

# 6TH ANNUAL FRIENDS DAY AT BRUTON: A GREAT SUCCESS!

Jim Morford, Chair, Friends of Bruton

Each year, as more and more members of our local Bruton congregation recognize that they are the core members of Friends of Bruton, participation in Friends Day has grown. This year, the greatest number to date, gathered to share in the celebration of Our Worldwide Congregation.



Bruton Parish Church has long recognized that it is much more than a parish church. The restoration of Colonial Williamsburg thrust Bruton into a principal position in the preservation of our nation's spiritual and historic heritage. For nearly a century, visitors from all over the country, and indeed throughout the world, have come to Williamsburg and discovered a desire to connect with Bruton Parish Church. Friends of Bruton was created to enable those seeking that connection to become Our Worldwide Congregation.

On Saturday morning, April 28, Friends met at the church to be greeted by Colonial Williamsburg's mascot, Liberty, and to welcome Martha Washington as portrayed by Katherine Pittman. An attentive audience that nearly filled the church listened as she recalled her early days growing up near Williamsburg. She told of her long-time connection to Bruton Parish Church where her maternal great grandfather had been the first rector. Among the stories she recounted was how she had personally persuaded her future father-in-law to accept her engagement to his son, Daniel Parke Custis. She recounted her days as a young mother and widow prior to her marriage to George Washington. It was an informative and memorable presentation.

We were honored to have as our guest speaker at the Friends Day Luncheon the Very Rev'd Dr. Andrew McGowan, Dean and President of Berkeley Divinity School and the McFaddin Professor of Anglican Studies and Pastoral Theology at Yale University. Speaking to the largest Friends Day luncheon gathering to date, Dean McGowan offered an instructive



Rev'd Chris Eppersn, the Very Rev'd Dr. Andrew McGowan and Rev'd Tyler Montgomery

presentation on the ideals that governed the earliest Christian churches.

Following the luncheon, Friends Day guests were afforded the opportunity to have a guided tour of the new Heritage Center.

Once again this year, Friends Day events concluded with the evening performance by the Bruton Choirs for the annual John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Concert at the church.

