



Timeline of Significant Events

A more complete timeline of historic events and a collection of historic photos can be found at www.TheFallsChurch.org/history

November 1, 1732 — Truro Parish formed by an act of the Virginia General Assembly.

October 11, 1734 — Completion of the first, wooden, church building by Richard Blackburn “at the Cross Roads near Michael Reagans.” Structure is used until 1763 when it is determined “rotten and unfit for repair.”

October 16, 1746 — The church wardens purchase two acres of land at the Upper [Falls] Church from John Trammell.

November 28, 1757 — First recorded reference to the new church near the falls as, “The Falls Church.”

October 25, 1762 — George Washington appointed to the Truro Vestry.

February 1, 1765 — Formation of Fairfax Parish.

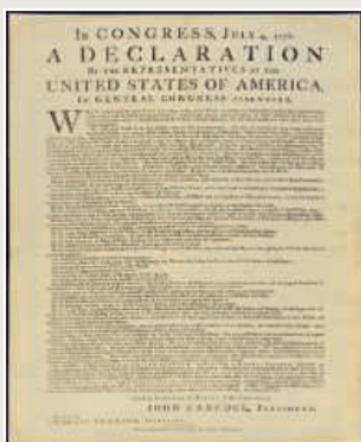
December 20, 1769 — Brick structure completed. Designed by James Wren; similar plans are also used for Christ Church, Alexandria and Pohick Church, Lorton.

March 1, 1770 — George Washington (of Truro Parish) records payment of his pledge for decorating The Falls Church.

July–December 1770 — Completion of the altar piece and communion table designed by James Wren.

July–September 1776 — Building serves as a recruiting station for the Fairfax Militia at the start of the Revolutionary War. According to tradition, the Declaration of Independence is read from the steps of the church.

1779 — John Parke Custis, the son of Martha Washington, is appointed to the Vestry.



1838—First Restoration — With funds provided by Henry Fairfax, the church undergoes repair.

May 1861 — The congregation disperses when the Civil War begins.

Aug–Sept 1861 — Confederate troops occupy the village and church. For the rest of the war, except after the battle of Bull Run in August 1862, the village and church are effectively under the control of Union troops — although they are located outside of Union defensive lines and are subject to Confederate raids.



1861–1865 — The building is used at various times as a hospital, a stable, and a source of firewood, building materials, and souvenirs. The interior furnishings and bricks below window openings are removed.

January 1866 – Second Restoration — The U.S. Army repairs damages to the church caused by the Civil War.

1866 — Services resume under the direction of faculty and students of the Virginia Theological Seminary.

1876 — Funds raised for further repairs to the church, including a new roof and acquisition of a pump organ. During repairs, the congregation uses the Presbyterian Church for services.

1879 – Public Cemetery Established — Because of unauthorized burials in the churchyard, the Vestry successfully petitions the Town of Falls Church to establish a public cemetery.



1908 – Third Restoration — Major repairs to the church building completed: new roof, floor, lower windows, hot air furnace, chancel, and vesting room. The grounds were leveled and seeded.

1920 — Construction of the congregation's first Parish House (on East Broad Street).

1950 — Nicolson wing built.

1959 – Fourth Restoration — Substantial remodeling of the church: removal of the east wall to accommodate a new chancel, construction of the galleries, and expansion of office space.

1963 — The Day School is established.



1967 — New pipe organ installed.

1992 — A new, larger worship space is added to the east end of the education and administration building. It is now commonly referred to as the Main Sanctuary.



May 2012 — After a six-year exile from the buildings following a vote to split the congregation in December 2006, and an ensuing lawsuit over ownership, Episcopalians return to the property.