

Project Overview

Since sharing a preview of this project at our annual meeting earlier this year, we've been working hard to refine the design, and make as many savings as we could.

Our biggest problems are several areas of deferred maintenance in the sanctuary and parish hall with numerous electrical, HVAC, lighting, and audio issues, peeling paint, damaged floors, stained ceilings, and badly configured spaces as you'll see from our brochure, the 2023 annual report, and the materials that we'll be posting on our new building development page.

The whole process has been prayerful and well thought-through. At our May vestry meeting, we spent one last time in prayer together and two phrases especially stood out to me. One member prayed we'd be "good stewards of God's resources", and another prayed we'd be good at "taking care of our church home". I think these prayers express precisely what we're seeking to achieve, and as we begin, I'd like to say a little about both ideas.

Good Stewards

We know we could probably work our way through the remaining problems in our building over the next ten years, but that would impact other operational spending (like mission and staff), and at the end of that time, having spent a lot of money, there would be few really big improvements to show for all that work. For just a little more we'll be able to improve the accessibility, flexibility, comfort, safety, and function of two key spaces and put it all right at once.

We also know that previous generations planned significantly more elaborate renovations but in the post-pandemic world, it remains to be seen whether the next generation will use buildings in quite the same way as we used to. Right now, it seems like there's much more emphasis in churches on small group and meetings throughout the week, so our design takes careful account of that trend.

Instead of either patching things up over ten years, or creating something too big right now, our plan is simply to improve what we have, building in such a way that we could easily add something new in the future if we need to.

The vision for the sanctuary is to make it far more accessible to everyone, and to open it up so that we can all see and hear more easily. The newly ordered chancel will be far more flexible, and a great location for our small Saturday service as well as other more intimate meetings or services throughout the year. With all the wires properly installed underneath, sound will be more reliable, and the room less cluttered. By re-grading the balcony, it will become much more comfortable, and people will be able to see far more easily.

The vision for the Parish Hall is to increase the amount of useable space and to create a new space for our Children's Ministry behind the stage so that they have a safe, clean, attractive permanent home. The Hall is great for meetings, parties, and receptions, but we can all see how tired it looks, and many of us have experienced what it's like in the warmest or coldest months without any temperature control in there.

Taking Care of Our Church Home

This beautiful old place used to be a family home and that is still very much what it feels like to worship here.

From the outset, the image of a home has been important for our design decisions but over time, it's become equally important for our strategy to raise the funds as well.

If we really are a family, and this really is our home, then it felt wrong to produce a campaign that was too professional or pushy. In larger, less intimate churches, sometimes you need to do things that way, but that's not the environment we're seeking to cultivate here. When making family decisions in our own homes we don't push, we pray, look at our finances, and decide what to do among ourselves.

We know that right now, you might need some time to do the same thing here and over the next 60 days, we're inviting you to do just that. You can ask any questions you like, and then, if you feel led, you can make a commitment to give. Some people will be able to give up front, others might give annually, or monthly over one, two, or three years.

This is an exciting time. Part of genuinely letting go is that we have no idea what to expect. If we raise too little, or too much, we'll have to decide what to do together as a church family. What I love about our church is that when I mentioned giving something away and helping a poorer church overseas, the annual meeting erupted into applause.

Up to this point, the job of the Vestry and Staff has been to analyze problems, carefully plan the best solutions, fight to save every dollar we can and explain everything to you, but the discernment process of what God really wants to do is entirely down to us all as good stewards taking care of our church home.

Therefore, it's over to you.