

A wide-angle photograph of Bruton Parish Church, a historic brick building with a prominent steeple. The church is surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. A person is visible running on a path in the foreground. A dark red banner is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title text.

Bruton Parish Church

2026 Community Profile

Search Committee Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for your many blessings to Bruton Parish Church. As we search for a new rector, grant us the wisdom to discern what you are calling us to do and who you are calling us to be. As we look to the future, grant us the grace and courage to imagine new directions and ways of being. Kindle a consensus among us by the flame of your Holy Spirit. Merciful God, sanctify our efforts, that this time of transition may be for our parish a time of renewal and growth. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.



Our Mission

The mission of the people of Bruton Parish Church—as it has been for more than 350 years—is to respond to God’s call to be channels of God’s love and power in the world by welcoming all into a Christ-centered community that nurtures and values each member.



Our Vision

Our vision for the next chapter of our shared ministry is to be a strong and loving Episcopal community focused on belonging, welcoming, friendliness, diversity, and acceptance. Our identity as a historic parish is expressed through liturgy, worship, and music traditions, while maintaining public access to our historic site.



Our Priorities

- Increase opportunities for Christian formation and fellowship across all age groups.
- Strengthen our appeal to families with young children.
- Foster a deep spiritual life through worship, fellowship, parish ministries, and pastoral care.
- Offer rich worship experiences with excellent music and thoughtful, challenging sermons grounded in scripture and theology.
- Practice our faith through meaningful volunteer service.

Our Community

Bruton Parish Church is located in the restored historic area of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Established in 1674 through the consolidation of two earlier parishes in the Virginia Colony, Bruton has been part of the Williamsburg community for more than 350 years.

The current church building was constructed between 1710 and 1715 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970. As a historic church with a strong spiritual focus, Bruton stands at the intersection of colonial history and today's culture.



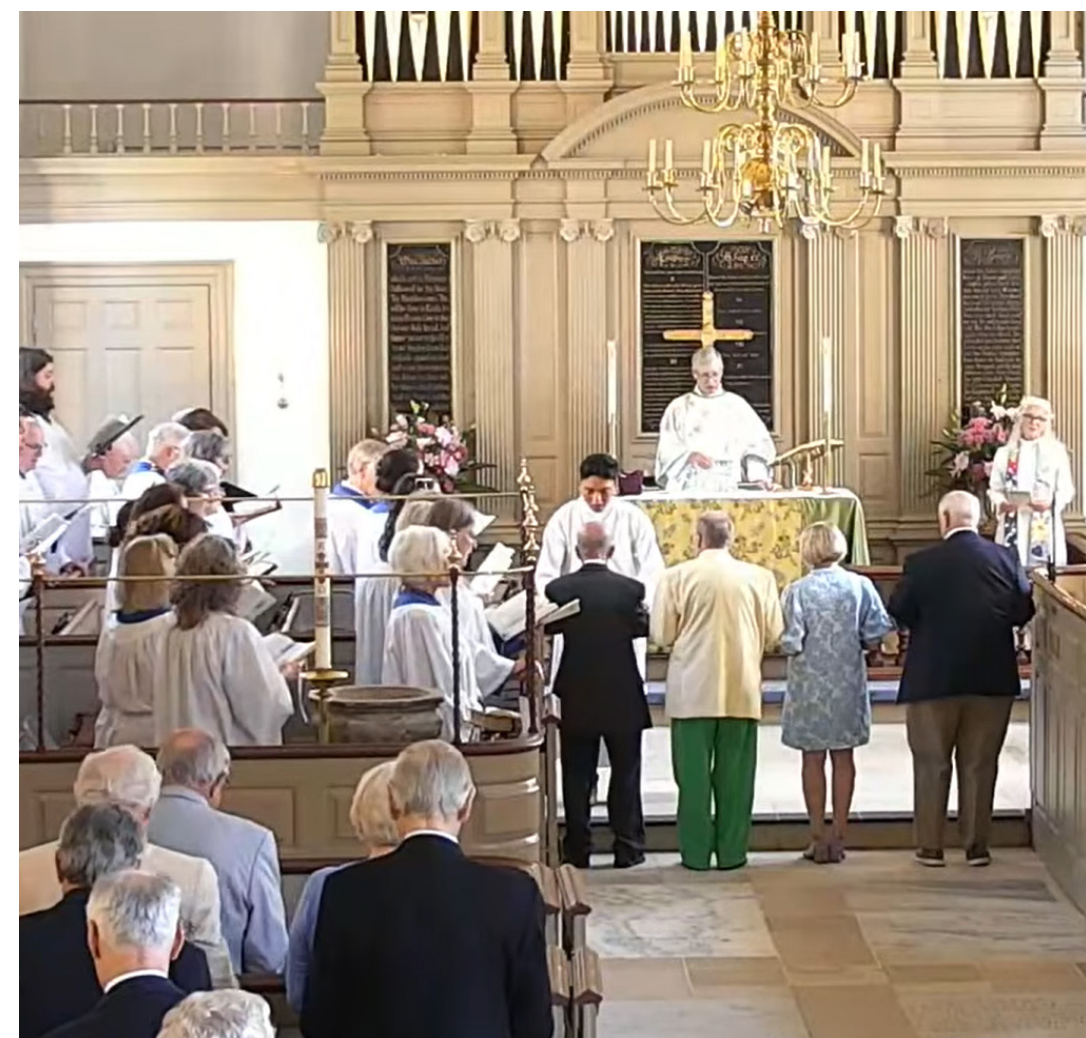
Greater Williamsburg

The Greater Williamsburg area includes the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County. The region's economy is shaped by tourism connected to historic Colonial Williamsburg and by higher education at the College of William & Mary, the nation's oldest public university.

Worship at Bruton

Worship is at the heart of life at Bruton. Centered on the Holy Eucharist and shaped by the Book of Common Prayer, our services gather us at God's table, where we receive God's hospitality, grace, and love.

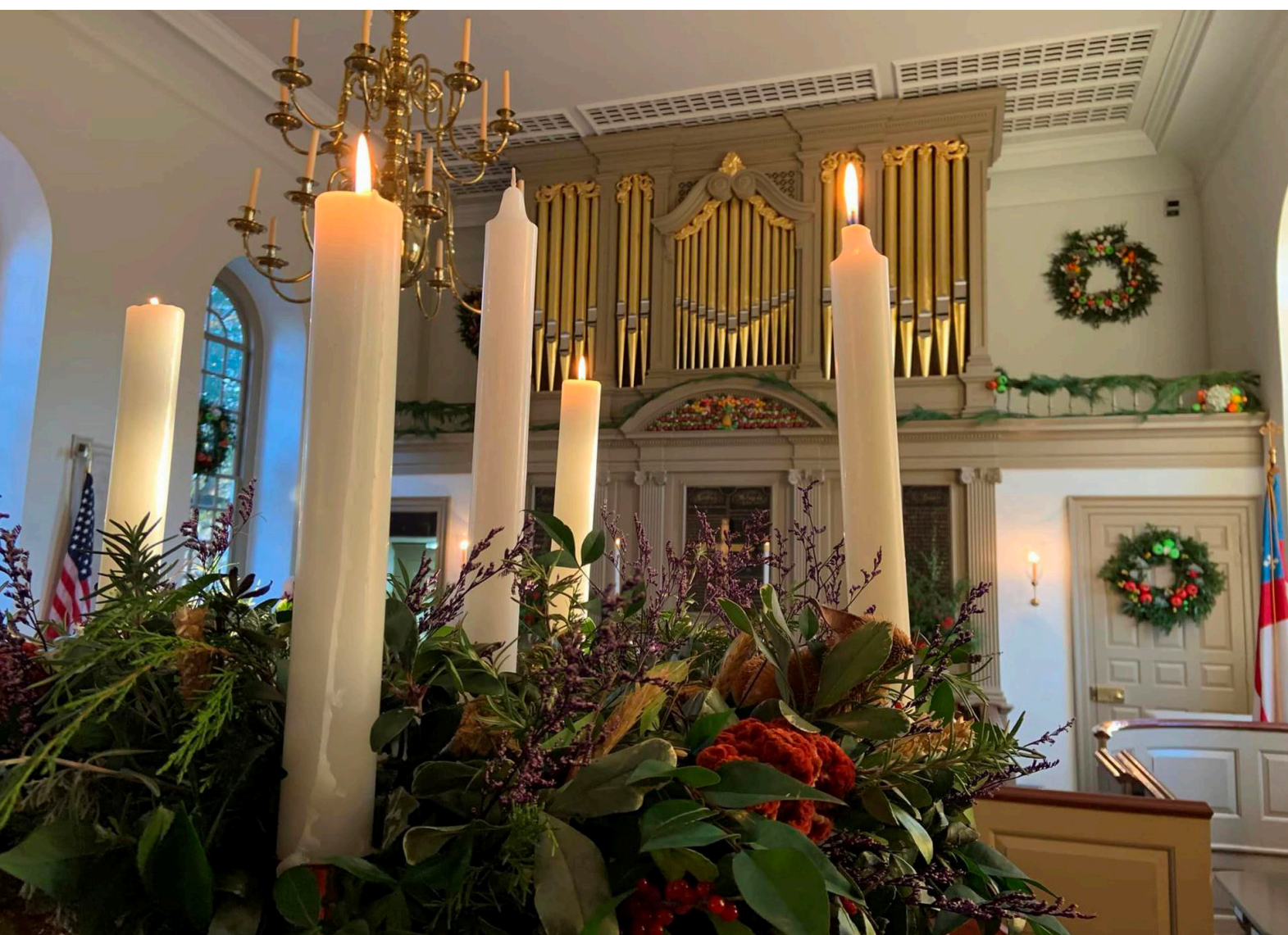
Forgiven, nourished, and renewed, we are sent into the world to share those gifts through service, witness, and care for others.





Following the Church Year

Our worship follows the rhythm of the liturgical calendar, moving through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and the season after Pentecost. Each season shapes our common prayer and invites us more deeply into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.



Worship Services

8:00 _{AM}	Holy Eucharist, Rite I of the Book of Common Prayer
9:15 _{AM}	Holy Eucharist, Rite II of the Book of Common Prayer, with the Pelham Choir
11:15 _{AM}	Holy Eucharist, Rite II of the Book of Common Prayer, with the Chancel Choir
5:30 _{PM}	Canterbury-led service when the College of William & Mary is in session

Wednesday Worship

On Wednesday mornings, a clergy-led Eucharist is followed by a Service of Healing Prayer in the church.

Children and Youth

During the school year, Sunday morning children's church, Sunday school, and children's choir are held at the Parish House.

Music Program

Music is central to Bruton's spirituality and worship. Through choirs, service music, anthems, and concerts, the music program enriches parish life and extends Bruton's ministry to the wider community.

Bruton is known across the Episcopal Church for newly commissioned service music and anthems. Choral Evensong services are offered throughout the year, and musical ensembles for all ages support the parish's liturgy.

- Choral Evensong services throughout the year
- Musical ensembles for all ages
- More than 120 concerts annually
- The Candlelight Concert series, welcoming community members and visitors from around the country and the world
- The Tarpley Ringers Handbell Choir, which performs concerts throughout the year



Engagement in the Wider Church and Community

Bruton Parish Church serves locally, regionally, and beyond through outreach ministries, community partnerships, pastoral care, music, formation, and fellowship.





Mission and Outreach

- Mission & Outreach
- Bruton Builders
- Care Closets
- Loaves & Fishes

Supporting Outreach Ministries

Fundraising and donor support help sustain Bruton's outreach ministries, including:

- The Parish Gift Shop
- Heavenly Treasures
- Annual Book Sale
- Annual Jewelry Sale
- Individual donors



Community Outreach and Service

- Hosting a week of the Community of Faith Mission's Winter Shelter, which provides emergency shelter during the coldest months.
- Offering an annual July 4 Prayer and Thanksgiving Service in association with the Sons of the American Revolution.
- Welcoming the community through weekly music concerts, often featuring guest performers.
- Supporting youth mission trips.
- Supporting pilgrimages through the Canterbury program at William & Mary.



Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a primary focus of Bruton and includes both clergy-led care and lay-led ministries.

- Bruton Parish Lay Pastoral Care Ministry
- Bruton Cares Team
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- The Daughters of the King



Support Groups and Parish House Ministries

- Pastoral Counseling Program
- AA group meetings
- Monthly Caregiver Support Group meeting
- Guidance for life planning and future care needs



Spiritual Life, Fellowship, and Well-Being

Bruton supports spiritual and emotional well-being through worship, formation, small groups, and parish-wide fellowship. Programs include weekly Bible lectionary study, new member classes, Prayer Partners, the Women's Theological Book Group, and special worship services during Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas.

The Hennage Library offers a carefully chosen collection of more than 1,700 items of special interest to parishioners and visitors.

Community life is also strengthened through small-group activities and parish-wide celebrations, including the parish's 350th anniversary in 2024.

- Coffee Connections between church services
- Bruton Singles
- ROMEOs
- Newcomers' Receptions
- Monthly Friday social gatherings
- Other special events and parish activities



Stewardship at Bruton

Stewardship at Bruton begins with gratitude—for our families, friends, neighbors, and wider community. Rooted in faith, stewardship calls us to offer our time, talent, and treasure in service to God and one another.



Responding to Community Needs

Special project needs are shared through parish communication channels. These opportunities may include volunteering with school lunch programs, supporting targeted food drives, and participating in other community efforts that address food insecurity.



How We Share Stewardship Opportunities

Stewardship is encouraged through regular communication across parish life, including:

- Weekly newsletters
- Videos
- Sunday bulletins
- Annual reports
- Announcements by clergy and lay leaders during services
- Ministry fairs



Building Connections Through Service

Stewardship activities also strengthen connections within the Bruton community through ministries and opportunities such as:

- Friends of Bruton
- Bruton Builders
- Pilgrimages
- Fellowship activities
- Refugee support
- Gifts to local public schools
- Newcomer Committee
- Caregiver Support Group

Current Strategic Plans and Future Priorities

Bruton's current priorities focus on deepening spiritual life, strengthening parish growth, and expanding the ways we welcome, form, and care for one another.

- Deepen parish spirituality through worship, formation, and shared practices of faith.
- Encourage parish-wide growth, with particular attention to welcoming younger families.
- Expand opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation across all ages.
- Strengthen and broaden pastoral care and pastoral response throughout the parish community.

Our Congregation Seeks a Rector Who Will
“Lead with faith, compassion, clarity, and courage.”

Financial Overview

Bruton Parish Church enters this season from a position of financial stability. The 2026 budgeted revenue is \$2,120,000, and revenue was ahead of budget as of June 30.

At a Glance

- **2026 budgeted revenue:** \$2,120,000
- **Revenue sources:** Approximately 75% from parishioners and guests; approximately 25% from the Bruton Parish Foundation and the Bruton Parish Endowment.
- **Net assets:** \$6,640,000 as of June 30, including about \$630,000 restricted or designated by the Vestry.
- **Debt:** Bruton Parish Church has no debt.

Endowment and Foundation

The Bruton Parish Endowment is a separate entity established in the 1950s and is not controlled by the church. Created primarily through the legacy of John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s gift for the benefit of Bruton, the Endowment is governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Directors made up of parishioners. Bruton Parish Church is its sole beneficiary. As of June 30, the Endowment's approximate value was \$17,400,000.

The Bruton Parish Foundation was created in the early 2000s primarily to receive memorial gifts and bequests. Its Board of Directors is approved by the Vestry, giving the Vestry control of the Foundation. As of June 30, 2026, the Foundation's approximate value was \$5,800,000.

Bruton is financially stable with no debt, a consistently balanced budget and strong stewardship.



Bruton Parish Church

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Williamsburg, VA 23185

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PHONE (757) 229-2891

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, *Bishop, Diocese of Southern Virginia*

The Rev. William J. Watson, III, *Interim Rector*

The Rev. Charles H. Bauer, *Associate Rector, Christian Formation & College Ministries*

The Rev. Lauren M. McDonald, *Associate Rector, Outreach & Women's Ministries & Pastoral Care*

The Rev. Cynthia Stravers, *Pastoral Care & Children's and Youth Ministries*

Vestry Members

Taylor Banks, Carlyle Campbell, Robyn Hansen, Kathy Harper, Randy Hobbs (*Junior Warden*), Ron Hurst, Anna Martin, John Morgan (*Senior Warden*), Lori Forcucci Smith, Michael Smith (*Register*), Sue Saunders, and Larry Zensigner

Rector Search Committee

Isabel Burch, Colly Burgwyn, Brian Hanlon, Diane Howerton (*Chair*), Alison Lennarz, Sara Meldrum, Evie Scally, Griff Steel, and Sue Warner

Staff

Rebecca E. Davy, *Music Director & Organist*

Dr. JanEl B. Will, *Organist*

Meghan O. Brewer, *Children's & Youth Ministries Director*

Christine Britton, *Parish Life Director*

Ernie Clements, *Facilities Management Director*

Abraham Cruz, *Facilities Management Assistant*

Hilary Cooley, *Communications Director*

Margaret Driscoll, *Chief of Staff*

John Fogarty, *Treasurer*

M.J. Freeman, *Hospitality Coordinator*

Ernie Henninger, *Shop & Finance Assistant*

Diane Koun, *Shop Manager*

Kay Ferguson, *Shop Assistant Manager*

Bev Frankel, *Shop Assistant*

Sherry Stewart, *Sexton*

Mecia Wiggins, *Sexton*