



ST. JOHN
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Celebrating faith, sharing community

March 8, 2017

Dear St. John Parishioner,

This is who we are...

We talk to each other more because the Commons brings us together. We take communion and heal and marry and say our final good-byes to loved ones surrounded by the peaceful intimacy of the Chapel. Our young people gather in newly renovated facilities to learn music and stories of faith. The choir rehearses in its own space. People pack the freezer sale and rummage sale because they don't have to wait outside or figure out how to find the parish hall. We meditate and pray walking the labyrinth in the Courtyard. We remember those who have gone before us in the serenity of the Memorial Garden. Everyone, regardless of physical challenges, can access comfortable restrooms.

Visitors enter our doors astounded by what we have accomplished.

We are a parish with the courage to build a facility designed to meet the needs of an active, thriving 21st century congregation. We are a parish who combines the best of the past in our historic sanctuary with the best of the future in the areas surrounding that sanctuary. We are a parish who came together with the leadership of our rector and vestry, to ensure St. John's would be here ministering to the people of God in the City of York long after we are gone.

Why was this so costly?

In 2013, the Vestry approved the launching of a capital campaign – “*Our Next Step of Faith*” – with a goal of raising \$1,700,000.00 in support of the scope of the project ***as it was initially envisioned*** and the people of St. John's responded with incredible generosity! Not only was the goal met, but as of today, the fulfillment of pledges – slated to be completed in 2018 – is well ahead of schedule.

In the time following that campaign, initial plans for the building renovation were modified. The vast majority of those modifications (and subsequent increased costs) were related to renovating buildings spanning a 260-year period. Those modifications were wholly appropriate, and designed to ensure that what we built would last for decades of rigorous use. The vestry was fully aware of what was at stake and made prayerful decisions based on information provided at the time. ***It must be remembered that this was the first major renovation since 1952—65 years.***

The current loan agreement requires us to reduce our principal by \$600,000 (\$2,600,000 to \$2,000,000) by August 1, 2017. Once we reduce our principal to \$2,000,000, loan payments of approximately \$13,000 per month will start. The current payment schedule is for 18 years.

Now for the good news...

In the last few months, members of the capital campaign committee have been conducting the “quiet phase” of our new campaign. Thanks to very generous gifts from our vestry and from some of the same donors who provided leadership gifts to the original campaign, we have already raised \$170,713.00! Those individuals have once again stepped up and said “Count Us In.”

Count us in...

We are inviting every family to stand up and be counted, to look beyond the here and now and embrace the future of this parish. We know these decisions are not entered into lightly but rather with deep prayer, family conversation, and a desire to respond to God’s call as generously as possible. We can and will meet our financial obligations by ***coming together as a parish***. Every dollar we raise in this second campaign will be one less dollar that needs to be repaid later; one less dollar impacting the present and future mission of the congregation.

If you did not make a gift or pledge to the first campaign:

Please consider making one today. A key to our success in the first campaign was multiple year pledges (for most families, three to five years). These commitments meant that donors could make larger gifts in total, spread out over several years. If you are a newer member of St. John, or if you are a longtime member but were not able to participate in our first campaign, please consider helping us in this second effort!

If you supported the “Our Next Great Step in Faith” campaign previously:

Please consider making a second “stretch” gift. This could be done by:
Making a one-time gift above and beyond your initial commitment or
Making a commitment to continuing your pledge payments for anywhere from one to five years.
Making a transfer of stock or other assets.

What’s the goal?

The Capital Campaign Committee has set a goal of raising an additional \$1,000,000 dollars by early June. This is an ambitious goal. So too was our project itself and our initial campaign, and St. John’s met those goals successfully. Your additional pledge or gift, or in some cases your first pledge or gift, will help us complete the journey that was begun in faith.

This is who we are...

We are the temporary keepers of this beautiful and holy place and we alone are responsible for its care. We are a parish deeply committed to the mission and ministry of St. John’s church. And, like those faithful parishioners who came before us, we are willing to sacrifice to sustain that ministry for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Capital Campaign Committee