

July, 2024

Dear Members of the St. Aidan's Community,

I write with an exciting announcement!

As you know, St. Aidan's is a special Episcopal worship community, established in 1917 to accommodate the spiritual life of a then burgeoning summer community. As we prepare to celebrate the chapel's 110th anniversary in 2027, it is a perfect time to acknowledge our strengths based on our history, present vitality and our support of the Greater New Bedford community. Such celebrations will create a strong and generous future for our chapel community.

The Standing Committee (SC) has voted unanimously to launch a capital campaign that will help to restore, renew and sustain the chapel for generations to come. The SC is calling upon the St. Aidan's community to provide funds, most immediately, to address the urgent restoration of the chapel and upgrading of the rectory and grounds. In addition, we want to build our endowment for the long-term benefit of others. **Blessed by our Past and Present, Faithful to the Future: The Campaign for St. Aidan's Chapel** is underway!

The chapel is not just an architectural gem to be cherished by a chosen few. Rather, it is a living symbol of a committed and joyful congregation who have worshipped together for a long time, open and welcoming to all. To this day, children are baptized, couples married, and loved ones are memorialized. Every summer, parishioners enjoy the spiritual gifts of our inspiring clergy who guide us on our collective and personal spiritual journeys. The chapel community has also, for generations, helped to support the greater New Bedford community by making annual outreach donations to address the needs of our neighbors throughout the year. We are a vital, big-hearted, generous, inclusive and welcoming spiritual community that is growing and thriving.

Over the past 18 months, the SC has assessed the physical conditions of the chapel, rectory and grounds. After many years of deferred maintenance exacerbated by the pandemic pause, several urgent needs have been identified. The SC has also created a financial roadmap that will ensure the long-term economic viability of the chapel including expanded charitable giving goals.

We need your help to support the following:

- Restore the chapel to preserve the legacy and safety of our house of worship
- Improve the rectory to host more comfortably our outstanding clergy
- Raise \$400,000 to rectify urgently needed improvements to our buildings and grounds
- Expand planned giving commitments over the next several years to add endowment in support of our operational security and to double the funds available for outreach for generations to come.

A campaign steering committee (CSC) has been established to lead this fundraising effort, led by George Andrews, and planning has begun to achieve our goals.

Throughout the summer, more information will be available for parishioners to learn about the identified immediate needs of the chapel and our aspirations for the future.

On behalf of the Standing Committee, I hope you will join us enthusiastically to support the chapel today and for the future. If you have any questions and or suggestions, please contact me. See you again soon!

With every good wish,

Pam McNamara  
Chair of the Standing Committee  
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