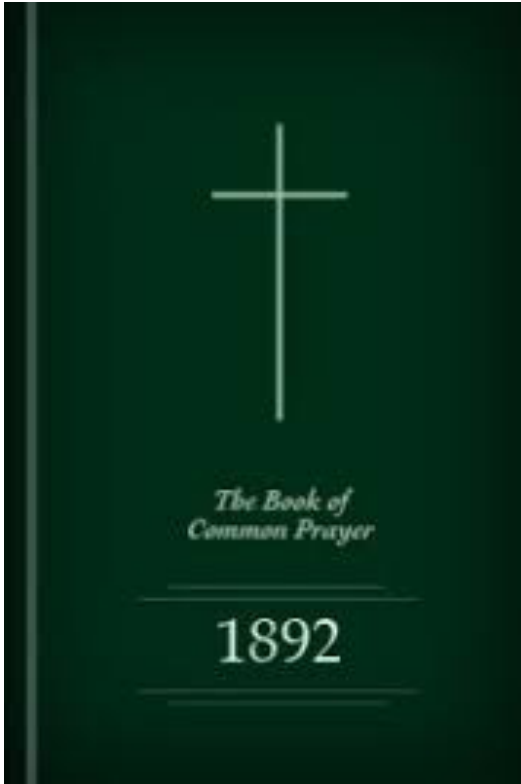


June 14, 2015 — St. Margaret's Church — 1892 Book of Common Prayer



Leading up to its 325th anniversary June 9, 2017, St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Parish has undertaken on one Sunday each year for the past three years to use an historic worship service adapted from a prayer book once used at St. Margaret's Church.

In 2015 we are using The 1892 Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the second BCP of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Its tenure was relatively short, replaced by a much more extensive revision in 1928.

The 1892 BCP was a conservative revision: little of substance changed from its predecessor, the 1789 Episcopal BCP. In the new United States of America The 1789 BCP replaced the Anglican (Church of England) 1662 Book of Common Prayer (still the official though seldom used prayer book of the Church of England).

The 1892 BCP used Century Schoolbook font, and this version in Georgia is a fairly close match to the original and an allowed alternative. Unlike the 1789 BCP and like the 1928 and 1979 prayer books to follow, all printings of the 1892 edition were essentially identical in layout, pagination, and typography.

The 1892 BCP was translated into many languages, probably more than any other edition, to serve immigrant populations including copies that still exist in German, Italian, Swedish, and Hungarian, as well as Cheyenne and Tiagra (an Alaskan Eskimo tongue). The Campaign Prayer Book, an abridgment of the 1892 BCP, included several additional prayers and was published for American Armed Forces serving in World War I.

No records remain to tell us of when St. Margaret's adopted the 1892 BCP for Sunday worship, though the likely date is sometime in 1896. During the early 1890s the parish suffered through a period of disarray. More than 125 years later this story has never been written and awaits telling by the researcher, by the writer who is willing to take on this opportunity

The deadly 1901 fire at the residence of the parish registrar killed the brother of the registrar and destroyed nearly every parish record accumulated since the church had burned in 1851. We must rely on vestry minutes starting mid-1901, historic newspaper stories, the archives of the State of Maryland and the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, and histories crafted in the 1930s & 1940s that were typed onto onion skin based on memories, stories, and family records from following generations of families who lived through these times.

In 1886, shortly after the death of the Rev. Samuel (Dr. Sam) Ridout, MD (1816-1885) who served nearly 30 years as St. Margaret's rector of St. Margaret's in two terms separated by 10 years (1844-1860 and 1870-1884), the vestry (including eight members of the Ridout family among the nine members) approved erecting a new church as a memorial to Dr. Sam. According to the vestry resolution *Our present church is inadequate and presents an unseemly appearance. It shall remain to be used as a Parish building . . .*

Soon \$800 was raised by private subscriptions — money that remained unspent as the vestry battled with the rector, with the (small) congregation, and would-be members who were turned away by the registrar at the behest of the vestry over issues that included building a new church, whether new (male) members could be enrolled, legality of vestry elections for the past 40 years, and divided loyalties to the rector — does he stay or does he go. One faction locked the church up tight and posted notice that any clergy not favored by this faction was to leave the property immediately. Cases would be heard before Maryland State courts and the Diocese of Maryland.

On August 24, 1892, a fire — apparently deliberate and reportedly though not proven set by a member or members of the vestry (kerosene, wood shavings, and tallow candle drippings were found at the scene) burned a large hole in the floor of the chancel and the chancel was scorched. This church had last been renovated following the fire in 1851 and desperately needed work. By 1895 the site was razed, plans were made, and an additional \$1,200 secured — bringing construction costs for a church that would not again see significant renovation until 1986 — to \$2,000. The cornerstone was laid with Masonic honors by Annapolis Lodge Number 89 August 5, 1895 and dedication of the *new* church occurred in 1896.

The 1895/1896 church is essentially the church building we know today. While changes occurred in 1929, 1948, during the 1986 Enhanced Restoration, and in years that have followed, recognizable, charred timbers remain beneath the chancel — timbers that could have been placed there 185 years ago.

After 1896 periods of calm and periods of turmoil would follow. Calm especially during two terms the Rev. Alexander Galt served as rector and following the 1918 call of the Rev. R. Cleon Cowling as rector; Mr. Cowling would serve until the early 1940s.

During the 36 years that the 1892 BCP was in use other developments were occurring and each will receive special attention over the next two years

- The first rectory, dating to the mid-1800s, was sold and the first rectory on grounds was constructed.
- The Ladies Guild was begun, taking on responsibility for making the rectory livable and seeking to take over care of the new church from the men who apparently could not keep the church clean
- An envelope system of giving was started to pay the rector. Rectors' monetary amount ranged from \$600 to \$1,000 per year and use of the rectory and grounds
- Burials could take place in the new churchyard on land given to the parish in 1884 — after deeds were modified that had prohibited use of the land for a churchyard
- Stained glass windows began to be installed, first appearing in 1912 and 1917 — though nearly all windows would be installed and dedicated after 1928
- Plans began for the first parish building (parish hall) when the church was razed and rebuilt rather than being converted into a parish hall

Selected Artifacts — In Use 2015



**Sterling Silver Communion Set
Given by Mr. John Brice. 1713**



**Lectern Bible (1847)
Given by Charles St. J. & Eliza C. Chubb, 1852 ca**



**Baptismal Font
Given by Miss Elizabeth Nixon Ridout, 1855**



**Brass Lectern
Given by Hester Chase Ridout, 1880 Ca**



**Altar Cross
Given by St. Margaret's Club of Young Girls , 1888**



**Altar Vases
Given by Mrs. Charles S. Spencer, 1890**

Rectors 1892 - 1928

The Rev. Samuel Spencer (1886-1893)

The Rev. W. R. B. Turner (1894 to 1899)

The Rev. Alexander Galt (1900-1905) & (1909-1914)

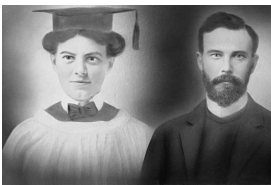


Pictured here January 16, 1908 with daughter Elizabeth Welsh Galt Alexander, and wife Emily Cocke Galt, at the wedding of Elizabeth in High Point, NC where Mr. Galt was then rector of St Mary's Episcopal Church.

The Rev. A. C. Haverstick (1906-1909)

The Rev. James Mitchell Magruder (1914 to 1918)

The Rev. R. Cleon Cowling (1918-1942)



Pictured here early in his St. Margaret's Church ministry is the Rev. R. Cleon Cowling (1871-1947) and his wife Elizabeth Cowling (1875-1946), church organist 1918-1944.