

Building Committee Survey - 2009

1. What do you like best about the current space at Prince of Peace that you use for your ministry?

I think the sanctuary is the best part of our current space. It's light and warm and inviting. Although we have some significant challenges, the current feel of our sanctuary needs to be maintained.

2. What is it that makes us feel we need some more space?

One of our challenges is that we don't need more space all the time. But, when we do, it's a definite limitation to our ministries (for example, large worship and fellowship events).

3. In what way is your ministry limited by our current space?

There are 4 general areas that cramp our style! These are:

- A) the lack of gathering space for fellowship (this includes having no large gathering space other than the sanctuary, as well as spaces like the narthex which are too small for mingling and talking comfortably);**
- B) space constraints in the sanctuary. I say "constraints" because usually we have enough seats for worshippers. What constrains us is the ability to have space for a choir, band, organ and piano in places which are both aesthetically and acoustically desirable. And, while our average attendance at weekend worship services has been stagnant, our average attendance on holidays (e.g. Christmas Eve, Easter Sunday, etc.) has been growing. At these services, we are beginning to have more people attending than we can accommodate, even with overflow seating;**
- C) climate controlled storage - while we've eased our storage problems somewhat by the additional outside shed and getting rid of junk, there are quite a number of things we need to store which cannot be stored in an outside shed. We really have very limited space for such things;**
- D) office space - currently, we really don't have enough offices for the staff we have, and this severely limits us if we would need to bring on an additional staff member or two. Also, the Administrative Secretary's office space is about half the size of what would be desirable. My Senior Pastor's office space is also not ideal, partly because of the layout of the space. It would really be better if I had some space to meet with small groups (2-6 people) without them having to sit in front of my desk.**

4. What would make Prince of Peace a more welcoming space?

There are two things that I think would be especially helpful:

- A) Continue to work on making sure that our grounds are properly maintained; we could improve on this by making sure weeds are pulled on a regular basis;**
- B) Making the narthex about twice the size it is now would enable us to create a more welcoming space. It would make it possible for coffee and refreshments to be available and visible as people were coming to and from services without creating a traffic jam in the hallway; it would create a less crowded environment where people could mingle and talk;**

and it would make it possible for us to place information and announcements without it looking cluttered.

5. How can we improve our church's visibility?

Physically, we have a great location! Our physical visibility could be improved and enhanced in at least two ways:

- A) It would be good to get a new, main sign. The current sign was designed and installed when RT 28 was two lanes instead of 4. The new road configuration has made the sign letters too small to be read easily. A larger sign, which simply said, "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church" and had the address and perhaps the website, would be sufficient in this day and age.**
- B) We need to be sure that our frontage is maintained, even the frontage which is technically the responsibility of the State of MD. (see 4A above).**

6. In what ways could our future ministries be improved by adding or changing our current space?

Making our space more inviting, especially making it possible for people to feel that they can connect more closely to God and to one another, will create energy and enthusiasm for all kinds of ministries that we may not be able to fully envision right now. Perhaps more importantly, it will continue to help us reach out to others in our community and help them to feel God's love and presence in world where that too often is not the case.

7. Where do you feel our/your ministry will be in 5 years?

Moreso than at any time in the past 7 years, I feel that we have the staff, the programs, the resources and the opportunities to make a difference in the lives of many people. I believe that Prince of Peace is going to continue to grow both in numbers and in faithful response to the Gospel. I think that we need to do all we can to remove any physical roadblocks to this growth. Some of this can be done in the short-term, but we need to begin now to plan for long term needs.

8. What would make our space more comfortable?

There are a couple of things that would help in the short term (defined as "before a major building project"):

- A) Continue to make sure our space is de-cluttered and clean;**
- B) Find a way to replace the current walls in the fellowship hall so that the space can quickly and easily be converted from a large space to smaller spaces;**
- C) Make a point of getting rid of large items we don't need (e.g. excess furniture) immediately, without holding on to it until the Yard Sale.**

9. Do you have any ideas for better utilizing the space we have outside our buildings?

One thing we really need to do is to de-clutter our sheds at least 3-4 times a year. This would involve throwing out trash as well as better organizing things we need to keep. Currently, this kind of happens after the Yard Sale, but that's not enough.

10. Would any of your suggestions change if we evaluated them from an environmental perspective?

No. In fact, I think many of these suggestions would create at least the opportunity for us to use space more efficiently and be better stewards of our environment.