



Historic

CHRIST CHURCH





A LEGACY • A CHURCH • A LANDMARK • A MUSEUM • A LIBRARY • A FOUNDATION

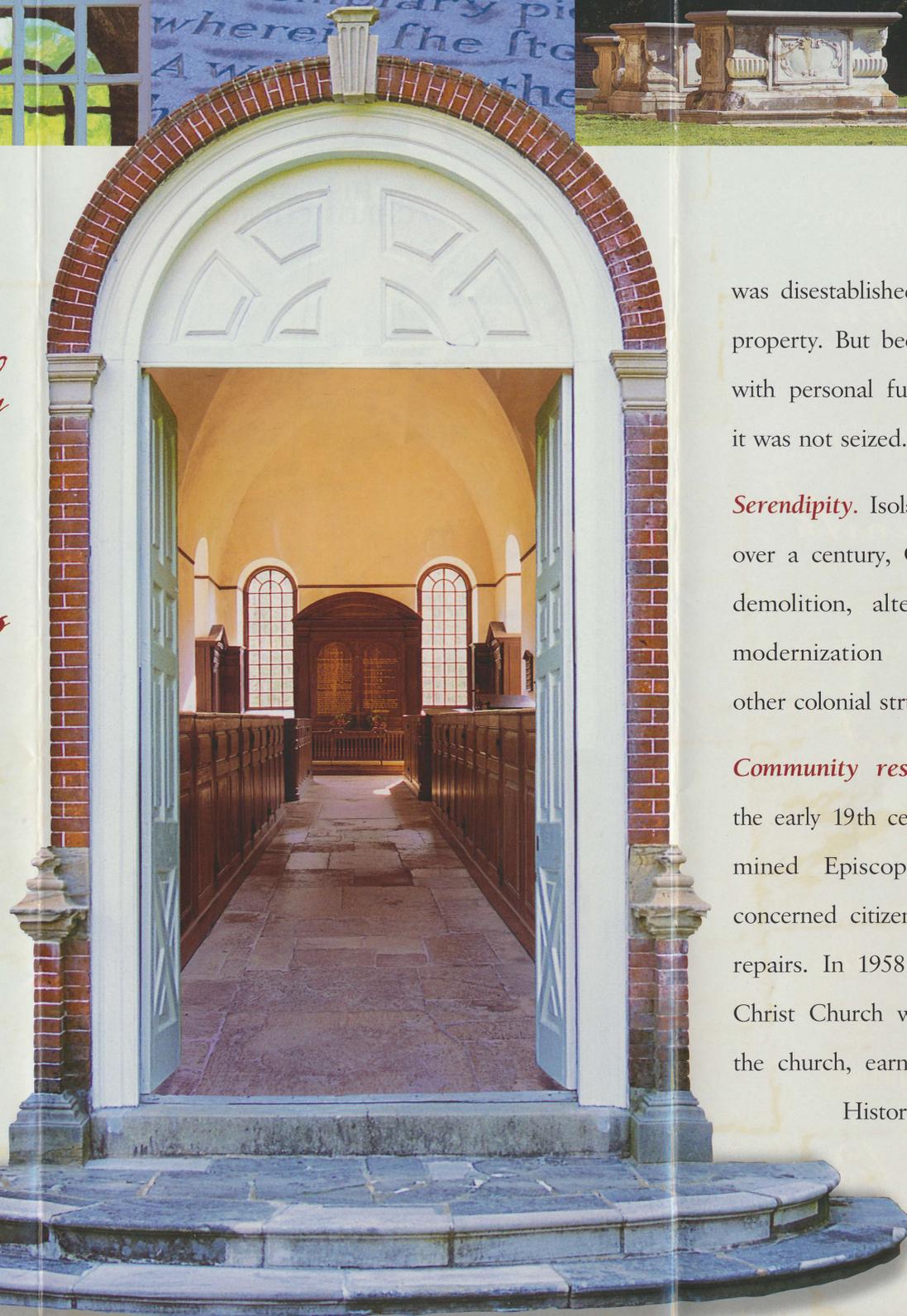


"Provided with extensive wealth worthily acquired, he erected at his own expense this sacred building as a great monument of devoted duty towards God."



— Translation of Latin inscription on Robert "King" Carter's tomb, 1663-1732

Robert "King" Carter was one

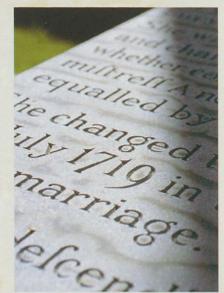


was disestablished and the state confiscated its property. But because Christ Church was built with personal funds on privately owned land, it was not seized.

Serendipity. Isolated and infrequently used for over a century, Christ Church was spared the demolition, alteration and modernization that befell other colonial structures.

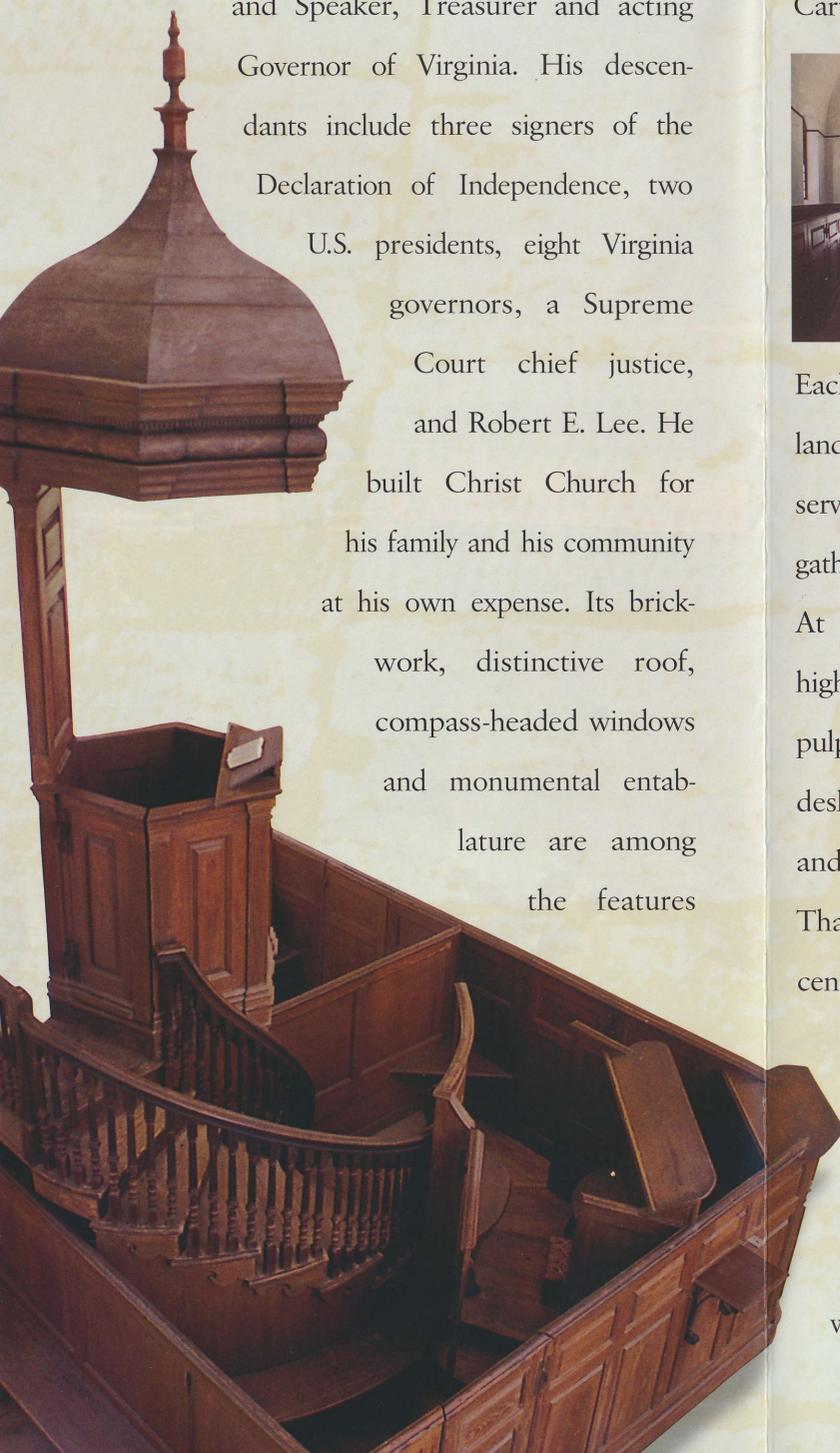
Community resolve. From the early 19th century, determined Episcopalians, preservationists and concerned citizens undertook patch and mend repairs. In 1958 the Foundation for Historic Christ Church was formed and fully restored the church, earning designation as a National

Historic Landmark in 1961. Today the foundation carries out its stewardship of the Carter legacy through preservation, research and



of colonial Virginia's most prominent citizens.

He was a member of the House of Burgesses and Speaker, Treasurer and acting Governor of Virginia. His descendants include three signers of the Declaration of Independence, two U.S. presidents, eight Virginia governors, a Supreme Court chief justice, and Robert E. Lee. He built Christ Church for his family and his community at his own expense. Its brickwork, distinctive roof, compass-headed windows and monumental entablature are among the features



that make Christ Church one of the most important examples of Georgian architecture in America. Robert Carter died in 1732, three years before his "new brick church" was completed.



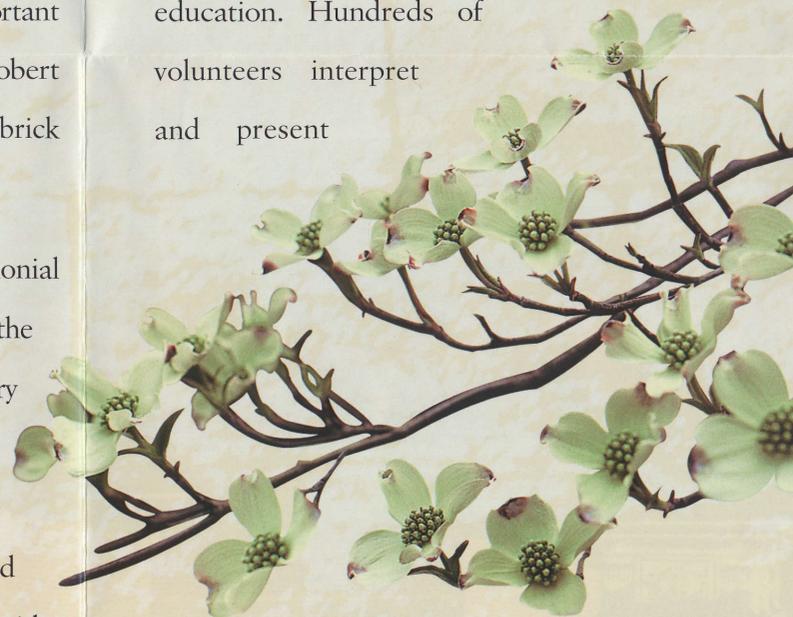
The parish was the center of colonial life in Virginia. Membership in the Church of England was obligatory and attendance mandatory.

Each parish had its own house of worship where landed gentry, middling farmers, tenants, indentured servants and slaves from the surrounding countryside gathered weekly to worship, exchange news and socialize. At Christ Church, the congregation looked up from high-backed, wainscoted box pews to a rare triple deck pulpit. A clerk made announcements from its lower desk. The minister read the service from the center one and delivered the sermon from the top level. That Christ Church stands unchanged centuries later is due to many factors.

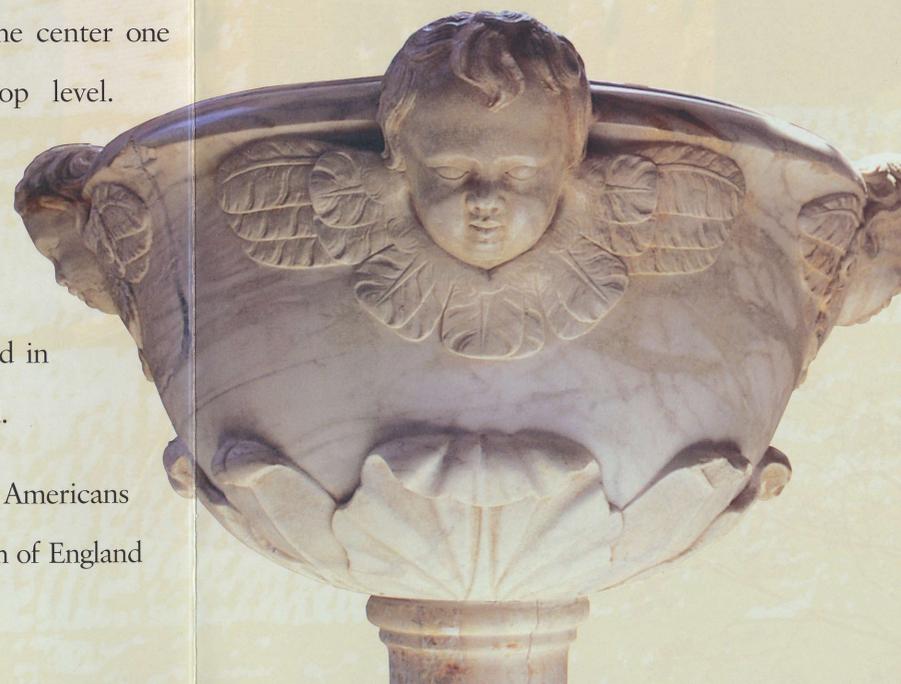
Construction. The half million bricks it took to build Christ Church were fired in at least three kilns near the churchyard.

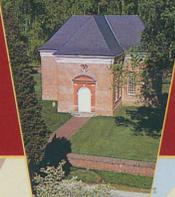
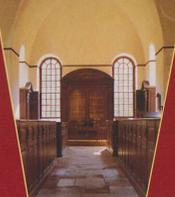
History. After the revolutionary war, Americans were free to worship anywhere. The Church of England

education. Hundreds of volunteers interpret and present



the history of the parish and its people through guided tours, public lectures, museum exhibits, hands-on school programs, a genealogy database and publications. *Won't you join us?*





CHRIST CHURCH HAS A HISTORY

"A place where

OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

heaven and earth

PARISHIONERS & PRESERVATIONISTS.

never agreed

ARCHITECTS & ARCHEOLOGISTS.

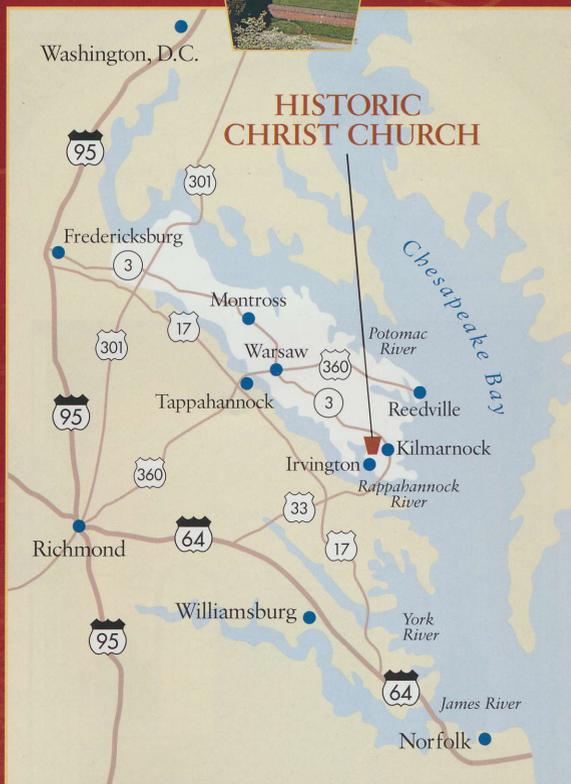
better to frame

SCHOLARS & SCHOOLCHILDREN.

man's habitation."

— JOHN SMITH

Speaking of Virginia's Northern Neck



Welcome to Historic Christ Church!
Located at 420 Christ Church Road
Weems, Virginia 22576

All New Museum, Gift Shop and Guided Tours:
April 1st–November 30th
Monday–Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
A \$5 donation per adult is requested.

Worship services: Sundays at 8 a.m.,
Memorial Day to Labor Day.

To arrange for group tours (8 or more persons)
or access to the church please contact the office
Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Closed Thanksgiving Day and from
Christmas Eve through New Year's Day)

For more information, or to support the preservation
of Historic Christ Church, please contact:

**THE FOUNDATION FOR
HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH, INC.**

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(804)438-6855

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