

Canon, Creeds, & Revivals

How the Church Preserved our Christian Beliefs

Class 11 - Reformation (Cont.) & 1st Great Awakenings

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A Little Review of the Reformation

- Core Protestant Beliefs

- 1) Salvation by faith alone and the 2) Priesthood of all Believers

- The right and duty of the individual to judge for himself on religious issues

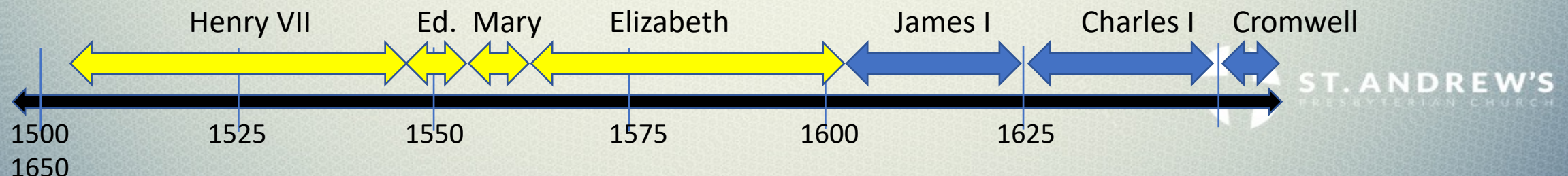
- 3) Sola Scriptura – Authority of the word of God, not of Popes/mere men

- Martin Luther - “My conscience is captive to the Word of God as recorded in Scripture”

- These beliefs, claimed by Protestant, is not new but is a return to true Christianity

Church of England (Anglican)

- Henry VIII (1509–47) split with the Rome over the divorce of his wife Catherine (Mary). Rome would not allow it and eventually excommunicated Henry after he secretly married Anne Boleyn (Elizabeth). Henry had a third wife Jane Seymour (Edward)
- Church of England was formed. After Henry's death, movement back and forth between Protestant and Catholic allegiances. Edward VI (6 1/2 years - 1547-53, Protestant), then Mary (5 years - 1553-56, Catholic), then Elizabeth (45 years - 1558-1603, hybrid, "middle way"). James (Protestant), Charles (Anglo-Catholic, then Protestant), Cromwell (religious tolerance)

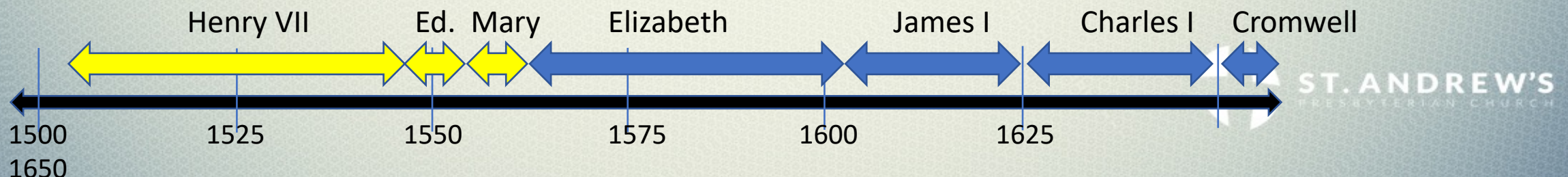


Anglican Theologian (Thomas Cranmer)

- Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) was the intellect behind the theology. He wrote the Anglican statement of faith in “Book of Common Prayer” and the “Thirty-Nine Articles.” influenced by Lutheran Augsburg Confession.
- During Henry’s reign, he did not make any radical changes (1536 - 10 articles).
- During Edward’s reign, he instituted more radical reforms and Protestant theology (41 articles, later reduced to 39).
- During Mary’s reign, Cranmer was put on trial for treason and heresy. Imprisoned for over 2 years, he made several recantations to reconciled with the Catholic Church. While this would have customarily absolved him, Mary wanted him executed, and he was burned at the stake on March 21, 1556; on the day of his execution, he withdrew his recantations.



Thomas Cranmer

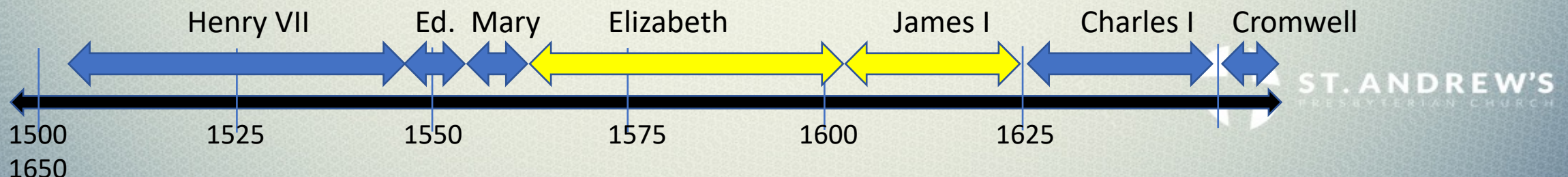


Anglican Theological/Practices Summary

- Protestant beliefs - Trinity, Sola Scriptura, Nature of Christ (One person, two natures), Salvation by faith alone.
- Sacraments - The Anglican Church recognizes only two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Young children may be baptized, which is usually done by pouring water. Two key moments of the Anglican worship is the Lord's Supper and the preaching of the Word. Generally speaking, Anglicans believe in the "real presence" of Christ in the Eucharist but reject the Catholic idea of "transubstantiation."
- Government - Churches should be governed by the bishop ("episcopal") in that diocese, who in turn is governed by a bishop of an autonomous province. The Archbishop of Canterbury is first among equals and is appointed by the King of England.
- Worship - Anglican worship tends to be Protestant in doctrine and Catholic in appearance and flavor, with rituals, readings, bishops, priests, vestments, and ornately decorated churches. Some Anglicans pray the rosary; others do not. Some congregations have shrines to the Virgin Mary while others do not believe in invoking the intervention of saints. Because every church has the right to set, change, or abandon these man-made ceremonies, Anglican worship varies widely throughout the world.

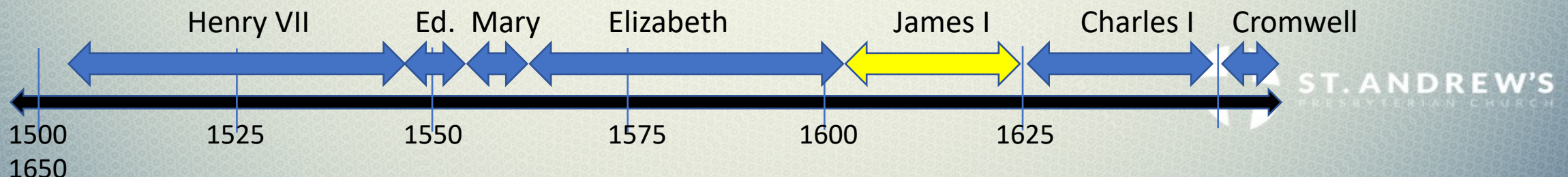
Movements Formed out of England (Puritan/Congregationist)

- **Four Splitter Movements** - British Isles became a hotbed of ideas forming different splitter groups
- **Puritans** - Under Elizabeth (1558-1603), Puritanism sprang up. They wished to “Purify” the Church of England from all traces of Roman Catholic corruption. Attack on vestments, opposed kneeling to receive the bread and wine, emphasized memorial aspect of Lord’s supper, some wished Presbyterian form of government, held to covenant theology (grace and works). Under James I (1603-25, Note - KJV was produced by 52 scholars from 1607-11), stressed Sunday worship, music, Bible reading, home services, moral purity (no sports on Sunday, dancing).
- **Separatist/“Congregationist”** - Under Elizabeth (1558-1603), Separatists/Independent sprang up. Believed that the churches should be populated by believers (not automatic regional membership) and self-governing. Separatist were later called “Congregationist”.



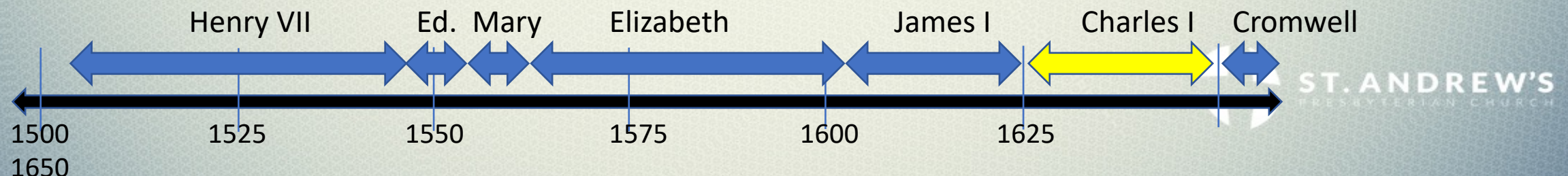
Movement Formed out of England (Baptist)

- **Baptist** - Under James I (1603-25), Baptist now appeared and spread differing from Congregationalist in their repudiation of infant baptism and insistence that the rite be given only by believers.
- The first English Baptist arose outside of England in Amsterdam, Holland from among the Separatist and centered about John Smyth, a graduate of Cambridge. It held Arminian views and was the spiritual ancestor of the “General” Baptists of Britian. Later, Thomas Helwys, one of Smyth’s intimates founded the first Baptist church on English soil, outside the walls of London in 1612.
- A few year later, “Particular” Baptist arose, who held to a restricted or particular atonement which was only for the elect (Calvinist)



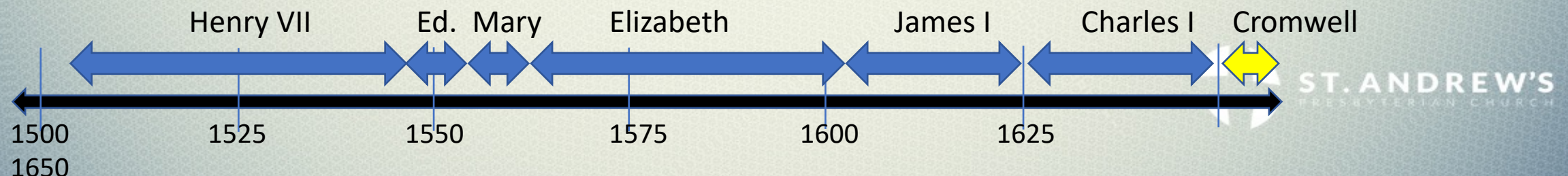
Special Note about Presbyterians

- Westminster Confession and catechism is part of the Book of Confessions in the ECO denomination
- Westminster Confession - Charles I's (1625-49) rule began in 1625, son of James. In the complex struggle for power, Long Parliament had an opportunity to work change in the Church of England. The Westminster Assembly was created (1643) to advise Parliament, composed of clergy and laity, mostly Puritan with a sprinkling of Episcopalians and independents, with the Scottish commissioners without vote. It created the Westminster Confession of Faith, Longer, and Shorter catechism.



Movement Formed out of England (Quakers)

- **Quakers** - Under Cromwell (1653-58), George Fox, founded the Society of Friend, “who believed that God is love and truth and that it is possible for all men so to open their lives to Him as to live victoriously in that power “that is a-top” of all evil and “that is over all.” Fox would follow and have others follow the “Inner Light.” He renounced oaths, insisted on honest and truth-speaking, practised simplicity in dress, food, and speech, opposed any participation in war, protested against all shams and formalism in religion and worship, pioneered in the care of the insane, demanded just treatment for the American Indians, held that governments exist for the benefit of the people as a whole and are bound by the moral law, advocated an extreme democracy which put men and women on an equality, permitting women to preach, refused to doff his hat to any man, used singular pronoun to addressing members of all classes, thus seeking to denounce special class privilege, came out for universal religious tolerance, and wished to bring the Gospel to all.” (p. 822, Latourette, A History of Christianity, Vol 2)

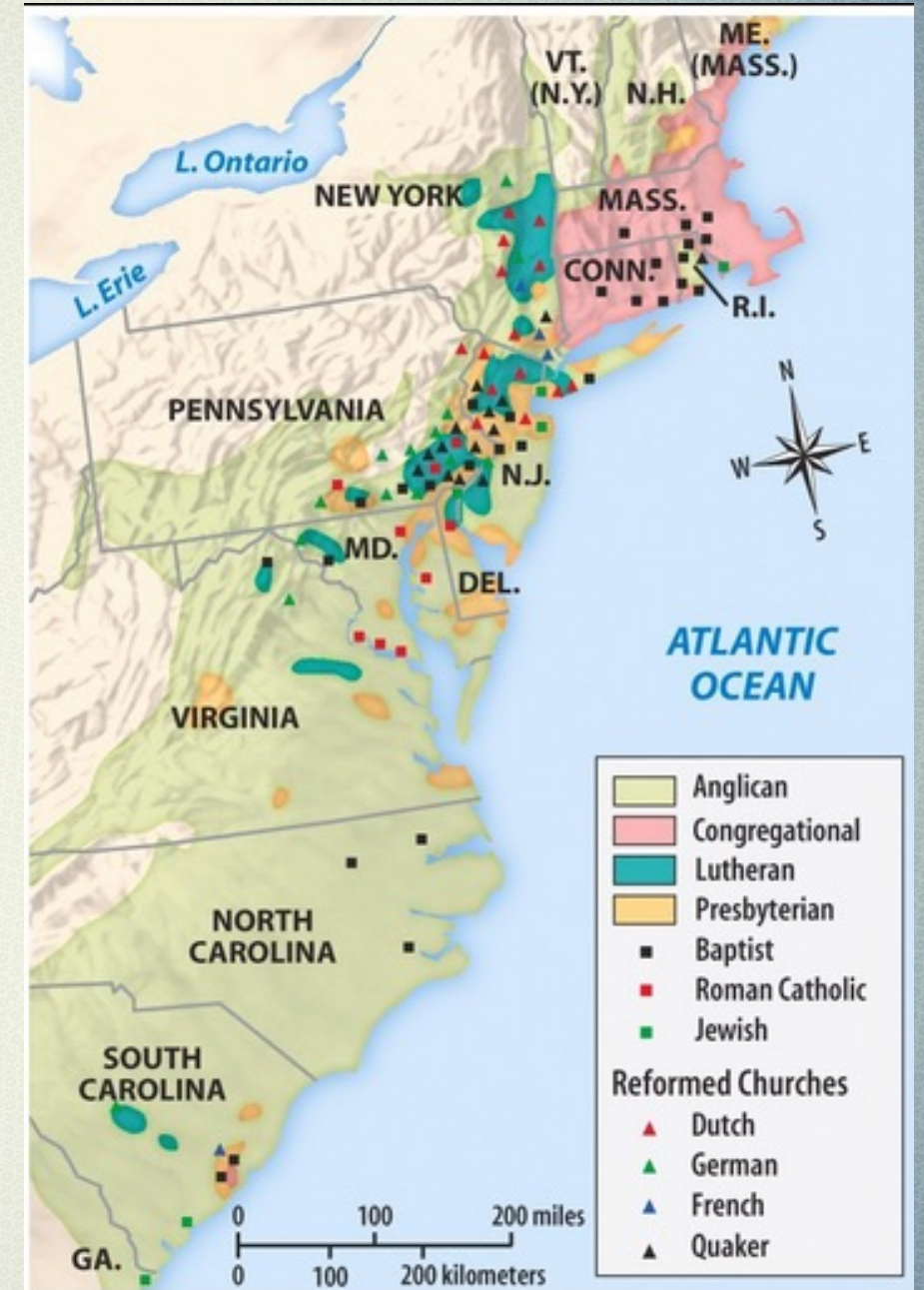
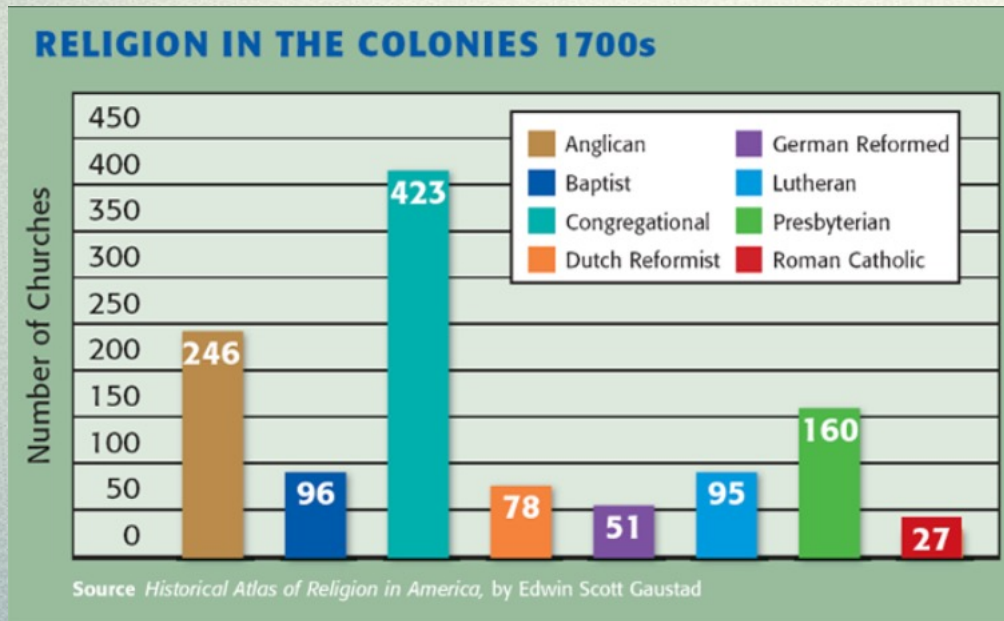


Catholic Reformation

- Held in 1545-52 (Luther died in 1546), re-met in 1551-2, again in 1562-3. Emperor Charles V hoped for healing but it deepened the breach with Protestantism (but reformed RC practices)
- Council of Trent (Theology) - Included the Apocrypha as part of the Old Testament, Latin editions declared as authentic, Affirmed “original sin” taken away by baptism, salvation by faith cooperating with good works, existence of purgatory and merits earned by good works, affirmed seven sacraments, affirmed transubstantiation, no cup to laity, only bishops and priests have the power to pronounce the forgiveness or retention of sins, existence of saints, veneration of relics, sacred images, indulgences
- Council of Trent (Practices) - Improved preparation of the clergy and better organization, Better regulation of the Mass in reverence, control of music, control of indulgences with abuses eliminated, owning of several cathedral churches by one person forbidden, repair of churches and management of hospitals, age requirement for promotion, support for seminary, requires regular visitation by bishop to churches, private confession to priests affirmed, bishops were to live frugally and not use the property of Church to enrich relatives, prohibition of clerical concubines, authority of bishops was strengthened, placed monasteries under bishops rather than Pope.

Christianity in the 13 Colonies

- Religious makeup reflected British Isles + some other (Dutch, German, etc.)...greatest variety
- Overwhelmingly Protestant - Reformed
- By 1750, large majority were without formal church connection ~ 5%. Came for econ./social reasons.



Great Awakening Features

- Features - Along with sola scriptura, salvation by faith alone, priesthood of all believers, there was added a need for a personal experience of new birth, commitment to Christ, and faith in his incarnation, the cross, and the resurrection. Preach to every creature. Came to be known as “Evangelical” in Great Britain.
- Gave rise to efforts to relieve suffering and to remedy collective evils. Religious education, effort for youth and students, movements for the abolition of slavery, international peace, temperance.
- Spread across denominations and national boundaries - especially potent in British Isles, United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

First Great Awakening (13 Colonies)

- Jonathan Edwards - first formative figure in New England theology (reshaped Reformed theology). Preacher, Pastor, Theologian, Missionary
- While not denying the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God, the depravity of man, and election to salvation by divine decree, he made more room for the action of the sinner in accepting divine forgiveness through repentance. Affirmed revivals. Brought vivid everyday pictures to explain theological truths, e.g. the loathsomeness of sin and the wonder of God's grace.
- In 1734-5, Mass conversions broke out in Northampton, Mass. under his preaching.
- Because he supported for revivals, Edwards was forced out of his parish in 1750. Became missionary to Indians.



Jonathan Edwards

First Great Awakening (13 Colonies) Cont.

- Reinforced by George Whitefield (1714-1770). Went to Oxford in 1733, friend of John Wesley. His voice could reach thousands in open air, expressive, dramatic, and with intense feeling, he could sway audiences a few men have ever done. In 1739-41, he had his first preaching tour in the colonies. In Boston, he spoke to 30,000. The Great Awakening spread through the Colonies, mostly through Presbyterian and Congregationalist.
- After 1750, the Great Awakening was to give rise to many Baptist who, mostly men of little education, could speak the language of the lowliest and won following among the humblest of the unchurched.



George Whitefield

Great Awakening in England (Methodism)

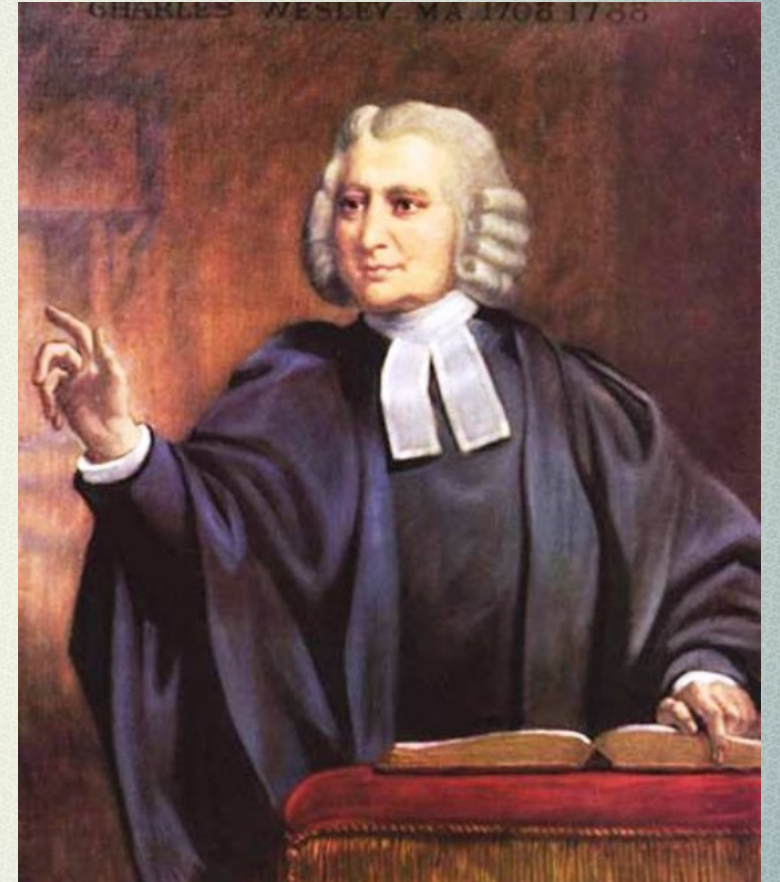
- John Wesley (1703-1791) and his brother Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and George Whitefield (1714-1770)
- While at Oxford, the Wesley's formed a club named, the "Holy Club" with the nickname "Methodist". In 1735, on a missionary trip to Georgia, John met a Moravian leader Spangenberg (Lutheran Pietist) who pointedly asked him, "Do you know Jesus Christ?" John could only reply: "I know he is the savior of the world." Whereupon Spangenberg countered: "True, but do you know that he has saved you?" Both John and Charles made the step to accept Jesus Christ personally after returning to England through the Moravian there.
- John preached conscious acceptance with God and daily growth through holiness. Through the encouragement of Whitefield, he began preaching not only in religious societies but in open air forums...anywhere...declaring "the world is my parish." John travelled almost incessantly. He covered England, Ireland and Scotland averaging 5000 miles a year, much on horseback, 15 sermons a week.
- He was an able organizer and administrator and organized converts into classes with leaders. Wesley was an activist, avid reader, cared for the poor and created lending funds to assist struggling businessmen.



John Wesley

Great Awakening (England Methodism)

- Methodism gave rise to song. Charles wrote 100's of hymns.
- Lay preachers became an outstanding feature of Methodism including watch-night services, covenant services, and stewards to care for the property of the societies.
- The growth was phenomenal. By 1790, on the eve of John death, there were 71,688 members in Great Britian.
- Slow separation from the Church of England. Believed NT presbyters and bishops were the same. Shortage of priest of the Church of England for sacraments. In 1780's, John Wesley and Thomas Cook began to ordain presbyters for the US. Later, for Scotland, and then England. Upon John Wesley's death, the Wesleyan Methodist Church was formally constituted.



Charles Wesley

Great Awakening (England Other Movements)

- Whitefield and the Wesley's drew apart over doctrinal issues. John Wesley was Arminian; Whitefield believed in predestination.
- Whitefield was supported by Selina, Countess of Huntingdon (1707-91) and they created Welsh Calvinistic Methodist.
- Within the Church of England revival also sprang up. They called themselves “Evangelicals,” generally Calvinistic, stressing conversion, strict moral, and a life of active service and simplicity in worship. Prominent among them was John Newton (1725-1807), a friend of the Wesley's and Whitefield. Isaac Miller was instrumental in converting William Wilberforce (1759-1833) responsible for the abolition of slavery.

Reformation's Expanding Effect of Christianity

- **Religion** – Reformation touched every class, raised education & morals of clergy, brought hymns and singing, mysticism, religious liberty, fresh movements of revival among the laity (“Age of Faith”)
- **Political life and Structure** - “When carried to its logical conclusion, Protestantism was made for democracy. In basic principles, salvation by faith and the priesthood of all believers, issued in governments in which each citizen had a voice and possessed rights and responsibilities equal with those of all his fellows” p.977, Latourette. The Reformed Churches moved further toward democracy. In 13 colonies, group like Congregationalist, Puritans, and Quakers caused democracy to flourish paving the way for the America Revolution. John Locke (1632-1704), from Puritan home and education, asserted that men are “by nature, all free, equal, and independent. No man can be put out of his estate without his full consent.” This was echoed, partly in the identical words, in the Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies.

Expanding Effect of Christianity (Cont.)

- **Economic Theory and Practice** - Protestantism and especially Calvinism were a major source of capitalism. “The Reformed faith ... taught that every Christian should regard his occupation a vocation which he should pursue in response to the “call” of God. In it, he should work conscientiously as in the sight of God. He was to seek to produce what would be useful for the community. He was not to be idle nor was he to spend in selfish or luxurious fashion the fruit of his labors. He was to make all he could, spend only what was necessary, and save the surplus, although giving part of it for worthy causes...Calvin permitted taking of interest furthering capitalism.” p.979, Latourette.
- **Social Life** - New energy toward activism - bettering social conditions. Care for the sick, the poor, the orphans. Advocates of prison reform. Advocates for women toward equality with men. Repudiation of celibacy added dignity to marriage, to the home, and to the wife.

Expanding Effect of Christianity

- **Intellectual life** – Christians believed that God created the universe with vastness, order, and complexity. In the theological system of the Protestant reforms, including Calvin's Institutes, creative thought and curiosity, did not issue a departure from faith but, rather, sought to reinforce it. E.g. Descartes, Leibnitz, Locke, Newton. Others, used scientific thought to depart from Christianity e.g. Hobbs (materialism), Herbert (Deism)
- **Art, Music** - Christian themes (Michelangelo, Da Vinci, etc.). Construction of churches, music of the reformation (Bach, Handel, etc.)
- **Individual Lives** - Jesus gave himself to men/women one by one. Salvation by faith alone and priesthood of all believers returned the church to this priority.

Summary

- The principles of the Reformation - Sola Scripture, salvation by faith alone, and the priesthood of all believers
- Church of England - Anglicans borrowed from Protestant doctrine and are well within the Protestant belief system.
- England became a center for other denominations - Puritan, Congregationalist, Baptist, Quakers that transported to the 13 colonies
- First Great Awakening reinforced the idea of a need for individual decision to accept Christ and living a holy life
- Great Awakening in England created the Methodist Church and helped Church of England.
- The Reformation has profound effects on religion, politics, economics, social life, intellectual life, art/music, and the worth of the individual
- The survival of the Church is a proof of God's existence. It's goodness a testimony to God's wisdom and care for us.