



Gloucester Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

6382 Main Street

Gloucester, Va. 23061

804.693.5730 • www.gloucesterva.info

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Quinton Sheppard

qsheppard@gloucesterva.info

Gloucester County Announces 2022 Commemorative Ornament Featuring Historic Abingdon Episcopal Church

Gloucester County's 2022 commemorative ornament featuring historic Abingdon Episcopal Church is now available. For the past 24 years, the Gloucester County Historical Committee has chosen a historic location, person, or event to commemorate with a keepsake ornament. The ornament may be purchased for \$18.00 at the Gloucester Visitor Center, Gloucester County Library, Museum of History, and Treasurer's Office. Custom-made in the United States, the ornament is a limited edition with only 250 having been produced.

"We are excited to feature Abingdon Church this year because it is one of the oldest and most beautiful historic buildings in our community," Gloucester County Tourism Coordinator Susan Ammons said. Abingdon Parish was established in 1651, its name is derived from the home of the local colonists who emigrated from Abingdon, England.

The current church building was constructed in 1755 on land donated by Colonel Augustine Warner, the maternal grandfather of George Washington. During the Civil War, the church was badly damaged by Union troops. Numerous repairs were made to the building following the war that included new pews, floors, and a new pulpit. Another major restoration took place during the 1980s to try and bring the church back to its original appearance. Today, Abingdon's property covers 143 acres and includes two buildings plus a walled cemetery.

"The Abingdon congregation remains very active, and the historic church building is a tourism destination in Gloucester," said Ammons.

