

Timothy T. Duncan

To Whom It May Concern,

I am who I am because of the people I grew up with and where I come from. I spent every Sunday of my childhood in the St. John's Episcopal Church in Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands where I was born. One of my aunts is a deacon in St. John's today and another aunt tends the altar and is a chalice bearer. What I learned from my parents, sisters, and family, along with that from church and in the church school, strengthened me and made me the man I am today.

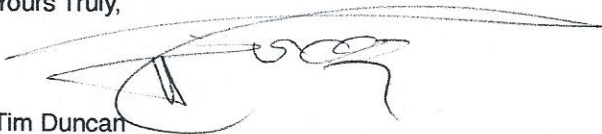
In 2010, St. John's Episcopal Church reached 250 years old, the oldest Episcopal Church in the Diocese of the Virgin Islands and among the oldest in the Caribbean and United States. In the early years, Alexander Hamilton, a Founding Father of the United States, worshipped there with his mother and brother. Parishioners recognized his promise and enabled him to go north to Kings College (now Columbia University). The ideals and mindset he established as a boy and teen in St. Croix, inspired the service he gave to George Washington and later put to use as the first Secretary of the Treasury of the new United States.

St. John's Episcopal Church stands on the hill at the head of King Street overlooking the town of Christiansted. A historic church of this grace, elegance, and beautiful interior appointments, deserves to be cherished and cared for to serve generations to come and continue to send out its youth to serve the world.

The years, along with mother nature, have taken their toll on the buildings of this church campus. The vestry and congregation, along with other caring citizens of St. Croix, have formed a Committee for the Restoration of St. John's Episcopal Church to stabilize the buildings and save them from further deterioration. The funds necessary for a proper historic restoration of buildings of this antiquity are beyond the ability of this loving congregation to afford. It is estimated that restoration of the campus will cost nearly seven million dollars. The church, Sunday school building, rectory, and cemetery, along with the historical records and documents, are all important and essential parts of this restoration endeavor. With the necessary funds raised, all would have a new lease on life.

My years in this church were only a small part of its 250 years, but I know its influence on the person I have become is immeasurable. I am asking you to help me to preserve and protect this long-standing anchor in the St. Croix community, which is not only iconic in my childhood, but in the history of the Episcopal Church in the Virgin Islands, the Caribbean, and the United States.

Yours Truly,



Tim Duncan
NBA Professional Basketball Player
San Antonio Spurs