

# RECONSIDERING OUR HISTORY WITH RACE

THE PARISH HISTORY OF RACE AND RACISM TEAM AT GRACE CHURCH, SILVER SPRING

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# AGENDA

## Who We Are

- Becoming Beloved Community
- EDOW Invitation to Parishes
- Parish History of Race and Racism Team

## What We've Learned

- Our First Story
- Upcoming Stories
- In the Future



# BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY IN THE DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON



A Long-term  
Commitment to Racial  
Healing, Reconciliation,  
and Justice



# BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY: WHERE ARE WE GOING?

<b>Telling the Truth</b>	<b>Focus:</b> What is the truth about the role of EDOW in slavery?	<b>Phase 1:</b> Researching Our History
<b>Proclaiming the Dream</b>	<b>Focus:</b> How can EDOW publicly acknowledge things done and left undone?	<b>Phase 2:</b> Sharing the Findings and Recommendations
<b>Practicing the Way of Love</b>	<b>Focus:</b> What practices and learning would transform EDOW in our growth as reconcilers, healers, and justice-bearers?	<b>Phase 3:</b> Embracing Spiritual Practices of Reconciliation and Repentance
<b>Repairing the Breach</b>	<b>Focus:</b> What will EDOW do to bring about repair, restoration, and healing in our Diocese?	<b>Phase 4:</b> Developing the Policy and Implementing the Plan



## CALLING ALL PARISHES

- **January 2021:** Invitation to EDOW Parishes to “Tell Our Own Story”
- **June 2021:** EDOW Launched Congregational History Partners – 18 Parishes
- **September 2021:** Grace Formed the Parish History of Race and Racism Team
  - Adult Forum
  - Land Acknowledgment Statement
  - Video for January 2022 Convention
  - Archive Exploration, Research, Planning



A Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation, and Justice



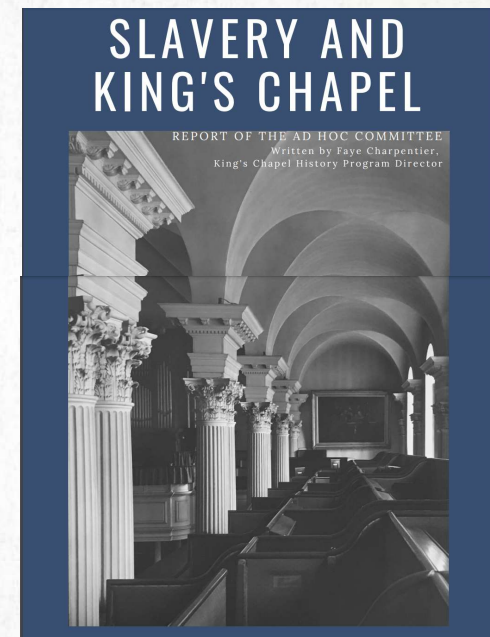
## MISSION STATEMENT

- To reconsider the history of Grace Church by **identifying and centering the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans** in the story we tell ourselves about who we are as a parish.



## OUR FOCUS FOR 2022-23: FIRST 20 YEARS

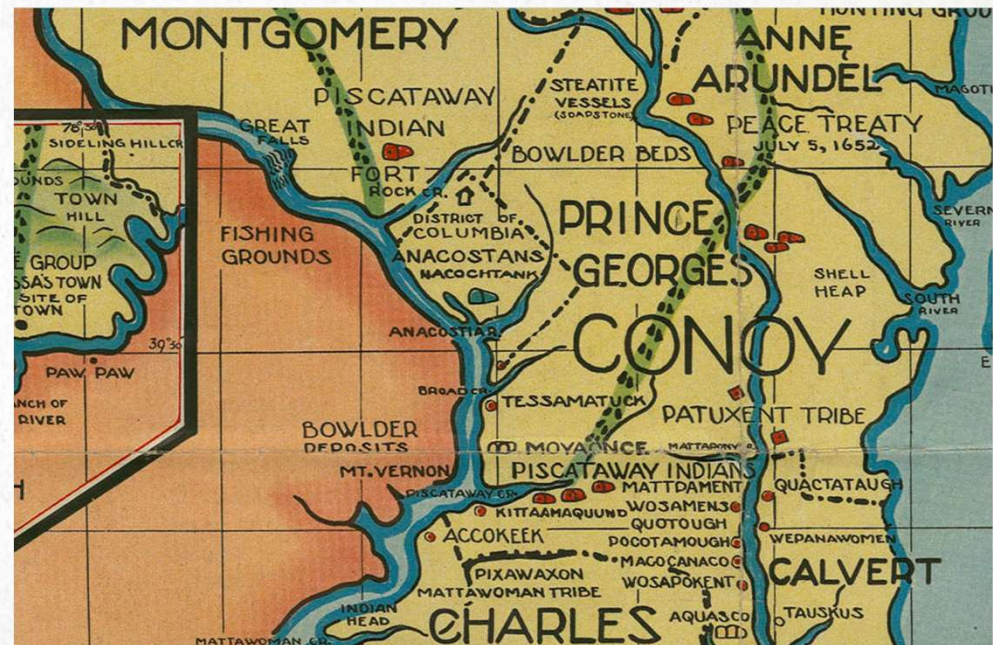
- Inspired by the Slavery and King's Chapel report from King's Chapel, Boston
- Start with 1855: Founding of Grace
- Ending with 1875: Last Confederate Chaplain Tells All
- Focus: Identify African-Americans associated with Grace during this time and Grace's entanglements with slavery





## OUR FIRST STORY: ORIGIN OF OUR LAND

- Traditional territory of the Nacotchtank and Piscataway nations





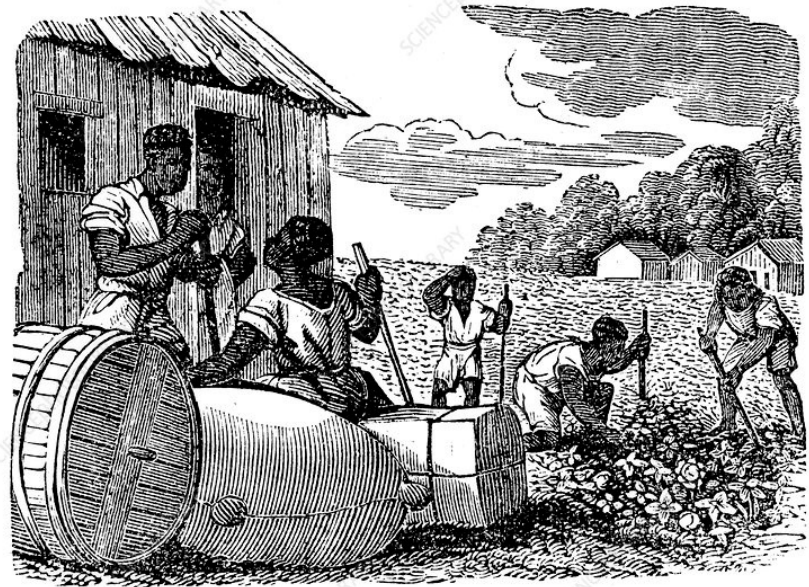
## 1632: LAND “GRANT”

- In 1632, King Charles of England “granted” the land that would eventually become Silver Spring to Lord Baltimore



## 1759: LABYRINTH GRANT AND TOBACCO

- Thomas and Verlinda Wilson purchased more than 1,000 acres of the Labyrinth land, some of which they used for their tobacco plantation



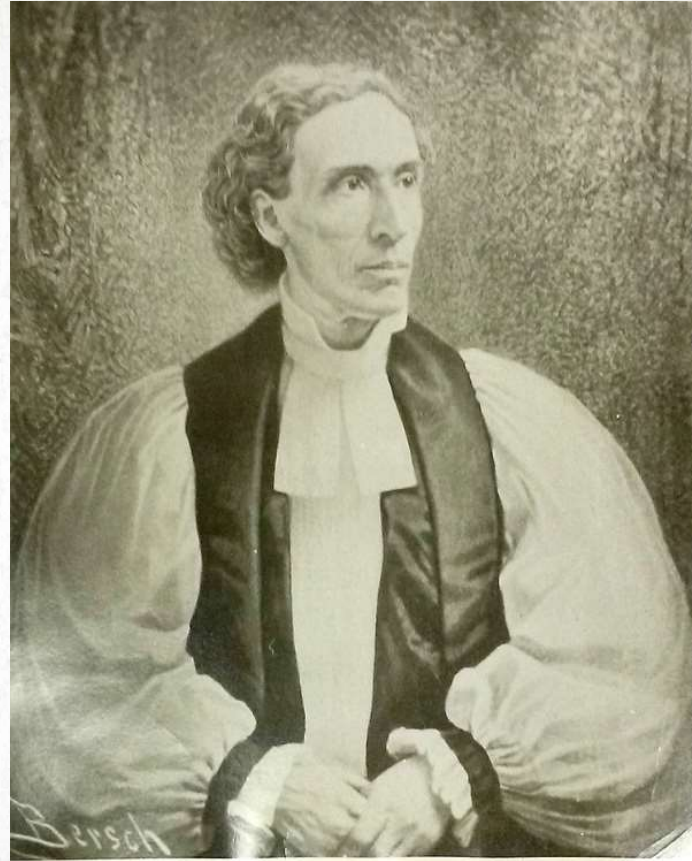


- Grandson of Thomas and Verlinda Wilson consolidates land holdings, builds plantation, owns enslaved people

Thomas & Nelson	1	65	m	m	S
"	1	38	f	B	
"	1	38	f	B	
"	1	30	m	B	
"	1	18	f	B	
"	1	18	m	B	
"	1	16	m	m	S
"	1	6	f	m	S
"	1	6	m	m	S
"	1	1/2	f	B	

## 1855: LABYRINTH PARISH

- Local residents petition the Bishop of Maryland, Rev. William Rollinson Whittingham, to create a new parish





## ORIGINAL LAND DONATION

- Wilson offered 10 acres. One acre was accepted and became the site of the original Grace church.



## SEP 1862: WILSON KILLED BY AWOL SOLDIERS

MURDER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.—Yesterday afternoon three soldiers belonging to the 22d Massachusetts regiment went on the farm of a Mr. George Wilson, near Silver Spring, and attempted to steal some of his pigs, but the old gentleman discovering them expostulated with them, and at last attempted to pull a pig away from them, when he was knocked down and run through the body with a bayonet by one of the party, from the effects of which wounds he died in a short time. In the course of the afternoon one of the party, named John Mara, was arrested and taken to Fort Massachusetts, and was turned over by Major Sadler, commanding the fort, to Officer Mulloy, who brought him to the Central Guardhouse.



## NOV 1862: WILSON'S ESTATE PLACES RUNAWAY AD

**\$150** REWARD.—Ran away from the estate of Thomas N. Wilson, three NEGROES, one woman and two men—Jasper Detton, about 21 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches high; scar on the right cheek, and very black. Moser Whitecan, about 23 years old; copper color; about 5 feet 10 inches high; knock kneed, and very much disfigured by the same. Lucy Clark, about 10 years old; copper color, about 5 feet 2 inches high; pleasant when spoken to. We will give the above reward for the delivery of the above-named negroes to RICHARD T. WILSON and LEWIS MAGRUDER, in Montgomery County, about 7 miles from Washington. Or \$50 for either of the above-named Negroes.

RICHARD T. WILSON,  
LEWIS MAGRUDER,  
no 13-28w3w Executors of Thomas N. Wilson..

## MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN ENSLAVED BY FOUNDERS OF GRACE CHURCH

- Lloyd Beckett
- Alice Brown
- Bazil Brown
- Margaret Brown
- Samuel Brown
- Frank Brown
- Maria Brown
- Joseph Brown
- Eliza Brown
- James Brown
- William Brown
- Mary Brown
- Charles Brown
- Robert Brown
- Lucy Clark
- Henry Coquire
- David Diggs
- James Gantt
- Jasper Poole (Detton)
- Richard Proctor
- Sarah Simms
- Maria Simms
- James Simms
- Hanson Smith
- Lucy Whitacre
- Moses Whitacre (Whitecan)
- Samuel Williams
- Unnamed man, age 63
- Unnamed man, age 60
- Unnamed woman, age 33
- Unnamed woman, age 33
- Unnamed man, age 31
- Unnamed man, age 26
- Unnamed woman, age 24
- Unnamed woman, age 18
- Unnamed boy, age 17
- Unnamed girl, age 6
- Unnamed boy, age 6
- Unnamed boy, age 3 and a half
- Unnamed girl, age 2 and a half



## WHAT'S NEXT?

### This Program Year

- Going to the Bishop
- Montgomery Blair
- Mt. Zion AME Church?
- Rev. James Battle Avirett and burial of Confederate Soldiers
- Continuing to identify the names and stories of African-Americans in our early history



## WHAT'S NEXT?

### Next Year

- Oral Histories
- Jump Ahead 100 Years:  
1950s-1970s
- Collaborations with Other  
Parishes and Organizations
- Honoring the Enslaved





# JOIN US IN OUR JOURNEY

**What are your interests?**

- Oral history interviews
- Historical research
- Graphic design
- Communications and publicity

**Do you know of others who might have interest and skills?**

**Do you have materials at home to share?**

**Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.**

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



**QUESTIONS?**



- *Charlie Bogino*
- *Rachel Hardwick*
- *Kay Johnson*
- *June Moore*
- *Kevin VanLowe*
- *Laura Donnelly-Smith*
- *Lesley Rogers*
- *Susan Schulken*  
*susan.schulken@gmail.com*

## **PARISH HISTORY OF RACE AND RACISM AT GRACE**