

The Episcopal Parish of
Saint John the Evangelist
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The Rev. Timothy E. Schenck, *Rector*

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Dear Friends,

As a wet spring morphs into a hot summer, I wanted to update you on our vision for the future of St. John's.

You'll recall that at the Annual Meeting in January of 2018, we introduced a process to take a strategic look at our ministries, our staffing requirements, and to explore a possible fund-raising campaign to address our physical building limitations. At that time we engaged the Episcopal Church Foundation to help with this effort, and our experienced and wise consultant, Leslie Pendleton, has been coaching us through these steps.

In the spring of that year, through a series of small group sessions and surveys, we engaged in a Discernment Phase to hear people's hopes, dreams, and wishes for the St. John's of the future. Over 150 people participated in these sessions or offered online feedback. What stood out to me was that, while there is always room for improvement, our parishioners were both engaged in the present and excited about the future. I loved reading all the responses in the days after my return from sabbatical!

In response to parishioner feedback, the Vestry immediately formed five task-forces to address the non-capital issues. These were: 1. Better manage crowds before, during, and after Sunday services. 2. Improve our welcoming and coffee hour experience. 3. Develop programs for seniors, singles, and empty-nesters. 4. Analyze our communications strategy. 5. Nurture a broader base of volunteers.

This led to changing the flow of communion, tweaking the coffee hour set-up, adding a staff liaison to the newcomer's ministry, and conducting a communications survey.

The next step the Vestry took was to form a Building Committee, or what we've been referring to as the "Dream Committee." The task of this group, chaired by Mike MacDonald and Vcevy Strekalovsky, was to analyze the discernment data, examine our recently conducted capital reserve study (basically a church-wide "home inspection"), meet with staff and key ministry leaders on issues of space use, and formulate a rough plan to meet all the identified needs.

This work has taken up most of the last year, and the following projects have been researched and considered as a way to maximize our ministry. Please keep in mind that these projects are all mission driven and not intended to simply "guild the lily" that is St. John's.

1. Sunday School Expansion/Renovation
2. New Welcoming Weekday Entrance
3. Dedicated Choir Room
4. New Kitchen
5. Parking Lot Repaving/Expansion
6. Update Common Space (storage, bathrooms, laundry)
7. Stained Glass Restoration
8. Air Condition Sanctuary
9. Sanctuary Refresh (carpet, floor refinishing, lighting)
10. Roofing Repair

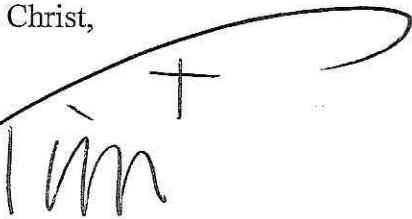
At our July meeting, the Vestry decided to move forward with plans for a capital campaign to hopefully accomplish many of these goals.

So what's the next step? On Sunday, September 15, we will display and share renderings of the proposed plans. We will need your input as we seek clarity on what is needed to better serve our mission within and beyond our walls. Your feedback will be critical in determining the final scope of what the campaign will look like, recognizing that not every project will be realizable in the short term.

We will then conduct a Feasibility Study to give everyone further opportunity to reflect on the projects, and assess their willingness to fund them.

I'm excited about how this is all unfolding; am grateful for the dedication and passion demonstrated by those involved in the process thus far; appreciate the leadership shown by our Wardens and Vestry; and can't wait to see what the future holds for St. John's.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Tim". Above the signature is a simple cross symbol (+). A long, sweeping horizontal line is drawn above the signature, starting from the left margin and extending across the width of the signature.

The Rev. Timothy E. Schenck
Rector