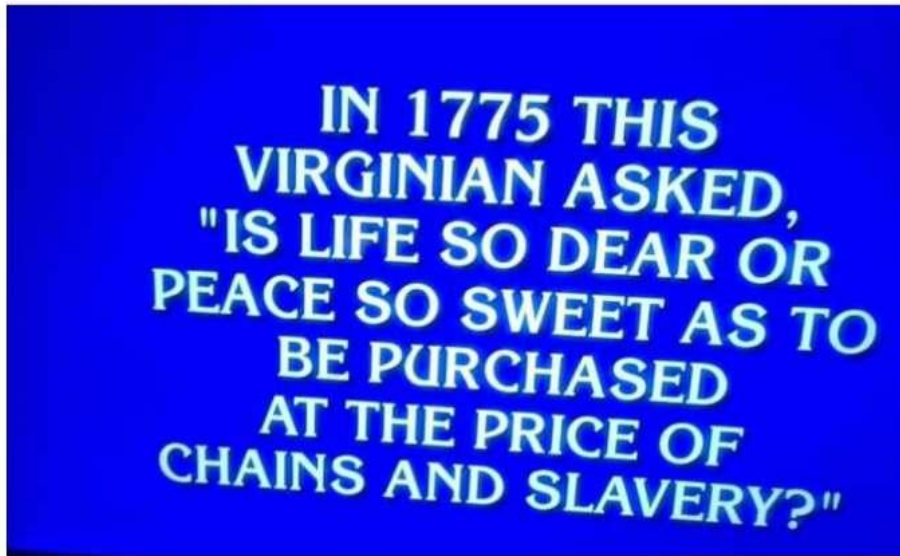


St. John's Church Foundation State of the Foundation – Recent Progress

VA250 Virginia American Revolution 250
Commemoration - VA250
5 hrs · 🌐

...

I'll take, "Famous Virginians" for \$250, Alex.



St. John's Church Foundation 8 hrs · 🌐

This was an answer on the January 30th edition of the TV show Jeopardy. One of the contestants correctly answered "Who is Patrick Henry?"

Photo to right: LEAD Virginia Class of 2023 visits St. John's Church for a private reenactment.



The mission of the St. John's Church Foundation is to spark a global appreciation for understanding the role that Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech had in setting America on its path to liberty for all, and to ignite the public's commitment to preserve the historic site where it happened.

Our mission made simple.

1) Education

2) Historic Preservation

Educational progress

1) Visitation strong.

2) Reenactment numbers up.

3) “Give Me History!” Title 1 program back in person.

4) New living history programs offered, including collaborations with other sites.

5) Walter W. Craigie Speaker Series expanded to four programs for the first time.

6) Statewide outreach now a priority; partnerships with historical societies, museums, and heritage organizations.

7) Dramatic increase in media exposure in advance of the 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry’s speech.





“Give Me History!” Title 1 Educational Program

40 free reenactments offered January – March 2024

Approximately 3,000 4th grade students served including 1,200 from Richmond Public Schools (majority of 4th grade students in RPS).

Cost to operate the program in 2024: \$25,000.

East End schools served include Bellevue Elementary, Chimborazo Elementary, and Sandston Elementary.



Collaborations with other sites including Historic Battersea in Petersburg, VA.



Patrick Henry at Battersea
 March 30, 2024

[Learn more](#)

A Play on the Porch: John Banister & William Watkins, discuss Patrick Henry's Speech with the great Orator

Free living history program featuring three actors in 1700's costumes.

Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc. 6h · 🌐

PETERSBURG VIRGINIA²⁵⁰ AMERICAN REVOLUTION

UPCOMING FREE EVENTS

Saturday, March 30, 2024
 "Play on the Porch" at Battersea: 1:00 pm

Friday, April 19, 2024
 Lecture on The Battle of Petersburg at Historic Blandford Church: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday, April 20 - 21, 2024
 Reenactment of The Battle of Petersburg at Battersea: a weekend full of activities!

A Conversation with Patrick Henry

Saturday, March 30
 1:00 PM
 Historic Battersea

John Banister has invited fellow Dinwiddie delegate to the Second Virginia Convention, William Watkins, and Patrick Henry to join him at Battersea to discuss Henry's "Give me Liberty, or Give me Death!" speech delivered earlier that day at St. John's Church in Richmond. The three men discuss what "Liberty" means to them, their businesses, their families, and the community.

A collaborative event with St. John's Church. Free admission.

2024

Reenactment of the Battle of Petersburg

Bring the family to Battersea to view the reenactment, participate in activities, tour the Villa and watch the battle reenactments which will take place at 2:00 pm on both days.

April 20: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
 April 21: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Free Admission

Scan QR Code for daily schedule & more:

In Partnership With

Plus! Battle of Petersburg Lecture at Blandford Church April 19: 6 - 7 pm

1289 Upper Appomattox St. Petersburg, VA 23803

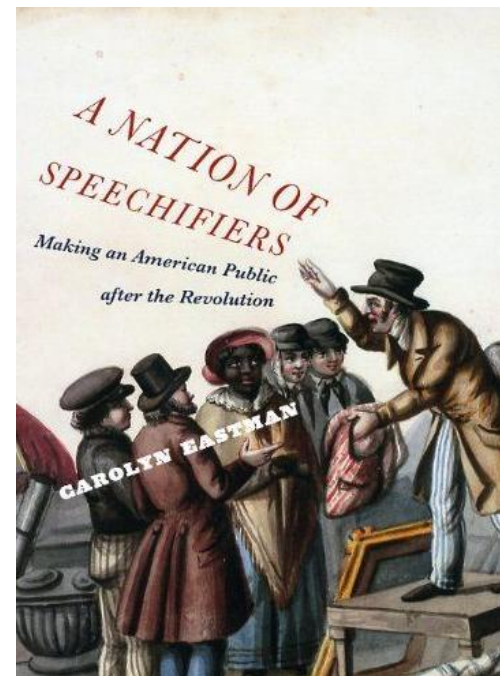
Battle of Petersburg Lecture at Blandford Church

Friday, April 19, 2024: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Visit Petersburg VA 7h · 🌐

Join us as we begin our journey to 2026 when we'll commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence! We have a great line-up of activities coming up! ... [See more](#)

Walter W. Craigie Speaker Series expanded for the 1st time to four programs in 2023.



Walter W. Craigie Speaker Series will feature four programs for the 2nd time in 2024.



April
18

Christy Coleman

May
23

Brent Tarter



September
20

Jon Kukla

October
18

John Ragosta

Education through statewide outreach; partnerships with historical societies, museums, and heritage organizations.

Eight historical societies have agreed to publish in their newsletter an SJCF authored article promoting the 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech, and their county's participation at the Second Virginia Convention by way of their county's delegates who attended, and voted on Patrick Henry's resolution for Virginia to establish a well regulated militia.

Participating historical societies include: Amelia County, Botetourt County, Charlotte County, Chesterfield County, Culpeper County, Dinwiddie County, Essex County, and Southampton County.

Education through statewide outreach

recognize their rights as Englishmen. Henry pleaded with the delegates to recognize that the presence of armies and navies was an act of hostility, not of reconciliation. He warned them that the time for action had arrived, that no matter how weak they perceived themselves to be, they would be even more vulnerable if disarmed and in the presence of the British army. Henry closed dramatically. "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Henry's speech was powerful and persuasive. A vote was taken, and Henry's resolutions passed by a narrow margin, by just four or five votes. The convention journal does not record how each delegate voted, so we can only speculate how Essex County's delegates, Smith and Edmundson, may have voted. Given their involvement with the 17-point Essex County Resolutions the year prior, we can safely assume that both Essex County delegates voted for Patrick Henry's resolution for Virginia to establish a well regulated militia.



Painting of Meriweather Smith on horseback in front of the 1710 Tavern, on his way to the Essex County Courthouse on July 9, 1774 for the reading of the 17-point Essex County Resolutions.

Photo to right: Screenshot of an SJCF authored 6-page article that will be published in the Essex County Historical Society and Museum's newsletter.

Leveraging partnerships with historical societies to drive visitation to our historic site.

The Botetourt Historical Society, The Essex County Historical Society and Museum and the Culpeper Museum of History have agreed to promote Botetourt County Day, Essex County Day and Culpeper County Day at St. John's Church this summer. A day includes:

- Discounted reenactment tickets for county residents.**
- Reserved seats near our Patrick Henry actor.**
- The Botetourt/Essex/Culpeper County delegations to be recognized prior to the start of the reenactment.**
- Elected officials from the county to be invited to participate; e.g. Mayor of Tappahannock.**

Leveraging partnerships with historical societies; speaking opportunities across Virginia.

Upcoming SJCF speaking engagement: The Essex County Historical Society and Museum's annual meeting in Tappahannock on May 19th at 3:00 p.m.



Leveraging partnerships; speaking opportunities across Virginia.

Other out of area speaking opportunities include:

James Madison Museum (Orange), Ann Wager Chapter, NSDAR (Williamsburg), Washington-Lewis Chapter, NSDAR (Fredericksburg), Culpeper Minute Men Chapter, SAR (Culpeper), Augustine Warner Chapter, NSDAR (Gloucester), Rappahannock Chapter, SAR (Warsaw).



James Madison Museum
Monday March 25

1:00 PM

Monday, March 25 at 1:00 p.m.

St. John's Church Foundation Executive Director Stephen Wilson will speak at the James Madison Museum in Orange, Virginia.

The presentation will include the history of St. John's Church, the events that led to March 23, 1775 and Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech, and plans to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the speech in 2025.

A screenshot of a social media post from 'The James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage'. The post is dated '6d' and says 'Coming up Monday!'. The text of the post reads: 'Join us at the Visitor's Center to hear Stephen Wilson discuss Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" Speech at St. John's Church. Enjoy a portrayal of Henry's famous speech and learn the historic events that led to that day. Wilson will share the impact Henry's speech had and the vote to establish a well regulated militia. Who were the delegates from Orange County? Admission: \$12.00. Museum Members \$0'. Below the text are several small images showing the interior of the museum, including a statue, a display case, and a group of people in historical costumes. At the bottom of the post, there is a banner that says 'HISTORY HAPPENS HERE' and 'MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024 AT 1 PM'. Below the banner, the text reads: 'Discussion with Stephen Wilson: Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" Speech'. At the very bottom, it says 'Public · Event by The James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage'.

Education via local speaking opportunities.

Promoting awareness for Patrick Henry's speech at: ARRT, Kiwanis Club of Richmond, Richmond Chapter, SAR, Rotary Club of West Richmond, Rotary Club of Huguenot Trace.

Richmond SAR
Sons of the American Revolution

Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"
Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775

Winter 2023 Richmond ★ Virginia ★ Sons of the American Revolution

October meeting

The Richmond SAR October 8 meeting featured a great presentation by Historic St. John's Church Executive Director Stephen Wilson.

He shared the story of Patrick Henry's iconic *Give me liberty or give me death* speech and outlined the preparations taking place for the 250th anniversary of that rallying cry of the Revolution, taking place in March 2025.



New member James Sayers

Welcome new Richmond SAR member James Sayers!



Military service recognition

The Richmond SAR honored Greg Surpluss and Steven Norris for their military service.



SPEAKER MEETINGS

MONDAYS AT NOON AT THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

We are proud of our diverse lineup of superb speakers and timely topics:



Jan 22, 2024 - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Stephen Wilson, Executive Director St. John's Church Foundation



Jan 29, 2024 - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Michael Schwartz, Editor, Richmond BizSense



Feb 5, 2024 - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
James A. Bacon, Founder of Bacon's Rebellion Website, Electronic Newsletter, and Blog.



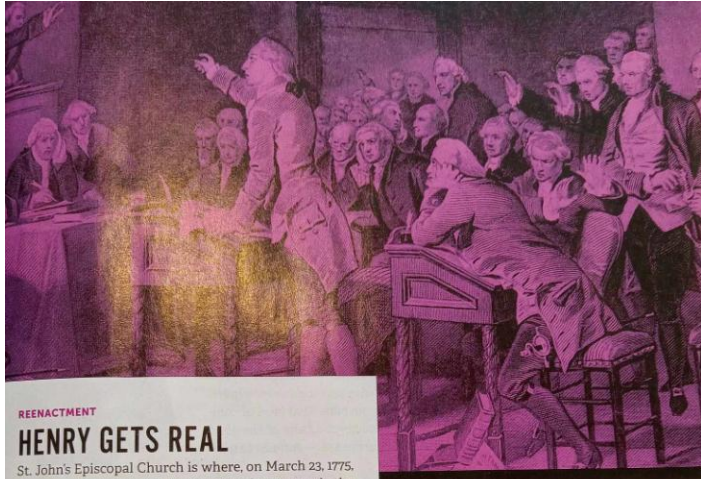
Feb 12, 2024 - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Kelly Till, President and Publisher of the Richmond Times-Dispatch



Feb 19, 2024 - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
No Regular Meeting



Education and awareness for Patrick Henry's speech via increased media attention.



REENACTMENT

HENRY GETS REAL

St. John's Episcopal Church is where, on March 23, 1775, Hanover County's Patrick Henry stood to persuade the Second Virginia Convention to stand against British rule. You can be in the room where it happened for a 249th anniversary commemorative reenactment of the event at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 23. Henry's exact words weren't recorded, but he launched into a stemwinder that put "Give me liberty or give me death" into the history books. Whatever he declared caused a reluctant group of Virginia leaders to become revolutionaries. Tickets are \$12 to \$15. historicsjohnschurch.org —Harry Kollatz Jr.



EVENT

HOPPIN' AROUND

After making a lauded return in 2023 following a pandemic hiatus (even earning a nod for "Best Come from Richmond magazine readers during our 2022 & Worst survey), Easter on Parade is back again! This annual walking parade, hosted by Historic Monument Avenue in partnership with Tunstall Bagley W Grandeur & Grove Events, encourages participants to bring their furry friends in

VA250 Virginia American Revolution 250 Commemoration - VA250 6h · 🌐

Making the list is [St. John's Church](#), where Patrick Henry sparked the American Revolution by declaring "Give me liberty or give me death!"

SOUTHERNLIVING.COM

The 25 Best Things To Do In Richmond, Virginia, According To A Local

Whether you explore the Museum District, raft down the James River, or eat your way through...

Education and awareness for Patrick Henry's speech via increased media attention.

Richmond Church to Host Reenactment of Historic Speech In Honor of Presidents Day

By WYDaily Staff February 15, 2024



RICHMOND — "Give me liberty or give me death"



The Roanoke Star News
<https://theroanokestar.com> > gov-yo...

Gov. Youngkin To Highlight Statewide Events Celebrating America's 250th ...

1 day ago — The program will unfold within the hallowed walls of historic St. John's Church where the embers of revolution first ignited nearly 250 years ...

OPINION > OPINION COLUMNISTS

SUBSCRIBER ONLY

Column: Rethinking Patrick Henry on a historic anniversary

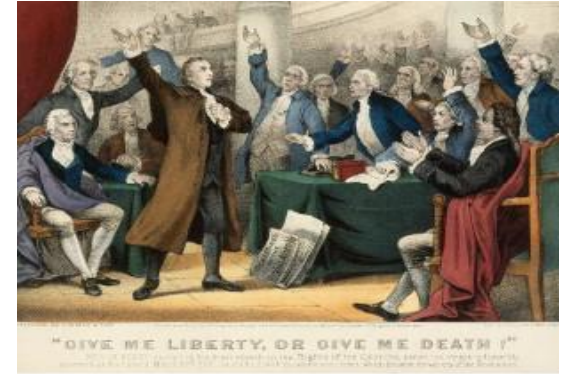


Richmond Times-Dispatch

Gov. Bob McDonnell, left, listens as historical interpreter Michael Wells delivers the "Liberty or Death" speech as Patrick Henry in St. John's Church on April 25, 2010. McDonnell and others attended a reenactment of the famous speech of March 1775 after unveiling a new Road to Revolution heritage trail sign on the grounds of the church. (Richmond Times-Dispatch photo)



By JOHN A. RAGOSTA | Guest Columnist
March 21, 2024 at 6:05 p.m.



Speech Celebrates Its 250th Anniversary St. John's Church, Richmond, Virginia

A century gap between the colonies and Great Britain in the 1770s, Virginia held a series of meetings in opposition to a petition against the mother country. In March of 1775, the Second Virginia Convention was held in what was then called a meeting room in St. John's Church, an unadorned, wooden structure on March 23, 1775, to mark Henry in support of the American Revolution with his famous words, "Give me liberty or give me death!" It was a well-timed decision for the colonies as the British were on the move all over the world. A focus of liberty, a threat to the government and independence and a new dawn for the colonies. St. John's is a major site in the nation's freedom and history between colonial Williamsburg and the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech has been called one of the 10 greatest speeches in American history. Although it is a speech that is often taught in schools, it is not always understood why it is so important to our American identity. It is considered the most famous speech in American history.

Following the meeting on March 23, 1775, the delegates to the convention met on March 24, 1775, when they voted to accept the Declaration of Independence. The delegates to the convention met, typically called the meeting in the colonies.

Feature: St. John's Church

Patrick Henry and his speech were an act of defiance. He wanted them to be a warning for action and that power was no longer in Britain. "Give me liberty or give me death" is a speech that is often taught in schools, but it is not always understood why it is so important to our American identity. It is considered the most famous speech in American history.

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HISTORY

6 Fascinating Early Colonial America History Sites to Visit

By Jersey Griggs • Read time: 5 minutes

Photo above: Daily Passport. Photo on right: Article to be published in Tour Bus Magazine, a national publication with readership of 20,000.

Education and awareness for Patrick Henry's speech via partnership with the VA250 Commission.

Virginia leaders unite for America's 250th anniversary



Governor Glenn Youngkin greets reenactors of the Second Virginia Convention at St. John's Church

Virginia leaders unite for America's 250th anniversary

In the hallowed halls of [St. John's Church](#) in Richmond, where Patrick Henry's words ignited a revolution, a powerful partnership was forged to commemorate America's 250th birthday. The Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) announced an [Honorary Leadership Council](#) uniting Governor Glenn Youngkin, all living former Virginia governors, the state's entire congressional delegation, key state officials, and VA250 National Honorary Chair Carly Fiorina.

Imagine this: A bipartisan force, including the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Speaker of the House, and Senate President Pro Tempore, standing together in a symbol of unity. This isn't just a council; it's a testament to the enduring legacy that echoes through history and resonates with every Virginian.

Listed below, these distinguished leaders, armed with their unique experiences and collective wisdom, will help ensure the commemoration's authenticity and inclusivity.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



Former Gov. George Allen and former first lady Susan Allen watch a reenactment of the Second Virginia Convention on Tuesday at St. John's Church in Richmond.

Gov. talks Revolutionary and more recent history

Va. festivities begin for milestone anniversary

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Thomas Jefferson. Afterward, talking about the state budget, he recalled more recent history. "Delegates gathered here for the second Virginia Conven-

tion of an honorary leadership council for the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission. Later, asked about the House of Delegates and Senate budgets

many ups and downs and the House and Senate presented summaries of their budget proposals on Sunday," Youngkin said.

FAIRFAX SCHOOL

Revised policy stands

Supreme Court allows admissions changes

ANNA BRAYSON
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday let stand the revised admissions policy at the prestigious Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Fairfax County, a change meant to boost Black and Latino enrollment.

The revised policy resulted in fewer Asian Americans being admitted, which prompted a parent group to file lawsuit against the school district, alleging that the new admissions policy discriminates against those students.



Alito



Thomas

Please see POLICY, Page A5

HIGH SCHOOLS Lawmakers

Education and awareness for Patrick Henry's speech via partnership with the VA250 Commission.



ABOUT ▾

DISCOVER ▾

GET INVOLVED ▾

Arnolds Raid on Richmond of 1781

BACK



About

In January, 1781, British General Benedict Arnold led a raid to capture Richmond. This weekend several Richmond-area sites will commemorate the Revolution in the capital city.

Details

January 04, 2024 -

January 07, 2024

7:00 PM - 4:30 PM

City of Richmond

Richmond National
Battlefield Park
3215 East Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23223

Category: Special Event


[Event Website](#)



Education and awareness for Patrick Henry's speech via partnership with the VA250 Commission.



Education and awareness for Patrick Henry's speech via community engagement.

 richmondmag
St. John's Church



22 likes

richmondmag After the annual community Vespers service at St. John's Church, the Greater Richmond Pipe and Drums, leads a candlelight walk to Libby Hill Park last night.
@jaypaulphoto #richmondmag #rva #churchhillrva

 richmondmag
St. John's Church



22 likes

richmondmag After the annual community Vespers service at St. John's Church, the Greater Richmond Pipe and Drums, leads a candlelight walk to Libby Hill Park last night.
@jaypaulphoto #richmondmag #rva #churchhillrva

Education and awareness; leveraging social media.

dolphlundgren



Liked by stjohschurchfoundation and 25,100 others
dolphlundgren Doing a historical tour in Richmond, Virginia. At the church where Patrick Henry gave an impassioned s... more
View all 426 comments

3:37
3 hours ago

86%

riverbendroastery



Liked by eileen_mellon and 175 others
riverbendroastery Bring yourself to us, exactly as you are.
View all 18 comments
stephen3398 necessary before delivering those lines!

Add a comment...
6 hours ago



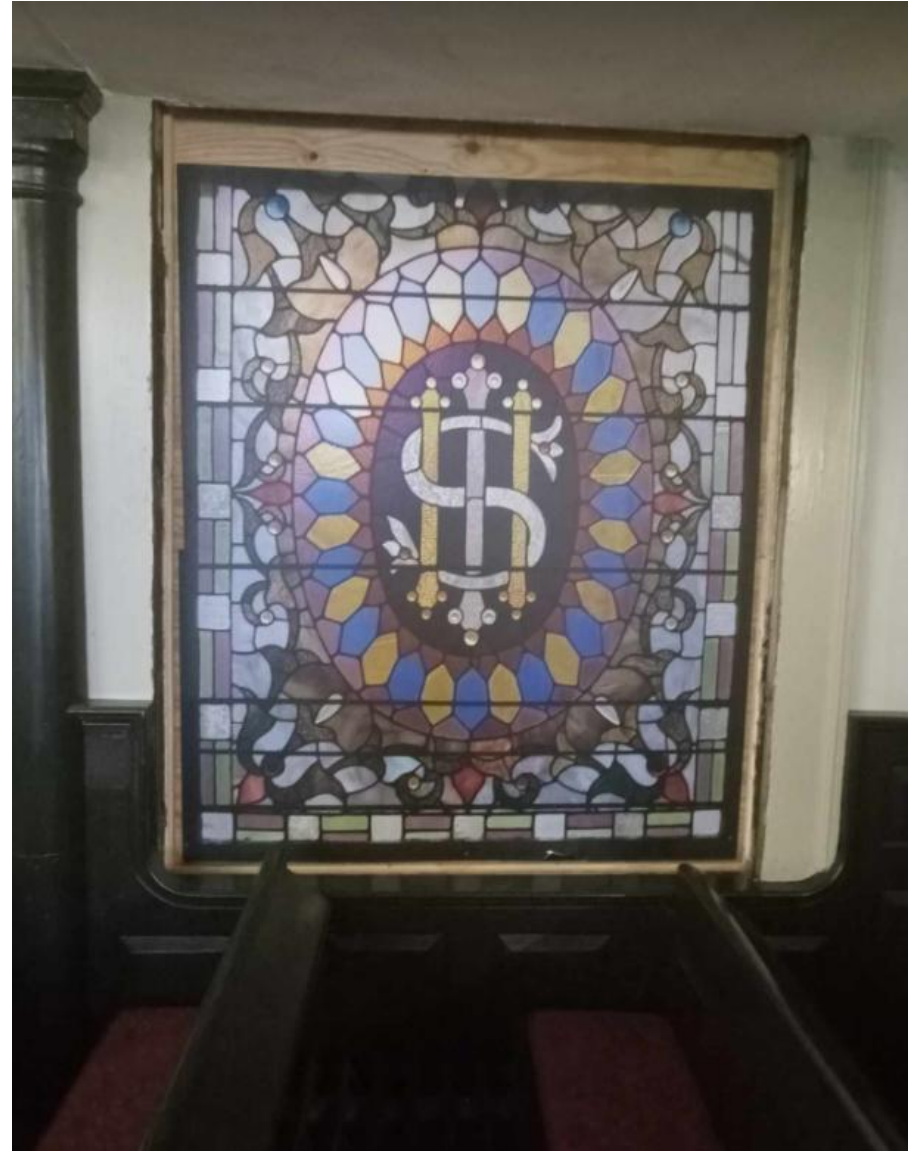
Historic Preservation progress

- 1) 250 Campaign funds raised: \$450K; \$50K still needed to fully fund the campaign to repair St. John's stained glass windows, and gravestones.
- 2) Alpha & Omega window repaired; cost \$40K+
- 3) Bell tower window scheduled next; cost \$10K.
- 4) Gravestone conservator arrived yesterday from Baltimore and will be performing preservation repairs to 30+ gravestones over the next few weeks.

Historic Preservation: Alpha & Omega window During preservation repairs.



The Alpha & Omega window (installed 1896) is located on the west side of St. John's Church. It was removed October 2023 and was reinstalled in February 2024.



Historic Preservation: Alpha & Omega window

Repairs completed



Historic Preservation progress: Gravestone cleaning

SJCF continues to engage volunteers, including students, to clean gravestones and to learn firsthand historic preservation techniques.



Funding Priorities

1) Title 1 free educational program for 4th grade students.
Investment to operate the program: \$30,000 per year.

2) Historic preservation campaign to repair stained glass windows and gravestones.
Investment to fully fund the campaign: \$50,000.

3) Costume fund.
Investment to outfit the cast with new 1700's costumes and repair existing costumes and wigs: \$15,000.

4) Music Fund.
Investment to provide two classical music performances per year and provide patriotic (organist) music at reenactments: \$10,000.

5) 250th anniversary programs.
Investment to provide living history programs to support the 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry's speech in 2025: \$75,000.