



Create the Future: A Foundation for the Next 150 Years of Fellowship and Worship

Q&A Following Feasibility Study

Do the windows really need to be replaced?

Most of our building's windows were replaced in the last renovation. However, the Sanctuary and Shears Hall windows were not touched. These windows are single pane and very energy inefficient. The Sanctuary windows are wood framed, falling apart, and painted shut. The Shears Hall windows are metal framed, and are warped and leaking. Some cannot even be completely closed.

What is being done to attract younger members to St. John's Church?

We are adding more communication options to our existing Parish News and Parish Report publications, like Facebook and website development. Over the past few months our website has been moved to a different platform, allowing for easier updates and editing. Several members are volunteering time and expertise in these areas, assisting our staff with communications. Watch for the improvements.

What is the final design of the Columbarium?

The Columbarium will encompass the area of our current Memorial Garden, preserving and enlarging it. The design will offer two options for repose: niches for ashes and a naturally landscaped area for scattering ashes. Parishioners will be able to choose the option they prefer. A committee is working on guidelines.

How do our plans contribute to spreading the Word?

Upgrading our facilities will attract others to St. John's Church, as happened during our last cycle of capital improvements. For example, the proposed improvements to the Woodland Chapel area will make our grounds open and available to all at all times.

Could a small chapel be included in our plans?

Currently, the size of our building does not allow for a freestanding interior chapel. The proposed Woodland Chapel can serve as a place for smaller groups to meet, weather permitting. Also, our present Church can be used by anyone at any time seeking a place of prayer, especially during business hours.

Will these projects saddle the next generation of leadership with debt?

St. John's has a strong tradition of fiscal responsibility. Our previous loan was paid off ahead of schedule. Our feasibility study showed 80% of the congregation supports "prudent long term debt." A well-maintained facility will attract new members and leadership by reflecting the high quality of sacred experience at St. John's.

In the event that the campaign does not raise enough to cover all of the projects, what is the reaction to the concept of taking out a loan?

There is support for a modest level of borrowing. During the feasibility study, 88% of respondents said that responsible debt was to some degree acceptable. The vestry has authorized up to \$500,000 in debt, should we need to take out a loan.