

## New York Times ad notes Episcopal Church history and mission

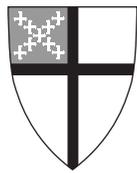


The op-ed page of May 12 editions of *The New York Times* carried the display ad to the right, marking the beginnings, 400 years ago, of the Jamestown Colony and the Episcopal Church's heritage and mission in North America.

You may use the ad locally in parish newsletters and bulletins, on websites and in other creative ways.

Thanks to *Episcopal Life Online* for the ad and the artwork. Both may be downloaded for your use.

[www.episcopalchurch.org/ens](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ens)



## The Episcopal Church Marking a Milestone, Moving Forward

Somewhere near you, there's a blue-and-white sign bearing the familiar slogan: *The Episcopal Church Welcomes You*. It represents some 7,400 congregations that trace their beginnings in North America to a small but hopeful group of English Christians who arrived May 14, 1607 at a place they called Jamestown — the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

You may know us as Washington's monumental National Cathedral, site of historic services and ceremonies, or the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, still unfinished, but already the largest cathedral in the world.

But the Episcopal Church is also Boston's Old North Church, founded in 1723 and made famous by serving as the beacon for Paul Revere's revolution-spurring "midnight ride." And Philadelphia's Christ Church, home parish of 15 signers of the Declaration of Independence, host to the first General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1785.

It's Trinity Parish on Wall Street in New York, formed in 1698, and St. Paul's Chapel just down the street, frequented by George Washington and the spiritual healing center of Ground Zero since September 11, 2001.

It's also Epiphany Church in Los Angeles, where Cesar Chavez rallied the United Farmworkers. And Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland, Maryland, whose basement was a major stop on the Underground Railroad to freedom for enslaved African-Americans. And St. John's Church in Greenwich Village, a meeting place for gay and lesbian action following the 1969 Stonewall uprising.

It's a parish in Iowa. A campus ministry in Georgia. A mission in *Dinétaah* — the Navajo Reservation. A cathedral in Utah. Even a house church in Vermont.

Wherever you find us, you'll find the *Book of Common Prayer* and a Christian faith that honors and engages the Bible, the tradition of the Church, and God-given human reason.

Joined in prayer, you'll find people with many points of view — Christians who are progressive, moderate, and conservative — yet who value the diversity of their faith community.

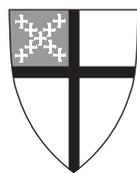
That's a heritage drawn from our deep roots in nearly 2,000 years of English Christianity, and shared by a worldwide Anglican Communion that unites nearly 80 million people in 164 countries through prayer and ministries committed to caring for "the least of these," as Jesus commanded, by reducing poverty, disease, and oppression.

Episcopalians struggle with the same issues that trouble all people of faith: how to interpret an ancient faith for today... how to maintain the integrity of tradition while reaching out to a hurting world... how to disagree and yet love and respect one another.

Occasionally those struggles make the news. People find they can no longer walk with us on their journey, and may be called to a different spiritual home. Some later make their way back, and find they are welcomed with open arms.

Despite the headlines, the Episcopal Church keeps moving forward in mission — in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, as well as congregations in Belgium, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guam, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Taiwan, Venezuela, and the Virgin Islands. We're committed to a transformed world, as Jesus taught: a world of justice, peace, wholeness, and holy living.

We've grown a lot in 400 years, since that 1607 worship service from the *Book of Common Prayer* was held in Jamestown — inside and out. Come see for yourself. Come and visit... come and explore... *come and grow*.



## The Episcopal Church welcomes you

[www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)  
[www.comeandgrow.org](http://www.comeandgrow.org)

## Margaret Merrell was first woman to serve as rector in Diocese of Bethlehem

**A Memorial Service for The Rev. Margaret Merrell, a priest of the Diocese of Bethlehem who died on April 16, will be held on Saturday, June 2, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church, Susquehanna.**

A pioneering woman Marine and Episcopal priest, Margaret served as rector of Susquehanna Country Ministry (Christ Church, Susquehanna and St. Mark's, New Milford) from 1979 to the mid '90s. She was the first woman to serve as a rector in the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Prior to her illness a few years ago, she continued to serve as organist at Christ Church.

After some 20 years of faithful service to the Episcopal Church as a layperson, Margaret was ordained a deacon in 1973 and a priest in 1977 in Wyoming. She was the first woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest in the state of Wyoming.

After volunteer work in her home parish of St. Paul's in Montrose, she went to Fort Yukon, Alaska, in 1956, as secretary-treasurer for an Episcopal Church-operated hospital, and later spent seven years in Fairbanks as secretary to the bishop of Alaska.

Margaret accepted a call in 1966 to St. Michael's Mission on the Wind River Indian Reservation in the Diocese of Wyoming as a lay missionary. She was ordained a

deacon while serving in Wyoming and named vicar-in-charge of the Shoshone Episcopal Mission, Fort Washakie, to continue her ministry with the Shoshone and Arapahoe Indians who shared the reservation.

She graduated from the Eastman School of Music during World War II with a bachelor's degree. She was an accomplished clarinetist and organist. After her graduation, she was one of the first women to enlist in the Marine Corps, where she was assistant leader of the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve Band.

Born Nov. 5, 1921, in Buffalo, N.Y., Margaret spent most of her early years in Susquehanna County. She was the grand-

daughter of the late Dr. Albert Merrell, formerly of Hallstead, and the daughter of the late Albert Lynn and Ruth Merrell, formerly of Montrose.

She is survived by many cousins. She was also preceded in death by a brother, Richard Churchill Merrell, during World War II.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund at Christ Church, P.O. Box 222, West Main St., Susquehanna, 18847; the Memorial Fund at St. Mark's Church, P.O. Box 406, New Milford, 18834; or, the ASPCA, Humane Society of Susquehanna County, P.O. Box 485, Montrose, 18801.