



## Four Notable Rectors From 325 Years of St. Margaret's Church

**1600s & 1700s – The Rev. Edward Topp, Jr. (1676 - 1704)**

**Rector 1697(?) - 1698**

The Rev. Edward Topp, Jr. was the first priest to serve as rector (perhaps *vicar* or *parson*) of the 1692-established *Broade Necke Parish* – likely Westminster Parish by the time he arrived on the *Broadneck Hundred* (once Persimmon Pointe and now Cape St. Claire).

Mr. Topp was born 1676 in Rochester (Kent, England) about thirty miles east of London. He received his undergraduate degree from Oxford in the spring 1696 or 1697. Then he was soon ordained a deacon in the Church of England. On December 19, 1697, he was made a priest at London's Old St. Paul's Cathedral. On January 11, 1698, he signed for his priestly *King's Bounty* in the amount of £20, paid to all Church of England Clergymen heading off to the colonies.

Mr. Topp reportedly arrived through Baltimore, serving *Broade Necke*/Westminster Parish, Patapsco Parish, and other local parishes as supply priest. A report on the situation of Anglican churches in Maryland sent to the Bishop of London in May 1698 mentions Mr. Topp as the rector of the *Broadneck Parish* with 223 tithable parishioners in his charge, providing a total of £8,920 tobacco income to this parish annually in income.



By 1699, Mr. Topp had become the rector of Middle Neck Parish (St. Anne's Parish, Annapolis.)

He was one of 17 clergy who attended a meeting on May 23, 1700 with the Rev. Dr. Thomas Bray, personal emissary of the Bishop of London. Dr. Bray had been sent to organize the Church of England in Maryland. Mr. Topp remained at St. Anne's Church & Parish until his death in 1704. He is buried at St. Anne's Parish.

## 1700s & 1800s – The Rev. William Duke (1757 - 1843)

### Rector 1796-1803

William Duke was born in the Patapsco Neck section of Baltimore County in 1757. He became a *licensed exhorter* of the Methodist Church (just appearing at the time in Maryland) at age sixteen. An *exhorter* was a layman authorized by a pastor to conduct meetings for prayer and exhortation.

Mr. Duke left the Methodists in 1784 to become one of the first priests ordained in the new United States of America by Bishop Samuel Seabury who would become the first Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States. +Seabury was the first serving American Episcopal bishop, having been made a bishop in 1784 in Scotland by bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Upon his ordination, Mr. Duke served at several parishes in Anne Arundel and Prince Georges counties in Maryland, publishing numerous pamphlets and works on Christian education and theology including *Thoughts on Repentance*, *Clew to Truth*, and *Observations on the State of Religion in Maryland*.

After his wife died he became rector of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Parish in 1796 – the first priest to serve this parish as rector who was ordained in the United States. He was also the last rector of the time when the church was located at its second location in Severnside (or Severn Heights). Documentation regarding the end of his tenure as rector would have him remain continuously until 1803 when the church building at this site burned and the parish abandoned the location. However, records show another man serving as rector ca. 1800.



At some point Mr. Duke moved to Kent County, Maryland, to recover his own health. He occasionally led worship there. Eventually, Mr. Duke took up a post as a language instructor at St. John's College in Annapolis in 1803 at the behest of Bishop Thomas John Claggett. One year later he became rector at St. Anne's Church, also its first priest ordained in the United States. Beginning in 1806, he taught for many years at the Academy in Elkton, Maryland, where he died in 1843.

## **1800s – The Rev. Samuel Ridout, M.D. (1816 - 1885)**

### **Rector (1846 - 1860) & (1870 - 1885)**

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Ridout, (Dr. Sam) is historically St. Margaret's longest-serving rector. D. Sam was born at historic Whitehall on the Broadneck Peninsula, December, 1816. After studying at St. John's College and attending medical lectures in Philadelphia, he received an M.D. from the School of Medicine of the University of Maryland. Urged by the woman who would become his wife and feeling a next calling, he then studied theology at the Virginia Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1845, and in 1845 was ordained a priest by Bishop William Rollinson Whittingham. Bishop Whittingham would remain a lifetime friend.



Dr. Sam was made rector of St. Margaret's Church in 1846. Five years later in 1851 fire leveled the original brick church built on the present site; in less than one year the church was rebuilt. In 1853, he married Hester Chase, granddaughter of Samuel Chase, a Maryland signer of the Declaration of Independence. They never had children. After marrying, they lived at Whitehall in the summer and in Annapolis in Hester's historic family home – the Chase Lloyd House – during the winter.

Citing reasons of ill health, Dr. Sam & Hester moved in 1860 to Scottsville, in Albemarle County, Virginia, returning to Annapolis at the close of the Civil War. Albemarle County, whose seat is Charlottesville, was staunchly loyal to the Confederacy throughout the war, and Charlottesville housed a major military hospital that saw continuous use at this time. Dr. Sam continued to use his medical training, serving as surgeon throughout the time he served St. Ann's Parish, Scottsville, as rector. His services as a physician would

have been in high demand during the Civil War, but no evidence has been found to document his activities at this time beyond the pulpit.

In 1870, Bishop Whittingham would approve Dr. Sam returning as has rector of St. Margaret's Church , where he then continued as priest until his death in 1885, marking the end of twenty-nine years of service to the parish.

While serving this whites-only congregation in which he had grown up, he opened St. Margaret's church building in the early years and its ministries (baptisms, marriages, burials) throughout his entire career to enslaved and free persons of African descent.

### **1900s & 2000s – The Rt. Rev. Mary Douglas Glasspool (b. 1954 ) Rector (1992 - 2001**

The Right Reverend Mary Glasspool was born 1954 on Staten Island and grew up in Goshen, New York, daughter of Rev. Douglas Murray Glasspool, longtime rector of St. James's Church there.



Bishop Glasspool – Mary – received her undergraduate degree in 1976 from Dickinson College with a thesis on Russian Orthodox liturgy and Russian liturgical music. After college, she entered seminary at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge MA, taking time off to work in a parochial school and a senior day care program in New York City.

Mary received her M.Div. degree and was ordained as a deacon in 1981 and priest in 1982. Between 1981 and 1984, she served as assistant rector, St. Paul's Church, Chestnut Hills, Philadelphia, where she oversaw parish outreach programs, youth groups, confirmation classes and Bible study groups. Mary moved on to serve as not-quite-full-time rector of St. Luke's and St. Margaret's Church in Allston Boston) , from 1984 - 1992.

In 1991 Mary was called to St. Margaret's Church, serving from March 1992 through September 2001. Mary would begin her tenure at a church that had been without a rector for 20 months and was celebrating its 300th anniversary. She would depart only weeks after the horrors of September 11, 2001.

Mary's many distinctions and accomplishments included being selected for the 1999 Bishop's Award for Outstanding Ordained Ministry. With the receipt of a large donation to St. Margaret's from a parishioner, she guided creation of and an endowment and a grants program that since 1998 has given out more than \$2.1 million to causes around the corner and around the world,

In 2001, Mary became canon to the Bishops of Maryland, where she served until 2010, when she was elected as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Los Angeles. In April 2016, she was selected as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of New York.

The Rt. Reverend Glasspool has been involved throughout her career in numerous social and educational missions, which she continues at present. Mary forever changed this parish where she began her tenure when as the parish began its fourth century and left to continue her work elsewhere as the parish began to make its mark on a sixth historical century.