



Winter 2020

WAITING AND WATCHING

The Rev'd Chris Epperson, Rector

As we begin the season of Advent, we remember that this season is one of preparation. We prepare for the annual celebration of the Nativity of our Lord as a child. We look to God's great act of humility coming to us in flesh, Emmanuel, God with us. We also prepare for our ultimate hope of the culmination of Christ's eternal reign.

This year presents us with an Advent unlike any other in my lifetime. Christians usually remember in community, but this year we are dismembered. We are isolated and painfully experience this distance. This moment reminds me of Israel's lament, "Can God set a table in the wilderness?" That is what we have been working to do for the last nine months.

We know that we will not be able to gather as usual this year. We know that distance and time are not boundaries that have the power to defeat God's dream for a unified human family. The Christian community gathered in prayer is a foretaste of the realization of God's dream.

While we are unable to worship as usual, Bruton Parish is coming up with ideas about what can be done to strengthen the ties that bind us. We are seeking to develop a safe approach to offer something of substance to help us remember who we are and to whom we belong.

We will certainly offer a broadcasted service. We hope to offer an in-person opportunity. It might be an outdoor musical offering, including

the reading of the Christmas Gospel. It might include some expression of devotion using a Nativity scene. These are the sorts of ideas we have thus far.

Watch for future communications from Bruton Parish. We are making plans in an ever changing situation. We will observe the Incarnation, God taking on human flesh, in some way. It will not be perfect. It will not be the usual, but in this time we just might be more in touch with the conflicted, broken and suffering humanity that God came to save, more fully than we have been in a long time.

Waiting and watching,

Chris+

WORSHIP WITH US VIRTUALLY

Christmas Eve - December 24
Prerecorded Children's Pageant @ 3pm
Livestreamed Holy Eucharist @ 7:30pm

Christmas Day - December 25
Livestreamed Holy Eucharist @ 10am

Join us on our YouTube Channel
for these offerings.

Visit our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/BrutonParish
for our services that are being livestreamed.

THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH

From a Dec. 2015 article written by The Rev'd Dr. David Zwifka,
Rector of St Luke's Episcopal Church Lebanon, PA.
Edited with additional material by Jim Morford.

Through the centuries, Christians have observed a time of waiting and expectation before celebrating the birth of the Savior at Christmas. The Advent season is a time for reflection and preparation; its mood is more joyful than repentant. Our Advent celebrations have been enriched by various traditions (like the Advent wreath) to reflect its distinctive Christian meaning. These traditions all seek to proclaim the revelation of God's love as expressed in Christ's birth in a humble stable, His sacrificial death on the cross, and His victorious resurrection!

They point to the hope of Christ's coming again as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In a sense, Advent makes innkeepers out of all of us, asking each of us to make room for the arrival of the Christ Child.

Perhaps the most striking and the most universal feature of Christmas is the use of evergreens in churches and homes. Among ancient Romans, evergreens were an emblem of peace, joy, and victory. Early Christians placed them in their windows to indicate that Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine and fir, are called evergreens because they never change color. They are ever-green, ever-alive, even in the midst of winter. Thus, they can well symbolize the unchanging nature of our God, remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus.

At Bruton the "Greening of the Church" traditionally takes place on the Saturday before Christmas and remains in place until the Saturday preceding the first Sunday after the New Year.

In Christian thought and sentiment, holly became widely used in church celebrations. Holly was seen to represent the burning bush from which Moses heard the voice of God, or a symbol of Mary whose being glows with the Holy Spirit. The red berries have represented the blood drops from the cruel thorns in the crown of Jesus. This latter representation is heard throughout many Advent and Christmas carols.

And so it is that, once our attention focuses on the celebration of the Incarnation at Christmas, we "green" our worship spaces, anticipating and "making room" for the coming of Christ.

Even more than the beautiful greens in our church, the Christmas tree has become the center of many of our festivities, especially in our homes. Glittering with lights and ornaments, it is a part of the beauty and meaning of Christmas. There are several legends and stories about the Christmas tree.

The first use of the Christmas tree was in the medieval German Paradise Plays, held outdoors and portraying the creation of humankind. The Tree of Life was a fir tree decorated with apples. Later, other ornaments were hung upon them, such as paper flowers and gilded nuts. In England, branches or whole trees were forced into bloom indoors for Christmas. From these beginnings the use of a tree at Christmas was established.

The story is told that, on one Christmas Eve, Martin Luther wandered outdoors and was struck with the beauty of the starry sky. Its brilliance and loveliness led him to reflect on the glory of the first Christmas Eve as seen in Bethlehem's radiant skies. Wishing to share with his family the enchantment he felt, he cut from the forest an evergreen, glistening with snow, and took it home. He placed upon it candles to represent the glorious heavens he had seen.

The credit for the introduction of Christmas Trees in Williamsburg goes to George Frederick Minnigerode. In 1842 German-born Minnigerode accepted a position at The College of William & Mary where he taught Latin and Greek. As a boarder and tutor at the home of law professor St. George Tucker, Minnigerode is said to have introduced the German custom of decorating an evergreen tree at Christmas time. His idea caught on and he is credited with being one of the many influences that brought about the practice of placing Christmas trees in our homes and places of worship.

The popularity of candlelit trees spread throughout Europe and America. Decorated and lighted evergreen trees came to be regarded as one of the central ornaments of Christmas.

Father Zwifka concluded his article by writing, "So the next time you see the splendor of a Christmas tree, remember that it is a continuing witness to everlasting life as offered to us in Christ

Jesus — and that far from a commercial enterprise, it speaks a deeply spiritual message . . . 'O Christmas tree, O Christmas Tree, thy leaves are so unchanging' - Just like God's love."



SERVICES, SERMONS AND MUCH MORE ON THE WEB



Click the link below to revisit the most recent sermon given by [The Rev'd Charlie Bauer](#), our new Associate Rector for Christian Formation! Each Sunday, our 11am service is being live-streamed via our YouTube Channel 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 service/sermon.

We keep a few months' worth of sermons and services — along with other videos of parish life — which can be viewed on our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/BrutonParish.

[Become a subscriber today!](#)

ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE

The Rev'd Lauren McDonald

Williamsburg is an affluent community, and so it can be easy to miss issues of poverty and homelessness here. When I first moved to Williamsburg over twelve years ago, I frequently heard, "We don't have any homeless people here." Fortunately people have become more aware and many more services are now available, including the Winter Shelter, Williamsburg House of Mercy, and Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission, to name a few. As you might guess, the pandemic has dramatically increased the number of people in need of help. Along with other faith communities and nonprofit organizations, Bruton has stepped in to fill some of the gaps.

Williamsburg/James City County (WJCC) schools have a homeless rate that is three times the state average. Many of these students currently live in area motels with their families. The closing of the schools in March meant that these children stopped receiving regular meals from their schools. The Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM), in partnership with Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels, started a meals program that served 200 children, seven days a week, throughout the 12-week program this summer. The program also served hot dinners to 92 families that included school-aged children. Over 26,000 meals were prepped, packaged and delivered. Thirty-eight Brutonians baked dozens of cookies and brownies for the program, and each Thursday we helped pack and deliver the meals to families. Bruton held two food drives this summer to collect juice boxes and fruit cups for the lunches. Mission and Outreach awarded a \$2800 grant to GWOM for the 2020 Summer Meals Program.

Twice this year, in response to the pandemic, the Mission and Outreach Committee (M&O) released emergency funds to GWOM & Meals on Wheels to support the Summer Meals for Kids Program. In October, the M&O Committee worked together to provide hot meals for families in the Grove area. In January, Bruton will begin volunteering with two new initiatives to bring meals to families who need them. Although we are unable to host a week of the Winter Shelter on site this year, we will be providing meals and volunteers for part of a week in January at the Community Chapel.

Bruton ordinarily has a tutoring and classroom assistance ministry to Matthew Whaley School. With Covid-19, we are unable to provide this ongoing support, but the Bruton M-25 ministry has donated funds to provide tool kits of needed supplies for children to have at home as well as funds to provide face masks for students as they have returned to in-person learning.

Our Bruton Builders have also been able to make a difference in our community. Since they began with a trip to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief over 15 years ago, they have built many ramps and made repairs for people in the Williamsburg area. Bruton Builders has also helped Avalon and Habitat

for Humanity. Recently a group of Bruton Builders worked on a Faith Build where Habitat for Humanity is building a house for a family off of Richmond Road in Williamsburg. We worked together with the prospective owner of the house as well as the future owner of the house next door. Bruton Builders has also been instrumental in completing several projects at the Parish House and the Church.

Bruton has continued its collections of food for the FISH food pantry, providing 200 bags of nonperishable goods over Thanksgiving and its participation in the Salvation Army Apple Tree and Angel Tree programs. The M&O grants committee has just finished up its grant cycle, using funds raised through the Parish Shop, as well as from the church budget, to award over \$53,000 to local, national, and international organizations.

Individual parishioners have volunteered with, donated time and money to, and prayed for organizations and neighbors in our community who are in need. In a time where everything has been upended, Bruton has responded to the call to serve with a resounding, "Yes!" The needs continue to grow, and we will continue to respond. New initiatives are coming in 2021 as God continues to call us to feed, clothe, welcome, visit, and care for, the poor, the sick, the hungry, and those in prison.



THE HYMNS WE SING: AMAZING GRACE

Jim Morford

"Amazing Grace" is one of the most beloved hymns of the last two centuries. The soaring spiritual-like song describing profound religious elation is estimated to be performed 10 million times annually and has appeared on over 11,000 albums. It was referenced in Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel Uncle Tom's Cabin and had a surge of popularity during two of our nation's greatest crises: the Civil War and the Vietnam War. In recent decades, many artists have recorded the song.

The words of the hymn — with its simple but haunting melody — seem especially appropriate in today's time of civil unrest. People of faith, trying to find strength to face these troubling times, are often heartened by the promise of God's grace as described in the lyrics. They speak to a divided nation.

Ironically, this stirring song, closely associated with the African American community, was written by a former slave trader, John Newton. This unlikely authorship forms the basis of Amazing Grace, a Broadway musical that tells Newton's life story from his early days as a licentious libertine in the British navy to his religious conversion and taking up the abolitionist cause. But the real story as told in Newton's autobiography reveals a more complex and ambiguous history.

John Newton was born in 1725 in London to a Puritan mother, who died two weeks before his seventh birthday, and a stern sea-captain father who took him to sea at age 11. After many voyages and a reckless youth of drinking, Newton was "impressed" into the British navy. After attempting to desert, he received eight dozen lashes and was reduced to the rank of common seaman.

During one voyage transporting slaves, the ship was caught in a horrendous storm off the coast of Ireland and almost sank. Newton prayed to God and the cargo miraculously shifted to fill a hole in the ship's hull and the vessel drifted to safety. Newton took this as a sign from the Almighty and marked it as his conversion to Christianity.

He did not radically change his ways at once, his total reformation was more gradual. "I cannot consider myself to have been a believer in the full sense of the word, until a considerable time afterward," he later wrote. He did begin to read the Bible and began to view his captive passengers with greater sympathy.

Newton continued to sell his fellow human beings into bondage, making three voyages as the captain of two different slave vessels, the Duke of Argyle and the African. He suffered a stroke in 1754 and retired but continued to invest in the business. In 1764, he was ordained as an Anglican priest and wrote 280 hymns to accompany his services. He wrote the words for "Amazing Grace" in 1772. In 1835, William Walker put the words to the then popular tune "New Britain".

It was not until 1788, thirty-four years after leaving it, that he renounced his former slaving profession by publishing a blazing pamphlet called "Thoughts Upon the Slave Trade." The tract described the horrific conditions on slave ships and Newton apologized for making a public statement so many years after participating in the trade: "It will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me, that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders."

The pamphlet was so popular it was reprinted several times and sent to every member of Parliament. Under the leadership of MP William Wilberforce, the English civil government outlawed the slave trade in Great Britain in 1807 and Newton lived to see it, dying in December of that year. The passage of the Slave Trade Act is depicted in the 2006 film, also called Amazing Grace.

The sound of the music is more sweet to the ears of people from all races and backgrounds because the truth of the words is so meaningful to them. And the history of the song is part of the reason why.

Grace was so amazing to John Newton because he had committed horrible crimes against his fellow man, and therefore against God.

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

Sources for this article include: The Story Behind Amazing Grace, <https://www.godtube.com/popular-hymns/amazing-grace/> and Biography of John Newton, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Newton

OUR FRIEND IN THE UK

Jim Morford

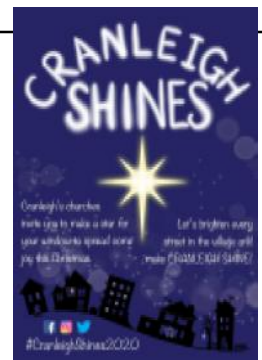
We have developed a "Pen Pal" relationship with a Friend of Bruton who is part of Our Worldwide Congregation. Malcolm Keeping is a member of St. Nicolas Church in Cranleigh, England who, after a visit to Williamsburg in September of 2018, wrote a brief history of Bruton for his parish magazine. It was also subsequently published in The Bruton Fount.

Mr. Keeping recently wrote of how his church was coping with COVID-19. Like Bruton, St Nicolas is streaming its services. "At the moment," he writes, "with no one in church except those presiding and the organist, but next week we'll be back in with a choir but they only sing one hymn and an anthem, while the congregation is not permitted to sing and must be masked at all times. Christmas services will be strange this year"

He shared a project being promoted by the churches of Cranleigh this Advent season. "One of our parishioners, to bring a bit of joy into the current grim circumstances, came up with the theme of 'Cranleigh Shines' to kick off Advent. The idea has spread wider around the UK through social media and to the U.S. and New Zealand as well...."

"The churches of Cranleigh invite everyone in the village to spread a little joy this Christmas by making stars to display in their windows during Advent. We hope that seeing these stars will bring light, and give people hope at the end of a dark year. Indeed, it has been a dark year." Let us pray for a defeated pandemic and a brighter New Year.

<https://www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk/>



BRUTON PARISH GIFT SHOP

Diane Koun, Shop Manager

In the Bruton Parish Gift Shop, our mission daily is to GIVE. In this season of giving, our gifts are many. GIFTS of monetary support, GIFTS of volunteer service, GIFTS of customer service, and a wide array of GIFTS for purchase. Proceeds from your purchases benefit Mission and Outreach, funding many local, national and international charities.

The need could never be greater than this year. Your purchases do make a difference. We like to tell customers that shopping with us is guilt-free. Our loyal patrons return time and time again because they think the cause is a worthy one.

Our volunteers GIVE superb service to each and every customer, welcoming all who come through our door. Are you interested in GIVING of yourself? We would love to have you join our volunteer sales staff. Our volunteers are from Bruton Parish and also from other churches in the area because they, too, like our mission. Make new friends, meet people from all over the country and throughout the world who visit our shop. It is an exciting place to be! We have a good time together.

We GIVE good value, offering quality merchandise at attractive prices. Our suggested GIFTS we recommend right now are ladies accessories including gloves, scarves, handbags, ponchos and wraps and masks (our own Libby Flowers is keeping us supplied with different designs for every day and Christmas)!

Our new section of specialty gourmet foods has been a big hit. We offer sauces (remoulade sauce-top seller in addition to Southern pecan pepper glaze and jelly, which are also delicious, and Jezebel sauce for your Christmas ham); snacks (cheesestraws, pretzels, old bay snack mix); candies and cookies to mention a few. They are smaller sizes which make great stocking stuffers. Everything is sold individually and also in our pre-arranged gift boxes named "Twas the Night before Christmas"; "Caregiver"; "Spa"; "Hot and Spicy" and "Christmas". They offer a simplified way to shop. Ready to go gifts!



In addition, we offer Christmas cards and general greeting cards, religious and spiritual books, books for children, gifts for life's important moments, and books for help with life's difficulties. Bishop Curry's new book entitled Love is the Way, Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times has been #1 on our book list. It is well-written and very timely. The latest church publication, The Bruton Parish Story by Diana L. Bailey, is now for sale in the shop.

As we faced multifaceted challenges this year, we remained flexible and ready to adjust. To introduce the shop to a wider audience, the shop's marketing committee set up a new facebook page. Please check us out on Facebook at Bruton Parish Gift Shop. With Terri Cordle in charge of posting, we have gained many new friends. We hope that you will "like" us and forward our Facebook page to your many friends, too.

In November, we sent out a postcard to all our parishioners showing a sampling of our merchandise mix. In the shop, there is much, much more! We hope you will stop in and browse. If you are concerned about coming in, we offer curbside pickup in the parking lot behind the Shop. Call me or Pam Michael at (757) 220-489 to place your order. If you are out-of-town and are interested in something you've seen in one of the many pictures or videos in the Shop, call us and we can ship something to you.

As our GIFT to you, we offer the Bruton miniature pictured to the left at a special price of \$26 (regularly \$52). When you look through the tower door, the interior of the church is illuminated. While not a substitute for being able to enter the Church itself during this period of time, it will be a nice keepsake to have and may give you assurance that soon, we hope very soon, we will all be able to gather together once again to worship.

STOP IN AND GIVE US A CHANCE TO WOW YOU!
OUR GIFT TO YOU ALWAYS

GIFTS GALORE, INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION,
VALUE IN YOUR PURCHASES, EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE

ISSUES OF THE BRUTON FOUNT IN THE HERITAGE CENTER

If you are a Friend of Bruton, whether part of our local congregation or if you're in town for a visit, drop by the Heritage Center in the Parish House where there's a binder which holds all of the issues of our quarterly newsletter, The Bruton Fount, which began in 2012. If you'd like to take a copy of any issue with you, please ask one of the Shop's volunteers to ask a staff member in the church office to make you a copy, or we can also send it to your email.



RELIGION AFTER THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Published several years ago, the following article was written by the late Susan Godson, Ph.D. A life-long member of Bruton Parish Church, she was Church Historian and a member of the original Friends of Bruton Advisory Council.

The American Revolution opened the door for religious denominations other than the Church of England to gain footholds and to expand in Williamsburg. Indeed, long before the colonies broke with the mother country, groups of dissenters challenged the established state church.

As early as 1739, the evangelical preacher and a founder of Methodism, the Rev'd George Whitefield, preached a sermon at Bruton Parish Church. Presbyterians received government permission to meet publicly in 1765. By the next decade, slaves and free blacks began meeting as Baptists in secret locations.

The Revolution ushered in great changes for religion in Virginia and at Bruton. The political break with the mother country affected the ties with the Church of England. The disestablishment of the state church in 1784 ended financial support and compulsory attendance. For Bruton, the removal of the state capital to Richmond in 1780 stripped the parish of many prominent members. The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom of 1786 codified the separation of church and state, and the final blow was the state's seizure of Bruton's glebe lands in 1813. Weakened, Bruton Parish barely survived in the early years of the 19th century. Even the fabric of the building itself deteriorated.

Into this vacuum moved the three denominations that already had toe holds in the city. The Methodists formally split with the Anglican church in 1784 and became a separate denomination. Their numbers grew so fast that they built a brick church on Duke of Gloucester Street to the west of the powder magazine in 1842.

Similarly, the Presbyterians had enjoyed permission to worship openly since 1765. They met in a private home near Campbell's Tavern for many years and finally built a church on the Palace Green in 1885. That building served the congregation until 1930.

Under the early leadership of slave preachers Moses and Gowant Pamphlet, free and enslaved blacks had organized a church by 1818 and met in a house on Nassau Street. Soon known as the First Baptist Church, they built a brick sanctuary at the same location in 1856.

By 1828, white Baptists were meeting in the Powder Magazine and were called the Zion Baptist Church of Williamsburg, then Williamsburg Baptist Church. They grew rapidly and built a church to the east of the Powder Magazine by 1856.

During these years, Bruton Parish struggled, but by the 1830s, it had embraced the Sunday School movement and attracted children of all faiths to meet there. Separate classes for whites and blacks were taught at our church. A few years later, the interior underwent "modernization." The high pews were cut down and painted, and the pulpit and flagstone floor removed. A partition wall went up in the nave just west of the transept, and the altar was moved to this new wall. The room created in the nave was used for Sunday School and meetings, and the tower became a coal bin. Always looking for funding, the church even charged rent for the pews.

The years following the American Revolution brought great changes to religion in Williamsburg. Observances changed from the tightly-controlled state church of colonial times to the free exercise of the beliefs of many denominations. Religious freedom had arrived in the old colonial capital.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Linda H. Rowe who died as the result of a boating accident on the Chickahominy River on October 23, 2020.

Linda was the first Chair of the Friends of Bruton Advisory Council and a valued member of the Friends of Bruton Committee. She was a regular contributor to The Bruton Fount.

She was born in Columbus, Georgia, earned her B.A. in English Literature from the University of South Carolina and her M.A. in American Studies from The College of William & Mary. In 1967, shortly after graduating from USC, Linda was employed by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF). She retired in 2017 after 50 years with CWF as a historian and senior researcher. She spent much of her career focusing on the importance of the history of Black people — enslaved and free — in the story of Colonial, 19th century and 20th century Williamsburg.

Linda was involved in several projects at Bruton including chairing a committee to review and select articles from past issues of The Bruton Fount for possible publication in a book. She was also working on a team to create an oral history of Bruton Parish Church based on recorded interviews with senior church members.

Visitors to Bruton Parish Church frequently have questions about history, often related to ancestors who may have worshiped at the church. Linda, in her unofficial role as church historian, received visitors' written questions and, applying her research skills, provided answers. Those carefully documented responses are now part of Bruton's historic record as well as a portion of Linda Rowe's legacy.

A busy and dedicated member of Bruton Parish Church, she was, in addition, collaborating on revising and updating a book about Bruton's churchyard and memorials. Her untimely passing is a great loss.

May she rest in eternal peace.



MUSIC MINISTRY CONTENDS WITH COVID

Beckie Davy, Music Director & Organist

The Covid-19 pandemic has completely changed the landscape of the music ministry at Bruton Parish but has not stopped it. Despite bumps in the road, we have been blessed to have an octet of section leaders who are singing during live-streamed services. We continue to try to achieve sound quality on our recordings that captures the incredible in-person experience. A highlight was a Service of Remembrance, which we recorded after All Saints in honor of those who have died this past year. The service was deeply personal, since that list includes relatives of the musicians and five long-time choir members.

Choir members interested in doing so have joined virtual rehearsals to keep their voices active and maintain the social connection with others. Several will participate in a caroling recording, masked and socially distanced, in the church. That recording will be uploaded to the church YouTube channel to allow parishioners and friends at home to sing along with favorite carols.

A smaller-than-normal number of handbell ringers has been meeting, masked and greatly distanced, for short rehearsals in Lewis Hall. The group recently recorded a few pieces in the church as a Handbell Service of Thanksgiving and will do the same with Advent and Christmas pieces later in December.

While I greatly look forward to resuming in-person gatherings as we all do, I am relishing the silver linings of music-making as it can be safely done right now. As you listen to some of the offerings on Bruton's YouTube Channel, let it be a reminder that God is ever-present even in the midst of difficult challenges. I pray for abundant blessings to all in the coming holidays.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FRIENDS

Lord Jesus, who didst promise that by faith Your disciples might remove mountains, increase our faith til we are no longer awed by difficulties and frightened by problems. Hold us by Your mighty hand until doubts shall cease and we begin to believe. Then shall we find all things possible...even Your solutions to the questions that perplex us. For this we do pray. Amen.

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THE MUSIC OF THE SEASON

Jim Morford

For those of us with long memories dating back to the World War II era, the music of Christmas began to be heard by mid-December. During the peacetime recovery following the War, the season became more and more secular and the songs of the season, while including well-known carols, were infused with songs about Santa Claus, snowmen, reindeer, roasting chestnuts and the ubiquitous White Christmas.

In an ever-increasing effort to stimulate shopping and, more importantly, buying, the songs of the season began to be heard immediately after Thanksgiving. A few years later as the drive for consumption intensified, the music of the season started playing in retail establishments along with the appearance of holiday decorations right after Halloween.

This year, it seems we've started to be assailed with Christmas commercials and Christmas-elevator-music shortly following our (sparsely attended) Labor Day picnics. The season of Christmas appears now to extend from Thanksgiving through the New Year, and is one characterized by good cheer, bright lights, good eats, and warm feelings of good will to all.

Our longing to celebrate the Christmas season is intensified by the pandemic that has gripped the world for nearly a full year. We have become weary of social distancing and long to gather with family and friends. We yearn to worship together and raise our voices in the joyful singing of Christmas carols. We just want life to be "normal" again.

All the changes wrought by the spread of Covid-19 give us time to refocus our view of Christmas and think about why it is we Christians celebrate December 25th. May his light shine upon us and may his healing hand touch us as we sing with all our hearts, "O' Come All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant ... O' Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord."

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

CORNERSTONE CIRCLE RENEWALS

If you have not already done so, be sure to renew your membership in the Cornerstone Circle. Cornerstone members help to fund Friends of Bruton projects such as the Oral History project recently initiated. It's easy to make your tax deductible donation. Please visit bit.ly/bpconlinegiving and choose FOB-Cornerstone Member under Select Fund.

If you wish to become a first-time member, with your initial contribution of at least \$100, you will receive a Bruton Parish Weathervane lapel pin. The weathervane is the symbol of Friends of Bruton and is proudly worn by Cornerstone Circle members to show their support for the mission of Our Worldwide Congregation to preserve and promote the spiritual and historic heritage of Bruton Parish. To make your donation by check, please make it payable to Bruton Parish Church and include Cornerstone Circle in the memo, and mail it to the church office.



OUR NEW PUBLICATION: THE BRUTON PARISH STORY

Marty Easton, Development Director

Thanksgiving is still on my mind as I write this the day after the holiday. I feel grateful for the new book that now sits on my desk: *The Bruton Parish Story* by Diana L. Bailey. In keeping with the Thanksgiving Day exercise of naming things we're thankful for, here are 10 things I'm thankful for about this full color, 64-page, short history and guidebook.

- The subject: a living, breathing, changing parish, animated by the Gospel message and this community.
- Chris Epperson, our rector, for support and vision. When stalled over scope and definition of this project, Chris helped us see the wisdom of revising a previous publication for a new time.
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen L. Hibbits. Steve and Marcia underwrote the cost of publication in support of their two passions: sharing the parish story and supporting outreach. Sales of the book will further both.
- The smell of fresh ink and feel of the paper!
- The life and work of the late Linda H. Rowe, historian of the colonial period, contributor to the narrative and churchyard section. This book is dedicated to Linda, our trusted colleague, parishioner, and friend.
- The knowledge and writing of many other people past and present.
- Diana Bailey, our author, who immersed herself in other writings about Bruton Parish Church and encouraged new ideas.
- Marianne Martin, Visual Resources Librarian, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, for her unfailing patience, digitizing one photo after another from a treasure trove of images, resulting in the color and clarity you'll see on the page.
- All others who lent photos from their collections, right up until the last minute.
- The Donning Company Publishers, who brought Diana to us and created the finished product.

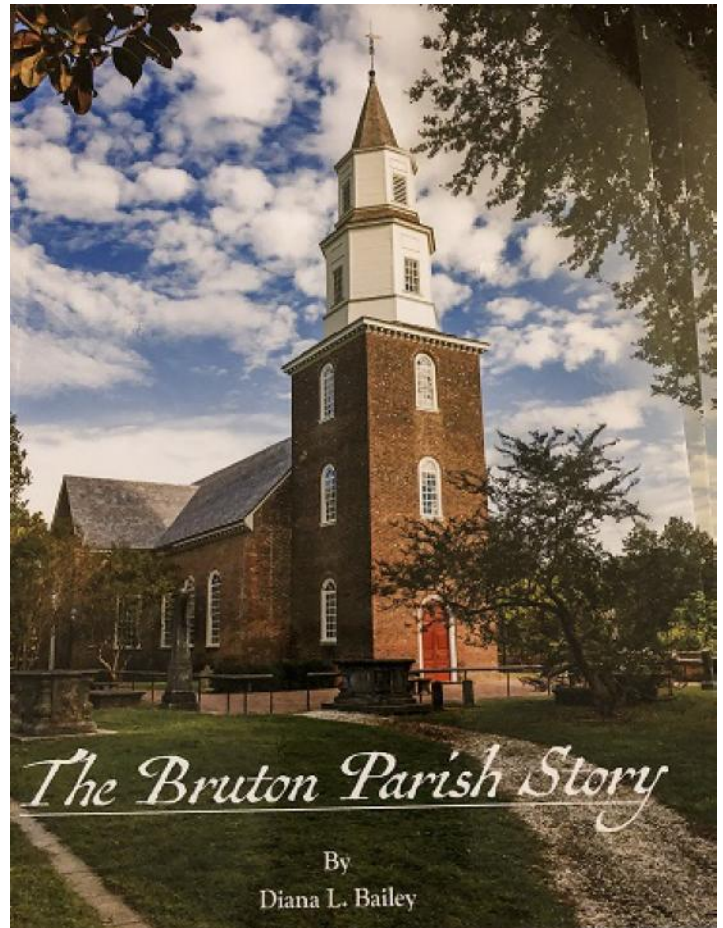
At \$22.00, the book makes a great Christmas present. Here is how to purchase a copy:

The Bruton Parish Gift Shop, 331 West Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg, VA, 23185

Order by email at bpcshop@brutonparish.org

Order by phone at 757-220-1489

Visit our website www.bرتونparish.org/shop



ANNUAL GIVING 2021

Since October 25, Bruton Parish has been engaged in our fall appeal, Annual Giving 2021. We would be delighted by the participation of any Friends of Bruton who wish to use our easy [Pledge Form](#).

We also welcome your single gift at year-end, to support our programs, personnel and operation. The clergy and staff have carried on during the pandemic in new and even exciting ways, making adjustments to expenses but maintaining staff salaries, while enhancing our online presence. We are grateful to Friends who are tuning in around the country. Can you help? Thank you.

GIVE TODAY

Friends of Bruton Resource Associates

The Rev'd Charles H. Bauer, Associate Rector
Christian Formation - Bruton Parish Church

The Ven. Jan Brown, Archdeacon, Bruton Parish Church

Colin Campbell, Former President & CEO
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (Emeritus)

Jo Anne Coy, Charter & Cornerstone Circle Member

Rebecca Davy, Bruton Music Director & Organist

Marty Easton, Bruton Development Director,
Cornerstone Circle Member, Bruton Member

Channing Hall, III, Cornerstone Circle Member,
Attorney, Bruton Member

Marcia Hibbitts, Bruton Guide, Cornerstone Circle Member,
Bruton Member

Valarie Holmes, Colonial Williamsburg
Interpreter

Dr. James Horn, President
Jamestown Rediscovery

Dr. William Kelso, Director of Research
Jamestown Rediscovery (Emeritus)

Virginia Lee, Daughters of the American Revolution,
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Member, Bruton Member

Dr. Carl Lounsbury, Senior Architectural Historian
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (Emeritus)

The Rev'd Lauren McDonald, Associate Rector
Outreach & Women's Ministry, Bruton Parish Church

The Hon. T. Montgomery "Monty" Mason
Senate of Virginia

Joe Poole, III, Director of Special Gifts
Colonial Williamsburg

W. Taylor Reveley, III, Former President
The College of William & Mary

Susan Riggs, Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian
at Swem Library, William & Mary, & Williamsburg
Historic Records Association Archivist

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Joseph L. Spruill, Sons of the American
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Friends of Bruton Committee

The Rev'd Christopher L. Epperson, Rector

Bill Armbruster, Guide, Cornerstone Circle
Member, Bruton Member

Donald Bogus, Charter Member, Cornerstone
Circle Member, Bruton Member

Isabel Burch, Cornerstone Circle Member,
Bruton Member

Lynn Clark, Bruton Guide, Bruton Member

Anne Conkling, Guide Trainer,
The Bruton Fount Editor, Bruton Member

Hilary Cooley, Bruton
Communications Director

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Member, Bruton Member

James C. Morford, Committee Chair,
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Member, Bruton Member

Joan Poland, Bruton Guide, Bruton Member

John (Griff) Steel, Bruton Guide, Bruton Member

Spence Webster, Vestry Liaison, Bruton Member

Bruton Parish Church

The Most Rev'd Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Susan Bunton Haynes, Bishop
Diocese of Southern Virginia

The Rev'd Christopher L. Epperson, Rector

The Rev'd Charles H. Bauer, Associate Rector
Christian Formation

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

The Ven. Jan Brown, Archdeacon

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