
Liturgy of the Light

April 4, 2026



The Liturgy of the Light service celebrates the Light of Christ that has come into the world and shines anew in the dawn of Easter.

The service is prepared by the children, for the children.



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

April 4, 2026

The mission of the Church is to
restore all people to unity with God
and each other in Christ.
- Book of Common Prayer, pg. 855

Welcome to St. George's!



Whether you are worshipping online or in person, we are glad you are here.

New to St. George's?

Thank you for joining us today! You can use this bulletin to follow along with the worship service. We use liturgies based in the red *Book of Common Prayer*. Hymns are from the blue *Hymnal 1982* and green *Wonder, Love, and Praise*. All are located in your pew. Watch fellow worshipers for when to

stand or sit, and please only do what is comfortable for you.

Families with Children

Nursery is available during the 10 am service on Sundays. Our nursery room is in the office hallway, one level below the main church. Ask an usher for directions.

Office Hours

Please note our office is closed April 6 - 7. If you have a pastoral emergency and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573.

Giving

We believe in a generous, loving, and giving God. We invite our church family to embrace generosity as a lifelong, joyful, transforming, and liberating response to God's call to us. Thank you for your generous support.

Note that cash or offerings designated "Good Friday Offering" will be given to the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Loose and offerings designated "Easter Offering" will be divided between the Micah Ministries Jeremiah Community housing initiative and Notre Dame School in Port au Prince, Haiti.



You can make a financial gift:

- **In-person:** place gift in collection plate in the aisle.
- **Online - one-time or recurring:**
StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/giving. Or scan the QR code.
- **Text:** Send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133)

You can also mail a check to the church office:

P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404 *Thank you!*

Walking Together

Pastoral Care at St. George's is a ministry of the clergy and the laity. By walking with each other through times of joy and times of sorrow, the love of Christ is revealed.

Prayer Ministers are available to pray with you during our Sunday worship services and outside of worship times on the phone. Our Prayer Group provides intercessory prayer weekly. Our One Body Response Team (OBRT) offers prayers, sends cards, and responds to other needs as able.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are available to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

Our Wednesday Noon Eucharist service in the nave includes prayers for healing and anointing.

Prayer Shawls are available upon request. These mantles of healing and comfort are made by our ministry teams.

If you need support or encouragement, please consider reaching out to our church office (540.373.4133; office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net). You may also contact clergy directly to make an appointment.

If you have a pastoral care emergency (death, serious illness, or other crisis) and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573 to reach clergy on call.

Land and Labor Acknowledgment

We give thanks for the land which God created as a precious gift. We honor the Indigenous peoples who long knew the land of our parish more than 10,000 years before it was established over 300 years ago, including the Patowomeck and Rappahannock Tribes who still live here. Please see our website for the full text of our land acknowledgment.

We also honor the people of African descent whose enslaved labor supported the parish for the first half of its history. Rooted in the Gospel, repentant of sin, we are nurturing faith and seeking justice, healing, and repair of relationships amid the complexity of our times.

The Liturgy of the Light

inspired by the Book of Common Prayer
(BCP)

April 4, 2026
5 pm

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The children gather on the small side of Sydnor Hall, while the adults and other family wait on the large side.

All stand.

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

The Paschal Candle is a remembrance to us that Jesus has died, but is risen.
Please repeat after me:

God, we share in your light.

All: God, we share in your light.

The taper is lit.

Christ, yesterday and today. The beginning and the end. The Alpha and the Omega.

All time belongs to Christ. And all ages. To Him be glory and power.
Through every age, forever. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is lit from the taper.

Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

Loving God, accept this Easter Candle.

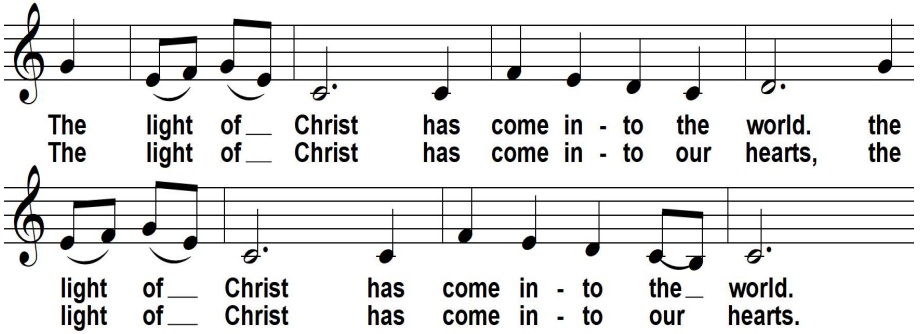
May it always dispel the darkness of the night. **Amen.**

Procession

All process into the large side of Sydnor Hall, chanting as we follow the Paschal Candle.

Processional Hymn: "The Light of Christ"
led by the Children's Choir of St. George's
Repeated several times.

Donald E. Fishel



The light of Christ has come in - to the world. the
The light of Christ has come in - to our hearts, the
light of Christ has come in - to the world.
light of Christ has come in - to our hearts.

The Exsultet

All are seated as cantors sing the Exsultet, an ancient chant of praise inspired by the light of Christ. The words here have been adapted to make the Exsultet easier to sing and are provided to help you focus.

Rejoice now, O hosts of angels
Shout thanksgiving for rebirth
Rejoice now, all bright with splendor,
Darkness gone from all the round earth.
Rejoice now, O Church, so full of your light,
People filled with joy and mirth.

Holy God, accept our offering
Of this glowing paschal light
Offered in the dark of the evening
Sacrifice so radiant and bright
Candle made by bees, and with our loving hands,
Its flame mingling with your light

May it shine in infinite glory
Just like Christ the morning star,
May Christ Jesus, with us forever
Find it shining near and far
Jesus gives his light to all that God has made
So we sing our thanks and praise.

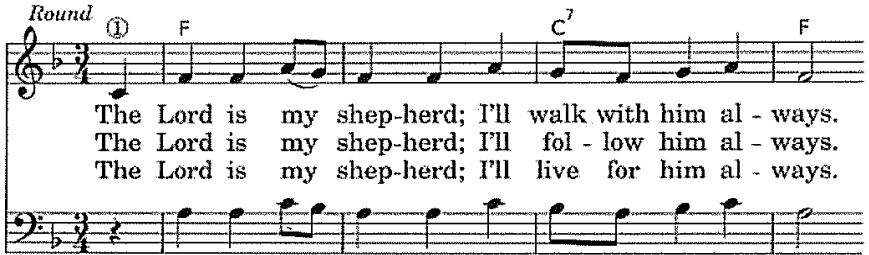
Spreading the Light

The Light of the Risen Christ has come into the World. He calls us each by name to come and share the light.

Each child will be invited to come forward to receive a candle lit from the Paschal Candle and return to their seat.

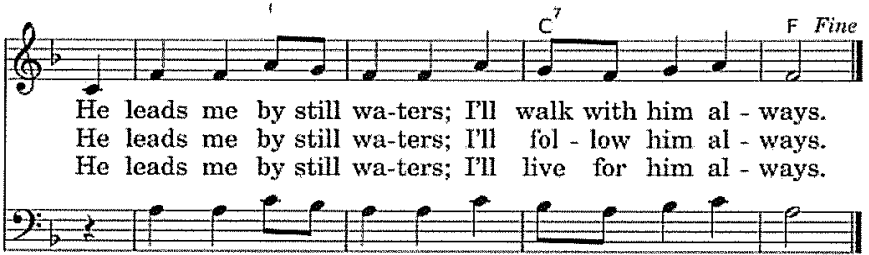
Hymn for the Lighting of the Candles: "The Lord is My Shepherd" *Traditional*

Round ① F C⁷ F



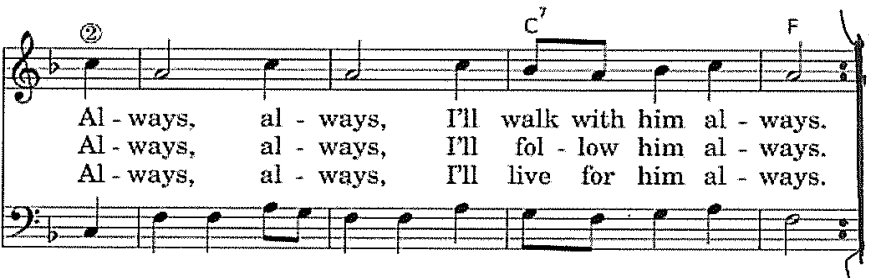
The Lord is my shep-herd; I'll walk with him al - ways.
The Lord is my shep-herd; I'll fol - low him al - ways.
The Lord is my shep-herd; I'll live for him al - ways.

C⁷ F *Fine*



He leads me by still wa-ters; I'll walk with him al - ways.
He leads me by still wa-ters; I'll fol - low him al - ways.
He leads me by still wa-ters; I'll live for him al - ways.

② C⁷ F



Al - ways, al - ways, I'll walk with him al - ways.
Al - ways, al - ways, I'll fol - low him al - ways.
Al - ways, al - ways, I'll live for him al - ways.

Silent reflection

The First Reading: Isaiah 60:19 *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8 - 10 *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light-- for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Song: "This little light of mine"

During the singing, each child will walk their candle back to the Paschal Candle.

This lit - tle light of mine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go,
Hide it un - der a bushel,
All a - round the world,

This lit - tle light of mine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go,
Hide it un - der a bushel,
All a - round the world,

This lit - tle light of mine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it
Ev - 'ry - where I go, shine,
Hide it un - der a bushel, let it
All a - round the world, shine.

Celebrant: May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (28:1-10) NRSV

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Homily

Celebrant: Let us boldly proclaim the Easter message. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Song: "Hallelu, hallelujah"

As the song is sung, bells may be rung, keys jingled, or other joyful noises made.

Hal-le - lu, hal-le-lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le-lu - jah! Praise ye the Lord! Hal-le-

lu, hal-le-lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le-lu - jah! Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu - jah! Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu - jah!

Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu - jah! Praise ye the Lord!

Prayers:

Leader: O God who made this holy night to shine with the glory of Christ who is risen: Make us all one church family in the light.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Inspire the nations that they may make peace.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless the whole world that you have made and all peoples and creatures everywhere.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Watch over all those in our community who help and feed others.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Take care of those who are sick or are in any need or trouble.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Hold in eternal life all those we love but see no longer.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer.

Leader: Help us to walk in love with Jesus always.

People: Alleluia, hear our prayer. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The people share a sign of peace with one another.

Offertory Anthem: "Take this Light"

Mark Patterson

sung by the Children's Choir of St. George's

Take this Light into all the world: Let it shine so clear and bright.

Take this light into all the world; Let it shine, let it shine, for love has come tonight.

Let this light shine for all the world to see That Christ has come, our King of Kings.

Let the news now be told throughout the earth; Go share the joy of Jesus' birth.

Take this Light into all the world: Let it shine so clear and bright.

Take this light into all the world; Let it shine, let it shine, for love has come tonight.

Let it shine, Let it shine,

For love has come tonight. Love has come tonight

Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All you have made is good. Your love continues for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Holy Ruler of all Creation.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

Loving God, you created the whole world and hold it in your loving hands. You made us in your image and always remember your people, even when we forget you. You sent your Son, Jesus, who came to help us return to you. He is the Good Shepherd who knows us and loves us, and we listen to his voice. Jesus laid down his life for us and rose again so that might know eternal life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Recalling now his suffering and death, and celebrating his resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this memorial of our redemption.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness.

We pray, O God, that everyone might receive the benefits of Christ's work for us. Renew us with your Holy Spirit. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And

lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

The clergy will give instructions about receiving communion or receiving a blessing.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 218: "Jesus loves me, this I know" Anna B Warner

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong; They are weak but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The bible tells me so.

**Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide;
he will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.**

Refrain

**Jesus take this heart of mine, Make it pure and wholly thine;
on the cross you died for me, I will try to live for thee.**

Refrain

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Holy God, we thank you for feeding us at your table. We have been your guests, now help us to become hosts and welcome others into your family. You have given us your body and blood, now help us remember that we are your body, your hands and heart on earth. Send us forth to serve the world in your name. Amen

Blessing

May this Easter bring joy to your hearts and laughter to your days. **Amen.**

May you always feel the love of Jesus and the warmth of His light. **Amen.**

May you grow in kindness, compassion, and faith. **Amen.**

May the blessing of God who is our Father and Mother, our Savior and Brother, and the Holy Spirit now and forever, be with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Song: "Marching in the light of God"

African Melody

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time, and consists of six systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a guitar accompaniment line with chord markings (G, D, C, G7) and a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "We are mar - ching in the light of God - We are / We are liv - ing in the love of God - we are / We are mov - ing in the power of God - we are / mar - ching in the light of God - We are / liv - ing in the love of God - We are / mov - ing in the power of God - We are / mar - ching in the light of God - We are / mar - ching in the love of God - we are / mov - ing in the power of God - we are / mar - ching we are mar - ching Oh - - We are / liv - ing we are liv - ing Oh - - We are / mov - ing we are mov - ing Oh - - We are / mar - ching in the light of God / liv - ing in the love of God - / mov - ing in the power of God -".

After the service, the children are invited to choose a candle to take home.

Worship, Fellowship, and Formation/Education

No matter where you are on your faith journey, there's a place for you here.

Sunday Schedule

Sundays:

- **8 am:** Traditional, Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- **9 am:** Formation/Education for All Ages
- **10 am:** Welcoming, multi-generational Holy Eucharist. This service is also livestreamed via YouTube Live.
- **11-ish am:** Coffee Hour Fellowship
- **5:30 pm:** Holy Eucharist with Celtic Evensong, with Celtic ensemble

Nursery

Nursery care is available for little ones ages 0 - 4 years old during the 9 am formation hour and the 10 am worship service. Please see an usher for directions to the nursery.

Formation for All Ages Resumes Apr 12 Children

- Age 3 - 2nd Grade: Godly Play, a Montessori-based program of stories, wondering, and expressive art or play. Located in the Godly Play room of the Preschool floor.
- Grades 3 - 5: SPLASH (Spirit, Play, Love All Spoken Here) using a curriculum designed by the Episcopal Church. Meets in the Library.

Youth *An inclusive, welcoming community*

- Youth in grades 6-12 gather on the Youth Floor for conversation and explorations of faith related topics
- Youth Group: Meets first and third Sundays from 5 - 7 pm on the youth floor. To be added to our text and/or email list, contact Youth Group Coordinator, Amy Bogardus at bogardae@yahoo.com or 540-226-5183.

Adults

Adults gather in Sydnor Hall for forum presentations on a variety of faith topics by diverse presenters.

Young Adults (18 - 45)

Our Campus and Young Adult Missioner, Rev. Ethan Lowery leads a range of activities - both spiritual and social for college age students and older. To get involved, contact Rev. Ethan at: missioner@thehousefxbg.org.

Questions about formation offerings?

General inquiries:

Church Office - 540.373.4133
office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Children: age 3 - 5th grade

Stephanie Dolezal

stephanie.dolezal@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Youth: 6th - 12th grade

Rev. Rock Higgins

rock.higgins@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Young Adults: age 18 - 45

Rev. Ethan Lowery

missioner@thehousefxbg.org

Adults

Rev. Joe Hensley

joe.hensley@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Interested in Baptism? We welcome anyone seeking life in Christ for themselves or a child through baptism. Please contact our Rector or Interim Associate Rector to begin the conversation.

Mark Your Calendars

For the latest news and events,
sign up for our weekly e-newsletter,
The St. Georgian:
StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/enews

Special Thanks to Our Flower Guild

The beautiful flowers you see are thanks to the loving artistry and ministry of our flower guild. We hope you enjoy these blooms as a living symbol of resurrection.

Easter Egg Hunt Returns!

Our beloved Annual Easter Egg Hunt is back Easter Sunday at 9:15 am. A big thank you to all of our volunteers who helped stuff and hide the eggs. 1-3 years search in Sydnor Courtyard, 4-7 years search Renwick Courtyard, and 8-11 years search in Market Square.

April 19 Concert - The Peacemakers

Our Concert Series concludes Sunday, April 19 at 3 pm with The Peacemakers. The Peacemakers are a musical duo featuring Jackie (guitar and vocals) and Eddie (guitar, violin, and vocals). Together they share their renditions of world music and modern folk tunes with both covers and original songs. The concert is free with donations accepted at the door.

Shrine Mont Sunday - April 26

Join us at the Adult Forum on Sunday, April 26 at 9 am as we unveil the theme for this year's Parish Weekend Oct. 10-12 at Shrine Mont! Registrations open that day. Any questions, please contact Danielle Davis (danielle@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.)

Outdoor Worship and Parish Picnic

We will hold our 10 am service and parish picnic on May 31 outside, weather permitting, at Hurkamp Park. More information to come.

Youth Summer Service Week -

Save the Date: June 15-19, 2026

Youth Summer Service Days are back this year! Save the dates for June 15-19. We will meet each morning at 9 am at St. George's before going offsite for various service projects. All rising middle and high school students are welcome to participate. Scan the QR Code to register.



Vacation Bible School Music Camp –

Save the Date: July 20-24, 2026

VBS and Music Camp will be back again this summer! Save the dates of July 20-24 for what will be a splendid week of fun, fellowship, crafts, and music! Any children, rising K-6, are welcome to join us. Scan the QR code to register.



Join a Small Group

Want to connect with other St. Georgians? Our new small group cohort is starting soon. Scan the QR code to sign up! Contact Deacon Joyce Beschta with questions: 828.388.1199, joyce-beschta@gmail.com.



St. George's Celebrates the Faulkners

Join us May 3, 2-4 p.m., to celebrate the legacy of the Rev. Tom and Mary Faulkner who served St. George's for 30+ years. Speakers include Anne Faulkner Ridgeway and the Rev. Charles Sydnor. Includes a reception in newly restored Faulkner Hall, part of our Open to All in Love project.

Connecting in Community

Questions? Or would you like to get connected with clergy? Please contact the church office: 540.373.4133 office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Connect with Us



We'd love to get to know you, hear your story, and help get you connected with our parish ministries, formation, and fellowship groups.

Scan the QR code and we'll be in touch. You can also fill out the Newcomer Card in your pew and drop it in the offering plate. Or, stop by the Newcomer Cart in the narthex (by the church entrance).

For the latest news and events, sign-up to receive our weekly e-newsletter, The St. Georgian: StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/enews.

Open to All in Love Capital Campaign Update

Our Open to All in Love Capital Construction Project addresses four core areas: Maintenance, Endowment, Accessibility, and Columbarium. So far, we have received pledges totaling just over \$3M towards the \$5M anticipated total project cost.

In Summer of 2025, we began the first phase of our Open to All in Love Construction Project. This portion, now complete, included building an interior accessibility ramp connecting Sydnor Hall with the church offices, transforming the office hallways (once of which becoming ADA compliant), and addressing structural repairs needed in Faulkner Hall. In the process, Faulkner Hall, the Nursery, and Elsie Lewis Meeting Room all received a refresh with new flooring and paint.

Phase II of the project includes building an ADA ramp in the graveyard so all can access the church with dignity, constructing a columbarium, adding a handrail along the graveyard path to the church office, and addressing significant water infiltration on the interior and exterior of the building. Currently, we are finalizing the contract for with our contractor, Daniel & Co., with an estimated beginning date for construction in early summer.

St. George's Open to All in Love Capital Campaign emerged from the dreams of parishioners – like you – to make sure our facilities are truly welcoming and accessible to all both today and for generations to come. Thank you to all who have given and have made a financial pledge.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the project and for information on how to make a financial gift to support it. If you have any additional questions, please contact the church office: 540.373.4133 office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Contact Our Vestry:

The Vestry is our elected, lay leadership council led by our Senior Warden Kit Burns and our Junior Warden Wendy Cannon. The Vestry welcomes your questions, concerns, and feedback. Email them at: vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

St. George's Episcopal Church

905 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404

540.373.4133 (office)

Pastoral Emergencies:

540.361.8573 (call or text)

StGeorgesEpiscopal.net
