

God, what do you want to do through me?



St. James 
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AND SCHOOL

Growing Faithfully

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2024

A note from our Co-chairs

“God, what do you want to do through me?” We asked ourselves this question a lot before deciding to take a lead role in this important church endeavor. We are longterm members who recognize that it’s time for our church facilities to meet our growing needs.

Since the establishment of our parish, St. James has consistently met the challenges of growth as the needs of the parish developed. Our current location was completed in 1994, and it is time, once again, to meet the needs of our growing parish. A new design has been developed to meet these needs.

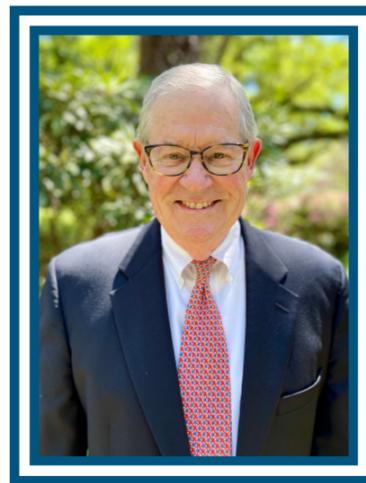
This new design addresses our current **and** future needs. Funds raised will:

- Increase the capacity of Green Hall
- Add a choir room on the first floor (more than double the size of the existing one), and convert the former choir room into a space for other uses.
- Add 8 additional multi-use classrooms that will expand our children’s formation and grow the school through the 6th grade
- Add a multi-purpose building to accommodate our youth, larger church gatherings, community use, performances, and many other activities.
- Create two covered drive up/drop off, accessible locations; as well as additional access to the property provided by a new southern entry/egress drive.

We believe in this project. We also believe that we, as a church, with careful thought and prayer, can achieve our goal of funding this project. We ask that you join us daily in praying **“God, what do you want to do through me?”** and to consider what gift is most appropriate for you. Let’s Grow Faithfully together.



Dee Gambill
Capital Campaign Co-Chair



Eddie Webster
Capital Campaign Co-Chair

Case Statement for our Capital Campaign

Nearly 120 years ago, the early pioneers of our St. James community began gathering in each other's homes. This small group prayed together and cared for one another in health and in sickness. Together, like the early Christians centuries before, they planted seeds that would grow into something much larger than they could have imagined.

This growing body of believers moved into its first church building in January 1921, and as Rev. James Plummer would say about those early years, "The mission sprang immediately into active life." Within a few years, St. James added property and a parish hall, and by 1957 the once-little church needed a bigger home to accommodate the ever-growing congregation and its ministries. So our church forbearers built for a hopeful future – a new church, parish hall, classrooms and outdoor areas for gathering – and that brick campus off Church Street served us well for almost 40 years.

We held our first church service at our current home on Easter Sunday 1994, and though the faces have changed through the years, we remain a vibrant, active community, anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing his love and serving others. Our church is a beacon on this hilltop. It is a light and an invitation to all, whether they come here for worship, music, Christian formation, outreach, or education. *We* are a beacon. Our church family has reflected God's love into the community and shown people Christ-centered hospitality on these grounds. With God's blessing, we have continued to attract new members and add new ministries.

We are an active parish, and after years of finding new and sometimes creative ways to maximize use of our facilities, we again need more space to accommodate the Parish and School. We are blessed! Our history has taught us that growth is an opportunity to put our faith in God. Our predecessors understood that growth is both a blessing and a responsibility. We must continue to grow and carry out the good work we have been called to do.

We believe that together we can build a future that strengthens our relationship with God, each other, and our community. Over the past few years, the vestry has met with ministry leaders and created focus groups within the Parish to assess our current and future needs. We greatly appreciate everyone's input, and after much prayer and consideration, we believe the following plan is our best path forward.

Renovations & Enhancements:

- **Green Hall current capacity is 180 people seated at tables.** Green Hall can be renovated to increase seating capacity significantly by enclosing and glassing in the breezeway to the north and installing a “sliding wall” to provide opportunity for larger lecture events, increased seating at Parish meals, and greater flexibility for fellowship, receptions, and other events. When this area is closed off, it will provide additional meeting spaces and a thoroughfare (Main Street) to travel around Green Hall without interrupting events going on inside.
- **Access and Visibility.** We have long outgrown the capacity of our driveway on Section Street. With the impending construction by the City of the roundabout at Section and Triangle Drive, our need for an additional driveway is a priority in order to better manage traffic flow and safety.
- **Music and Choir.** Our music ministries are currently limited by space and accessibility. A larger and more accessible ground floor space located to the south of Green Hall, between the kitchen and the administrative wing, will allow our music program to flourish and grow.
- **Multi-purpose building, gymnasium.** As St. James grows, we need space for formation, children’s ministries, outreach, Family Promise, parish-wide celebrations, indoor play, performance, dining, school events, sports activities/physical education, and group meetings. This multi-purpose space will be a draw for wider community events and activities.
- **Our School.** In 2018, St. James opened its doors with a preschool class of 12 students. Five years later, we have 100 students and a need for additional capacity. The school has proven that it helps to grow the church. We will add classrooms and administrative offices in order to accommodate Pre-K through 6th grade. This will also provide shared spaces for additional youth programming.

The anticipated cost of the complete project, Renovation and Enhancement, is approximately \$7,500,000.

The process begins now... Together we can build a future that benefits all of St. James by:

- Enhancing our buildings and grounds to support the growing needs of our church and school;
- Equipping our facilities with multi-use spaces that accommodate diverse needs;
- Reinvigorating our ministry to children, youth and families;
- Allowing for continued growth of St. James School through 6th grade.

This campaign is a natural and timely extension of who we were upon our consecration almost 100 years ago. St. James has always been a prominent and important presence on the Eastern Shore. Now is our opportunity to use our entire campus while ensuring our spaces and configuration meet our church’s needs. The proposed changes do not alter who we are at St. James. They enable us to do more of what God has called us to do in this time and place.



To view the architectural drawings, floor plan diagram,
and future site plan, visit our Capital Campaign website.
<https://www.stjamesfairhope.org/capital-campaign>

FAQs

What is the timeline for construction? Approximately 24-30 months once we begin.

Looks as though we'll be adding a good bit of square footage. How much are we adding? We will add approximately 15,000 square feet of new space, and 3200 square feet of unfinished space for future use. Additionally, there will be 2500 square feet of renovation.

What will go into the space where the choir was located upstairs? Since 2019, the current choir room has been a shared space. Once the choir room is relocated, the current space will be made available for meetings, activities, and prayer groups.

If this campaign will give us all we need to get the school through 6th grade, do we plan to cap our enrollment? If so at what number? Our current plans include the addition of 8 classrooms (4 finished, 4 unfinished for later completion). This will allow us to have one classroom each for grades 2-6. Our planned total number of students should not exceed 250.

How many people will the “new” Green Hall hold versus what it will hold today? The current Green Hall will hold about 180 people; the new combined space will hold approximately 240.

What if we don't raise the money we need to do all the work? Will we get a mortgage? Is there a threshold for what we must raise to commit to the plan? We are going into this campaign to raise the total funds that we need to complete the project—approximately \$7.5 million. We believe our parish has the capacity and propensity to fund this project. It is not our intention to have a mortgage (and then need another capital campaign somewhere down the road to get us out of debt).

We are increasing the size of everything except worship space. What happens when we run out of room in the church and chapel? We currently hold one Sunday service in the chapel and two services in the church. The chapel can easily seat around 60 and the church can seat about 350 before it feels crowded, which equates to approximately 760 people per week. Our current average Sunday attendance is around 400, so we have some time before that would be an issue. With the new multi-purpose space we plan to add, there is potential to add another service in that location. We could also add another service in the church.

What is the pledge period for the capital campaign? The Growing Faithfully Capital Campaign encompasses a three-year pledge period, which is in addition to the annual ministry pledge. Some people will fulfill their pledges more quickly if, for example, they choose to contribute through an IRA or 401(k). Others may require additional time (up to 5 years) to fulfill their commitments.

What will happen to the rose garden? The rose garden will remain in place unless we feel the need to create a larger outdoor gathering/seating space. Perhaps even then, we could retain some space for roses as they are cherished by many.

What is the spiritual goal of the campaign? The spiritual goal of the campaign is to enter into a time of prayer and discernment regarding how God is calling each of us to use our resources to fulfill St. James' vision for our future. Our collective response to the campaign prayer, "God, what do you want to do through me?" will honor God and ensure St. James will grow faithfully into the future.

Love the idea of covered drop-offs at the church and school/multipurpose building. Will there be a ramp added to where the stairs are on the one closest to the church? Yes, a ramp will be installed at the front drop-off.

The columbarium is in a beautiful setting but it needs some work to make it a more pleasant and contemplative space. Are there any plans to do something back there? Add some seating, landscaping? The Committee in charge of the space surrounding the columbarium does have plans for improvements. This is not part of the capital campaign improvements.

Will there be any changes to the kitchen space or our current restrooms? Some light renovation is planned for these areas.

I love that we are adding a new space that can be used to serve our community and bring people outside of the church into St James. What will we call our new multi-purpose space? No decision has been made at this point.

How will this project affect our outreach efforts? We currently send over \$170,000 per year to other organizations, not including our Diocesan pledge. This figure does not include the many generous, non-monetary gifts to support local, charitable entities. We expect the expanded spaces will allow for even greater participation in community outreach.

Important Dates

Sunday, April 21 - Prayer Sunday

Saturday, April 27 - Prayer Gathering 12:00-2:00 PM

Sunday, April 28 - Gratitude Sunday

Sunday, April 28 - Prayer Gathering 12:00-2:00 PM

Thursday, May 2 - Prayer Gathering 1:00-3:00 PM

Sunday, May 5 - Ministry Sunday

Sunday, May 12 - Lived in Faith Sunday

Sunday, May 19 - Commitment Sunday

*The Chapel will be open during each Prayer Gathering for individuals to come to pray. Prayer Team members will be present.