

Honoring Our Past

WELCOMING OUR FUTURE

JOIN THE JOURNEY OF
GRATITUDE, PRAYER, & FAITH



— HONORING OUR PAST —
Welcoming Our Future

Lord, What Do You Want To Do Through Me?

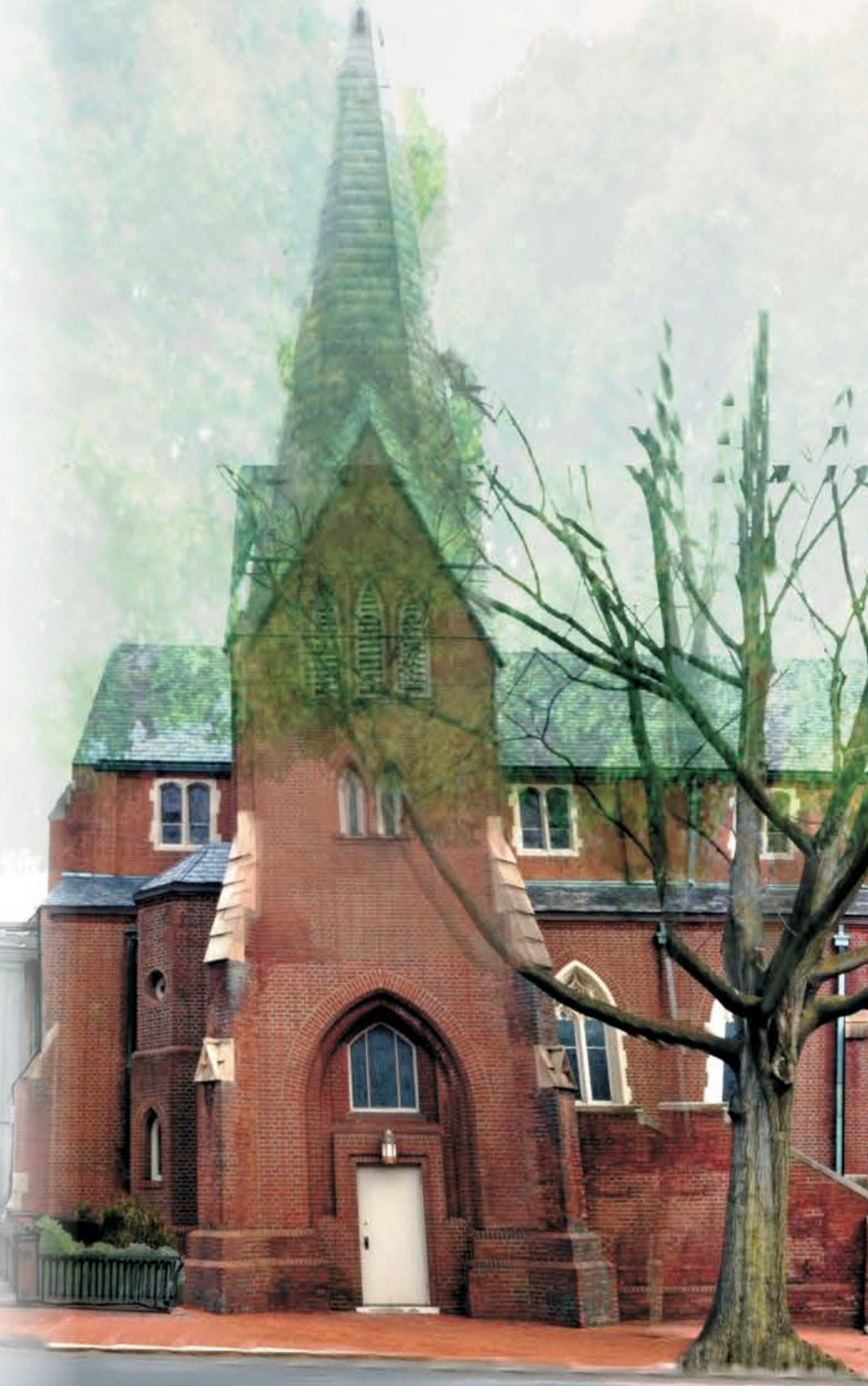
At the corner of Chestnut and Mulberry Streets, St. John's Episcopal Church stands as a beacon of hope and faith. Built of stone, brick, mortar and love, these walls and stained-glass windows have seen weddings and funerals, baptisms and confirmations, joy and sadness. Perhaps you can recall being touched by one of these special St. John's experiences.

As we ponder the rich past and strong traditions of our 162-year-old church, we can appreciate the solid foundation that has allowed St. John's to change and grow spiritually and physically throughout its history. Once again it's time to give our beloved jewel some much-deserved attention and care so that we as a parish family can better fulfill our calling to mission and ministry in the 21st Century.

As you examine the information shared in this brochure, imagine the possibilities and promise of a warmer, more welcoming and accessible facility to greet not only newcomers, but our current faithful. Imagine the opportunities for sharing your faith and God's promise with fellow parishioners and others who are seeking a loving church home. This is special...people will come!

We are honored to be a part of this momentous time of St. John's physical and spiritual growth. We invite you to join us on this journey that is Grounded in Gratitude, Revealed in Prayer, Lived in Faith, being ever mindful that not everyone can provide an equal share but we all can make an equal sacrifice.

*Phil Becker, Rosemary Coverly,
Gray Sellers, Kent Strickler*



FOR THE people

I BELIEVE the capital campaign and the building program it supports is vital to the success of God's mission for St. John's Church in the 21st century. It is about God's mission — for the people who worship here and for the people we serve.

Every Tuesday and Thursday I see people come to the front door of Becker House to receive food boxes from our Food Pantry. Many are elderly; some are physically challenged. I watch as they struggle to get their box of much-needed provisions down our steps.

On Sundays I see members of our church push themselves to climb the thirteen slate steps from our courtyard to the breezeway to worship with us. Although the breezeway is a beautiful piece of architecture, I have also come to see it as a health hazard for more and more of our parishioners.

People should not feel challenged to come to St. John's. People should feel welcomed into St. John's Episcopal Church.

Our church is one of Lancaster's greatest gifts. The beauty of our sanctuary and our liturgy. The warmth of our community and the quality of care. Our commitment to children and youth. Our legacy of service to our neighbors in need.

God has blessed St. John's with a multitude of gifts and wonderfully gifted people. What God is calling us to do is to remove the barriers that separate us and give everyone full access to what God has bestowed upon us at St. John's.

We at St. John's have a promised future as well as a proud past. We have received abundantly from those who went before us. We are now being asked to give generously for those who come after us. As we enter a new century, this is our defining moment.

Help fulfill God's mission for us at St. John's by making our church fully accessible to serve our neighbors in need and truly welcoming to all. Please join me in "Honoring our Past... Welcoming our Future".



Faithfully yours,
JOHN W. MORRIS

IMPORTANT DATES

10/25

A CELEBRATION
OF ST. JOHN'S
MINISTRY

10/25-
10/27 HOME
GATHERINGS

11/6
11/7 PRAYER EVENTS

11/8 CELEBRATION
SUNDAY

11/15 COMMITMENT
SUNDAY

12/6 FIRST FRUIT
OFFERING

12/13 ANNOUNCEMENT
SUNDAY



OUR ministry expansion

To honor our past and welcome our future, St. John's Church family seeks to provide a more inviting and accessible center for worship, fellowship and ministry that will offer a greater opportunity to expand our mission and enrich the lives of our members and community.

St. John's is holy ground. It is a place where we have welcomed all people to God's table for 162 years. It is a place where we have baptized our young, solemnized rites of marriage, and buried our dead. It is a place where the faith of our fathers and mothers is handed to us. It is a place that supports our Jubilee Ministries, integrating advocacy, empowerment, evangelism, and outreach into church life. It is holy ground.

Today, we imagine even greater possibilities and promise for our holy ground.



Welcoming

A two-story, all-glass design, enclosing the area between the Parish Hall and church, with an entrance visible from the street, will allow us to warmly welcome guests, display information, and greet one another before and after services.

Gathering & Remembrance

Courtyard

Our courtyard has been a hub of fellowship, hosting picnics, Easter egg hunts, weddings, and other celebrations. However, its current condition is hazardous. Seat walls and gardens will rejuvenate this beautiful outdoor space, while soil removal outside the lower-level Sunday School rooms will reduce moisture-related problems. A permanent labyrinth (funded by a memorial gift) will provide space for contemplation and spiritual healing for the entire neighborhood.

Columbarium

All remaining niches in our columbarium have been reserved. New niches, inside and outside the new building, will allow us to honor and remember generations to come.

Accessibility

A five-level elevator and a ramp parallel to Chestnut Street will make it easy for people with physical limitations to access our worship space, auditorium, lower-level classrooms, courtyard, and all-purpose building to joyfully engage in all aspects of parish life.

“The IMPRESSIONS St. John's will create with the proposed enhancements will better reflect the WELCOMING COMMUNITY in Christ that we are.”



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the cost of the project?

Our preliminary design has been estimated at \$1.2 to \$1.5 million. More precise costs will be available after construction bids are secured.

What is the campaign goal?

To raise \$1.2 million over a three-year campaign. Our feasibility study indicated we could raise \$650,000 to \$750,000. We hope to encourage all of our parishioners to pray, "Lord, what do You want to do through me?"

How will we pay for this and will we incur debt?

Our plan is to allow the campaign to raise the majority of the required funding, recognizing that a short-term loan may be required to provide cash flow to cover initial building costs. Based on the pledges received, Vestry will determine the scope and other project logistics moving forward. We pray that the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts of all St. John's members, calling each of us to make a sacrificial gift that will enable us to proceed with very little debt.

When will the project begin?

We plan to break ground within six to 12 months of Commitment Sunday, November 15.

What percentage of our congregation is able to contribute?

Our feasibility study indicates 79% of those interviewed expressed a willingness to commit to the project.

How soon will we see more detailed drawings of the capital campaign project?

The architects will produce detailed plans and detailed drawings, with projected cost estimates, in November 2015.

What about my Annual pledge?

Our Annual pledge is separate from our Capital Campaign pledge. Our Annual pledge is critical to the funding of our ministries. We continue to pray for support to increase the funding of our ongoing ministries. If a choice must be made between the two, we ask that resources be focused on the Annual pledge first.

How do I know how much my gift should be?

Everyone's situation is different. We hope every decision will be grounded in gratitude, revealed through prayer and lived in faith.

When are pledge cards due and how do I make payments?

We will be receiving pledge cards on November 15. People are encouraged to kick off their giving to the capital campaign on First Fruits Sunday, December 6. You can then give in whatever way best fits your personal situation. You may choose to give weekly, monthly, annually or as a one-time gift. The choice is yours!

Can I give in ways other than cash?

Yes! Gifts of appreciated assets, stocks, and other non-cash gifts are described in a brochure you will receive with the pledge cards.

Might I simply increase my Annual pledge in order to support this initiative?

Supporting the growth of our ministries by increasing your Annual pledge, which supports our operating budget will be welcomed and celebrated. Your gift to the Capital Campaign is a separate gift - going over and above - strengthening our ministries by making improvements to our sacred ground.

What are you asking of me right now?

We ask only that you join the journey of gratitude, prayer and faith, praying:
"Lord, what do You want to do through me?"



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