

# A Timeline History of St. Andrew's Chapel with Information Sources



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Woodberry Forest School  
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## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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9/25/2018

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1904

**event Back annex to Main Building was added -dining hall and assembly hall - chapel was held in the assembly hall**

**detail** "By 1903 it became evident that the time had come for the erection of an annex to what was to be called the Main Building."

"...the Walker Building outgrew itself in five years. By 1904 its central section was extended toward the north to enlarge the dining room."

"On the second floor of this annex, over the dining room, was the assembly hall, with a raised "stage" and a curtain. For the first time, there was a place for plays."

"The public hall, which also does service as a school chapel..."



**source(s)** 1905 Catalogue, p 11 (photos after p 9 and p 10)

JGW III-2; JCW letter reference "under construction in summer of 1904"

1912

**event A chapel is built through the efforts of Rev. Karl M. Block, Chaplain at Woodberry Forest**

**detail** Worried that donors might not give money for a private Chapel, Rev. Block gets the school to donate the land upon which the Chapel is to be built to the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. The land is never consecrated, however, and after Woodberry ceases to be a family business in 1926, the Diocese returns the land to the school. The money for the Chapel comes from money raised by the "Missionary Society" under the direction of Karl Block

The Boys' Chapel is ready after the opening of the 1912-1913 session. It is formally named St. Andrew's Chapel with an original seating capacity of 220.



Upon its opening, the most singular feature of the Chapel is the Alfred Bransford Memorial altar, presented by Mrs. John F. Bransford of Augusta, Georgia in memory of her son Alfred Baker Bransford, a 1911 graduate of Woodberry Forest who had drowned on August 24, 1911, a few weeks after his graduation. The reredos, also of Carrara marble--was hung on the wall just behind the altar.

**source(s)** Oracle Nov. 1914, Vol 13 No.1; Alumni Bulletin 1956 p 8; A Venture in Faith, p. 52

Woodberry Forest Catalogue, 1912-13 p 9; WFS Catalogue 1911-12, p.11

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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1912

**event Boys' Chapel is ready during December of the 1912-1913 session. It is formally named St. Andrew's Chapel with an original seating capacity of 220.**

**detail**



*From the Oracle Nov. 1914: "Finally, the contracts were awarded and the work was begun in the spring of nineteen hundred and twelve. No cornerstone was laid and the work continued until the following December. During this time the assembly hall was used as a chapel as in previous years." and... "The first service was held in the chapel about the middle of December, but it was not until the following March that the beautiful altar was dedicated."*

*Upon its opening, the most singular feature of the Chapel is the Alfred Bransford Memorial altar, presented by Mrs. John F. Bransford of Augusta, Georgia in memory of her son Alfred Baker Bransford, a 1911 graduate of Woodberry Forest who had drowned on August 24, 1911, a few weeks after his graduation. The reredos, also of Carrara marble--a high-relief depiction of the Last Supper,--was hung on the wall just behind the altar.*

*From the 1911-12 school catalogue: "A Boys' Chapel is in course of construction and will be ready for occupancy by the opening of the session of 1912-13. It is being built under the direction of the Missionary Society of the School with the aid of interested friends, and will be a permanent contribution to the religious life of the School. It is to be Georgian in style, and will harmonize in a general way with the other School buildings. The Chapel will be dedicated exclusively to the uses of worship, and will enshrine the memory of those of the School community who have died and whose lives are a source of inspiration and of pride to every boy at Woodberry Forest." and from the 1912-13 school catalogue: "During the summer and autumn of 1912 a beautiful School Chapel was erected at Woodberry Forest by means of funds raised by the boys and the alumni, and by generous gifts from a few interested friends, ...It's most distinctive feature is the handsome memorial altar presented by Mrs. John F. Bransford, of Augusta, Georgia, in memory of her son, Alfred Baker Bransford, who lost his life in the James River on August 24, 1911, only a few weeks after he had graduated from Woodberry Forest at the head of his class. He gave his life in an heroic but futile effort to save his brother from drowning."*

*From A Venture In Faith, p. 52:*

*The Chapel was built in 1912-1913 [Chapel was built during Summer and Fall 1912, and ready for use in 1912-13 school session]. The altar [which depicts the Last Supper], carved in Italy of Carrara marble, was given by Mrs. John F. Bransford in memory of her son, Alfred, who graduated from Woodberry in 1911 and lost his life later that summer in a vain effort to save his younger brother from drowning [in the James River].*

*"a beautiful School Chapel was erected at Woodberry Forest by means of funds raised by the boys and the alumni, and by generous gifts from a few interested friends."*

**source (s)** Oracle Nov. 1914, Vol 13 No.1; A Venture in Faith, p.52; WFS Catalogue 1911-12 p. 11  
1912-13 WFS Catalogue p. 9 - St. Andrew's Chapel

1912

**event Mrs. John F. Bransford donates an altar and reredos.**

**detail**



*The altar is given in memory of Mrs. Bransford's son, Alfred Baker Bransford, a 1911 graduate of Woodberry, died on August 24, 1911 while attempting to save his brother from drowning in the James River in the weeks shortly after his graduation, it is dedicated on March 30.*

*The altar is placed against the rear wall of the chancel, with the reredos just above it on the wall. The front of the altar consists of three panels between pilasters. The Jerusalem cross is carved on the center panel.*

*The reredos is a high relief sculpture depicting the Last Supper after the style of Leonardo's famous work. The re-table bears the inscription, "Do This in Remembrance of Me" in gold mosaic*

*From the Oracle Nov. 1914: ... "The first service was held in the chapel about the middle of December, but it was not until the following March that the beautiful altar was dedicated."*

**source (s)** Woodberry Forest Catalog 1912-13 p 9  
Oracle Nov. 1914, Vol 13 No.1

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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1922

**event A tablet memorializing the alumni who died in the First World War is dedicated on April 30 during an evening service.**

**detail**



*The tablet was dedicated during an all-school assembly at 7:30 in the evening of April 30, 1922*

*Presented by Mr. Archibald G. Robertson, acceptance Mr. M. A. Turner*

*Dedication of the Memorial Tablet by the Chaplain R. Stanley Litsinger*

*Presented by the Alumni*

*source (s)* the service of dedication program, 1921-22 Yearly file

1923

**event More pews are added to accommodate larger student body, without enlarging the Chapel itself**

**detail** *solving the space problem temporarily in the Chapel was accomplished by "lessening the distance between pews and introducing two new ones. The arrangement proved quite satisfactory to all and may become permanent."*

*It is interesting to note the first indications of what would become the great problem to be overcome in expanding the chapel later: the altar. "It was the plan to enlarge the school chapel also, but a great difficulty was encountered in the moving of the marble altar."*

*source (s)* Oracle, 10/4/23

1924

**event Chapel Council votes to procure organ for chapel**

**detail** *Chapel council votes to move forward in the procurement of an Estey pipe organ.*

*"...if we can put this program over, we will undoubtedly have one of the best school chapels in the South."*

*source (s)* Oracle 3/6/24

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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1926

*event* **Balconies are enlarged in gym and chapel**

*detail* "Due to the fact that a new cottage has been built, the capacity of the school has been increased to 200 boys, decidedly more than ever before. In order to accommodate the increased enrollment, numerous improvements had to be made around school, notably, the enlargement of the balconies in the chapel and gymnasium."

*source (s)* Oracle 11/4/26

1927

*event* **6th Form gift - Gate posts for St. Andrew's Chapel**

*detail* Although the article from the Oracle which announced the gift made it seem that the gate posts were intended to be for the entrance to the School itself, in fact, they ended up being gate posts for St. Andrew's Chapel:



"In a previous issue of the Oracle it was announced that the Sixth Form Memorial for this year would be a large silver punch bowl to be used at the dances..." "...However, this selection didn't not receive the whole-hearted approval of the sixth form; in fact, it met with such strong opposition and dissatisfaction that the idea had to be abandoned." "...Finally, after much deliberation it was decided that an entrance gate to the school would be the most suitable trophy from every standpoint. The gate is to be placed at the entrance to the Woodberry road." Translated Latin phrase: "Nothing without divine aid."

Note that the chapel walkway and columns were redone during late summer/September 2015. The brick walk no longer has steps up into the chapel. Another walkway leads off to the side, to the Columbarium.

*source (s)* Oracle 5/12/27

1929

*event* **6th Form gift -Sun Dial by chapel**

*detail* "In a meeting last Monday night, this year's sixth form decided upon a sun dial for their gift to the School." "The sun dial is to be placed either above or below the chapel. It is to be erected upon a marble pedestal and is to face the mountains to the west."



*source (s)* Oracle 4/12/29 p 1

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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9/25/2018

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1929

**event** St. Andrew's Chapel is enlarged to a seating capacity of 300 by the insertion of a 36 foot section in the nave.

**detail** *The only way to enlarge the Chapel is to actually cut it in half, separating the chancel from the nave, and then to pull the nave some 36 feet to create the necessary space. Mr. Joseph Walker oversees this project, having wooden rails built under the structure to allow a mule to pull the chancel the required distance. It is said that he placed a glass of water on the altar to make sure that the building was not harmed by the movement.*

*"...the King lumber company is apparently succeeding rapidly in every detail. It was necessary first, to cut holes for the support of the large beams which bore the weight of the building. The foundations were cut away and the weight of the chancel placed on jacks.*

*Meanwhile, a bed for the new foundation was being dug, forty-two feet back of its original position. Then the Chapel was severed between the Chancel and the nave, thus leaving the Chancel free to be moved. As a smooth base for moving, four tracks were constructed. Metal-covered beams were placed under the chancel in such a position as to be directly over the tracks, and to provide a hard, smooth sliding place for the rollers.*

*The Chancel was rolled back to its final position with the help of a winch and iron rollers, and after rebuilding the foundation the only task left to be done is to fill in the gap between the Chancel and the nave, and furnish the interior."*

*"After four months of steady work and at a cost of approximately \$13,000 the enlargement of St. Andrew's Chapel was realized a little while before the opening of school."*

**source (s)** A Venture in Faith p 53, Oracle 4/12/29 p1, 5/18/29, 10/11/29

JGW IV-11, Alumni Bulletin Winter 89 p 11

1932

**event** A pipe organ replaces the original reed organ in St. Andrew's Chapel

**detail** *the new pipe organ is secured through sponsorship and solicitation of funds headed by Bill Minor, editor-in-chief of the Oracle*

*"After careful selection, Mr. Lord has contracted for an organ with the Hillgreen-Lane Company of Alliance, Ohio. It is felt that a very satisfactory agreement has been made and that a suitable organ has been procured.*

*"The work is expected to be finished about the middle of August, and the organ will be in readiness for the Fall opening of School."*

**source (s)** Alumni Bulletin 1956 p 8

Oracle, 5/30/32

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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1932

**event** St. Andrew's Chapel is saved from an early morning fire.

**detail** Fire trucks arrive and put the fire out aided by water pumped from the old indoor swimming pool located in the basement of the Walker Building.

The fire is discovered by the night watchman, Mr. Morrell, where it is burning directly over the altar, after he checks on a light, which he had thought was simply as a result of someone playing the organ. He discovered a post near the chancel burning.

Mr. Mercer and Mr. Joseph Walker save several sacred items as well as the pulpit and a few front pews before the fire trucks arrive at about 4:30 am.

April 15, 1932, (Used in 1932 display for Reunion June 2002) Note from the 1931-1932 school year file: "Early this month the Woodberry Forest School had a fire in their chapel. The damage was fairly small, rural fires being what they are, but the next day the Richmond Times Dispatch carried a yarn 354 words long. The conflagration was described in exactly 152 words, while 202 words related the complete history of the school, summarized its equipment and tacked on its football schedule!"

What, no list of students From RING-TUM PHI (Washington and Lee) April 15, 1932.

**source (s)** Oracle, 4/8/32 ; Magazine and Journal, Winter 89 p 11, JGW IV-11

RING-TUM PHI (Washington and Lee) April 15, 1932.

1933

**event** 6th Form gift - Placard in memory of Mr. Douglas W. Neff

**detail** "After due consideration, the Sixth Form has decided to place in the Chapel a placard to the memory of Mr. Douglas William Neff, our late chaplain. The presentation of the memorial is to take place during finals...and will be held in the Chapel."



**source (s)** Oracle 5/19/33

1936

**event** Commencement exercises are first held on the east side of the Chapel.

**detail** "In June a platform is erected at the side of the Chapel and the graduation exercises are held on the lawn under the shade of the massive oaks with the Blue Ridge mountains offering a lovely vista when one tires of watching the proceedings. This practice was begun in 1936 and, most fortunately, has never been "rained out". "



Through 1956, at least, Commencement had never been rained out!

Commencement is held on the east side of the Chapel until the spring of 1981

**source (s)** Alumni Bulletin, 1956 article by Mr. Lord, p. 9

Magazine and Journal, summer 1981 p 13

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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- 1936**    *event*    **The three-paneled stained glass window in memory of the School's founders, Captain and Mrs. Robert Stringfellow Walker, is installed above the reredos of altar.**  
*detail*    *The window is created by D'Ascenzo Studios of Philadelphia. It is a triptych, the center panel depicting Christ, the left St. Andrew and the right St. Peter.*



*source (s)* Oracle 10/8/36 p 1

- 1941**    *event*    **Board of Trustees votes to assume Chapel debt**  
*detail*    *"On Saturday, April 19, the board of trustees held one of its two yearly meetings...questions important to everyone at Woodberry were discussed.*  
*"Perhaps the most important of these was the question about the transfer of the chapel. The board voted to take over the debt obligation of the chapel and take the necessary legal steps for this transfer. In no way does this move change the relationship of the chapel and the boys".*

*source (s)* Oracle 4/26/41

- 1950**    *event*    **Two Stained Glass Windows installed in Chapel in memory of Mrs. J. Carter Walker and Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, are dedicated on May 12, 1950**  
*detail*    *Windows done by the same studio that produced the original triptych: D'Ascenzo studios of Philadelphia*  
*Mrs. J. Carter Walker's window is of St. Cecilia*  
*Mrs. Joseph G. Walker's window is of a woman with lilies*  
*They are installed in the left part of the chancel and sanctuary, around the corner from each other*



*source (s)* Alumni Bulletin 1950 p 47

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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1951

**event      Gifts to Chapel**

- detail** "The Rev. Charles Duell Kean, '25, presented to the Chapel a new edition of the Book of Common Prayer, for use at the Altar.  
"Mr. Henry W. Mattfield, a Master at Woodberry Forest since 1942, has presented to the Chapel two new sets of Altar Vestments, in memory of his mother, who died in January 1951. The vestments include two sets of burse and veil, one in violet and one in green, and a new green superfrontal  
"A number of Prayer Books have been presented to the Chapel by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley D. Petter of Paducah, Ky. whose two sons, Stanley D., Jr., and Robert P., are students at the School"

*source (s)* Alumni Bulletin, 1951 p 29

1952

**event      First woman preaches in St. Andrew's Chapel**

- detail** "It is of interest to note that Mrs. Lyman (Dr. Mary Ely Lyman of Union Theological Seminary, New York City, N.Y.) is the first woman to have preached at St. Andrew's Chapel, and we are happy that we have had such a distinguished theologian and preacher as our guest."

*source (s)* Alumni Bulletin, 1952 p. 18 (Mattfield)

1953

**event      Pulpit Bible and altar linens are given to St. Andrew's Chapel**

- detail** "A pulpit Bible is the latest gift to St. Andrew's Chapel and was made recently by the Rev. Beverley Tucker White, an alumnus of the school and father of two Woodberry boys. Mr. White gave the Bible, which is a handsome leather-bound copy of the Revised Standard version, in memory of Marguerite Alden Walker, who died in March 1953. She was the wife of John Scott Walker, one of the founders of the school. Mr. Burke will bless the Bible at one of the services tomorrow in the chapel.  
"Also given in Mrs. Walker's memory recently is a silver lavabo which is one of the vessels used in the celebration of the Holy Communion."

" Various new altar linens were also added, gifts from Dr. and Mrs. Tucker and Mr. N.R. Ruffin."

*source (s)* Oracle 9/26/53

Alumni Bulletin 1953, p 16

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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**1953****event Six new hanging lamps in the Chapel are hung, lighting improved**

**detail** "Quite a long while ago the lights in the chapel directly above the aisle were considerably lower where they afforded much more light, but in this position they were inconvenient and annoying, not only to the minister, but also to the congregation. Then they were raised, and since that time the lighting has been extremely inadequate, especially in the rear under the overhanging balcony.

"The necessity was for more and better lights so they retained the Godwin-Holstead Electric Company of Charlottesville to do the job--this firm being considered one of the best in the field of religious lighting in this area. For a finished and sufficient task complete rewiring was necessary; since November they have been working on the project, but it will be several more weeks before it will be completed. Two recessed lights under the balcony have been installed, improved lighting upstairs, and special lights in the chancel or the benefit of the minister and choir; beautiful new Gothic type lanterns are to hang from the apex."

*also reported in a caption of a photo of Sunday evening service in AB 1955*

*The glass in these lamps will be replaced by stained glass by J. Gilbert Somers in 1989*

**source (s)** Alumni Bulletin 1955, p 36

Oracle 11/24/53

**1955****event Eucharistic Candles are given to the Chapel by Colonel Allen Goodwyn, '18**

**detail** Consecrated by School Chaplain, Reverend Estes, on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1955

Antique, one and one-half feet high, inscribed, "St. Andrew's Chapel, Woodberry Forest School, -- given by A. Goodwyn 1918, LUX AETERNA NOBISCUM

**source (s)** Oracle, 4/18/55 p 1

**1961****event A provision of J. Carter Walker's will provides for a new Allen electronic organ to be installed in the Chapel.**

**detail** The organ is given in memory of J. Carter Walker's wife, Harry Hurt Walker, who was the first organist of the school. Note that the plaque and dedication program name her inaccurately as "Harriet", instead of her actual name, Harry. At the time of its installation, it is said to be the largest electronic organ in the state.

The dedicatory plaque for this organ, which was replaced by the Fisk Organ, is in the Archives.

Upon replacing this organ with the Fisk Organ, Woodberry Forest gave/sold it to Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Rapidan.



**source (s)** Alumni Bulletin, 1961 p 9

conversation with Eric Chapin, business manager WFS 8/02/05

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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- 1961    **event** Hand-made needlepoint cushions for the chancel are given to the Chapel by Mrs. James Roemer.

*detail*

*source (s)* Alumni Bulletin 1961 p 9

- 1963    **event** Chapel gets new oil heating system, new red carpet

*detail* "The Chapel gained a new oil heating system and a bright red carpet in the chancel. The floor in the chancel that is not carpeted was restained."

*source (s)* Oracle 9/28/63

- 1964    **event** A stained glass window in memory of E. Austin Turner Jones is dedicated in St. Andrew's chapel on October 4, 1964

*detail* Given in memory of his wife (d.9.30.1962) by Arthur H. Jones.



E. Austin Turner Jones was the daughter of M.A. Turner, longtime French master, in whose name she established a prize for excellence in French. She was also (at the time) the only female graduate of Woodberry Forest, class of 1907. Her wedding to Arthur Howard Jones was the first marriage service performed in St. Andrew's Chapel, on July 1, 1919 (See Bulletin 1935 p.2).

The window was created by D'Ascenzo Studios of Philadelphia, the same artisans that created all other windows in the Chapel to this time (confirmed through correspondence concerning the later window for Arthur Jones which will be done four years later. Cost was \$1600.

It is noted in the Chapel dedication bulletin that Austin Turner had given to the the Chapel "a handsome set of alms basins which are used in almost every service" in memory of her father, Mortimer Turner and mother, Rosa Goss Turner of Somerset.

Mr. Jones lived to see the window installed, but died in August before it was dedicated in October.

See also Oracle 10.6.1962 front page

*source (s)* Alumni Bulletin Fall 1964 p 1; 1964 Chapel bulletin; Alumni Bulletin 1935, p. 2 (re:wedding)

Headmaster papers, correspondence March-July 1967

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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9/25/2018

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- 1968      event    A stained glass window in memory of Arthur H. Jones by his family is dedicated in St. Andrew's chapel on September 22, 1968**

*detail*



*Given in memory of Arthur Jones by his family in Baltimore, MD (sisters Nan Jones Ankeney and Ethel Jones Specht and his great niece and nephew Jeannette S. Markell and Charles Markell, III) -- correspondence between Jeannette Markell [Mrs. Robert G. Harper], and A. Baker Duncan and Dr. George Barton, representing Woodberry Forest, and Alfred Bramnick, representing D'Ascenzo Studios is in Headmaster file.*

*The window was created by D'Ascenzo Studios of Philadelphia, which has created all the stained glass in the Chapel to date. The studio projected the completion of the window to be January, 1968, if not sooner. Cost, \$1800. The record of window dedication is the Chapel bulletin, September 22, 1968 2:30 p.m.: Service of Dedication [for] The Arthur Howard Jones Memorial Window.*

*In its description of St. Andrew's Chapel, the 1969 catalogue states that "a fifth one [window] has been given in memory of Mr. Jones by his family of Baltimore, Md.,"*

*source(s)* Headmaster papers, correspondence March-July 1967

1968 Chapel bulletin; 1969-70 Catalogue

- 1969      event    A carillon system is installed in St. Andrew's Chapel and dedicated to Mr. Ely J. Perry of Kinston, NC.**

*detail*

*the dedication was a part of class reunion activities on Saturday, May 10, 1969*

*"As part of class reunion activities on Saturday, May 10, the new carillon system which had been installed in St. Andrew's chapel as a memorial to the late Mr. Ely J. Perry of Kinston, NC, was dedicated."*

*source(s)* Alumni Bulletin, Summer 1969 p 3

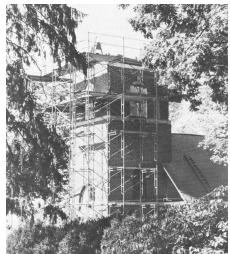
- 1980      event    The Chapel is enlarged to its present size by the construction of two transepts and the addition of a cupola.**

*detail*

*Originally, thought was given to building a brand-new Chapel, but St. Andrew's is considered to be too beautiful and rich in history to be destroyed. Work is finished in time for the annual Candlelight Service on December 14, 1980.*

*122 new seats are added to the Chapel through this work.*

*More light is let into the chancel area as a result of a cupola which is added as a part of the renovation.*



*source(s)* Magazine and Journal, Winter 89 p12

Alumni Bulletin Summer 86 p 6

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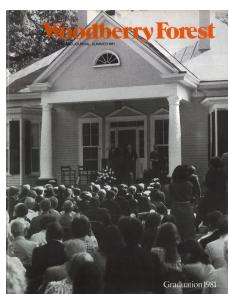
9/25/2018

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1981

**event** **Graduation exercises are first held in front of The Residence, changing the Chapel side location repeated since 1936.**

**detail**



Graduation 1981

... "On Saturday morning at ten o'clock [Sat. May 30, 1981], the final commencement exercises began, and this year they were held in front of the Residence with the front porch serving as the podium for Headmaster Emmett Wright and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Walter G. Dunnington, Jr. '44. The faculty walked in and formed a corridor through which the graduating sixth formers filed on their way to their seats. The school minister, Dr. George Conway, gave the invocation, and the final ceremony was under way."

*source (s)* Magazine and Journal, summer 1981 p 13 and cover

1983

**event** **A plaque to honor the alumni who died in the Korean War and in the Vietnam War (the "Asian Wars") is placed in Chapel.**

**detail**



*source (s)* Magazine and Journal Spring 1983, inside cover

1986

**event** **The Fisk Opus 88 organ, given by Thomas Kenan III, '51, is installed and dedicated in honor of his father, Frank Hawkins Kenan, who was Senior Prefect in 1931 on May 10, 1986.**

**detail** *Because of the installation of the organ, the Bransford Memorial altar is moved off the back wall of the chancel to the front of the sanctuary, the reredos is taken off the wall and installed on the front of the altar, and the Robert S. Walker Memorial Window is moved to the end wall of the east transept, the windows are somewhat reconstructed by J. Gilbert Somers. This work is begun in 1985.*

*"There has been only a small change in the chapel but there are more changes to come. The altar has been moved forward so that it is more visible. Pieces of marble were sent from Italy and hand-carved in Manassas to be added to the existing altar. The stained glass windows are being reconstructed and will be installed in a few months, along with a new organ. This new organ will take six weeks to tune, but should be ready for the Christmas service."*



*source (s)* Magazine and Journal Summer 86 p 4

the Dedication program, Oracle 10/4/85

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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K. Culbertson, Archivist

### 1988      **event      Semans window is dedicated in St. Andrew's Chapel west transept, April, 17, 1988.**

**detail** *The west transept gains a three-paneled stained glass window to honor the eight grandsons of Dr. and Mrs. James H. Semans. It is dedicated on April 17, 1988. The windows were a gift of Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans and her husband Dr. James H. Semans*  
*the windows are placed in the west transept to balance the original memorial triptych to the School's founders, Captain and Mrs. Robert S. Walker, which was moved to the east transept wall when the Fisk Organ was installed*  
*The windows were created and installed by J. Gilbert Somers Studios of Scottsville, Va.*  
*At the time of the installation of the Semans window, Somers expanded the size of the original Memorial window to match the size of the new one. Interestingly, Somers notes that glass from the D'Ascenzo studio, which he purchased when that studio liquidated about 1960, was used to create the expansion of the original window!*



*source (s)* Magazine and Journal, Summer 88, inside cover  
conversation with Mr. Somers, 7/16/07

### 1989      **event      The glass in the hanging lamps in the Chapel is replaced by stained glass by Somers Studios**

**detail** *48 panels of stained glass is installed in the six hanging lamps, "made from a combination of Cathedral glass, Antique glass and faceted glass jewels"*

*source (s)* letter of proposal and quote from J. Gilbert Somers to Emmet Wright, 1/10/89

### 2000      **event      Rear exit door in transept added in 2000.**

**detail** *The rear left exit door (facing the pulpit) and the steel stairway was done in 2000 by Bill Taylor a contractor hired by the school*

*source (s)* email confirmation Bob Wood 11/18/2010/kc see Bldgs/Chapel history file/archivist

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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K. Culbertson, Archivist

2002

**event** New torches for St. Andrew's Chapel

**detail**



*New torches (wooden standards with brass fittings to hold the glass candle-lanterns) in St. Andrew's Chapel replace the old ones, as a facilities improvement, covered by the Chapel budget. Date verified with Facilities Carpenter, Bob Wood.*

*The old torches were last seen in the back barn, Fall 2009 by archivist and husband, at the time of the antique desk salvaging and restoration.*

*source (s)* email confirmation Bob Wood 11/18/2010/kc see Bldgs/Chapel history file/archivist

2003

**event** 6th Form Gift - Chapel Plaque to Major William Watkins '84, killed during Iraqi War Mar. 2003

**detail**



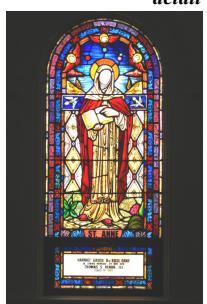
*source (s)*

2005

**event** A stained glass window honoring Harriet Gregg DuBose Gray is given by her son, Thomas S. Kenan, III '55.

**detail** The window depicts St. Anne, mother of Mary.

The window was created and installed by J. Gilbert Somers Studios of Scottsville, VA.  
It is dedicated in a special Saturday morning service on October 15



*source (s)* notes from Headmaster Dennis Campbell

Woodberry Forest magazine and journal fall-winter 2005-06 p 8

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- 2005 event A stained glass window honoring Steven Godfrey Stancill, '74, history teacher and founder of the Woodberry in Scotland program is given by his mother, Phyllis Stancill Pruden and his step-father Peter DeWitt Pruden, Jr.**

**detail**  
*The window depicts St. Columba of Scotland, who brought Christianity to Scotland (finally exiled to isle of Iona). The window was created and installed by J. Gilbert Somers Studios of Scottsville, VA. It is dedicated during the Sunday evening chapel service on October 16, during which the honoree delivered the homily and explained the importance of St. Andrew's Chapel in his life as a student at Woodberry.*



**source (s)** notes from Headmaster Dennis Campbell

Woodberry Forest magazine and journal fall-winter 2005-06 p 8

- 2005 event Two stained glass windows to honor the six sons of J. Carter Walker, are dedicated during the Walker Family reunion Sunday service on June 26.**

**detail**  
*The windows are placed as "bookends" for the other stained glass in the chancel, one on far left, the other on far right. The windows were created by J. Gilbert Somers Studios of Scottsville, VA. On the far left, the window depicts St. George slaying the Dragon. Within the window are symbols for J. Carter Walker (magnifying glass), Joseph Walker (money bag signifying his work as business manager), and John Scott Walker (quadratic equation and symbol for infinity as he taught mathematics). On the far right, the window depicts St. Jerome, the Vulgate translator of the Bible, a great holy scholar. Within the window are symbols for Robert Stringfellow Walker, Jr. (an orange tree since he had to move to California for his health and while there owned orange groves), Frank (who ran Rosni, the family's ancestral farm), and Stuart (the engineering compass since he was an engineer).*



**source (s)** notes from Headmaster Dennis Campbell

the Order of Worship for the Reunion Service and Dedication of the Windows

- 2008 event Gift to Chapel - New Cross in Nave**

**detail**  
*Given by Headmaster Dennis Cambell and wife, Leesa in the [summer of 2008-date to be verified by Dr. Campbell] is the new cross for St. Andrew's Chapel.*



*The cross is given by Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Campbell "in memory of their parents" as a gift to Woodberry the year that Geoff Simpson departed, 2008.*

**source (s)** email confirmation with archivist 11/15/2010/kc. see Bldgs/Chapel history file/archivist

## Timeline details: St. Andrew's Chapel 1912 - 2018

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2009

**event Gift to Chapel - Advent wreath stand**

**detail** *Given by Anthony and Faulkner Sgro in the Fall of 2009 is the stand for the advent wreath for use at the Altar. It is inscribed "Given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for the boys of Woodberry Forest School by Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Sgro"*

*The wreath stand is used during the Christmas season for the traditional large wreath created during decorating time for the Christmas Candlelight service, Lessons and Carols.*

*source (s)* email confirmation with archivist 11/15/2010/kc. see Bldgs/Chapel history file/archivist

2010

**event Air Conditioning renewal for St. Andrew's Chapel**

**detail** *The climate control (air conditioning) is redone in St. Andrew's Chapel as a facilities improvement. Date verified by Facilities Office (as last summer).*

*(archivist's note: A/C units similar to those added in archives during summer 2007 )*

*source (s)* email confirmation request by archivist 11/15/2010/kc.

2011

**event Chapel cupola and roof repaired; Roof repairs on Walker Building "Widow's Walk"**

**detail** *After years of leaking, repairs began on the Chapel roof at the cupola, including replacement of all the cupola windows. Repair work continued into the early months of 2012, performed by restoration company that previously worked on the Residence*

*Roof repairs are also underway on the 'Widow's Walk' area of the Walker Building*



*source (s)* conversations with Mark Beal, Facilities 2.7.2012 and Chaplain Smith 2.8.2012

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2012

**event The Concert Series - The Rev. Wm. Hill Brown III '55 Chapel Music Concert, May 6, 2012**

**detail** From the inaugural program bulletin, May 6th, 2012: **The Concert Series**

*The Rev. Wm. Hill Brown III '55 Chapel Music Concert was established in 2011 by Thomas S. Kenan III '55.*

*Roommates during their time at Woodberry Forest, Tom and Hill have been friends for more than fifty years. This endowment provides a permanent source of funding for an annual concert in St. Andrew's Chapel. The concert series not only honors Tom's friendship with Hill, but also celebrates the strong ties that have linked Woodberry boys to each other since the school's founding.*

*Christopher (Kip) Jacobsen '99 performed at the first Chapel Music Concert, held in celebration of the Chapel's Centennial. From the chapel bulletin: Christopher Jacobson '99*

*Christopher Jacobson is Associate Organist and Choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Columbia, South Carolina where he assists Director of Music Jared Johnson in directing the cathedral choirs, is responsible for the training of the Junior Choristers and assists in playing the organ for over 100 services each year. He is also the Music Director of the Columbia Choral Society. Prior to his appointment at Trinity Cathedral he was Assistant Organist and Assistant Director of Music at Washington National Cathedral where he oversaw the chorister training program. Mr. Jacobson holds the Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and the Sacred Music Diploma from the Eastman School of Music as well as the Associate diploma from the American Guild of Organists. At Eastman he studied organ with David Higgs, and improvisation and continuo with William Porter. Mr. Jacobson received his Bachelor of Music degree with distinction in Organ Performance from St. Olaf College where he studied with John Ferguson and Catherine Rodland. He is a graduate of Woodberry Forest and the American Boychoir School where he was a treble chorister under James Litton. Mr. Jacobson has won first prize in several organ competitions including the 2005 John R. Rodland Scholarship Competition, the 2003 American Guild of Organists/Quimby Region VI Competition for Young Organists. He was a finalist in the 2006 AGO National Young Artist Competition. This year Mr. Jacobson will present the organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach in a series of recitals in Columbia.*

**source (s)** Chapel bulletin, May 6, 2012 yrly file archives; Chapel file; Concert music file

2014

**event Chapel Columbarium under construction**

**detail** A Columbarium on the west side outside of St. Andrew's Chapel is under construction during Spring and Summer 2014, with the brickwork reaching completion in Fall 2014.

*The ironwork is completed in early 2015 (February, as reported by Chaplain David Smith)*



**source (s)** conversation with Chaplain David Smith, 5/11/2015

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### 2015      **event    Chapel floor - foundation failure diagnosed in early January 2015 and repaired**

**detail** *The Chapel is closed for repairs, due to a foundation failure diagnosed early in January, 2015. Repairs were successfully completed; the Sunday chapel service was held in the Walker Fine Arts Center for one Sunday, after which regular Sunday services were resumed as of Sunday Jan. 25, 2015*



*L.B. Barden, husband of Debbie Barden, Facilities, was hired to perform the repairs.*

**source (s)** email Jan. 12, 2015 - forwarded from SBC, with images of the foundation  
email Jan. 25, 2015 from Chaplain D. Smith announcing the chapel was open again.

### 2015      **event    New brick walkway for St. Andrew's Chapel, and rebuilt gate posts**

**detail** *A New brick walkway for St. Andrew's Chapel, and rebuilt gate posts are completed during the fall of 2015 and ready in plenty of time for the Christmas*



*Note by archivist 2/21/2017: See also 1927 6th Form Class Gift entry regarding original brick gate posts at St. Andrew's Chapel.*

**source (s)** witness

### 2017      **event    New hardword flooring installed in Chapel foyer**

**detail** *Email notice to Faculty, Thursday June 29, 2017:*

*Debbie Barden*

*7:40 AM*

*to Faculty*

*Please do not use the front entrance of the Chapel until friday.*

*New hardwood flooring was put in the foyer and the finish coat needs to dry.*

*Thanks*

**source (s)**

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2018

### event Chapel Ceiling refurbished

detail *A portion of the nave ceiling in the upper front pews portion (facing the altar) fell down in late May 2018, requiring that the Chapel with Senior Shake be held in the Walker Fine Arts Center. The Senior Shake procession took place outside the Chapel, as in the past, by request of the Seniors.*



*The damaged portion of the ceiling was quickly repaired, and the Chapel was cleared of the fallen debris in time for 2018 Graduation Baccalaureate to proceed on schedule.*

*The rest of the plaster portions of the Chapel ceiling was repaired for the new school year, in the interest of safety. Repairs were still underway at the time of the Opening Staff/Faculty Chapel on Tuesday August 21, 2018, which was held instead in the Bowman Gray auditorium of the Walker Fine Arts Center, following by the Convocation.*

8/20/2018 from Matt Boesen: Due to recurring problems with the ceiling in the chapel, we will hold tomorrow morning's chapel service in Bowman-Gray auditorium at 8:00.

source(s) email announcement from Matt Boesen, Dean of Faculty, Aug. 20, 2018