

The Episcopal Church

The church at this site began as a Church of England Parish in 1661. Following the Revolutionary War, the Episcopal Church was founded serving the Anglican Communion in America.

As a member of the Diocese of Washington, we receive guidance, assistance and resources for our programs and our policies. The head of the Diocese, the Bishop, makes an Annual visit to the Parish.

The Episcopal faith is one that uses the analogy of a three-legged stool as the basis for our Faith. The three legs represent Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. The Episcopal Church offers a thoughtful approach to religion. It believes faith involves a measure of reason as well as emotion. Its doctrine is designed to point out, not dictate, the response to God's continuing revelation. The focus is on God's love and the invitation to respond in mature freedom, in thanksgiving, and in loving devotion. The Episcopal Church teaches that morality is positive, rather than negative. It is rooted in Jesus' summary of the law: "to love God with heart, mind and soul and to love ones neighbor as oneself." The focus of Christian morality is not on laws and restrictions but on free and mature response to God's love and in responsibility to our neighbors.

At Durham Parish, we are an open and inviting community that welcomes all people to participate in our worship, service and fellowship.

Our worship uses the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). It provides the Service formats for Baptisms, Burials, Morning and Evening Prayer, as well as the Eucharist Rites and special services. BCP also provides the prayers (new and ancient), the catechism, and the text of historical documents.

Some who attend our service for the first time can find that it can be difficult to follow the layout of the service in the BCP.

A Quick Reference Guide to the Book of Common Prayer is on the inside of this brochure.

This brochure provides information about who we are at Durham Church. We have a rich and historic past, but you will find that we are also a living and vibrant community right here in Nanjemoy. For over 350 years we have been reaching out as a home for spiritual growth and nurturing, education, and assistance for the local area, the nation and the world!

Our History

1684 - The first recorded public ceremony at this church was the June wedding of William Dent and Elizabeth Fowke. William Dent, a wealthy landowner, bequeathed money for the purchase of a Chalice and Paten. They were cast in England in 1706 and given to the Parish in 1708. They are still used today on special occasions and services.

1692 - Durham was one of thirty parishes chartered by the colonial government. Thus the nickname which is still affectionately used, "Old Durham".

1732 - Construction of the current brick Church began, replacing the log building that served on the same site.

1771 - General George Washington recorded in his diary that he visited Durham Church while staying with his good friend General Smallwood.

1776 - Vestry Minutes record an itemized list of Parishioners taking the oath of allegiance to our new nation, and rescinding their loyalty to Great Britain.

General William Smallwood was a member at Durham Church and he served on the Parish's governing body, the Vestry.

A church has been on this site spreading the Gospel and providing worship to the community for over 350 years.

Christ Church Durham Parish

Established 1661 Chartered 1692

A Church in the
Episcopal Diocese of Washington



8700 Ironsides Road
Nanjemoy, Maryland 20662

301-743-7099

Find us on the web:

www.christchurcholddurhamparish.com



Christ Church - Old Durham Parish

Services

Sunday Morning

09:15 am Adult Forum

09:45 am Sunday School

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Our many Ministries and Events can be found on the
website for specific information

"Feeding Souls since 1661"

What We Do at Durham Church

Children's Education and Fellowship

Sunday School – Sunday mornings at 9:15am

Youth Ministry – Fellowship with songs, food, learning.

Adult Education and Fellowship

Adult Forum – A Sunday Morning program for the discussion of readings, presentations, scripture, etc.

Theology Group – meets to discuss a book or scripture that is the current program.

Daughters of the King – is an order for prayer and service.

Men's Group – provides fellowship, event planning, and prayer.

Ladies Mite Society – meets to plan events, dinners, and fundraisers.

Church Work and Service

Choir – meets to practice Church Service music and more.

Altar Guild – maintains and manages the Service linens and [chalice, paten, books, etc.]

Vestry – the governing body of the Parish makes decisions on behalf of the Parishioners.

Committees – Cemetery, Finance, Worship, etc. all work together to keep the Church functioning not just on Sunday, but every day! Not just for Parishioners but for everyone!

Mission and Outreach

Joe's Place Food Pantry – Volunteers at Durham work each year providing food for those in need of assistance. Each year over 1,000 meals worth of food is distributed.

Outreach – the Rector's Discretionary Fund helps people with a short-term financial problem such as the need for fuel oil, prescriptions, electricity, and more.

Local – help to students with some weekend food supplies, school supplies for the start of school, and Christmas gifts for a needy family. Contributions are made to Children's Aid, Hospice and the Nanjemoy Community Center.

National – help has been sent through Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) for victims of Tornados and

Hurricanes. Funds sent to the Diocese of Washington to feed those outside our neighborhood. programs, and Hunger Walk participation to support

International – Some of our recent world mission projects: a share of a well through ERD so a third world country village could have clean water. Funds sent to Haiti to support the school nurse program. Assistance sent to Malawi to help build a hospital for children born with clubfoot. Funds are sent monthly through Unbound for a young boy in Guatemala to help him and his family with a better life. We sent Nets-For-Life to third world countries to help prevent Malaria – a leading cause of death in children.

**If you want to help make a difference
in people's lives,
join us at Durham and enjoy making the
difference in your life!**

**Check with the Rector for Confirmation Class
scheduling!**

A Quick Reference Guide to Using the Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

Acclamations, responses, Eucharistic Prayers, etc. depend on the church season. The season is noted on the Bulletin cover.

The usual Sunday service is Holy Eucharist Rite II. This is a communion service beginning on **page 355**.

All people are welcome to come to the rail for communion.

You may cross your arms over your chest for a blessing if you do not wish to receive.

A general sequence of the service is as follows:

Standing

Processional Hymn – see Bulletin or hymn board

Opening Acclamation - based on church season

Collect for Purity

Gloria – Words at top of page 356, with music on page S280. It is noted in the Bulletin if different.

Kneeling

Collect of the Day – at top of Bulletin insert

Seated

Lessons – Old & New Testament- Bulletin insert

Standing

Psalm (bulletin insert), **Hymn**, and the **Gospel** (insert)

Seated

Sermon

Standing

Nicene Creed read together by all

Kneeling

Prayers of the People – there are 6 forms, selected by church season – see bulletin.

Confession of Sin on page 360 read by all

Standing

The Peace – feel free to move about and share the Peace

Seated

The Offertory – contributions for church support received

Standing

Doxology – Hymnal Page 380, verse 3

The Great Thanksgiving –Eucharistic Prayer A, B, C, or D – based on church season, see Bulletin for page

Sanctus – “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...” or see Bulletin

Kneeling

As the Celebrant says the words of the Eucharist

The Lord's Prayer – page 364 in BCP

Communion – All are welcome at the communion rail

Standing

Post Communion Hymn – see Bulletin or hymn board

Kneeling

Post Communion Prayer page 365 or 366 in BCP

Blessing

Standing

Recessional Hymn – see Bulletin or hymn board

Please join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall!