

ST. JOHN'S HISTORIC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL MEETING

This year, our annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, at 5 PM, in the Parish Hall adjoining St. John's Episcopal Church. The meeting will begin with a guest speaker, Theodore Pierre, of New Orleans. Mr. Pierre went to Tulane School of Architecture and specializes in masonry and stone restoration. He has performed numerous tasks in the Cemetery over the past four years. He will speak about cemetery architecture and restoration methods. The general public is invited to attend the talk. Afterwards, Chairman David Plater will present a short overview of the challenges for the Association, and there will be an election of board members.

CEMETERY TOURS

Tours are provided to visitors to the Cemetery. They feature the Cemetery history and lives of many people buried there, tomb architecture, changing burial practices, and the trees. Guides include Mike Strausser, Bennie Bourgeois, Betsy Magee, David Plater, Palma Shaver, and Lee Shaffer, III. The Association will offer tours to the public on an as-arranged basis. To arrange a tour, call David Plater, 985-446-8908, or the church office, 985-447-2910.



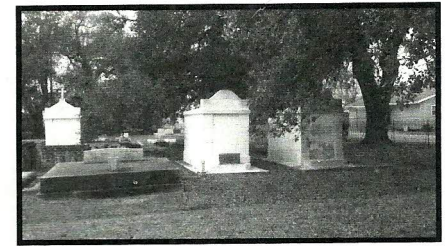
Cemetery tour in progress. Photo courtesy of Abby Tabor.

ENTRANCEWAY PROJECT

St. John's Vestry discussions are underway with civil engineers, Leonard Chauvin and Adam Papa, about a schematic plan for its Campus landscape. Once the plan has been approved, David Cassard, Cemetery Warden, can obtain estimates for work on the Cemetery entrance. Some funds raised for that segment of the Campus Plan are from TaWaSi, Levert Foundation, Peltier Foundation, and the Shaver family.

CEMETERY TREES

David Cassard also has been meeting with arborists to determine the means to improve the care of Cemetery oak trees. Last trimmed and mulched years ago after Hurricane Gustav, they need it again. The costs will be substantial, and the work may have to be conducted in stages. It is a requirement to keep the oaks healthy, enable them to withstand storms and other stress, and protect tombs. Donors to the Association may designate special gifts for tree care. The Cemetery trees recently have been chosen for placement on a state list of important Louisiana oaks.



Limbs encroaching on Cemetery tombs. Photo courtesy of David Cassard.

ART AT ST. JOHN'S

This 4th annual outdoor Fine Arts event, on the grounds of St. John's Episcopal Church, showcases local artists and original works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastels, ceramics, photography, woodcarving, and more. To be held **Saturday April 1, 10:00 to 3:00**, it is sponsored by our Cemetery Association to help fund the maintenance of St. John's Historic Cemetery. Chairman Mike Strausser notes that the event will feature local artists and works of art; food catered by Tommy Nicholas, Jr.; musicians providing lively sounds on site; children's activities, and cemetery tours.

Once again, our much-praised volunteers can be credited with the success of last year's Art at St. John's. One artist summed it up superbly in the evaluation: "The best thing about this event is the wonderful help all volunteers provide in the set up and take down of canopies, etc. My husband and I are getting older and we appreciate the help so we can continue to participate in art shows."



*Artist Delores Legendre at 2016 Art at St. John's.
Photo courtesy of Betsy Magee.*

*The Historic St. John's Association, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code.
All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*