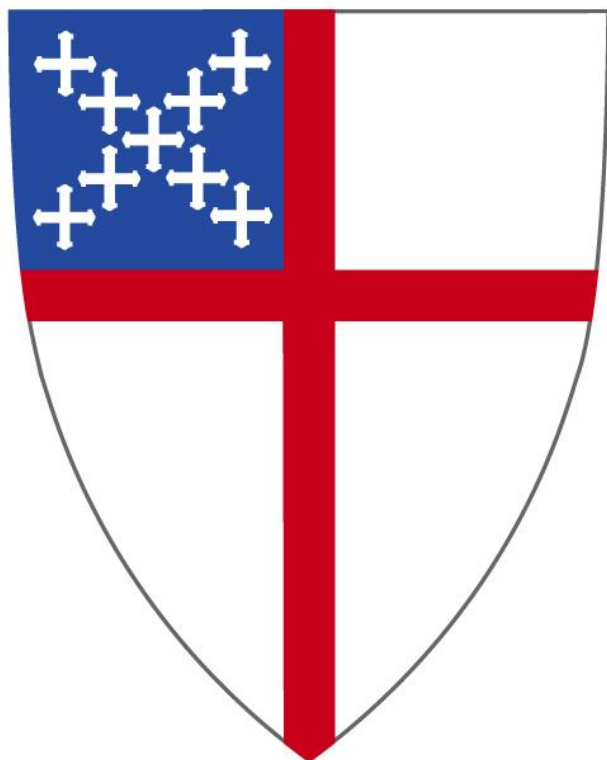


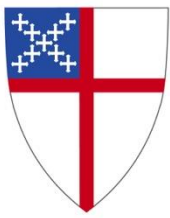


St. Paul's 300 YEARS On The Hill

June 2025

compiled by Stephanie Hanchey,
with help from the congregation at St. Paul's

logo designs by Katherine Lenzi



St. Paul's
300 YEARS
On The Hill

1607

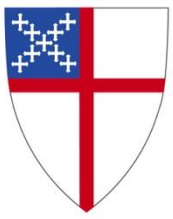
Jamestown Colony (Virginia) was established on lands inhabited by the Powhatan tribe. Colonists arrived on the *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed*, and *Discovery*.



credit: National Park Service

1607

The first Anglican congregation (Church of England) celebrated worship in what would become the United States, at Jamestown.



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1620

Plymouth Colony (Massachusetts) was established on lands inhabited by the Wampanoag tribe. The colonists arrived on the *Mayflower*.

1619

The first documented enslaved Africans landed at today's Fort Monroe, Hampton, Virginia. They were traded to Virginia colonists in exchange for supplies.

1622

The Powhatan attacked Jamestown.

1634

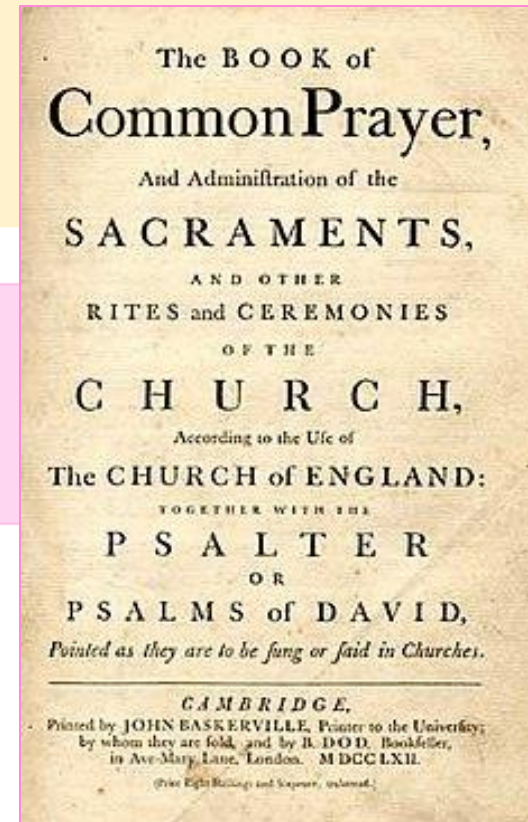
Maryland Colony was established on lands inhabited by the Yaocomico tribe. Colonists arrived on the *Ark* and *Dove*.

1649

The Virginia Colony lifted the ban on colonists settling north of the York River.

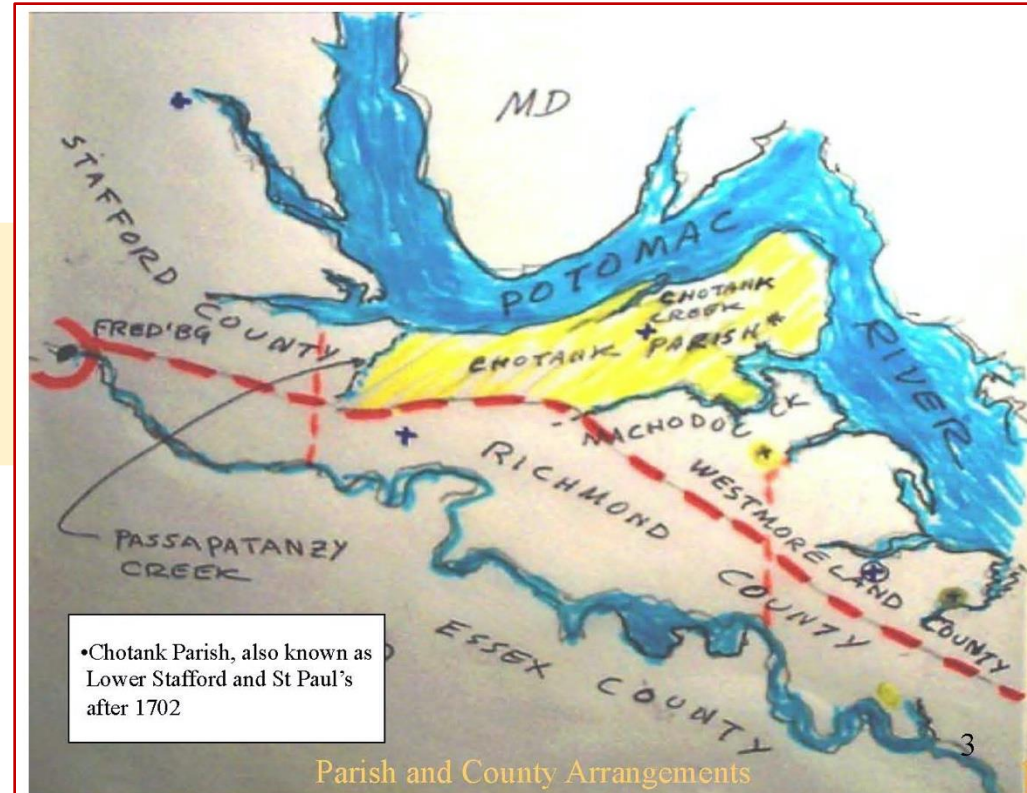
1662

The Book of Common Prayer, first published in 1549, was revised in 1662. It became the liturgy for morning and evening prayer, Holy Communion, baptism, confirmation, marriage, and funerals. Its basic structure (“hymn sandwich”) is used by all other Protestant churches.



1666

Virginia colonists launched a full-scale attack against Indian tribes, including the Patawomeck tribe who lived in what is now Stafford and King George counties.



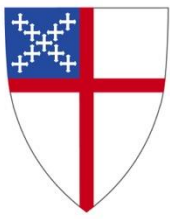
Parish and County Arrangements

Upper Northern Neck

art: Wayne Culbertson

1667

Chotank Parish (Stafford County Lower Parish) was formed. The first rector was the Rev. Morgan Godwyn, who preached at Robert Townsend's house near Chotank Creek, in present-day King George County.



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1699 Virginia's capital moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg.

1720 King George County was formed from land from Richmond County. It did not yet include the western part of the present-day county.

1690 A wood church for Chotank Parish was built at Colonel William Fitzhugh's plantation home, Bedford.

1702 Chotank Parish became officially known as St. Paul's Parish, presumably named after the Bedfordshire, England, home parish of Colonel Fitzhugh. A report to London's Lambeth Palace notes that St. Paul's Parish has 346 "tithables."

1751

James Madison, the fourth President of the United States, was born at Belle Grove Plantation, in what is now King George County.

1722

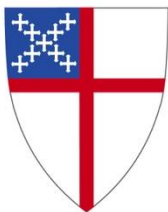
The Rev. David Stuart became the sixth rector of St. Paul's.



photo: Stephanie Hanchey

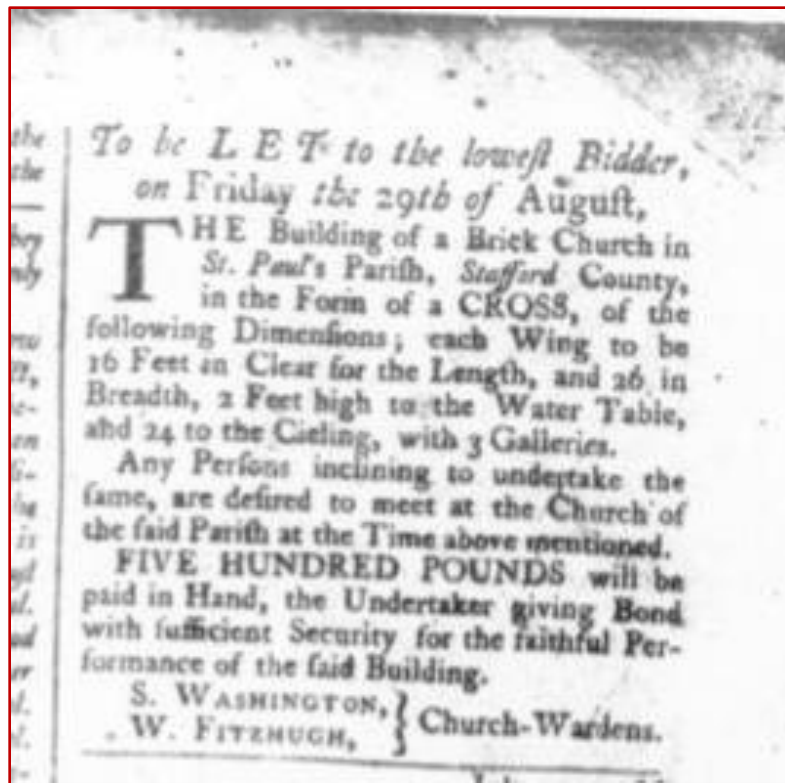
1725

St. Paul's moved to a wood-frame building at its present location on the hill. Captain Henry Fitzhugh (Colonel William Fitzhugh's son) donated a circa 1720 English silver flagon, chalice, and paten to the parish.



St. Paul's 300 YEARS On The Hill

photo: Stephanie Hanchey



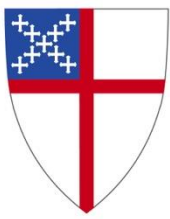
credit: *The Virginia Gazette* (Rind), July 18, 1766, 3



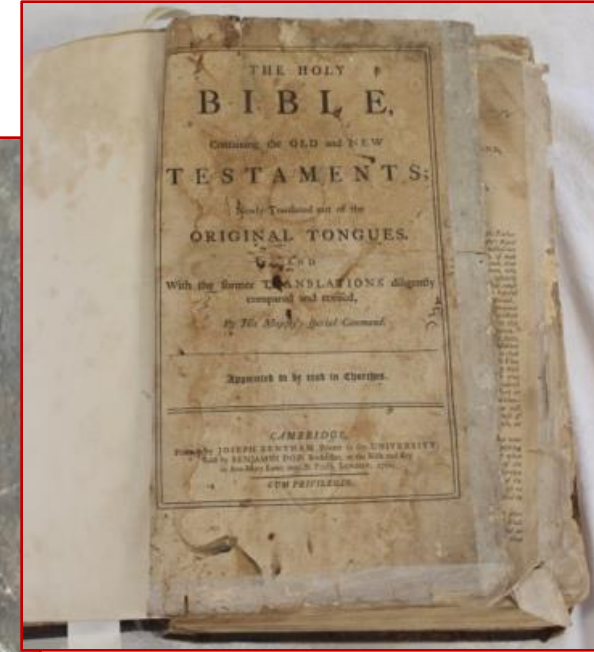
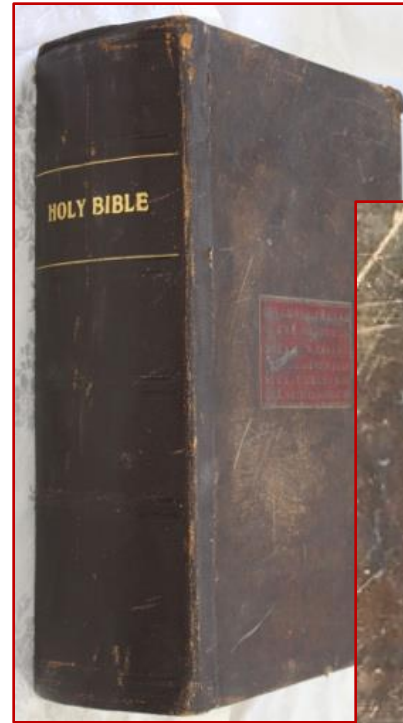
Replacement brick indicates the original main entry, and middle second floor window, in the west wing of St. Paul's. The altar was originally in the east wing, opposite the main entry.

c1767

On the same site as the 1725 church, the present brick building was erected. Church wardens advertised for undertakers (contractors) in *The Virginia Gazette* first in 1762 and then in 1766.



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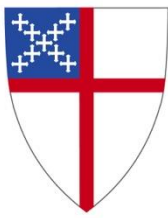
photos: Stephanie Hanchey

1768

George Washington, the first president of the United States, recorded a visit to St. Paul's; St. Paul's is unsure if it was to the old or to the new church building.

1769

In celebration of the brick church's construction, the Rev. William Stuart (rector of St. Paul's, son of the Rev. David Stuart) donated an inscribed 1762 English Bible.



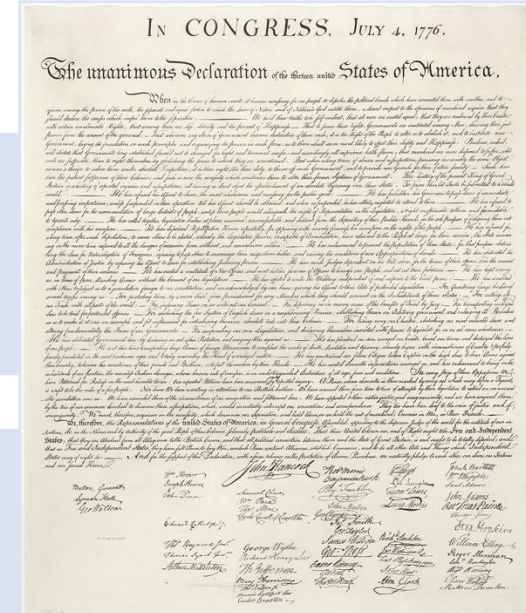
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1775

The first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired in Massachusetts, at Lexington and Concord. The war ended in 1783.

1776

The Declaration of Independence, the founding document of the United States, was unanimously adopted by the Second Continental Congress, in Philadelphia.



1776

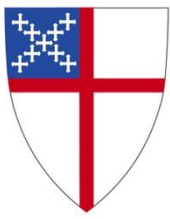
King George County was reorganized with land from Stafford and Westmoreland Counties.



1776

St. Paul's became part of King George County.

credit: Library of Congress, Map of northern Virginia (1894)



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1780

Virginia's capital moved from Williamsburg to Richmond.

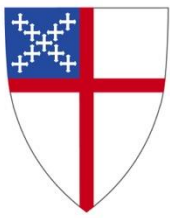
after
1783

"The American Revolution left the Anglican parishes shattered, stripped of most of their financial support, weakened by the flight of many clergy and thousands of members, with a number of buildings destroyed and property lost."

Powell Mills Dawley, *Our Christian Heritage* (New York: Morehouse-Gorham, 1959), 178.

after
1783

St. Paul's church building was damaged by neglect and anti-British vandalism.



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1784

The first Episcopal diocese, Massachusetts, was organized. The Rt. Rev. Samuel Seabury, Connecticut, was consecrated in Aberdeen, Scotland, in the Scottish Episcopal Church, as the first American Episcopal bishop.

1785

The Diocese of Virginia was organized. At that time, 23 of 95 pre-war parishes no longer existed, 34 did not have clergy, and many churches had been destroyed.

xxxxxxxxxx.

1785

Townsend Dade represented St. Paul's at the first convention of the Diocese of Virginia.

1789 The U.S. Constitution became the supreme law of the land.

1786 The Virginia Statue for Religious Freedom ended the Church of England as the state religion.

1790 The Rt. Rev. James Madison (second cousin to the fourth U.S. president) was consecrated at Lambeth Palace, London, as the first bishop of the Diocese of Virginia.

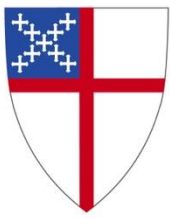
c1796 After the resignation of the Rev. William Stuart, St. Paul's was without a rector.

1812 The War of 1812 began, ending in 1815.

1802 The Rev. Absalom Jones was ordained the first Black Episcopal priest.

1811 St. Paul's parish successfully petitioned the Virginia legislature to convert the church building to become a school, Potomac Academy.

c1812 Bishop William Meade visited St. Paul's to preach to the congregation, who dodged puddles in the building's ruins. He recounted that an "old African woman" would sit by herself in the ruins every Sunday, which she believed "did her more good to go to the old church and think over by herself the old prayers she was used to, than to go into any of the new ways."



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c1813

To accommodate Potomac Academy's classrooms, the church building's west and north wing entrances were closed, new entrances were made, and the interior wings were walled off.

c1816

St. Paul's Parish reorganized and worshiped in the school building, as did Methodists and Baptists.

1817

The Rev. Joseph Andrus became St. Paul's first rector since the Rev. William Stuart. In 1821 Rev. Andrus served in Africa as the first Episcopal overseas missionary.

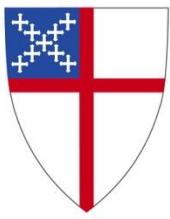
1829

After Potomac Academy failed, the parish successfully petitioned the Virginia legislature for the property to be returned and converted back into a church.

We the undersigned President and Trustees of the Potomack Academy, certify that in consequence of the exhaustion of the funds of this institution, we no longer entertain any hope that the design for which it was established can be carried into effect. The edifice is dilapidating and daily becoming more ruinous, and unfit for use. In the present state of things therefore it is our opinion, that nothing could be more judicious and salutary, than the repeal of the act of the General Assembly which vests in us the site the church thereon, and the vestry house in St Pauls Parish.

Witness our hands this 11th day
of December A.D. 1829 -

John Stuart
L. Dade
Henry Fitzhugh



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1831

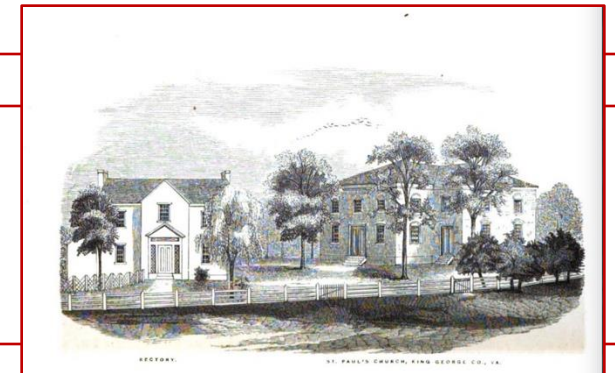
The church building was renovated essentially into its current form: galleries were placed in the east, south, and west wings; the main entry was moved to the south wing; and the wine-glass pulpit was added. The cemetery is believed to have been founded at about this time as well.

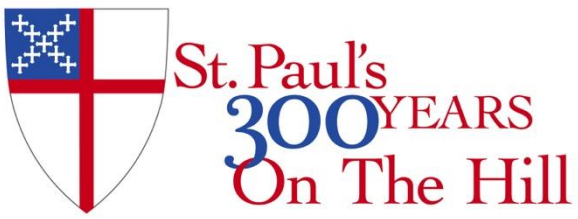
1831

Bishop Richard Channing Moore reported to the Diocese of Virginia's annual convention that he consecrated St. Paul's Church, which had been "restored to the worship of Almighty God."

c1841

The Rectory was constructed.





1861

The Civil War began, when Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter, Charleston, South Carolina. The war ended in 1865.

1865

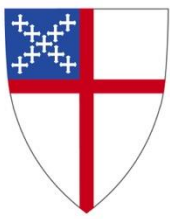
The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude.

1861

Confederate artillery at Mathias Point, King George County, struck and wounded the first Union naval officer to die in the Civil War.

1865

John Wilkes Booth passed through King George County as he tried to elude Union cavalry after assassinating President Abraham Lincoln.



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1898

The Spanish-American War began after the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor, Cuba. The war ended later that same year.

1867

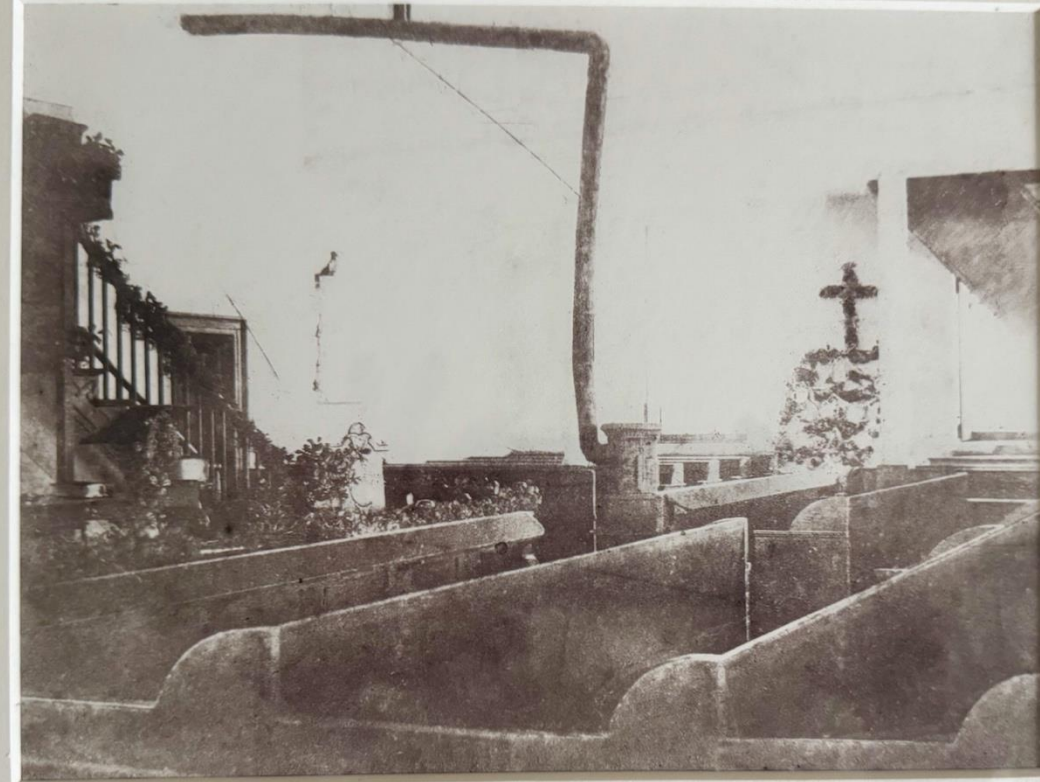
The Rev. Joseph Atwell was ordained the first Black Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Virginia.

1874

The Rt. Rev. James Holly was consecrated the first Black bishop in the Episcopal Church.

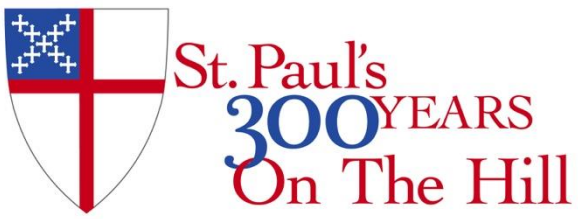
1883

St. Paul's Parish and St. John's and Emmanuel Churches, Hanover Parish, yoked – i.e., they shared clergy and staff. St. Paul's had 35 communicants and Hanover Parish had 53.



St. Paul's Church Decorated For Christmas About Turn Of The 20th Century

Restored By Marlin Thomas, March 2003, from photograph belonging to the S. A. Ashton family thought to have been taken about 1900. Note State-of- Art heating system.



1914

World War I began. The United States entered the war in 1917, after President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for “a war to end all wars” that would “make the world safe for democracy.” The war ended in 1918.

1920

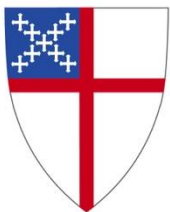
The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote.

1924

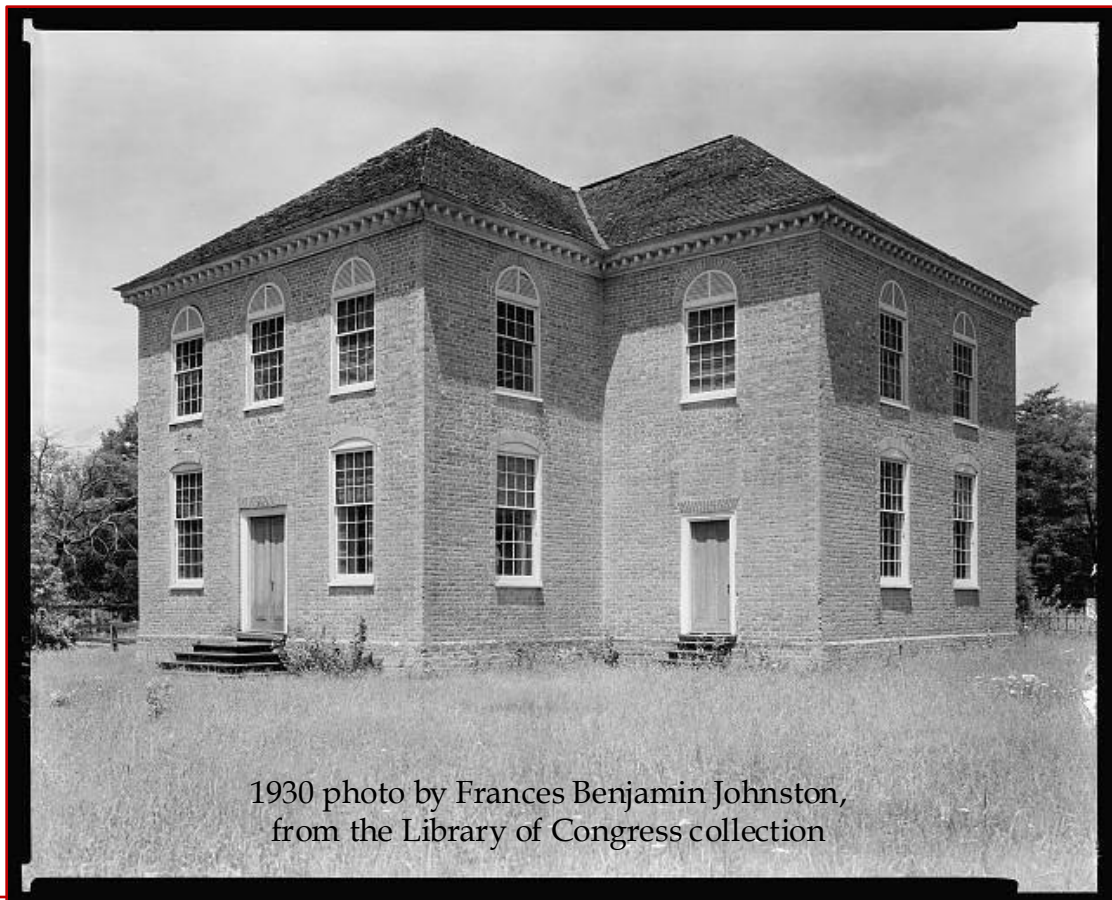
The Indian Citizenship Act granted Native Americans U.S. citizenship.

1925

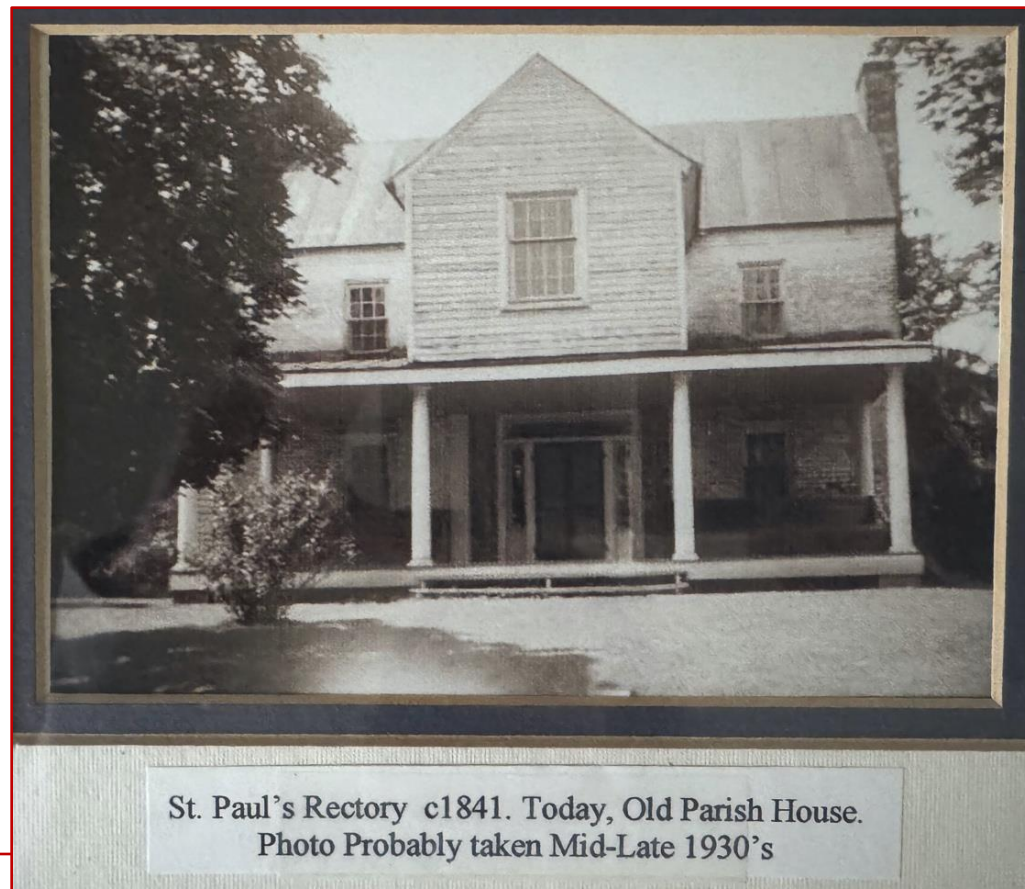
Shrine Mont was founded in Orkney Springs, Virginia. On its grounds is the Diocese of Virginia's cathedral, the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration. In 1934 Roslyn in Henrico County, Virginia, was willed to the diocese, later also becoming a diocesan retreat.



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1930 photo by Frances Benjamin Johnston,
from the Library of Congress collection



St. Paul's Rectory c1841. Today, Old Parish House.
Photo Probably taken Mid-Late 1930's

1930s

These photos are from the 1930s.

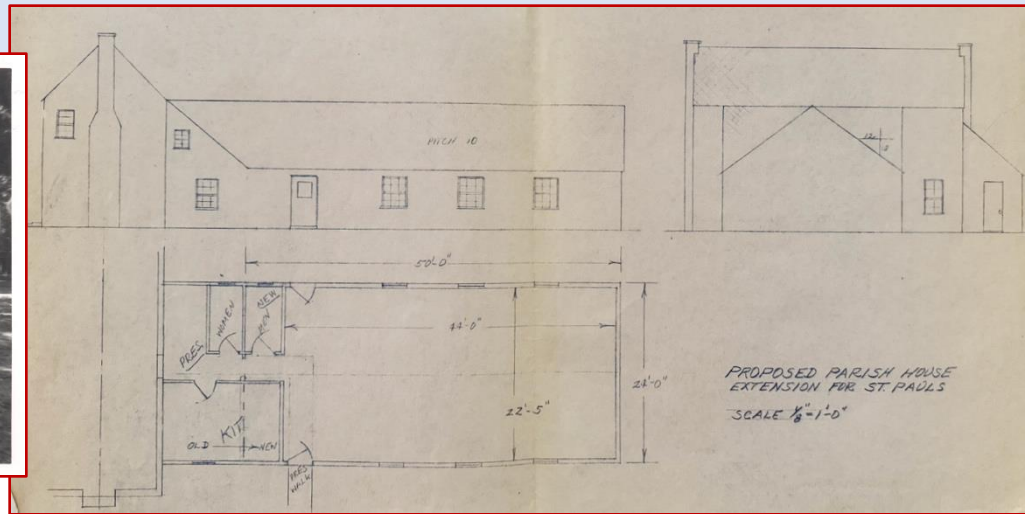
Beginning in the late 19th century, the rector lived in Hanover Parish's rectory at the courthouse area. Sometime in the late 19th/early 20th century, St. Paul's rectory began to be used as a Parish House.

1939

World War II began. The United States entered the war in 1941 after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The war ended in 1945.

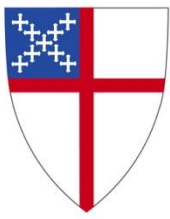
1950

The Korean War began when North Korea invaded South Korea. The United States entered the war in 1950. The war ended in 1953.



1950s

The Parish Hall was constructed.



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1955

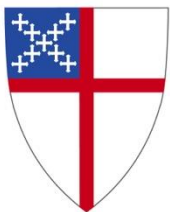
The Vietnam War began. In 1965 the first U.S. combat troops arrived in South Vietnam. The last U.S. troops left in 1973. The war ended in 1975.

1964

The Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin.

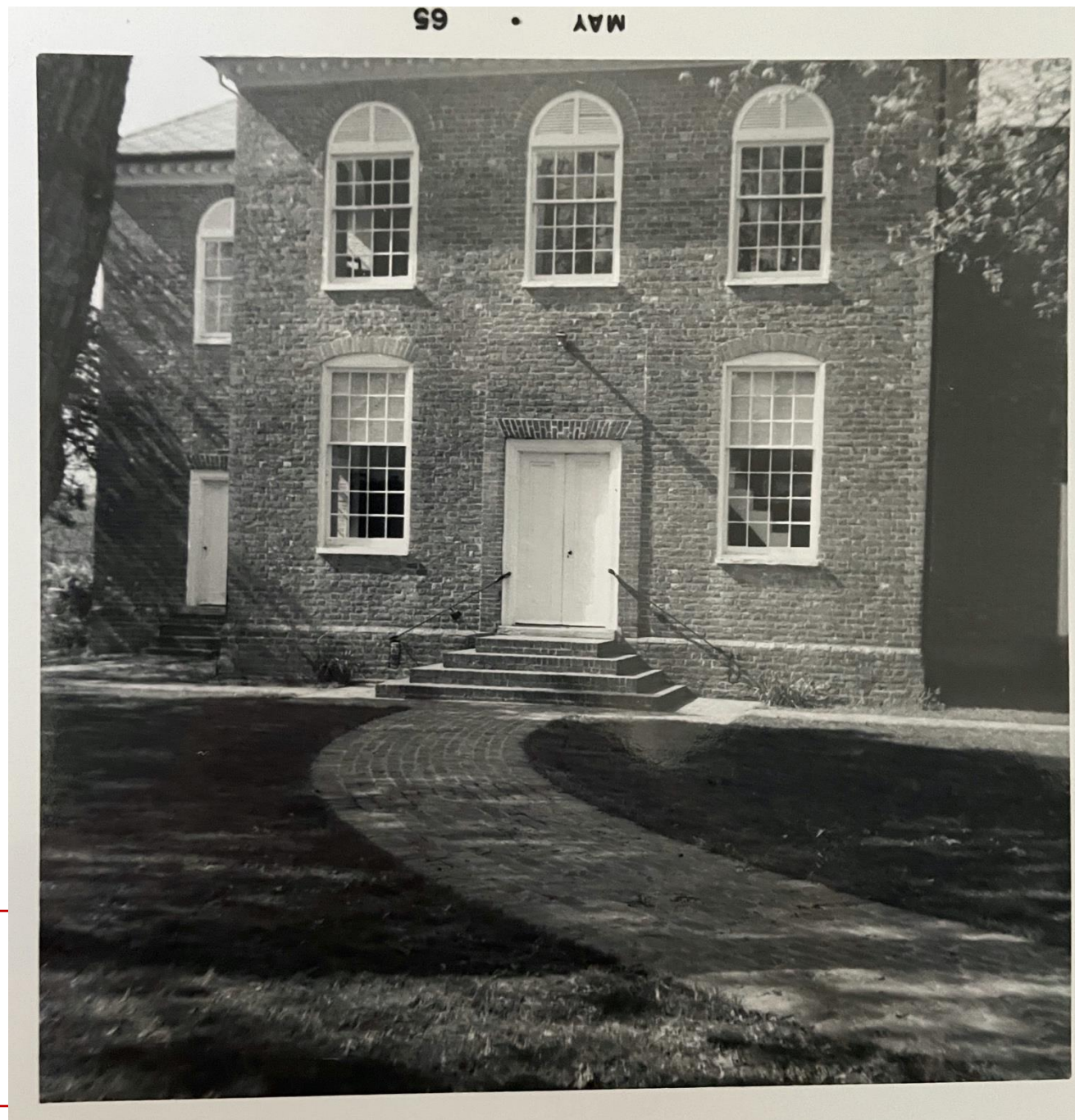
1954

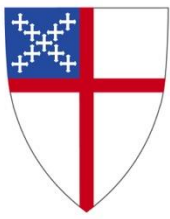
A practice organ from Peabody Institute, Baltimore, was installed in the church, replacing the pump organ.



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1965





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1974

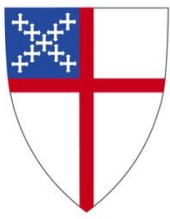
The Smoot family donated acreage to the Commonwealth of Virginia, to become Caledon Natural Area. It became a state park in 2012. The original Caledon Plantation (c1659) was the historical seat of the Alexander family, who founded the city of Alexandria, Virginia.

1974

Eleven women were “irregularly” ordained as priests in the Episcopal Church. These priests became known as the “Philadelphia Eleven.”

1973

St. Paul's Church was added to the National Register of Historic Places.



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1978

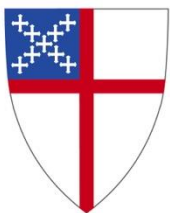
The American Indian Religious Freedom Act was passed, to ensure Native Americans' right to believe, express, and practice their traditional religions.

1977

Women were “regularly” ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Patricia Merchant Park was the first woman ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Virginia.

1977

The Rev. Ellen M. Barrett was the first openly homosexual person ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church.



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1979

The most recent revision of the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer was published.

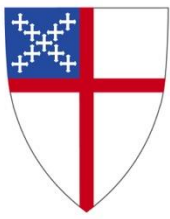
1979

Shrine Mont purchased Orkney Springs Hotel and property.

1978

The organ was enlarged, with a new console and additional pipes. The work was completed in 1987.





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1982

The Hymnal 1982 was published.

1983

The Common Lectionary was published. It was revised in 1992.

1989

The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible was published.

1995

The Parish Hall building's renovation and expansion was completed.

2003

The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson was the first openly homosexual person consecrated a bishop in the Episcopal Church.

1998

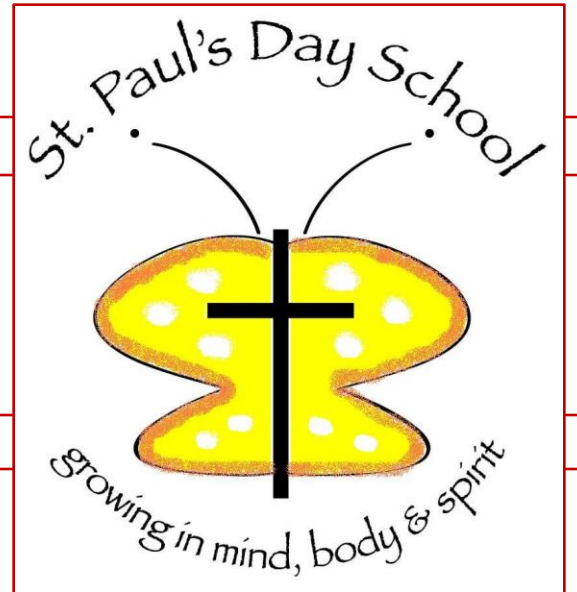
St. Paul's and Hanover Parishes ended their yoking, so that each parish had its own clergy and staff.

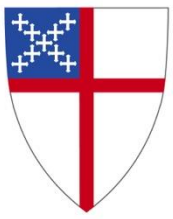
2008

St. Paul's Day School opened with a preschool program for three- and four-year-old children.

2010

The organ was restored.





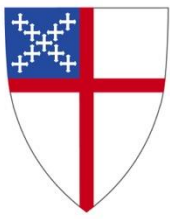
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2015 The U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage.

2015 The Episcopal Church allowed same-sex couples to marry.

2014 Major structural repairs were made to the church building's foundation.

2015 St. Paul's purchased 2.5 acres that adjoin the property.



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2015

The Rev. Lee Gandiya became the 44th rector of St. Paul's.

2018

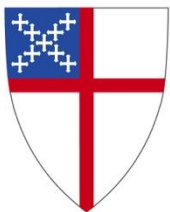
The columbarium and memorial garden was established.

2020

St. Paul's purchased 16.5 acres directly across the street. In 2023, it purchased 10 more acres adjacent to that property.

2025

St. Paul's began planning for an outdoor worship area, just outside the church's east wall, with a bench memorial to the African slaves who worshipped here.



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