



# Open to All in Love



Not long after I came to St. George's, an anonymous artist changed our humble "Church is Open" sign to say: "This Church is Open to *All* in Love." We have left that wonderful addition in place to this day, because it communicates so much about who we are and who we want to be as a church. This sign reminds me that God often shows up in the intersection of old and new. This sign reminds me of God's dream for us to be open to all in love.

We are preparing to take a significant leap forward in our efforts to be a church that is truly welcoming. Over the past several years, we have had teams of vestry, staff, and other leaders, with an architect and consultants, working on a vision for our buildings and grounds so that our campus better reflects our values about being open to all in Christ's name.

There are four key elements of how we want to live into this vision in the next few years: *maintenance, endowment, accessibility, and columbarium*. This brochure lays out the general vision of what we hope to do and why it is important now. I hope you will read and pray over it. We will have many more details to share in the coming weeks.

In order to make our vision a reality, this Fall we will embark on a capital campaign we have named: "Open to All in Love" that is inspired by the words and spirit of our church sign. This is not just about raising money. It is about our spiritual growth as individuals, families, and as a congregation. We will spend time in worship exploring themes of gratitude, the impact of our ministry, prayer, and living in faith. Fellow St. Georgians on our prayer team will be contacting every household soon, inviting everyone to pray for the campaign and for guidance: "God, what do you want to do through me?"

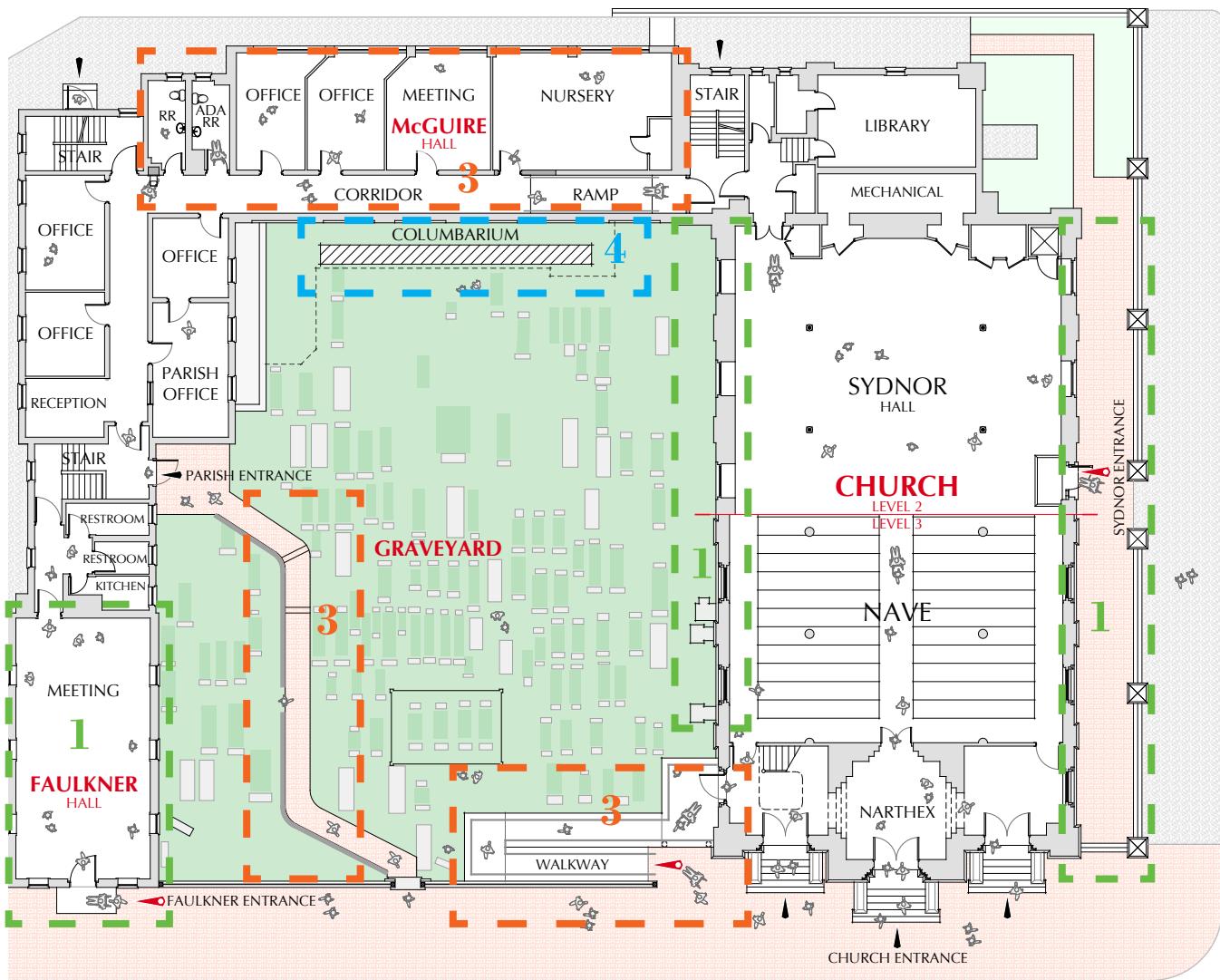
Our prayer and reflection over the weeks of the campaign will inspire us as we consider how we are called to be generous. We will, as we typically do each Fall, invite annual pledges, or estimates of giving, to support the ongoing mission of St. George's in the next year. This support is vitally important as we continue our ministries together. At the same time, if you feel God is calling you to make an additional sacrificial gift to see our Open to All in Love vision become a reality, you will be provided with an additional three-year pledge card for the Open to All in Love Campaign. This larger vision is also vitally important for our ministry now and in the years to come.

With God's help as we work, pray, and give together, we can bring this vision into reality. This campaign is our next step in accomplishing God's dream for us, to be a sign of welcoming grace. Now is the time to say "Yes" to God who is using us and using our church building and grounds, to extend the love of Christ to the world, open to all in love.

Your rector and brother in Christ,

  
Joe

the Rev. Joe Hensley



Our Open to All in Love campaign addresses urgent and future maintenance needs, improves accessibility to our worship space, and builds a columbarium in our graveyard. Our current estimate for these projects is \$4 million. As approved by our vestry, the project includes four main areas of focus: **maintenance, endowment, accessibility, and columbarium**. *Look for more details about our plan in a follow-up mailing in early October.*

**1 Maintenance**  
We have structural maintenance to address in Faulkner Hall. Additionally, moisture mitigation is needed at the north and south walls of the Nave, as well as the brick courtyard immediately outside Sydnor Hall.

**3 Accessibility**  
We will add a graceful ADA-compliant entrance ramp into the narthex entrance and an ADA-compliant ramp to connect our office corridor and Sydnor Hall. We will adapt existing restrooms on the office level to be handicap accessible. We will add a tasteful railing along the brick pathway in the graveyard to the church office entrance.

**2 Endowment**  
By growing our endowment significantly, we can generate monetary resources for future maintenance needs and also offer future generations the means to continue to care for our historic building.

**4 Columbarium**  
Adding a columbarium to our graveyard will create an attractive visitor area and offer parishioners a marked final resting place for cremated remains. We will have a comprehensive plan for how landscaping and architecture work together.

# Why Now?

Our Open to All in Love Campaign addresses immediate concerns that cannot wait any longer. Over the years, we have postponed larger maintenance projects. We tried short term solutions to mitigate the damage, but they are no longer enough.

## Maintenance

Water infiltration has been a continual problem that has damaged the brickwork of our building. Left unaddressed, the brick will continue to deteriorate and crumble, causing catastrophic damage to the structural integrity of our church building. Additionally, we recently uncovered structural damage to Faulkner Hall. Structural engineers have indicated the work should be complete in the near future so the space can remain safe to use.

## Endowment

There are other upcoming maintenance projects, that while not urgent, need careful planning. An endowment will help provide the funding.

In preparation for our 300th anniversary, we established the Landmark Building Fund at the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region as an endowment for the ongoing care of our historic landmark building.

Now is the time to grow that endowment significantly so it can generate income for future maintenance.

A generous endowment means we can focus our giving in the future on mission and ministry more than building repairs.

## Accessibility

We cannot say we are "open to all" if there are some who cannot even safely enter our church building. The church steps are not easy to manage. The sidewalk leading to our elevator is prohibitively steep. Internally, steps throughout the building make it difficult to navigate. Instead of coming to church, many people stay home because they cannot enter the building.

Internally, the church offices are not accessible and have no accessible bathroom. People with mobility concerns are "stuck" and unable to navigate our building with dignity and independence.

Further, the brick pathway through the graveyard needs a handrail, especially in rain and snow conditions.

## Columbarium

Our graveyard is the oldest in the city and the most visited place on our campus. We need a comprehensive plan.

St. Georgians have long been asking for a marked place for their cremated remains to be interred in an urn, a columbarium.

Our graveyard needs a unifying plan for how the landscaping and architecture can combine to create a more welcoming space.



*"It's high time that we make our buildings and grounds better reflect who we are: open to all in love."*  
- the Rev. Joe Hensley, Rector





## Open to All in Love Campaign Co-Chairs **Marilyn Farrington and Mike Fray**

We are excited to co-chair St. George's Open to All in Love Capital Campaign. The project is truly a culmination of many conversations and several years of careful consideration, evaluation, and design.

In the upcoming weeks, we are looking forward to sharing with you more — not only about the project — but also about ways you can be involved in the campaign. This is a parish-wide event!

For now, we hope you will join us by praying, *"God, what do you want to do through me?"* and then listening for where God is leading you.

God is moving in, through, and among the parish of St. George's!

If you have any questions about the campaign, please let us know.

In peace,  
Marilyn Farrington and Mike Fray

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## Campaign Timeline

### **Early September**

Our prayer team calls each household.

### **Sunday, Sept. 29 : Gratitude Sunday**

We ground our campaign in gratitude.

### **Week of Sept. 30:**

Detailed brochure mailed to each household.

### **Sunday, Oct. 6: Impact of Ministry Sunday**

Led by our Generosity Team, we celebrate the numerous ministries at St. George's and learn how they are impacting lives in a combined 10 am worship service.

### **Monday, Oct. 14**

Parish-wide devotional reading begins.

### **Sunday, Oct. 20: Prayer Sunday**

We explore the power of prayer as we listen for God's guidance.

### **Week of October 21:**

Annual Giving and Capital Campaign pledge cards mailed.

### **Sunday, Oct. 27: Living in Faith Sunday**

We ask for God's help to take a leap of faith.

### **Sunday, Nov. 3: Commitment Sunday**

Annual Giving and Capital Campaign pledge cards received and blessed during worship.

### **Sunday, Nov. 17: First Fruit Sunday**

3-year giving period begins.