

6100

Christ Episcopal Church

Founded 1703

Dover, Delaware

Self Guided Walking Tour of Cemetery

Christ Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 1374 (South State & Water Streets) Dover DE 19903

302-734-5731 Fax 302-734-7702

www.ChristChurchDover.org

E-mail: ChristChurchDover@verizon.net

Sunday services: 8 AM and 10 AM

Wednesdays 12:10 PM

Office hours, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM
(closed Fridays & holidays)

To report urgent pastoral needs after hours/weekends, call 302-653-4488

The Rev. Ron Gerber, Priest-in-Residence

Deacon Patricia Malcolm

Mr. Jon Rania, Lay Ministry Associate/Music Director

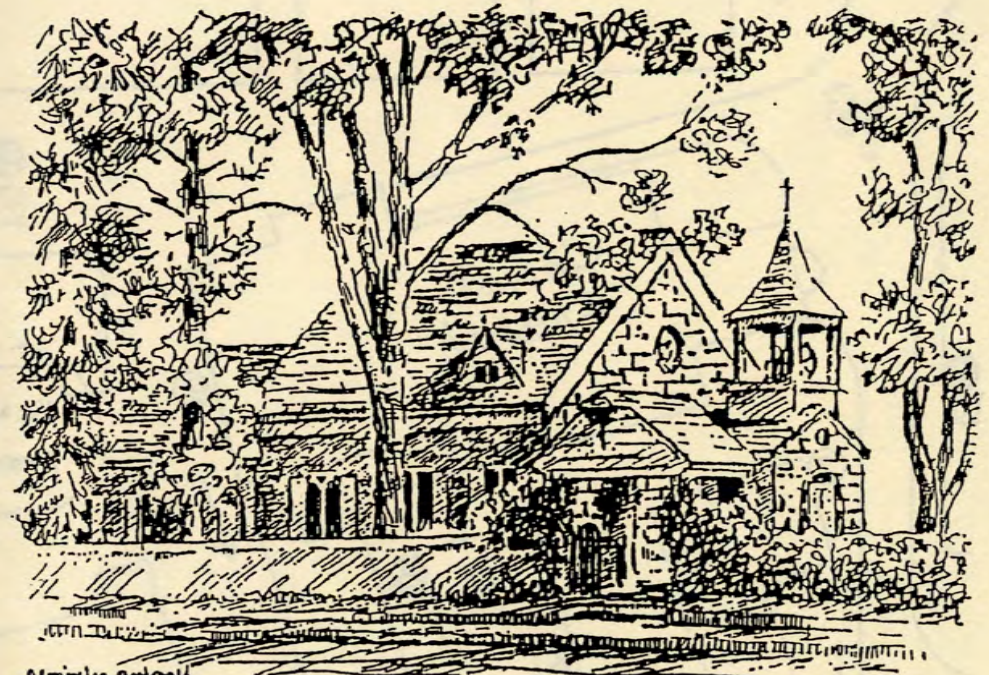
Mrs. Inez E. Bagley, Parish Office Manager

Our Vision

Our great commission is to baptize, teach and make disciples. We continue to grow spiritually in Christ, in fellowship, and in numbers.

Through extensive outreach and evangelism, we are a thriving, welcoming home to our diverse congregation. We engage in the life of the church through regular attendance, committed service and financial support.

Come share with us our Christian journey.



Christ Church, 1734.

Dover, Delaware

The East Dover Hundred Colonial Parish in the town of Dover, Delaware was begun in the year of our Lord, 1703. The congregation first worshipped in a wooden structure located approximately two miles south of the present location on the banks of the St. Jones River. In 1734, the congregation moved to this present location and built the brick church that still stands to this day. It appears that the Church Yard was used very early on as a burial ground; the earliest gravestones bear related dates. Many of the early graves are now unmarked due to the use of materials that would not stand the test of time such as wood and soft stone. Many more have weathered over the Centuries and, unfortunately are no longer legible. The Church Yard of Christ Episcopal Church contains graves of Colonial Patriots, Governors, Generals, Decorated Officers, Philanthropists, Inventors, Socialites, Prominent Citizens, Bishops, clergy and heroic men, women and children. It is God's acre where, side by side, rich and poor alike rest in peace. *Requiescat in Pace!*

Historic Old Christ Church, Dover, Delaware

This is a self-guided walking tour of final resting places for just a few of the hundreds that were laid to rest in this churchyard. Some made numerous and notable contributions to our community, our city, our state, the nation and the world. The tour is numbered and begins outside the main entrance of the church, travels off to the right then behind the building and around to the other side, concluding on the opposite side.

1. Dr. William G.A. Bonwill (1833-1899) Dentist, inventor of the electromagnetic dental mallet.
This is the tallest and one of the most prominent monuments in the cemetery.
2. John Banning (1739-1791) Prominent Merchant, Private in the Dover Light Infantry, 1776.
Also served as an Issuing Commissary (rations) for the Delaware Regiment 1782-1783.
3. Vincent Loockerman (1720-1785) Prominent Merchant, Single largest Dover landowner of his time. An unrivaled collector of Delaware and Philadelphia-made furniture of the 18th century. Served in the State legislature for over twenty years. His home, just across Water St. at 419 S. State, is still in family hands.
4. James Frank Alee (1875-1938) U.S. Senator from the State of Delaware, 1903-1907.
5. Captain Thomas Benson (1723-1748) Sea Captain, the oldest recorded and marked grave in the cemetery.
6. Nicholas Ridgely (1762-1830) Chancellor of the State of Delaware 1801-1830, statesman, jurist,
he laid the foundations for Delaware's prominence in business law which are still in practice today.
7. Mary Inglis (? -1764) Wife of the Rev. Charles Inglis, Rector of Christ Church (1759-1764) she died while giving birth to twin girls, one of which, daughter Mary, who died 29 days after birth is interred here with her.
8. Mabel Lloyd Ridgely (1872-1962) Historian, Suffragette and founder of Old Dover Days. She was instrumental in saving the old state house from demolition, and founding the Delaware State Archives.
9. Captain William Phillips (1691-1749) Sea Captain, his headstone is embedded in the East Wall of the church foundation underneath the large chancel window. (Back wall of the church, under large window)
10. Henry Moore Ridgely (1779-1847) U. S. Congressman 1811-1815
11. John Vining (1758-1802) Delaware's first U.S. Congressman, 1789-1793. He also served as U.S. Senator 1793-1798. His remains rest in an unmarked grave.
12. James Sykes (1725-1792) Member of the Delaware Constitutional Convention, 1796.
Succeeded Caesar Rodney as member of the Continental Congress of 1776.
13. James Sykes the younger (1761-1822) Governor of Delaware, 1801-1802. Served six terms in the Delaware State Senate and twice elected Speaker of the State. His remains rest in an unmarked grave near his father.
14. Elizabeth Clarke Churchman (1844-1918) Historic preservationist and founding Regent of the Delaware Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. (D.A.R.)

15. Richard Roland Kenney (1856-1931) U.S. Senator, 1897-1903.
16. Major General William Henry Sterling (1828-1918) Major General in the U.S. Army, 1861-1870; Military Advisor to the Governor of New Jersey, 1878-1891.
17. William Duhamel Denny (1873-1953) Governor of Delaware, 1921-1925.
18. George P. Fisher (1817-1899) U.S. Congressman, 1861-1863. Along with President Abraham Lincoln, developed a plan for a Federal Buyout of Delaware slaveholders which failed in the Delaware State Assembly. Associate Judge for the District of Columbia, 1863-1878. Organizer of the First Delaware Calvary of the Civil War.
19. William Henry Boyce (1855-1942) U.S. Congressman from Delaware 1923-1925.
20. Major General James Kirk (1890-1972) Served in World Wars I & II. Officer in Charge of the Small Arms Ammunition Factory at the Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, PA as well as Small Arms Procurement Officer for the U.S. Army. (flat stone, marked with American flag)
21. Charles Layman Terry (1900-1970) Jurist, Statesman, Chief Justice of Delaware, 1963-1964. Governor of The State of Delaware, 1965-1969.
22. Willard Saulsbury, Sr. (1820-1892) Delaware Attorney General, 1850-1855. U.S. Senator, 1859-1871.
23. Willard Saulsbury, Jr. (1861-1927) U.S. Senator, 1913-1919.
24. William Heyl Thompson (1892-1974) Prominent Philadelphia architect, designed several significant buildings and institutions in Dover including this church's Parish Hall (1947), the Presbyterian church, the Murphey School, and a number of homes in the area. Also well known for designing the Tomb of Father & Mother Divine, Founder of the Circle Peace Mission in Bala Cynwyd, PA.
25. J. Frank Mancha (1840-1881) Philanthropist, Real Estate Developer who, in 1879, planned and marketed The Manor of Claremont on the James River in Virginia which is known as the Claremont Colony.
26. Caesar Rodney (1728-1784) Patriot & Statesman, Signer of the Declaration of Independence. A life-long member and long-time Vestryman of this church who also served as a Senior Warden. Rodney served in almost every capacity from Governor to Sheriff of Kent County, DE. He is most famous for his ride on horseback to Philadelphia in 1776 to cast the deciding vote for independence. While this monument stands here in his memory, historians are unsure whether or not he is actually buried here. Remains from the family burial plot were removed from the ancestral farm; "Byfield" located several miles to the east, and reinterred here. It is unclear whether they are the remains of Caesar Rodney or those of another family member.

Additional historical information is available on our website:

www.ChristChurchDover.org

Christ Episcopal Church P.O. Box 1374 Dover, DE 19903

WATER STREET

