

Yorktown Community Introduction



Location

Grace Church is located within the historic Yorktown Village within York County, in the Hampton Roads area of Southeastern VA. The Hampton Roads area is also known as Tidewater or Coastal Virginia. We are located in the mid-Atlantic area and experience four seasons, although much winter snow accumulation is rare. We have the largest military population in the country, and have a good business climate, due to the Newport News shipyard. The region is also home to many parks, museums, hospitals, and colleges. Three airports are within an hour's drive: Newport News/Williamsburg, Norfolk, and Richmond.

Population demographics

York County's population is about 68,890 and is growing, due to its excellent school system and amenities. The median house value is \$314,400, and the median income is \$88,871. Most of the Grace parishioners reside in York County, but we also attract residents from nearby Gloucester County, James City County, Williamsburg, Hampton, and Newport News.

Schools



Grace sponsors a day school for children age 3 through kindergarten. The public schools nearest Grace are York Elementary, a magnet school for science and math; York Middle, and York High School. York County has 10 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 4 high schools.

Local colleges include Thomas Nelson Community College and Hampton University in Hampton, Christopher Newport University in Newport News, and the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg.

History

Yorktown was established by Virginia's colonial government in 1691 to regulate trade and to collect taxes on both imports and exports for Great Britain. By the early 1700s, Yorktown had emerged as a major Virginia port and economic center. A well-developed waterfront boasted wharves, docks, storehouses and businesses. The American Revolution had entered its seventh year when, in 1781, British general Lord Charles Cornwallis brought his army to Yorktown to establish a naval base. In the siege by American and French forces that followed, much of the town was destroyed. A fire destroyed the waterfront district, as well as, some homes, the courthouse on Main Street, and the Church. Additional destruction came during the Civil War Siege of 1862 and the occupation by Union troops that followed. (National Park Service)

Today, there are still tangible reminders of Yorktown's historic past that have survived, giving much of the town a colonial atmosphere. Cannons, reconstructed buildings, redoubts – some original, some reconstructed - trails worn by horses, foot traffic, and wagons, and of course Grace Episcopal Church, where the original foundation wall stills stands.



Yorktown Day Parade in October

Tourism

Yorktown is part of the Historic Triangle, that also includes Williamsburg and Jamestown, a very popular tourist destination at all times during the year. Yorktown has been the recipient of several awards such as, the *Daily Press* Best of Hampton Roads, *Chesapeake Bay Magazine's* Best of the Bay, and *Coastal Virginia Magazine's* Best of Readers' Choice due to its popular attractions for residents and tourists. Weekly farmers' markets begin in the spring and go to the beginning of winter. A number of specialty markets – Vintage, Christmas, Harvest, Pet Day, bring many people to the Yorktown Waterfront. The Fourth of July and Yorktown Day in October are big festivals for the community and Grace has the opportunity to participate in all of these.



Farmer's Market at the York River Waterfront