

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH RESTORATION COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR YEAR 2010**

For presentation at St. John's Church annual meeting January 16, 2011

THE COMMITTEE:

Dr. Walter E. Brown, Chairperson	Barbara A. Jamieson, Recording Secretary
Maureen Burke-Ventura, Architectural Advisor	Shawn I. Miller, Co-Recording Secretary
William F. Cissel, Historian and Bishop's Representative	Corinne Halyard-Plaskett, Fund-Raising
	Desmond V. Williams, Treasurer
<i>Ex-Officio:</i> The Rt. Rev. E. Ambrose Gumbs and The Rev. Robert B. Dendtler	

The Committee meets bi-weekly. Committee members receive no compensation or any financial benefit.

AUTHORITY:

The Restoration Committee functions by virtue of a Vestry resolution of February 2008, approved by the Bishop. The resolution authorizes the Restoration Committee to undertake on behalf of the Vestry the work of restoring the Church properties, including receiving, reviewing and approving all related proposals, bids, contracts, rentals, purchases, invoices or other obligations. The resolution also stipulates that all donations and funds held by the Church which have been designated for restoration and/or specific repairs be placed in a dedicated account managed by the treasurer for the Committee.

ACTIVITIES in 2010:

New Sign for Church: Fr. Dendtler worked with the Douglas Sign Co. to design a new sign for St. John's Church, and with the assistance of William Cissel secured the approval of the St. Croix Preservation Commission. The sign was paid for out of restoration funds and hung in time for Easter.

Bell Tower Contract with architect William A. Taylor signed Aug. 31: The contract calls for "a.) Documentation and assessment of the existing condition of the Bell Tower; and b.) Recommendations regarding necessary repairs and appropriate enhancements to the Bell Tower, in keeping with the Bell Tower's historical integrity, including an estimate of the cost of the recommendations under current market conditions."

The process for the selection of an architect for the restoration of the church is still open and several firms are being evaluated. When a selection is made, all parties of interest will be appropriately notified and the news announced to the public by the chairman.

FUND RAISING APPEAL for \$500,000 must begin soon. This is needed to supplement the insurance settlement for work on the Bell Tower (an accurate figure will be known on completion of Mr. Taylor's survey), as well as funding the assessments necessary for the next phase of the larger restoration. Corinne Plaskett is asking for volunteers to help her.

National Register of Historic Places: William Cissel has prepared the history and significance sections of the application of St. John's Church to the National Register of Historic Places. The

document awaits the selection of an architect for the restoration to complete the architectural descriptive portion before being forwarded to the State Historic Preservation Office.

Topographical Survey of all church properties: Survey Services Co., LLC (Gary M Bourdon, PLS), is 95% completed. The dispute over title to part of the churchyard is still being negotiated.

Underground Utilities: Dr. Brown has written twice to Hugo Hodge, WAPA, requesting removal of utility poles on King Street in the vicinity of the church property and placing these lines underground.

12-Page Restoration Campaign Booklet Popular with Parishioners: Color enlargements of the 12 page printed booklet “The Restoration of St. John’s Episcopal Church” are displayed on the west walls at the main entrance of the church. Many parishioners have been generously contributing \$25 or more to the restoration for the gift of a booklet. The **3-Fold Brochures** with a donation envelope enclosed are placed around the entrances to the church and office. Mrs. Clytie Jarvis, who greets visitors from cruise ships who tour the church, hands these out. She urges visitors to sign the guest book including their addresses, which can be used later for fund-raising appeals. Significant contributions have been received from visitors through her hostess efforts. Each contribution is acknowledged by a tax receipt letter from the Committee Treasurer, Desmond Williams, and a hand-written thank-you note from a Committee member.

Mailing Address: The restoration committee has its own post office box address: P.O. Box 725, Christiansted, VI 00821-0725. **Check out our Website:** www.stjcrestoration.com. Thanks to Fr. Dendtler’s son, Robert W. Dendtler, new information and fresh photographs are added regularly. **e-mail address** is info@stjcrestoration.com. **Telephone** contact is 340-514-0224.

Parish Directory: A computerized parish directory is continually being updated by Shawn Miller, Marvelyn Jeffers and Fr. Dendtler. They have also typed up a list of names and addresses of the 250 guests invited to the 250th Anniversary reception at Government House, graciously sponsored by Governor John de Jongh, Jr. on Oct. 28.

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE:

Treasurer Desmond Williams reported at the meeting on December 14, 2010 that the balance carried forward from 2009 plus the deposits in 2010 total \$186,278.51, minus expenses paid out of \$39,612.29. The new balance at the end of 2010 is \$146,666.22. We particularly appreciate the regular generosity of the congregation in contributing to the second offering for the Restoration, which totaled \$12,585.80 in 2010. Mr. Williams reports regularly at each meeting. Dr. Brown reports to the Vestry quarterly about the Restoration Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Jamieson
Recording Secretary