



St. John's Cemetery Foundation

Meet the SJC Foundation Board Members

As stated in the By-Laws of the Friends of St. John's Cemetery Foundation, the Friends' mission is 'to honor the legacies of those interred at St. John's Cemetery.' Please say hello to the nine board members who have served proudly for the past year as they share their connection to St. John's Cemetery:

"My connection to SJC was initially historical. Jack Fleming knew I was interested in Pensacola history. I began volunteering at the cemetery and SJC grew on me. I have been serving on the board since 2009 in just about every capacity! When my father died, I knew it was the place for him." **—Wesley Odom**

"I chose to be on the SJC board to help make things better for the historical integrity of the cemetery. There is so much history that should not be lost or forgotten.

My connection with SJC is family. My father died when I was 16 and was buried there. We always thought of SJC as "the Greek cemetery." It is 3 blocks from the Greek Orthodox Church on Garden Street and, at that time, most of the Greek people were buried there. My Mom had her headstone put next to my Dad so I naturally felt that was where I wanted to be. Since that time, my grandparents, many aunts, uncles, cousins and my mother have been laid to rest at SJC... over 25 relatives.

Over 25 years ago, my sister and I purchased 5 plots here for ourselves and immediate family. I hope to be able to help keep SJC alive for future generations." **—Steffie Joiner**

"My interest in St. John's Cemetery goes way back. Many family members buried there: great-great grandmother, great-grandmother, grandmother and grandfather, mother, father, husband, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. I enjoy visiting the grave sites and used to water, plant grass and clean the bench in my parents' lot when we had access to water. Would that we will again! Currently, I am working on cleaning stones in my great-great grandmother's lot. I have been a member of the Friends of St. John's Cemetery for quite a few years and was honored to be invited to be on the board." **—Cynthia Green Dean**

"My ties to St. John's are many. I visited there often as a child and served as an altar boy there for many funerals. My father's mother is resting there along with my mother's sister and her husband. I have a grandson there in my lots who is waiting for me. My wife has an aunt and uncle as well as a sister that is there. My older sister who had a different father has her grandparents as well as several aunts and uncles in their large lot. The first Traditional Southern Episcopal bishop for Pensacola rests there also." **—Fr. Thomas Raines**

"I have several family members including great grandparents, grandparents, my dad and twin brother buried at SJC. My grandmother was the one who tended the family plots until she passed it on to my mom and now I have taken up the job. As kids we contributed to the goldfish pond population from time to time as well as feeding them during time spent out there. I currently take care of the Baby Cemetery and other grounds cleaning from time to time. I think St. John's is such a beautiful cemetery and an important part not only of the community but also as Pensacola's second oldest public and still operational cemetery. I hope one day it can be restored to its full glory." **—Brenda Arnold**

"My old friends Ted Nickinson and Jack Fleming approached me many years ago about getting involved with efforts to improve SJC. I thought it was an important project then and I still think so today. I am very proud of what the Friends of SJ have accomplished over the years and am honored to serve on a board with such creative and energetic minds that have taken those early endeavors to new heights." **—Bobby Riggs**

"I am on the board because my cousin Ted Nickinson suggested that since a very large part of my family and my wife's family are buried there. My great grandfather, Richard Hill Turner, my grandfather Filo Harris Turner and his wife Marguerite Finch Turner are buried there as are quite a few of their brothers and sisters. Most of my wife Debbie's family on the Sherrill side are buried at St. John's." **—Hill Turner**

"I have been a resident of the Westside Garden District since 2004 and one of the most intriguing attributes of the neighborhood is the cemetery. As a neighbor, I have a vested interest in the protection of the cemetery and the preservation of this asset. My family loves to walk through the cemetery and reflect while exploring the history of the space. In the afternoons, the serenity of the landscape is invaluable." **—Anny Shepard**

"My maternal great grandmother, my maternal grandparents, and several aunts and uncles on my mother's side (Horne) are buried there. I remember coming to the cemetery as a child and feeding the goldfish in a pond that was in one of the roundabouts! For the past 15 years I have sponsored a group of students and parents from Catholic High who complete a service project in late October in time for St. John's November All Saints Day." **—Jane Yarbrough Moseley**



Our first annual **Grounds Restoration Day** was a success as we had SJC board members and several volunteers assist with clearing and trimming bushes at the main entrance to the cemetery. Old garbage cans were replaced with monogrammed new ones all around the cemetery grounds! On October 27 we will be having our **Annual Fall Cleanup** day with help provided by Catholic High School students and parents. Thank you to board member Brenda Arnold for organizing this event!



*Farewell to the Questers
after 20 years of a positive impact on
St. John's Cemetery*

It was twenty years ago that Ted Nickinson presented a program about St. John's Cemetery at a Questers meeting . . . and the rest is history! As a result of this presentation, the philanthropic ladies group 'adopted' SJC and specifically the part of St. John's Cemetery lovingly called the Baby Cemetery. Over the years many of the 82 wooden markers have been replaced by the Questers with the remaining crosses scheduled for replacement in the near future. The Questers added the Angel in the middle of the Baby Cemetery and replaced the white perimeter fence in 2008. Every year at Christmas the Questers have hung wreaths on the Baby Cemetery fence. In addition to continuously keeping this special part of SJC well kept, the Questers have made great efforts to research the names and departing deaths of those youngest buried in St. John's. This year the group unfortunately is disbanding and has chosen as their parting gift to St. John's a hand-carved wooden podium for the gatehouse chapel. St. John's has greatly benefitted from the continued efforts of the Questers and we will miss their involvement.



Join the Friends of St. John's Cemetery Foundation

Please take this opportunity to join the Friends of St. John's Cemetery either for the first time or to renew your membership! Suggested dues are \$25 however many donate more than that! You are invited to pay your dues at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 3, or by mailing a check made out to 'Friends of St. John's Cemetery Foundation' to 610 N. Spring Street, Pensacola 32501.

President's Message

Dear Friends:

Since our last annual meeting in November 2017 many things have been accomplished. most notable:

- 1) *Six new benches* were installed along the main drive.
- 2) *More dead trees and stumps* were removed.
- 3) *Gravel* was added along the roadways, dealing with the ruts.
- 4) The *front garden area* was cleared, temporary plants were installed, and permanent ones will be added later. Also, Brenda Arnold, as the volunteer leader of the Perpetual Care grounds team, has taken over care of the Baby Section, roundabouts, and other general maintenance areas. New trash cans also have been added along the roads.
- 5) A *sprinkler system* was installed in the front garden area.
- 6) A *historical marker* has been ordered to be erected in front of the cemetery on G Street.
- 7) A larger, *general informational marker* has been ordered to be erected just inside the cemetery near the Gatehouse.
- 8) Small *signs highlighting certain graves* in the cemetery have been ordered and will be installed throughout.

- 9) A *cross* was installed in the Gatehouse chapel.
- 10) Pending city approval, plans are in the works to replace the east chain link fence with a *6' high, ornamental aluminum fence*.
- 11) More families are updating their *ownership* to the current generations; usually two-three a week call about this.
- 12) Additional families are making SJC their eternal home.

These projects would not have been possible without the generous support of our members, the Masons who operate St. John's Cemetery, Impact 100, and the founders of the Friends, Ted Nickinson and Dr. Jack Fleming.

Ted regrettably died this year. Both he and Jack realized that more could and should be done to preserve and memorialize those interred therein. They acted, successfully establishing this organization. Many years ago, both commented to me how pleased they would be to see a nice fence along the front of the cemetery. That will happen in the coming months.

As a salute to these men, I would like to ask each member to donate a contribution in their honor when mailing your annual dues, which are only \$25.

The only regrettable thing to report is the driver of a pickup truck rode through the north fence, pushing aside tombstones along Sections 59, 61, and 63. His

insurance carrier, USAA, is paying for the damage, which will include righting the tombstones.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve as your president for these many years. I have learned much and enjoyed it greatly. However, I feel the need to step down as president at the upcoming Annual Meeting when my board position expires. I still am willing to serve as the cemetery's historian, processing ownership changes and adding information to the database. The current vice president, Hill Turner, has deep roots in Pensacola and this cemetery; he will be an excellent choice to follow me as president. I love the cemetery and always will want to be connected to it.

Sincerely,
Wesley S. Odom



(This photo along with the photo on page 1 were taken by board member Brenda Arnold and are the front of the newly designed St. John's Cemetery note cards)

In Memoriam

Your prayers are requested for those who have died in 2018 and are buried in St. John's Cemetery:

Mary Ellen Edwards

Shirley A. Hicks

Sharen Hoskinson

A. Aileen Liberis

Ronald L. McDavid, Jr.

Edward P. Nickinson, Jr.

Barbara G. Porter

Donald A. Roark

Charles F. Smith

Joan F. Stanton

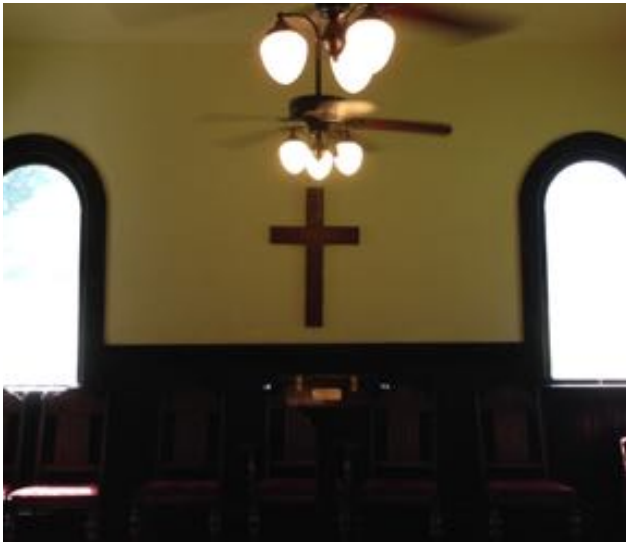
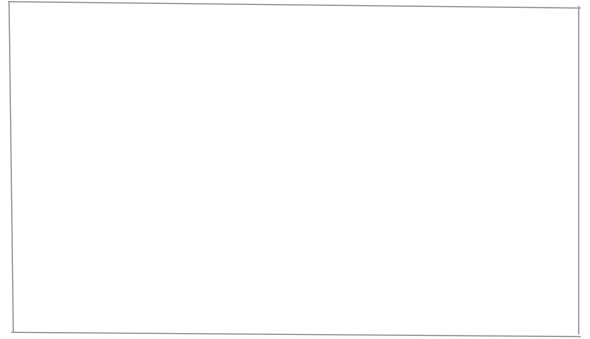
Randall Stevens

Roger W. Stevens

Elizabeth Varvouris

Friends of St. John's Cemetery
Foundation

610 N. Spring St.
Pensacola, FL 32501



*All Saints Service
and Annual Meeting*

Saturday, November 3, 2018

9:00 - 10:00 am

*Take this opportunity to provide feedback to the board and
discuss future projects. We value your input!*

Pastor Lawrence Powell will officiate