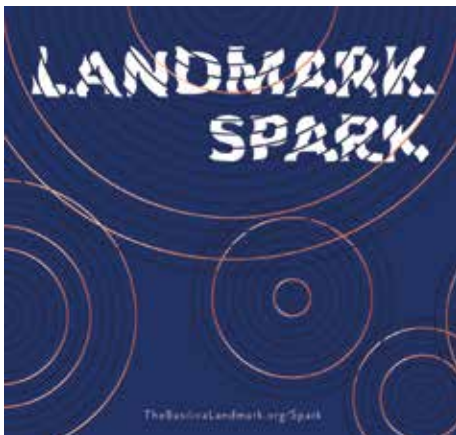


The Grace that Ripples out of The Basilica and into the World

Thank you, Landmark Spark

The Landmark Spark gala this past spring was an incredible success, with over 300 people in attendance. It was an unforgettable evening of joy and community, of connections and possibilities. The event chairs, Jill and Dan Ahern, shared what The Basilica means to them and inspired the room of attendees to support the evening's mission to raise money to fund new roof drains to prevent water from leaking into the historic church.



Save the Date
Landmark Spark 2025
May 2, 2025
Machine Shop Minneapolis

“ With some stellar creative help from the folks at KNOCK, we started playing with this idea of water—how it gives life, how it flows, how it moves, and eventually to the idea of ripples [and] how a small drop or movement can create a much larger effect. And that’s really what we are here to do—to make an impact, to make something larger than ourselves, to create energy beyond our actions.

That idea of ripples really resonated with us, and here’s why: While we are here tonight to support this masterpiece of architecture—the building designated as America’s First Basilica—the most important thing about The Basilica... is actually the people ... and what happens inside and then ripples out of it. Some of what happens inside is prayer and beauty and sacrament—it is, after all, a church. But The Basilica is also where people go each and every day to learn, to be fed, to seek shelter, to be heard, to ask for help.

It’s where we go in the most joyful times. It’s where we go to mourn. And sometimes we go to The Basilica when we simply have nowhere else to turn.

It’s where art and music and fellowship and the divine builds connection between people—for a moment, a day, or a lifetime—that is possible because at The Basilica all are welcomed, cared for, and valued.

I think we can all agree that today, in this world that can be so overwhelming and conflicted, a place of belonging, acceptance, and peace is vital to the well-being of our Twin Cities community and its people.

That’s why we, the Basilica Landmark Board, and the many others over the decades who have fought for this building, are so committed to the work of its repair and restoration. It’s because we know that in preserving and restoring that beautiful and historic building, we are protecting the grace inside of it. And that grace in turn ripples out of The Basilica and into the world through our works of justice, compassion, and service. ✝

— Jill and Dan Ahern ”

Jill will join The Basilica staff in November as Interim Managing Director of Mission Advancement, as Terri Ashmore prepares for retirement at the end of the year.



Clockwise from top left: Emcee Johan van Parys, PhD, Event Chairs Jill and Dan Ahern, Fr. Daniel Griffith, guests at Landmark Spark.