Patrick Henry (May 29, 1736 – June 6, 1799) was born in Hanover County, Virginia. He was an American attorney, planter, and orator best known for his declaration to the Second Virginia Convention (1775): “Give me liberty, or give me death!” A Founding Father, he served as the first and sixth post-colonial Governor of Virginia, from 1776 to 1779 and from 1784 to 1786.
Thomas Jefferson (April 13, 1743 - July 4, 1826) was born at Shadwell in Albemarle County, Virginia. He served many public roles throughout his life, including delegate to the House of Burgesses, Governor of Virginia, and 3rd President of the United States. He attended the Second Virginia Convention at St. John’s Church, and soon thereafter wrote the Declaration of Independence.
George Washington (February 22, 1732 - December 14, 1799) was born at Popes Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served in the colonial militia and fought in the French and Indian War. He attended the Second Virginia Convention and took command of the Virginia Militia and later the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War. After leading the troops to victory over the British, he served as our first President.
The Second Virginia Convention was held at Historic St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia.
The Culpeper Minutemen, formed in 1775, was a militia group who fought for the patriot side for the first year of the American Revolution. Like other colonial militias, minutemen were trained to respond to emergencies "at a minute's notice". Patrick Henry carried this flag as he led the Culpeper militia to Williamsburg to challenge the Royal Governor during the Gunpowder Incident.
The Virginia Washington Monument, also known as the Washington Monument, is a 19th-century neoclassical statue of George Washington located on the public square in Richmond, Virginia. Patrick Henry is featured on the monument.
An interior view of St. John's Church, c. 1902.
A political cartoon attributed to Benjamin Franklin, "Join or Die" was first used to show the disunity of the British colonies during the French and Indian War. Later it was used to unite the colonies against the British, starting in 1765 with the Stamp Act.
Welcome to Historic St. John’s Church, c. 1741
The Sounding Board, located above the pulpit, is decorated with this sun image. The Sounding Board serves as a way to reflect the Rector’s voice to the congregation in the pews below. Our Sounding Board is one of 4 colonial sounding boards remaining in Virginia. Ours is the only one with a face.