailto:hcooley@brutonparish.org).



### BRUTON SERMONS ON THE WEB

Click the links below to revisit the sermon given on the Seventh Sunday of Easter by The Rev'd Lauren McDonald, Associate Rector for Outreach & Women's Ministry.

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.

We keep a few months' worth of sermon videos online, along with other videos of parish life. They can also be viewed at [www.youtube.com/user/BrutonParish](http://www.youtube.com/user/BrutonParish).

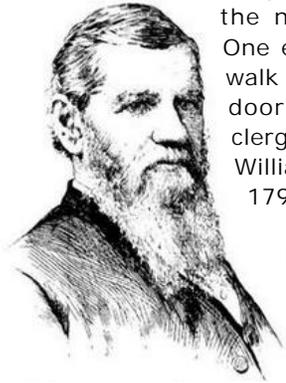
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# WILLIAM H. WILMER: A CORNERSTONE OF THE AMERICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Anne Conkling

As you walk to Communion in Bruton, you are probably aware of the many gravestones under your feet. Being buried inside a church is an ancient English custom. Because Colonial Virginia functioned as a suburb of London, it all makes perfect sense that Bruton would follow the custom. Being buried inside the church was the highest possible honor, reserved for Governors, prominent clergy, and others,



including some who had a hand in organizing the new American Episcopal church. One example of this is a stone we all walk on as we go through the right-hand door to the sacristy. The esteemed clergyman buried there is the Rev. Dr. William Holland Wilmer, who lived from 1792-1827.

Born at his family's ancestral home, Stepney Manor in Kent County, Maryland, Dr. Wilmer became a scholar, writer, educator and priest at a time when the fledgling Episcopal church was struggling daily to stay alive. He came from a prominent family of clergy, and two of his sons followed in the family calling, one becoming a Bishop, and the other following in his father's path both at the College of William & Mary and at Bruton. William married well three times, and produced a sizable family. He was a prolific writer and author of *The Episcopal Manual*, which was reprinted often, and became a guidebook to the new Episcopal church. He served as President of the College of William & Mary, Rector of Bruton Parish, and while working closely with Bishop Richard Channing Moore and others, was instrumental in founding the Virginia Theological Seminary. Providing well educated priests for the future was his life long quest. Raising money for General Seminary in New York City was another of his accomplishments.

Serving as a deputy to six General Conventions and as President of the House of Deputies for four conventions garnered him national recognition. During these years our denomination's leaders were in a daily struggle to keep the church alive. Virginia and Maryland had only about half the parishes staffed, and Wilmer was determined to provide pious, holy and well prepared clergy for the future. Leading by example, he set a high bar both for his sons and any clergy who followed. He understood the power of connections and worked closely with clergy all over Virginia. Wilmer was a model networker 150 years before that art became a standard in both the sacred and secular realms of life. With such leadership, both Bruton Parish and the infant Episcopal church have flourished through the years. Many of these men, Bishop Madison, Bracken, Bishop Meade, Keith, Wilmer and more, sought Divine guidance within the walls of Bruton Church.

## GALA ORGAN CONCERTS THIS FALL

Rebecca Davy, Music Director

The completion of our organ is now in sight, and inaugural events are planned for the month of September. There will be events each weekend after Labor Day to celebrate our new Dobson pipe organ.

Because of the anticipated number of people we expect will want to attend the opening event, passes are highly recommended. We are offering passes first to members of Bruton Parish through June, and then any remaining passes will be made available to the public on July 1. If you plan to attend, please make a reservation before that date. To insure capacity seating, all passes will become void 15 minutes before the start of each concert, allowing anyone in line to be seated in all remaining available space.

If you would like to attend one of two identical concerts, please contact Hilary Cooley at (757) 345-2252 or [hcooley@brutonparish.org](mailto:hcooley@brutonparish.org) to reserve your free passes. Passes will be available for pick-up in the Parish House beginning Monday, August 19.

### Gala Inaugural Concerts

Saturday, September 7 at 8:00 p.m.

or

Sunday, September 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Gordon Stewart, Organist

Gordon Stewart is resident concert organist at Huddersfield Town Hall in England. An accomplished player, conductor, teacher, and former cathedral organist, Stewart is known as an engaging performer, always delighting audiences throughout a career that has spanned over 25 years.



No passes will be needed for the following three weekends, with seating beginning 30 minutes before each event.

### Choral Evensong

Sunday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Bruton Choirs and Tarpley Ringers

Rebecca Davy, Director & JanEl Will, Organist

With premieres of an anthem by Philip Stopford and a handbell and organ work by Sondra Tucker

### Organ & Instruments

Saturday, September 21 at 8:00 p.m.

JanEl Will & Rebecca Davy with other instrumentalists. Details to follow, with music from the past and present.

### New Music for a New Organ

Saturday, September 28 at 8:00 p.m.

JanEl Will & Rebecca Davy, Organists

Featuring premieres of music by Dan Locklair, Cecilia McDowall, Aaron David Miller & Tom Trenney.

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## TAKING HISTORY AND SERVICE ON THE ROAD WITH BRUTON'S YOUTH

The Rev'd Josh Stephens, Associate Rector for Family Ministry  
with Anne Conkling contributing

Bruton Parish is many things to many people. To the hundreds of thousands who visit each year, we are a National Historic Landmark and a place of refuge and peace — and air conditioning — on a hot summer day. Three evenings a week we become the setting for excellent and memorable concerts, with our guests often spellbound between the music, the building, and their learning experience. On Sundays we are a more traditional place of worship, and weekdays we are host to tour groups, busloads of school children and visitors from all over the globe.

So we do talk a lot about the past. Virginians are inordinately and rightly proud of her storied history, especially in the founding of our precious republic. We often sound as though Mr. Washington were right outside, waiting to come in to pray, or perhaps the guns from Yorktown can be heard from afar. Then the guides invite our guests to come to Communion, hear a sermon and worship our risen Lord, and suddenly they realize that we are indeed a part of the living Body of Christ. Visitors who witness one of our many baptisms, will probably never forget the service, and so the present is alive and well.

As caretakers of the Anglican legacy and modern Episcopalians, we are also stewards carefully looking to the future. That takes many forms, from being sure the air conditioning is working to acquiring needlepoint cushions, to all the years of prayerful and exhausting effort around our incredible new organ. But the future needs more than money, more than cushions. And the building is brick-and-mortar — not the living message of Christ. And so we focus on mission and ministry, music and program, and all the intangibles — faith, prayer, hope, scripture, reaching out to strangers of all kinds — and this summer our younger members will be carrying the message far from Virginia.

The Rev'd Josh Stephens, whom many of you met over the recent Friends of Bruton weekend, along with Meghan Brewer, Coordinator for Children & Youth Programming, will be shepherding our middle and high school students on two holy trips.

Bruton Parish has a long history of service trips for adults and youth. In 2017, we revived our youth mission trips with a service trip to the Craddock Center near Blue Ridge, Georgia, for middle and high school students. In 2018, Bruton Parish sent twenty-two students to the Appalachian South Folklife Center in West Virginia to spend time in service and prayer. This summer, our middle school students are returning to the Folklife Center. The Friends of Bruton will be delighted to know that this time

in West Virginia is spent not only working on homes for local folks who are elderly or disabled but also studying the cultural and ecological history of Appalachia. Last summer at the Folklife Center, students were exposed to the history of Blue Grass music with performances and talks by local experts.

Our high school students are traveling a bit farther on the type of trip that won't happen every year. We have twelve students who will spend a week with the Episcopal Church in Navajoland out of Farmington, New Mexico. We will work with a local Navajo Episcopal parish to host a Vacation Bible School for Navajo children. We have been studying Navajo history together in recent weeks. Upon arrival, we will connect with cultural experts to learn about Navajo spirituality, history, and culture. After our time on the Reservation, we will retrace the beginning of John Wesley Powell's 1869 first descent of the Colorado River through Cataract Canyon in Canyonlands National Park. We will spend four nights on the river with rock walls up to 1000 feet high. We will sleep on the banks, visit Anasazi ruins, and we hope to encounter the God of all creation in this beautiful place.

Much preparation has gone into these projects. Fundraising has been an important part of the process, and monetary donations are still needed and welcome. These experiences will stay with our travelers and their hosts for a lifetime. Modeling the gospel will help to form their ever expanding characters. So we aim to nurture future leaders and helpers and builders of tomorrow. Bruton is brick-and-mortar, true — and the Holy Spirit is working here every day!



## THE HYMNS WE SING: "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"

Jim Morford

One of the fundamental hymns sung frequently in Protestant churches is "The Church's One Foundation." It was written in 1866 by Samuel J. Stone, a clergyman of the Church of England. He wrote many original hymns characterized by their hopeful spirit.

Stone was a passionate defender of the faith. He was inspired to write "The Church's One Foundation" in response to a controversy nearly half a world away. In South Africa, Bishop John Colenso of Natal had begun to question whether Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. Bishop Robert Gray of Capetown moved to discipline Colenso, and the resulting controversy reverberated throughout the denomination.

The Rev'd Stone wrote "The Church's One Foundation" as one of twelve hymns based on the Twelve Articles of the Apostles Creed. He based his text on article 9. "I believe in the holy catholic church: the communion of saints." Stone hoped that these hymns would help people to better comprehend the creed that they often recited but seldom understood. He also hoped that they would support the conservative side of the controversy between Bishops Colenso and Gray that was rocking the church. It is the only one of those hymns that is still widely sung today. Most hymnals leave out some of Stone's more polemical verses.

Today we sing the hymn as an affirmation of Christ as the foundation of our faith. As with those who have gone before and with Christians throughout the world we sing "The Church's One Foundation" to declare that beyond any theological differences, cultural divides, and variations in practice, we are all part of the same body, the body of Christ.



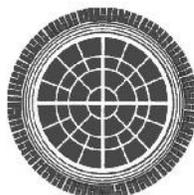
### RESERVE A PRIVATE TOUR

When the voicing of the new organ is finished and Bruton Parish Church has reopened for tours and visitation, you may want to arrange for a private tour of the church and/or churchyard — along with visiting the new Heritage Center Museum — 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](mailto:BPC@brutonparish.org).

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF BRUTON PARISH: JOIN THE 1715 SOCIETY

Do your ties to Bruton Parish run deep, or have you only recently come to know the parish? In either case, you are invited to consider becoming a member of the 1715 Society. Society members share the commitment to building our permanent endowment, The Bruton Parish Church Foundation, Inc.

Planned gifts assure that future generations of children and adults will worship, learn and serve in this historic setting as we do today. For more information about including the Foundation in your estate plan, please visit us online at [www.brutonparish.org/bpcfoundationinc](http://www.brutonparish.org/bpcfoundationinc) and contact Marty Easton, Development Director, at either (757) 345-2256 or [measton@brutonparish.org](mailto:measton@brutonparish.org). If you have already included Bruton Parish in your will, please let us know.



Proposed gifts of life insurance, real estate and personal property must be submitted to review by the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

THE BRUTON PARISH  
CHURCH FOUNDATION, INC.

### A PRAYER FOR FRIENDS OF BRUTON

Amazing and wonderful things can occur when we keep our fragile lives wrapped in prayer. Whether it is the Lord's Prayer or the early sixth century Jesus Prayer (Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.) or a myriad of other possible prayers, each one brings a benefit and a sense of blessing and calm. It can be as simple as, Lord, have mercy! The prayer selected for this month is from the fourth century, and was written by St. Augustine.  
Peace be with you!

Visit [bit.ly/friendsprayers](http://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.

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy.  
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy.  
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love what is holy.  
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy.  
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

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The Rev'd Lauren M. McDonald, Associate Rector  
Outreach & Women's Ministries

The Rev'd Joshua P. Stephens  
Associate Rector - Family Ministry

The Rev'd Jan Brown, Deacon



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