



COME.  
WORSHIP.  
GROW.

---

A PLAN FOR ST. JOHN'S TAMPA



## OUR MISSION

To proclaim, by word and example, the good news of God in Christ, and to build a spiritual community informing Christians of all ages through worship, education, and outreach.

## OUR VISION

To make Jesus Christ known, honored, and adored in Tampa and beyond.



**“WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.”**

**ROMANS 8:28**



## A LETTER FROM OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

Dear Fellow and Future Parishioners,

We invite you to join us in a plan for our future at St. John's.

Over the past year, we have gathered valuable feedback from you through a parish survey, Olive Tree Forums, interviews, and conversations. You have shared what you value most about St. John's, where you see opportunities for improvement, and what you envision for our future. We have met regularly to prayerfully consider all of these details and thoughtfully shape them into an actionable plan for the next five years.

This document represents the fruits of our Strategic Planning journey, showcasing four pillars that reflect our mission, vision, and values. Each pillar includes specific goals to guide us in bringing our plan to life. Our clergy, staff, Vestry, and other lay leaders are implementing strategies to achieve these goals and to measure our progress. As we accomplish our goals, we will create new ones consistent with our strategic foundation.

This is an exciting time for our parish. The St. John's Tampa community is charting a unique course to spiritual growth, with Jesus at the helm. It includes all of us—both current and future parishioners who live our mission and vision. We encourage you to get involved and spread the word.

**Come, worship, and grow with us!**

In Christ,

### **THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Sarah Bricklemyer

Andy Brown

Brett Divers

Thomas Fluharty

Kim French

Ayana Grady

Betsy Graham

Greg Hearing

Laura Hobby

Simon Morley

The Rev. Dale Van Wormer

The Rev. Christian Wood









# PILLARS OF OUR PLAN

1

## OUR FAITH

**WORSHIP, LITURGY, AND MUSIC:** Promote traditional worship, liturgy, and music that is relevant and relatable in today's world.

**FORMATION:** Expand participation in adult, youth, and children's Christian education.

2

## OUR COMMUNITY

**ENGAGEMENT:** Invite members, friends, neighbors, and visitors to engage in the life of our church and build strong, supportive relationships within the St. John's faith family.

**PARTNERSHIP:** Elevate our relationship with St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School.

**GROWTH:** Grow parish membership, focusing on families with children and new fellowship opportunities for all ages.

3

## OUR SERVICE

**OUTREACH:** Maintain a range of parishioner-led outreach and service opportunities.

**IMPACT:** Deepen the impact of our outreach with parish-wide activities that include partnerships with other churches or nonprofits.

**SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP:** Through service, help more people come to know God and glorify Him in all that they do.

4

## OUR PARISH HOME

**SACRED SPACES:** Complete critical building repairs and plan near-term upgrades to facilities.

**PRESERVATION:** Develop and implement a comprehensive facilities plan to preserve our buildings and grounds for future generations.

**STAFF:** Provide sufficient clergy and staff to support the future plans of St. John's.

**FUNDING:** Continue to grow pledge revenue and create sustainable funding streams to supplement plate and pledge and to support future programming.







# OUR FAITH

Faith is the cornerstone of our Christian life. As Episcopalians, our worship traditions and educational experiences inspire and nourish our faith journey.

Since opening our doors in 1912, St. John's has been a place of traditional Anglican liturgy and music that is relatable and relevant to our community and world. As we move into the next chapter of our church life, we will tap into our legacy of faithful worship and education as we seek to grow our congregation.

## GOALS:

Grow Sunday attendance to a level that will support a vibrant third service.

Double the size of Sunday school attendance for adults, youth, and children.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Come to church regularly, both on Sunday mornings and for special services throughout the year.

Invite friends, neighbors, and family members to join you.

Sign up your children for Sunday school and EYC (youth group).

Try out a new adult formation class.

“Faith equals belief plus hope. We believe that God entered into the world in the person of Jesus Christ, and that belief causes us to rely on the hope that he will come again to perfect his creation. Until then, we maintain our relationship with Jesus through the sacraments of the church and the community we form when taking part in those sacraments.”

The Rev. Christian Wood, Rector



# 2

## OUR COMMUNITY

St. John's welcomes parishioners and guests with a warmth, openness, and authenticity. Our community is a spiritual family that comes together not just to worship, but to engage fully in the life of the church. Our vibrant history of community and hospitality is deeply rooted in our people—from generations of families who have attended for years to newcomers who have recently joined our parish.

We invite you all—fellow parishioners, School families, casual attendees, newcomers, and visitors—to worship with us, serve our neighbors, and attend a class or fellowship opportunity. We encourage you to invite new members, welcome them wholeheartedly, and connect them with our community in Christ.



### GOALS:

Offer regular fellowship events for parishioners, St. John's School, and the neighborhood, including some that are generation-specific and some that are parish wide.

Increase engagement with adults ages 26 to 45 through leadership and fellowship opportunities.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join us for an event or opportunity that speaks to you.

Get involved by leading or participating in a ministry.

Say "yes" when someone invites you to participate.

"I am so thankful for St. John's. As part of our Strategic Planning process, I continued to hear from parishioners about how St. John's is their second home, and I could not agree more! I love the traditions and community and see a reinvigoration with more opportunities for both formation and fellowship. I am hopeful for our future and excited for what's to come."

Sarah Bricklemyer, Senior Warden, 2023-2024



# 3

## OUR SERVICE

St. John's parishioners share a strong commitment to making a difference in our community and the world by being the hands and feet of Jesus. While we are excited to maintain a broad range of parishioner-led outreach and service projects, we are also called to deepen the impact of our outreach through parish-wide activities that involve both St. John's Church and School families.

We will continue to identify unmet needs in the community and build partnerships with other churches and nonprofits to provide even greater volunteer and financial resources. Through service, we can help more people come to know God and glorify Him in all that they do.

### GOALS:

Develop guidelines for outreach ministries and partnerships.

Initiate an annual, parish-wide outreach event that involves multiple ministries, School families, and other partners.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Get involved in an outreach ministry that's close to your heart.

Participate in a parish-wide outreach event or donation drive. Invite a friend to join you.

Encourage your children and grandchildren to be a part of serving others.

"Spreading the Gospel is a labor of love. We are being invited by Jesus himself to roll up our sleeves, get to work, and share the good news about Jesus Christ our Lord!"

The Rev. Dale Van Wormer, Priest Associate







# OUR PARISH HOME

St. John's is blessed with historic and architecturally significant sacred spaces that have inspired our clergy, choirs, and congregations throughout the years. Many of these spaces need critical repairs. Our immediate plan is to repair and preserve our church building and bell tower, restoring them to their full beauty and purpose.

Our parishioners expressed an overwhelming interest in creating new and improved spaces for gathering in large and small groups. To serve our growth and programmatic goals, we plan to reimagine our existing Parish Hall, parish spaces in Brickman Hall, and Discovery House, as well as our School building. This will require careful planning and prayerful consideration of how to best use our financial resources and when to launch a Capital Campaign. Preserving and maintaining our physical plant and ensuring sufficient clergy and staff to run our parish will require additional operating funds, both from increased pledges and Endowment Fund income.

## GOALS:

Develop a comprehensive phased budget and timeline for critical repairs, renovations, and other parish projects.

Increase the number of parishioners who pledge annually.

Create a plan for growing the Endowment Fund through planned giving and direct contributions.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Consider how you can contribute your time and resources.

Make an annual pledge to support St. John's. Your participation is important.

Be patient while we work through improvements.

“The Building and Grounds Committee is working hard to oversee completion of multiple projects impacting all parts of our facilities. I am excited for the time when our buildings and grounds are in tip-top shape and more functional for future generations, including my grandchildren.”

Alvie Casey, Junior Warden, 2023-2024









# SPIRITUAL GROWTH AT ST. JOHN'S

**"BUT GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD  
AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. TO HIM BE THE GLORY BOTH NOW  
AND TO ETERNITY. AMEN."**

**2 PETER 3:18**

During the Strategic Planning process, we learned from parishioners that the catalyst for the unique cycle of spiritual growth at St. John's is an invitation. As the disciples responded to Jesus's invitation to "Come, follow me," so must we accept His invitation to enter into a deeper faith journey individually and as a community.

We invite all of you to consider how you will live this plan for the future of St. John's. Will you serve in some way during Worship? Join a ministry or committee? Attend a class or fellowship event? Contribute expertise or financial resources? However you choose to participate, we encourage you to invite others to join you. We are at a unique point in our history to preserve our traditions while creating new opportunities for parishioners of all ages to engage in the life of the church.

Together we can grow the rich legacy of St. John's Tampa for this and future generations. We look forward to taking this journey with you.

**COME, WORSHIP, AND GROW WITH US!**







# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA