

Rockefeller Center  
New York 20, N.Y.

Room 5600  
30 Rockefeller Plaza

January 18, 1957

Bruton Parish Church Endowment Fund, Inc.  
Williamsburg  
Virginia

Attention: Dr. H. M. Stryker, President

Gentlemen:

Bruton Parish Church, in continuous use for worship since its completion in 1715, is one of the oldest and most historically significant buildings not only in the restored area, but in America, and is of major interest to the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come to Williamsburg each year.

My associates in the Restoration and I are aware that no adequate understanding of the life and times of early Williamsburg is possible without the realization of the religious and spiritual aspects of this society so well evoked in Bruton. The fact that the parish has an active congregation today and ministers to the needs of the present gives Bruton an unusual opportunity to reflect its historical mission in a meaningful way.

The responsibilities occasioned by this unique church in the restored area necessitate leadership for a program far beyond what could reasonably be expected from a congregation the size of Bruton. It therefore seems appropriate, since the Restoration has brought about this added burden, that permanent, supplemental provision for the ministry and the music of Bruton Parish Church should be made. To that end, securities having an approximate value of \$500,000 will be forwarded to you forthwith. It would be my hope that this gift would be set aside as an endowment, the income to supplement the funds Bruton Parish Church is currently spending for its ministry and its musical program, not to replace them.

While the gift is made for the specific purposes stated and while I would hope that it would be so used indefinitely, realizing the wisdom of permanent endowment in view of changing conditions, after twenty-five years from the date of this letter the trustees may on a two-thirds vote use, in their discretion, for the benefit of Bruton Parish Church, the principal as well as any unexpended part of the income.

Very sincerely,

*John A. Rockefeller, Jr.*