Take Yourself on a Tour

of

St. Anne’s Episcopal Church

An Episcopal Parish
founded in 1692

Annapolis, MD
St. Anne's Episcopal Church is a historic Episcopal church located in Church Circle, Annapolis. The first church in Annapolis, it was founded in 1692 to serve as the parish church for the newly created Middle Neck Parish, one of the original 30 Anglican parishes in the Province of Maryland. Thriving as never before, St. Anne’s continues to witness to the “Faith once delivered to the saints” through inspiring worship, joyful fellowship and Christian study, and in meaningful outreach to our local community, the nation, and the world. As we continue to grow and change to meet the needs of Christ’s own, we stay faithful to our past, reminders of which surround us.

Today, St. Anne’s Parish translates the messages of scripture in our worship into compassionate outreach in our wider community both locally and globally. Embracing a wide range of programs with energy and enthusiasm, St. Anne’s has much potential to make an even greater impact on the community.
From 1692, when the Church of England became the established Church of Maryland until the American Revolution, Church and State were united. All classes, from the governor and great Officers of State down to humble artisans and slaves, resorted to the church to participate in the Sacraments of Font and Altar, to worship in the great spiritual tradition embodied in the Book of Common Prayer, and to receive instruction in Christian doctrine.

St. Anne's is one of the original thirty parishes created by the General Assembly in 1692. From 1695, when Annapolis became the capital, until 1715, St. Anne's was the Chapel Royal of Maryland. After 1715, when Maryland was returned to Lord Baltimore, the church was the chapel of the Proprietary Governors, and its rectors usually were chaplains to the General Assembly as well.
The tolling bell, cast in the Meneely Bell Foundry in New York, was furnished by George Wells who was a warden at the time of the fire.
As you enter the main door of the Church, you will find three plaques on your right. The one to the left is in memory of the four Marylanders who were among the signers of The Declaration of Independence. Three of these were churchmen: Samuel Chase, William Paca, and Thomas Stone. The fourth, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, was a Roman Catholic colleague. Francis Scott Key is remembered as a churchman and patriot and writer of our national anthem. Below these plaques is one dedicating the chimes to John Wirt Randall, who was President of the Maryland Senate in 1898 and elected to the vestry of St. Anne’s in 1875. The chimes were cast in 1922 by McShane Bell Foundry in Glen Burnie, Maryland.
On your right, before you enter the Nave, is a marble tablet dedicated to the memory of Charles Carroll, Barrister and St. Anne’s vestryman. He was the protestant cousin of Charles Carroll of Carrollton and a patriot.
Before entering the Nave you will see on your left drawings of the three buildings that housed St. Anne’s Parish. To the left is the first church built between 1696 and 1704; to the right is the second church built in 1792 and designed by Joseph Horatio Anderson, the architect of the present State House. This church burned in 1858 and the present church, pictured in the middle, was built in 1859 in the Romanesque Revival style designed by J. R. Condit of New Jersey, incorporating a portion of the old tower. The steeple was not added until 1866 and houses the Annapolis town clock.
In the choir room, located on your left as you stand facing the nave, are two stained glass windows. One, dedicated to John Cooper, organist at St. Anne’s for 32 years, depicts St. Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians. The other window shows Christ changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana.
Enter the Nave and note the stained glass window to the left. It depicts Christ quieting the wind and the waves and was made in New York city by artists Heinigke & Bowen and given in memory of William Scott Southgate, Rector from 1869 to 1899, by his children.
The next two windows were made by Mayer & Company of Munich, Germany around 1910. One depicts the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Luke 2:22-39); the other depicts the visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the home of St. Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Baptist.

The next window shows Jesus at prayer.
Just before the vestibule is a memorial plaque with the names of those whose ashes were buried in the Memorial Garden in the churchyard.
The window in the vestibule (near the Holy Family Chapel) shows Christ the Good Shepherd bringing home the lost lamb. It is in memory of George McElhiney who served as rector of St. Anne’s from 1834 to 1841.
Dedicated in 1984, the Holy Family Chapel is used as a Communion station on Sundays. Barely visible is a door leading to a room used by the clergy and altar party for robing.
Continue up the left aisle to the lectern with the brass eagle given in memory of Captain James Waddell (1824-1886) who was commander of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah. The walnut pulpit, pews and bishop’s chair were made for the present church in 1859.
The walnut reredos behind the altar depicts the Risen Christ offering the Book of Life to mankind and was made in 1920 by the Oberammergau woodcarver, William Kirchmayer.
The stone altar was carved by Maryland sculptor, William Henry Rinehardt (1825-1874), as was the baptismal font.

Behind the pulpit is a stone tablet of the Commandments given in memory of Weems Ridout, vestryman from 1896-1913. The Ihs symbol represents the name of Jesus. The figures on the sides of the font represent the Four Evangelists in the fashion of Mediaeval art. The lion stands for Mark, the ox for Luke, the angel for Matthew, and the eagle for John.
As you walk down the south side aisle, you will come to two pictures depicting Eucharistic symbols. One commemorates Hector Humphreys, President of St. John’s College from 1831 to 1857. The other commemorates John Blanchard, Rector of St. Anne’s from 1825 to 1834.
As you continue down the south side aisle, you will see the stained glass window depicting St. Anne instructing her young daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The window was designed by Tiffany Studios and was secured after being exhibited at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.
The next stained glass window shows Christ raising a penitent youth while an angel bestows the crown of life. The window was made in 1900.
Another Tiffany window is over the south door and was erected in 1914 showing the Angel of the Resurrection proclaiming to the world the new gospel of Love (Charity).
Looking up to the choir loft, you can see the tracker organ built by the Freiburger Orgelbau and installed in 1975.
Near the ceiling in the Chancel are clerestory windows. The two above the altar are in memory of infants. The next two, on the lectern side of the church, one depicting Christ and the other a chalice, are dedicated to John Wells III by his parents. On the other side are windows showing Christ and the symbols of the church; these memorialize Theodore Linthicum. The Pentecost window nearest the lectern and the Burning Bush window opposite are memorials to Mr. and Mrs. C. Franklin Strange and were made by the Hogan Studios in California.
The kneelers in the church represent a needlepoint project of many in the parish who covered the old kneelers with a colorful variety of designs.
Not publicly displayed are the silver communion pieces given to the parish in 1695-96 by King William III and other silver pieces used each Sunday; large prayer book purchased in 1764 and used until ~1805 with a prayer for the President of the United States written in ink to replace the printed one for King George; and a folio Bible, purchased from a bequest of Major General John Hammond in 1707 and inscribed with his name on the cover.
The churchyard was a burying ground from 1695 to 1790 and contains several tombstones from the seventeenth century. The graves of Colonel Nicholas Greenbury, acting Governor in 1694, his wife, and Major General John Hammond’s are among those marked. The tombs of the last British Governor, Sir Robert Eden, and the first mayor of Annapolis, Amos Garrett, are also found here. The vault of Margaret Carroll contains as well remains of some of the Carroll family including that of Charles Carroll, the Barrister. A memorial is also found to the unknown buried in the churchyard given by the Lazenby family.
We hope you enjoyed this tour of our church

We strive to make St. Anne’s a place where everyone feels comfortable and accepted. We do not get caught up on how you dress, your race or lifestyle, or whether your kids make a little noise during the service. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us on Sunday and you are more than welcome to get involved in any of our ministries.

If you have never been to St. Anne’s before, you will probably join us first for one of our Sunday worship services. For those who have been to an Episcopal Church before, our style of worship will be familiar to you. If not, we’ll help you follow along. We always want worship at St. Anne’s to be a meaningful experience. Our services are known for high quality music, thought-provoking sermons, and an atmosphere that can range from quiet and prayerful to boisterous and joyous.

After the service, there will be a chance to meet other people in the congregation. During our normal schedule (September-April) after the 9:30 service people head to our Parish House down the street. Coffee and snacks are available, younger children go to Sunday School, teenagers meet up with the youth group, and adults have the chance to attend a Sunday Forum presentation. From May until August (approximately) the coffee and snacks move out on to the Church Circle lawn, and people mill about and chat for a little while after the service.