

**St. John the Divine Episcopal Church**  
**216 E Chandler Blvd**  
**Burlington, WI 53105**

# INFORMATION MEETINGS

Sunday, July 17, 2016  
at 9:00 am following worship in Healy Hall

Wednesday, July 20, 2016  
at 7:00 pm in Healy Hall

**Please return your surveys during or after the meeting.**  
**Deadline is July 24, 2016**



# ST. JOHN THE DIVINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Capital Campaign Proposal

### A MESSAGE FROM PARISH LEADERSHIP

Friends,

Fr. Jason has told us of occasions when he meets newcomers to the parish and they say, "You have such a beautiful church!" He typically responds by saying, "Yes we do...and the building isn't bad either." Since 1841 the Episcopal Church has been present here in Burlington, striving to be the Body of Christ at work in this corner of God's vineyard.

In 1894, the beautiful building we worship in today became home to the church of St. John the Divine. Over the past 122 years in our church building, countless numbers of prayers have been offered; children baptized; couples married; and faithful people confirmed, anointed, and buried. Over the past two decades, our hall has provided space where we have gathered and connected as a parish over breakfast on Sunday mornings; thousands of free Thanksgiving Day meals have been prepared and served; and community groups have found a home to help support them in their work.

We are blessed with an exciting and challenging invitation to care for all that has been entrusted to us over the past 122 years, by caring for this building which means so much to so many. As many of you know, we have been diligently working to identify and address our critical capital needs that come with a building that is over a century old. Most notably, these needs include a new roof, new church siding, parking lot repairs, and painting in the church interior. The total estimated cost for these projects is \$135,000.

We are blessed with a beautiful culture in this church of faithful people working together. This is not a parish where a few people do all the heavy lifting. We all share in the mission of this parish because it is a mission that belongs to anybody who dares to call themselves a follower of Jesus Christ. That is why we, as parish leadership, are turning to you.

It is important to note that parish leadership has not decided to conduct a campaign at this time. What we have done is to begin good work in terms of ideas and costs. Now we need your input to help us determine how to best proceed and ensure that this parish continues to be a sign of Christ's abundant presence in this corner of God's vineyard for another 122 years!

There are several ways you can help and be part of this energizing process:

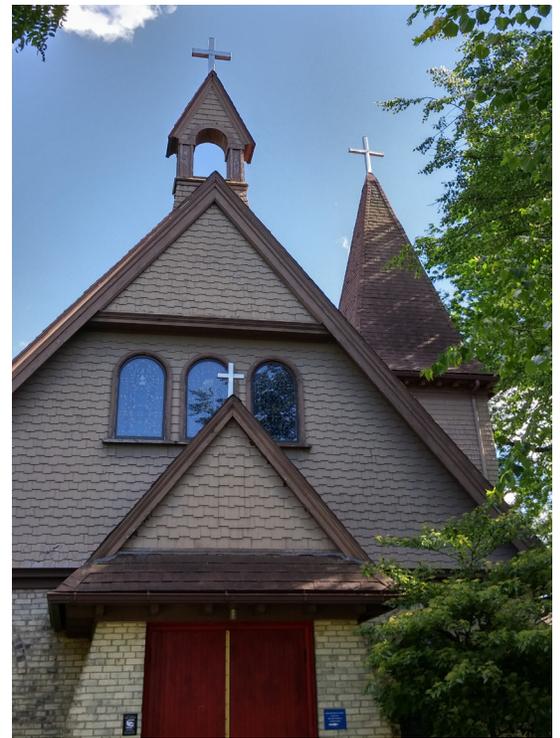
1. Please take a moment to review the information on the inside of this brochure
2. Come to one of the information sessions we will offer. The dates can be found on the back of this brochure.
3. Take some time and fill out the survey for us.
4. Spend time in prayer reflecting on what St. John the Divine means to you, and pray for parish leadership as we navigate this process.

In Christ,

Fr. Jason Lavann  
Priest

Natascha Spencer  
Senior Warden

Bob Yoerin  
Junior Warden





*“You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”. – 1 Peter 2:5*

This lovely church building is a gift to us from God and from those who came before us. We are tasked with making good use of our church and maintaining it for those who follow us. We have identified key priorities that will help us live out our call to be “Living Stones”. We have secured several bids and share our best thinking with you at this time. We are excited by this open process and look forward to your feedback and support.

## **New Roof**

The Vestry has been keeping a watchful eye on the roof for a number of years and the time to replace the roof is now, before we start to experience leaks and incur costly damage further down the line. It is our duty as faithful believers to be mindful stewards of our gifts. By properly caring for our church structure we are glorifying God and providing a place for the work we are called to do. Our annual free Thanksgiving Dinner for 400 people is one of many fine examples of God’s work being done at St. John the Divine.

## **Siding**

Replacing the worn siding will give the building a clean crisp look and will help to create a warm and welcoming first impression. In an effort to maintain aesthetic appeal while saving us money in the long run we will be replace the soffit and fascia with low maintenance materials.

## **Parking Lot**

We pride ourselves on a deep sense of Christian hospitality here at St. John the Divine. As part of our community outreach not only do we welcome our own faithful members on Sunday mornings and throughout the week, we also welcome groups from the community such as The Gathering (a community group of painters), a large Al-Anon group, and an Overeaters Anonymous group. A repaired and resealed parking lot would stand as a tangible sign of our Christian hospitality to all who use this space.

## Getting Started

We have secured several bids for the proposed projects and believe we can accomplish this work for about \$135,000. This set of projects represents our best current thinking but we need to hear your thoughts. We look forward to your feedback and support in addressing these items.

## How will we pay for this?

As part of this proposal we are considering asking members of the Parish to make pledges to a 3-year campaign. We may consider borrowing to address the most pressing needs as quickly as possible but would only borrow money that could be paid back with pledge commitments from the campaign. We are dedicated to making decisions that will not jeopardize St. John the Divine's financial footing. Any decisions related to borrowing would be communicated to you in a timely fashion. We are committed to a transparent process. Before these decisions are made we need to get feedback on this proposal from the Parish.

## How would this impact annual stewardship support?

First it's important to reiterate that no decision has yet been made about moving forward with this proposal. Our first financial priority is always annual stewardship support for the church. Should we decide to move forward with a campaign we would conduct it in concert with our fall stewardship appeal. We believe giving decisions are best made with clear accurate information in the context of prayer and reflection upon our blessings from God.

## NEXT STEPS

On the back panel of this brochure you'll find dates and times for parish-wide Information Sessions. We encourage you to attend one of these sessions and share your thoughts. As part of this feasibility study our consultant, Tim McKearn of The James Company, will be conducting personal household interviews with a cross section of our members. If you would like to take part in one of these interviews we encourage you to call Tim at 608-295-0291 and schedule a time to talk. If you don't take part in an interview we ask you to fill out a survey. Surveys are available in hard copy form or electronically at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/st-John-the-divine](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/st-John-the-divine). The survey only takes a few minutes to complete but your feedback is critical.

Data from the Information Sessions, surveys and interviews will be distilled into a report from the James Company who will make a recommendation and share that recommendation with our Feasibility Study Steering Committee and Vestry in August. The Vestry will be tasked with making a final decision at that time.

