



LIVING STONES II

BUILDING A SOUND FUTURE



On April 6, 2025, Dean Steve Thomason led a Sunday forum regarding the **Living Stones II: Building a Sound Future** campaign titled *Why This Project? Why Now?* Here is a portion of what he said.

WHY now? I have two different ways of answering this.

First, the needs of the building are becoming urgent. The nave HVAC system has exceeded its expected lifespan. The electrical system for the campus is at capacity, and it has exceeded its expected lifespan as well. The Cathedral House HVAC system, which includes Bloedel Hall, is functioning marginally and has exceeded its expected lifespan. (Do you see a trend here?) The dated narthex and bathrooms that were built in the 1960s have no heat, are dimly lit, and there's

a slip hazard when the floor gets wet. And the crumbling of the nave floor has become a safety hazard.

So that's one way to think about Why now?—but here's another way.

I love this photograph of the children out on the labyrinth. They claim this place as their spiritual home before they're even thinking of it that way, because they know they are welcome here.

Why now? Because this cathedral is needed now as much as ever.

I would say maybe even *more* than in other generations,

because of what all is besetting the world and our nation and our communities right now. We have a commitment to fortify the mission not just for our time but for generations to come.

Saint Mark's is growing because this mission matters in a time such as this. Because people know that when they cross this threshold they are coming into a place that is safe and is not going to be hostile or violent to them, and they have an opportunity to find some meaning-making to carry back out into the world, where so much is just chaos and confusion... ♦

Making a PRAYERFUL COMMITMENT

LIVING STONES II:
Building a Sound Future
is an opportunity for the cathedral community to come together and grow through prayer and fellowship, as we explore how each of us can support our cathedral beyond our regular giving. To meet the financial goals of this capital campaign, each individual will be challenged to commit a generous sacrificial gift

above and beyond our regular giving. Scripture makes it clear that God measures our gifts not in relationship to others, but in relationship to the degree of individual sacrifice based on how one has been blessed. Not all gifts will be equal, but everyone is invited to extend equal generosity.

It is important to the success of the campaign that financial

commitments from members of the cathedral parish are received by **Commitment Sunday** (June 8, 2025). This is an invitation to prayerfully consider and joyfully celebrate the blessings God has given us, and the capacity we have for giving and sharing those blessings generously.

The campaign booklet that was recently mailed to all parishioners contains information about creative ways that financial gifts can be made. For more information, please consult Erik Donner (edonner@saintmarks.org or 206-323-0300). You may also wish to consult legal counsel and/or your financial advisor.

Finally, there are a number of opportunities to memorialize or honor a loved one through certain gifts, and naming opportunities related to specific elements of the campaign. Contact Dean Thomason to learn more about these opportunities.

With **Celebration Sunday** on June 22, the public aspects of the “parish phase” of Living Stones II will officially draw to a close, but the campaign will continue in the Diocese of Olyumpia, the broader Seattle community, and beyond. Meeting the campaign goals is within reach, but it takes everyone, and gifts of all sizes. Thank you for prayerfully considering your participation in this work. ♦

CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 4-6 P.M., BLOEDEL HALL

ADVANCE COMMITMENTS GATHERING

SUNDAY, MAY 18

SUNDAY FORUM: *THE STORY OF THE CHURCH*

Canon Emily Griffin will lead a Godly Play story for all ages.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

ALL-PARISH BANQUET

a community celebration for all ages! A catered meal in the cathedral nave, with entertainment, presentations, and activities.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

pledges received at all morning services (Note: Cards to fill out to make your three-year commitment will be mailed out May 20.)

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

campaign totals announced and celebrated

Q: How much should I give?

A: Give the gift that brings you joy.



The Story of The Church

ON SUNDAY morning, May 18, at 10:10 a.m., parishioners of all ages are invited to Bloedel Hall, where Canon Emily Griffin will lead a Sunday forum telling the **Godly Play Story of The Church**, inviting wondering about what a church building is for, and what it means.

In response, children are invited to create and build with artist Sandy Nelson. This is an intergenerational opportunity to engage the themes of the campaign, and the children's art will be displayed at the All-Parish Banquet on June 6.



photo from Cathedral Day 2025 by Greg Hester

Frequently Asked Questions

ON THE web page for the Living Stones II campaign, which can be accessed at saintmarks.org/capitalcampaign, there is a link to an F.A.Q. addressing various questions, many of which were raised during the Home Gatherings in March and April. The questions that are addressed include:

- Q: What happens if we don't raise all the targeted amounts?
- Q: When will construction start? Will services be interrupted during construction?
- Q: Will the endowed music salaries be taken out of the annual budget?
- Q: Will the new organ be used in worship?
- Q: Will the pews be replaced?
- Q: Will the nave floor include a permanent labyrinth for New Year's Eve?

...and many more. The page will be continually updated as new questions arise.

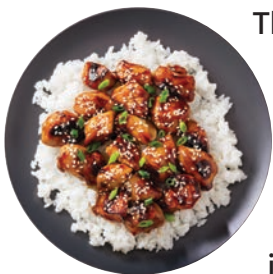


SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
1245 Tenth Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102-4323



ALL-PARISH BANQUET

On Friday, June 6, the entire community is encouraged to come out for the **ALL-PARISH BANQUET**. This celebration of our vibrant cathedral will be held in the nave, and will include a catered meal, entertainment, and a few surprises.



The main course for dinner will be our regional delicacy—**TERIYAKI!** Seattle-style teriyaki, with char-grilled meat in a sweet sauce, was invented here in 1976, and

today is considered one of this city's signature dishes. A vegetarian version will also be served. The buffet will open at 6 p.m., and you are welcome to arrive any time until dessert is served at 6:45 p.m.



A presentation including special musical offerings and reflections on the past, present, and future of Saint Mark's will begin at 7 p.m. The banquet is free, and no donations will be requested, but you must register **by Sunday, May 25**—scan the QR code or visit: saintmarks.org/allparishbanquet