



THE MESSENGER

2022 VOLUME 2

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Rector

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Senior Associate Rector

The Rev. Dr. Don White
Priest Associate

The Rev. Pat R. Lyle
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- Robert Heroman
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Holy Week & Easter Celebration



A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A YEAR REFLECTING BACK ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & MORE

THE REV. CHRIS DUNCAN
RECTOR

Did you know there are 31,536,000 seconds in a year (or add 86,400 seconds in a leap year)? Indeed, a lot can happen in a year and that is especially true here at St. James. Over the past year we have seen church life reopen with filled pews and joyful celebrations. When I reflect on where all we have been while looking to the possibilities for our future, I cannot help but be grateful and excited. There are so many things upon which to reflect. For instance, it was one year ago in May that St. James celebrated the wildly successful “Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future” capital campaign and began a new round of projects beyond the church construction.

Most consulting firms will tell you that having anything over 60% of the active congregation giving toward a capital campaign is considered a success, especially considering that these gifts are over and above the regular giving. Therefore, you can only imagine the pride I felt when St. James had over 80% of the congregation participating in the campaign. Not only that, but through the generosity of our members, St. James superseded the original campaign goal by \$559,566. This turned out to be quite fortuitous given the fact that construction costs have skyrocketed in this past year. For instance, the cost for the windows in Werlein have gone up by more than \$150k and the parking lot has increase by around \$60k. All in all, St. James is filled with parishioners committed to “Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future” not just for our sake today, but also for the generations whose lives will be transformed by the mission and ministry of this place in the years to come.

In the following pages of this edition of The Messenger, you will find a brief history of what has happened leading up to this moment in regard to the capital projects, a report on the plans for this coming summer, what projects will be remaining, and a breakdown of the financials including other sources of funding received. At the same time, you will also find pictures and short insights highlighting the active life of St. James over the past few months. This is but a small example of all that is happening.

Each and every day, I am grateful to be your rector and I look forward to the many opportunities yet to come. Thank you for your commitment to the mission and ministry of St. James.



Anglican Heritage Pilgrimage
including an optional extension



Anglican Heritage Pilgrimage

11 days and 10 nights

Hosted by Father Chris

When: October 7-17 with an optional 5-day extension package

Where: London, Oxford, York, Edinburgh, and much more.

This pilgrimage celebrates the great legacy of English spirituality and Christian practice. For members of the Episcopal family, England and Scotland have always been places of special significance and pilgrimage.

For more Information and to register, visit:

portal.myfaithjourneys.com

Group Code: 22032

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Revenue	Budget	Actuals
Love of Christ Always	\$2,217,023	\$2,217,023
Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future	\$3,890,730	\$2,110,065
Gumbo Donation	\$101,000	\$101,000
Other Donations	\$78,451	\$78,451
Endowment Loan	\$600,000	\$600,000
Historic Tax Credits	\$655,515	\$285,515
Total	\$7,542,719	\$5,392,054

Expenses	Budget	Actuals
Church Exterior	\$1,350,293	\$1,350,293
Church Interior	\$2,285,570	\$2,277,648
Ministry Center	\$392,455	\$171,455
Atkinson/Bishops Hall	\$380,482	\$230,482
Landscaping	\$231,020	\$142,973
Flat Roofs	\$588,900	\$0
Werlein Windows	\$528,700	\$0
Parking Lot	\$459,650	\$0
Capital Campaign & Financials Services	\$153,000	\$135,815
Engineers, Architects, etc.	\$49,050	\$49,050
Endowment Repayment	\$600,000	\$50,000
Past Project Repayment	\$300,000	\$0
Contingency	\$91,513	\$0
Total	\$7,410,632	\$4,407,716

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue

- ✚ The ***Love of Christ Always*** campaign had a pledged amount of \$2,239,035. This means 99.02% of the pledged amount was collected.
- ✚ The ***Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future*** had a pledged amount of \$4,059,505. This means in less than one year the congregation has given 51.5% of the total pledged amount.
- ✚ Only 95% of the ***Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future*** pledge amount was used for budget purposes. Any funds raised over will go toward a reserve for future capital improvements.
- ✚ There were 263 pledges made toward the ***Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future*** campaign. This means the average pledge was over \$15k.
- ✚ To date, 90 pledges have been paid in full which is equal to 34%. Only 21 pledges have not been paid toward at all.
- ✚ The **Gumbo leadership** made a significant donation that paid for the console of the new **Goulding & Wood pipe organ**.
- ✚ Other donations came from restricted gifts often given before the current campaign to cover projects such as the wooden floors.
- ✚ The **Endowment loan/repayment** are listed in both revenue and expenses as they offset each other.
- ✚ With the help of long-time parishioner, Jonathan Fricker, St. James seeks to earn as much **historic tax credit** as possible through the state. When historical buildings are being restored and renovated, a group can receive credit for 20% of the funds spent on eligible expenses. Since St. James is a non-profit, we in turn sell these with the help of Stonehenge Capital for a net return of 18% on funds spent on eligible expenses. This is a long process that requires detailed applications, meticulous tracking, and scrupulous audits. Nonetheless, it is worth the work for the reward received in revenue.

Expenses

- ✚ **Church Exterior** work is primarily the repointing (or repairing) of the bricks. This project was completed in 2018.
- ✚ **Church Interior** includes everything from floors to organ to electrical and much more. This project was completed in 2021.
- ✚ **Ministry Center** actuals includes the brick waterproofing, exterior paint, and third floor interior renovation.
- ✚ **Atkinson/Bishops Hall** actuals includes the complete interior renovation of Bishops Hall and exterior painting around both buildings.
- ✚ **Capital Campaign & Financials Services** includes the cost of running the capital campaign as well as the various audits that are needed for Historic Tax Credits.
- ✚ Many of the categories with \$0 will start to have expenses over the coming months and as bills are received for completed work, such as for the flat roof on Killgore Hall.
- ✚ As shared in another article, the **endowment** is being paid \$50k per year until 2025 when the remaining \$400k will be paid as a balloon payment. The Vestry chose this repayment schedule to ensure the capital improvement projects did not get slowed down due to lack of funding while also maintaining the practice of repaying the endowment.
- ✚ **Past Project Repayment** will be the last expense made for the project.

RESTORING AND REBUILDING OUR FUTURE: A LOOK AT PAST, CURRENT, AND FUTURE PROJECTS

TREY ROBERTS

Back in 2017, a small capital campaign was conducted to raise funds for two primary purposes, fix the bricks on the exterior of the church and raise the seed money for a larger project restoring the interior of the church including the organ, paint, electrical, and floors. This campaign was entitled “Love of Christ Always” or LOCA for short. The campaign was successful in achieving these goals. The bricks were repaired in early 2018 and the funds set aside for the future larger project as well. Shortly after Fr. Chris’ arrival, work began in haste to assess all the projects needed to fully restore our campus. A capital campaign was scheduled to begin in March 2020, but then the world quite literally shut down with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Vestry voted to move forward borrowing funds against the endowment until a larger capital campaign could be conducted. This was important because construction costs were low and the Vestry did not want to lose ground in addressing the much needed areas of the church interior and landscaping. These projects included a new organ, restored original wood flooring, new lighting, updated electrical, a fire suppression system, upgraded sound system, cameras and edit room for livestreaming, and much more. On the outside, drainage was installed to stop water from getting under the church and other general beautification steps were taken including the new pavers in the front.

THIS SUMMER'S PROJECTS

In the first half of 2021, the “Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future” capital campaign was completed with equal success as LOCA which allowed the Vestry to keep the momentum moving forward. A payment schedule was created to repay the loan from the endowment and a rough schedule was outlined prioritizing projects was created, knowing that moving forward would be dictated by funds available. That first summer saw exterior painting around the campus, Bishops Hall interior renovated, the installation of the new organ, and repairs to our fencing and walls.

While the past two years have been busy with construction at St. James. As many of you might remember, summer tends to be the best time to address many of our projects. Therefore, as another summer approaches, here is a quick update of the many projects that are in the works.

Parking Lot

In 2016 a Master Plan was created that included a single unified parking lot. After over six years of planning, the work on the parking lot finally began on Monday, May 2 and will continue through the Summer - pray we don't have a rainy Summer!

Landscaping Entergy finished their work along 4th Street repairing the main energy lines at the end of April. Due to the inconvenience that was created by their work, Entergy agreed to pay for the sidewalk demolition and tree stump removals. Once they cleared out, the landscaping team has already begun to install the new pavers all the way from the church corner to the Florida St. corner. On top of that, after more than 15 years of asking the city, this work will also include a curb cut for a handicap ramp in the middle of the block. The timing of this project will also be dependent on good weather.

Killgore Hall

The first flat roof to be replaced is on Killgore Hall as it was in the worst shape of all. This work was completed during Easter week.

Interior Manship Ministry Center

Starting in May, the entire interior of the Manship Ministry Center is being renovated. Last summer the exterior work included waterproofing the bricks to stop water infiltration into the building. Now that that work is completed, we are able to turn our attention to renovating the interior. This will take about eight weeks and go into early July.

RESTORING AND REBUILDING OUR FUTURE:

WHAT'S NEXT

What has already been accomplished and what will be addressed this summer is certainly a lot. Yet, there is still more to come as part of the “Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future” punch list. Those include the following:

Werlein Windows

The historic windows on Werlein Hall are showing their age as the wood is rotting. The St. James Property Committee and facilities staff have spent the last several years working to secure the building against the elements, but these are all short-term stop gaps. Therefore, new aluminum windows have been ordered that will look nearly identical but also have an even longer lifespan. This project was originally slated for summer 2022, but due to cost increases and extended lead times for production, the windows will be installed in summer 2023.

Flat Roofs

While one flat roof is now repaired, the roofs on Atkinson and the Manship Ministry Center will also need to be replaced. This schedule has not been set as of yet, but the current goal is to have both replaced before summer 2024. We will seek to do this earlier as funds are available.

Atkinson Building Interior

Coleman Hall, the parlor, foyer, and larger building were last renovated after the fire in the early 2000's. Therefore, it is time for a fresh coat of paint and new carpet. Once again, this work will not be scheduled until the funds are available and other more pressing projects are completed.

Repay Endowment

When the capital campaign was put on hold, the vestry authorized moneys from the endowment to be used on loan to keep the church interior restoration on track. The final amount used was \$600k. After the conclusion of the capital campaign, the Vestry created a repayment schedule with \$50k given each year and a balloon payment of the remaining \$400k balance at the end of 2025.

Repay Past Capital Improvement Spending

As shared during the capital campaign, past capital improvement projects did not always raise the full funds needed. Therefore, a portion of these funds will go toward repaying both the church and school for these used funds in order to better secure St. James' future ability to address needs.



Feast of St. James
including a Fish Fry

SUNDAY, JULY 25
FOLLOWING THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

Fellowship

The poster features a collage of images: a child on a green and yellow inflatable slide, a person serving food from a large white bowl, and a church interior with people seated at tables. The St. James Episcopal Church logo is in the top left corner.



Hearty Breakfast

enjoy a warm meal & fellowship
or take a warm meal to go

Sunday, May 29 | 8-9 a.m.
St. James Episcopal Church
Bishops Hall | 205 N. Fourth Street

The poster features a background image of a church interior with people seated at tables. The St. James Episcopal Church logo is in the top left corner.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

Over the coming year, a member of the St. James staff will be sitting down with various parishioners to discuss their history of involvement at St. James and the capital improvement projects that inspired them to participate in the recent campaigns. This quarter we hear from John & Virginia Noland regarding the 2017 “Love of Christ Always” campaign and from Hickey & Nancy Jo Poirrier regarding the fire suppression system.

REPOINTING BRICKS WITH JOHN & VIRGINIA NOLAND

THE REV. CHRIS DUNCAN
RECTOR



When/how did you become connected to St. James Church?

Virginia (VN): I was born here and baptized here. Yes, I have been connected to St. James my whole life.

John (JN): We moved back to Baton Rouge from Chapel Hill and we had to choose a parish. St. James was the natural one for us. Our parents had been members here and we became members by default. I think we are happily defaulted into St. James.

VN: Bob Witcher was the rector when we came back and he was good friends of our parents. We knew him well and he helped get us involved. Then Jim Coleman was the priest of our active years when we were younger. He definitely invited us to become even more involved. That's when we realized St. James was important to us and our lives.

What is one of your favorite memories at St. James?

VN: I was married at St. James. That was pretty wonderful and memorable! There are just so many memories with school boards and vestry service and much more. Also, John was one of the very first Eucharistic Ministers at St. James.

What are you most excited about in regard to St. James' future?

JN: I don't know if I can define this, but St. James was always the church where great role models like Frank Middleton were active in the church and in their civic duty all with decency and honor. The people like that were always a role model of lay leadership for me. I am excited for this to continue for those coming to St. James now.

VN: Because of recent health issues, we have started sitting in what has apparently become the youth and kids' section and it's exciting. And it is full. Yes, they are loud, but they are also paying attention and happy to be there. I think it is really exciting to see a future in that building.

The two of you helped get this entire project started during the "Love of Christ Always" portion of this campaign back in 2017. Why was that first step so important?

JN: My view is that we recognized that this work was needed, and so someone had to step in to help make it happen. We were as logical of candidates to do this, and I have always loved being a part of lay leadership. And so, Virginia and I supported that first step.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

REPOINTING BRICKS WITH JOHN & VIRGINIA NOLAND

The largest part of the first campaign was to address the brick work on the church and then provide the seed money for the larger campaign to be held once the full needs were assessed. Why was this project important to you?

VN: Looking back on it, the brick work was an obvious need that had to be addressed and had to come first before we could do anything else. This made it an easy campaign to support because we also didn't have to choose anything controversial like paint or carpet color. We need the bricks and so it was a good and right first step.

The second campaign, of which John was a co-chair, had the theme "Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future." Why was this theme meaningful for where we are and as we look to our future?

JN: I really do believe St. James has a mission to serve as a peak of activity so that St. James will be known as an Episcopal presence in downtown and throughout the city. We make a difference to the civic lives and spiritual lives of the city.

VN: I often come back to the gift of the baptismal font. As our congregation changes, we always have our baptism and our font in particular serves as a reminder of our unity despite our differences. The gift was given by the family of a Union officer that died here in Baton Rouge because he was so warmly welcomed to this congregation.

St. James is about more than bricks and mortar. At the same time, what do our facilities empower us to do and be?

JN: Well I think that old brick church stands there as an example of what a downtown Episcopal church can be and why we want to see viable ministries like St. James taking a leadership role in the civic life of a community. It is good.

VN: Our downtown is vibrant and also vexed. St. James is in the middle of that serving in both sides.

Finally, as we look to our future, not just in regard to our buildings, what would you say to encourage the congregation?

JN: It is important for St. James to remain a diocesan and civic leader so that we can carry the lantern of the Gospel where it is barely flickering. St. James is as apt as ever to be a place where the lantern burns bright of its own heritage and in new ways. St. James has always been a light and we need that light of Christ to lead the way.



Baptismal Font

"As our congregation changes, we always have our baptism, and our font in particular serves as a reminder of our unity despite our differences."

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

INSTALLING FIRE SUPPRESSION WITH NANCY JO & HICKEY POIRRIER

When/how did you become connected to St. James Church?

Hickey (HP): I have been at St. James for 86 years. Baptized, confirmed, married here... and it will be the place I am laid to rest.

Nancy Jo (NP): If I wanted to go to church with my future husband, I needed to become Episcopalian. Immediately, I loved the ritual. It was comforting to be part the religion and I immediately felt at home when I came to St. James.

What is one of your favorite memories at St. James?

HP: I ushered for many years at St. James and also served as an Acolyte. I remember the first time Nancy Jo attended church with me and my grandmother for the midnight Christmas Eve mass. I would bring my grandmother to church every Sunday. Well, on that day, they were short on Acolytes, so I stood up and excused myself. As I left, I said, "you have to stay with big mother while I go be an Acolyte."

NP: The leadership of the church has been amazing. Especially, our connection to Phillip Werlein was very special throughout so many stages of our life. He baptized us; he married us; and he even baptized our children. I will never forget the time he just showed up at our house right after we got married.



What are you most excited about in regard to St. James' future?

HP: More crawfish boils...

NP: The gatherings of community for the sake of community. St. James is a place that all are welcome. This really enlivens the church. Having the crawfish boil back is just one of these gatherings. It is all about community.

Long before the recent church restoration project, you advocated for a fire suppression system in the church. Why was this so important to you?

HP: We realized it was needed as we were sitting on the end of the aisle in the back. We saw how everyone would have to squeeze through those doors if there was a fire and it just did not seem safe.

NP: I was panicked that St. James did not have a fire suppressant system. As Senior Warden, I started to voice my concerns to Fr. Mark Holland. He said, "if you can raise the money, we can get one." All of our grandkids went to the Day School, but even more so it was important to keep all of our members safe.

*The Poirriers on their wedding day with
Phillip Werlein*

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

INSTALLING FIRE SUPPRESSION WITH NANCY JO & HIC POIRRIER

What was a pivotal moment that helped others get on board with this project?

NP: I remember the tide starting to turn after events like the fire at Notre Dame. People did not want that happening to us at St. James. Also, there were people so negative before we got the sprinklers because they were afraid of how it would look. Then they were shocked and pleased when they saw that it was practically invisible. People accepted it because the church remained beautiful and now it was also safer.

The capital campaign had the theme “Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future.” Why is it important to preserve our past and secure our future at St. James?

NP: A good physical sign of preserving of our past is looking at the wall of past rectors and remembering the stories of St. James. But the present is what is so important because that helps us to secure our future. In other words, we have to live and serve the kingdom of God today so that there will be a secure tomorrow.

St. James is about more than bricks and mortar. At the same time, what do our facilities empower us to do and be?

NP: Our facilities give us room for ministry. The altar guild for instance is a dedicated space off of the sanctuary. It is so well put together and Jane Christensen helps keep everything together as well. This allows us to have our services so that all can worship in our beautiful church. All of our facilities help make our ministries possible and better.

Finally, as we look to our future, not just in regard to our buildings, what would you say to encourage the congregation as we step forward into tomorrow and beyond?

HP: We have really enjoyed our years of volunteering for Gumbo. There is just so much to do and I encourage everyone to participate in this community.

NP: The volunteer events help us connect with each other and work for one cause. As a church, we need to create opportunities for members to participate. The word participate keeps coming to my mind because each of us are the church, not the buildings, and so we should all participate.



MINISTRY MOMENTS

FAMILY MINISTRIES



Burying and Resurrecting the Alleluias



EYC Par-tee at Top Golf



Easter Egg Hunt



EYC Sequestered

OUTREACH COMMITTEE



Love the Boot

- 37 volunteers
- Collected 38 bags of garbage
- partnered with Keep Louisiana Beautiful



SEASONS OF GIVING: LENTEN COLLECTION

- 2,298 Diapers
- 4,976 Wipes
- 12 Baby Care Items
- Partnered with Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge

PROJECT PARTNER:



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Seasons of Giving

School Supplies Collection

July 10 - August 7



FELLOWSHIP



Garden Guild



The James Gang

ADULT FORMATION



**Rector's Tuesday
Bible Study**



Adult Forum
Prayer Practices in the Christian Religion



Saint Mary's Group



Senior Men's Bible Study



ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BACK TO SCHOOL

Block Party

SUNDAY,
AUGUST 7TH

10:30AM SERVICE
BLESSING OF THE
BACKPACKS



11:45AM
BLOCK PARTY
BEGINS



INFLATABLES



CLERGY 'DUNCAN'
BOOTH

FOOD BY THE
ST. JAMES HOLY
GRILLERS

SNOWBALLS



GUMBO

70 YEARS OF FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP



ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL



FROM THE VESTRY

ANITA BYRNE SR. WARDEN

The first quarter of 2022 has been a busy one for the St. James community, and it is wonderful to be able to gather in-person once again. In January, we convened for the annual meeting over a delicious pancake breakfast hosted by the Associate Vestry to hear an update and to seat the new Vestry and Associate Vestry members. My gratitude to each of them for giving of their time and talents in the service of the St. James community.

On March 25, St. James held its 70th Annual Gumbo with the Baton Rouge community invited to join in the festivities, leading to a sold-out lunch crowd. The day was one of joy and delicious food that would not be possible without the Gumbo Committee, co-chaired by Erin Irby and Anna Catherine Soule, and the many willing hands who contributed to the success of the day.

Holy Week and Easter Services were truly a wonderful experience showcasing the superb choir, led by Shannon Gallier, who continues to elevate the musical tradition at St. James. The newly renovated church, new organ, and clergy created a space of deep reflection and joy. Of course, the Garden Guild made sure the campus was celebration ready with a Saturday workday. I hope you were able to join us in-person or via livestream to celebrate.

The Annual Crawfish Boil also returned to the St. James calendar this year. Hosted by the Associate Vestry with 1250 pounds of crawfish, St. James gathered on April 29th for a wonderful evening of music, friendship, and family fun. Be sure to mark your calendars now for the next Associate Vestry event – Summer Sounds on July 14 with Chris LeBlanc! You may notice some new faces on the staff at St. James. Three new team members have joined the staff and have jumped into their roles with grace and enthusiasm. Please join me in offering a heartfelt welcome to Laurie Gaston (Parish Administrator), Sarah Joy Hayes (Parish Life Coordinator) and Melissa Parmelee (Director of Communications).

In addition to Summer Sounds on July 14, I also offer for your calendars two dates: July 24 for the St. James Feast Day including a fish fry and August 7 for the Blessing of the Backpacks and Back to School Bash. I hope you will be able to attend these events, which promise to be full of fun and fellowship at St. James.

A promotional poster for the 'Summer Sounds' event. The background is a warm, golden-yellow image of hands playing a guitar. In the top left corner is the St. James Episcopal Church logo. The event title 'Summer Sounds' is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, the date and location 'THURSDAY, JULY 14TH BISHOPS HALL' are in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. Further down, the times 'DOORS OPEN 6PM' and 'MUSIC STARTS 6:30PM' are listed. At the bottom left, the pricing '\$10 PER PERSON | \$20 PER FAMILY' is shown. On the right side, a dark blue box contains white text: '+ Activities for the kids' and '+ Food provided by the St. James Holy Grillers'.

ST. JAMES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Summer Sounds

THURSDAY, JULY 14TH
BISHOPS HALL

DOORS OPEN 6PM
MUSIC STARTS 6:30PM

\$10 PER PERSON | \$20 PER FAMILY

+ Activities for the kids
+ Food provided by the
St. James Holy Grillers



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CHURCH@STJAMESBR.ORG
STJAMESBR.ORG

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U.S. Postage

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Baton Rouge, LA
Permit No. 703



Easter Vigil by Candlelight

WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAYS IN-PERSON

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON

Noon Holy Eucharist with healing prayer

SUNDAYS ONLINE

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Facebook/YouTube



STJAMESBR.ORG