

# **OUR FAITH TAKES ANOTHER STEP**

## **Capital Campaign Mission Statement**

"St. John's is a welcoming, multigenerational, Christian community that nourishes lifelong spiritual formation and faith through worship, service, and education. We invite everyone to join us as we step forward on God's path toward our future."

Dear Family & Friends of St. John's,

More than 100 years ago, The Rev. J.J. McCook gathered a group of Episcopalians on the porch of his summer home on McCook Point and held summer worship services. Eventually, that summer congregation would "take another step in faith" and receive permission from the Bishop to start St. John's Episcopal Church in Niantic. The original "Green Church," built on what is now St. John's Green, was the realization of decades of prayer-filled dreams, faithfulness, and challenge. As that congregation outgrew that building, the faith of another generation would be challenged to take another prayerful "step." In the late 1960s, our parents prayed, dreamed, and sacrificed to build this church and classroom wing, which was completed in 1971.

For almost 40 years, we have been blessed, nourished, educated, challenged, and comforted by ministries that have had their genesis at St. John's. We have baptized our children, married our best friends, buried our loved ones, grown closer to God, our neighbor and each other through music, worship, fellowship, pastoral care, education, and service to those in need. We have had a long history of resettling refugees and a new history in supporting local prison ministry. In recent years, our ministry to young people has blessed us and them with growing faith, and selfless service to others. Our church and classroom wing have functioned as the "prayer-filled home base" through which the Holy Spirit has moved, shaping our souls, and directing our lives. And God has given us this beautiful piece of land, one of the last open spaces of Sabbath rest and peace on the Connecticut shore.

All of us who have lived in property by the water understand that a marine environment exacts a relentless and costly toll on everything. Our buildings are no different. Years of salt spray, salt fog, and rain driven by gale force winds have left our buildings in desperate need of major capital repairs. In addition, our buildings are not barrier-free, and we want to correct that. Lastly, we hope to restore money we borrowed from ourselves in 2004 to replace the church's roof and install new doorways in the slype, church, and classroom wing. God now calls us, this generation, to prayerfully "step forward in faith" and fulfill our responsibilities as God's stewards of this property at this time. We realize that this is probably the "worst of times" to hold a Capital Campaign; but necessity impels us to address the urgent and critical repairs we *must* make. Your Vestry, Long-range Planning Committee, and Capital Campaign Committee have worked for months to get us to this point. I, for one, am feeling joy, excitement, and relief that the day is finally here. Our work cannot wait; neither can the sacrificial offering we each must make.

In the coming days, you will be hearing more information about our Campaign ***Our Faith Takes Another Step*** and receiving an invitation to a dinner and inspiring night out designed for the entire family. . . yes, all of the children will be part of it as well.

In the days ahead, I encourage you to ask God to let this be a time of growth and thanksgiving for you. Use the enclosed prayer card. Keep it someplace you will see it. If you need extra copies, they are at the church; please take them. Give thanks for all the ways God has blessed you (and your family). Give thanks for God's gift of His Son, and for a living, hope-filled faith. Invite God to use you for a purpose in His Kingdom. Listen for His direction. Trust in His presence and partnership; for with God, all things are possible.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Page Rogers +". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Rev. E. Page Rogers  
Rector

***"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."  
(Romans 12:12)***

Your Rector, Staff, Deacon, Church Leaders, and fellow members invite you to join with us in prayer.

We suggest that you and your family use the prayer below. Place it where you will see it and use it.

Let it be a constant reminder of our common faith, life, and purpose. Have the faith and courage to pray fervently and frequently. *"For with God all thin as are possible."* (Luke 1:37)

### ***Prayer***

Touch our hearts, O God, so that St. John's will always be a place of warmth and welcome. Make the doors of this church wide enough to receive all who need human love and your care, yet make them narrow enough to shut out all pride and hatred. Help us as we work to make our property accessible, clean, safe, and comfortable for people of every age and ability. Lord, may we be so transformed by your abundance and grace that people find here a well to quench their thirst for God; and a table to nourish their hunger for holiness. Empower every member of St. John's, dear Lord, to shine like a beacon, guiding everyone to your eternal shore. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN