

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes

Thanks to a generous benefactor twenty years ago, the original 1662 Book of Common Prayer was restored and preserved for the future of the congregation.

It is kept in the safe and frequently brought out for special events in the church.

One of the more significant things contained in the book comes from the period of the War of Revolution that led to the founding of our country. The then rector, the Rev. Samuel Tingsley, was loyal to King George III. Nevertheless, he served a colonial town full of folks who were in favor of independence and were not, to say the least, fans of the King of England.

This posed a particular dilemma for the rector because the weekly liturgy included a prayer for His Majesty. No doubt the good father believed in the significance and power of prayer, and as a good pastor he wanted to keep his flock strong and together. So he balanced out the concerns, and in the BCP he crossed out "King" and replaced it with "those in authority." This was the prayer that continued until the War ended.