

Building Committee Survey - 2009

November 17, 2009, submitted by Susan L. Victor, 301-294-6883

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

- The sanctuary is great. I love the feeling in the room. The narthex is also spacious. As an aside, I liked the sanctuary better when our chairs were more “in a round” facing each other –it seemed more intimate and personal. I do like having the band on the right hand side instead of behind the altar. Behind the altar, it seemed distracting to me.

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

- There is a lack of space for meetings during Sunday School hour for adults. Three different adult groups meet:
one in the sanctuary,
one in a tiny (very loud room) off of the fellowship hall,
and one in Pastor Steve’s office.
Quiet spaces for adults to concentrate on bible study with each other during Sunday School hour is needed.
- There is an EXTREME LACK OF SPACE for church potluck dinners or dinners of any kind. Our average worship per weekend is over 150; our fellowship hall can only accommodate 80 people with tables and chairs (squeezed in). Thus, we cannot all enjoy each others company, AT THE SAME TIME. Taking down and putting up the divider walls is cumbersome and difficult.
- Between services, the POP hospitality time/coffee hour is GREATLY LACKING due to the LACK OF SPACE. I think people would linger and talk more, if coffee was attractively presented along with the snacks. This is a time for our members to get to know one another and to share with each other their thoughts about the worship service and sermon.
Please go on a tour of any other local church with adequate fellowship hall space, and you will find that they hold their hospitality time/coffee hour in fellowship hall. In my NJ church, people do not leave hospitality time/coffee hour—they linger for an hour or more! The same goes for my former church: Rockville United Church (in MD).
- For instance, as a suggestion (if we had the space):
8:30-9:30am Worship
9:30-10am Hospitality/Fellowship time
10-10:55am Sunday School for all ages
11am-12pm Worship

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

- I could see POP using a large fellowship hall for activities and events for people of all ages. Dancing events, crafts, kid activities, etc. Now we are limited and cannot readily offer events.

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

- We need better signage out front (cohesive lettering on all ACTIVITIES). It looks rather homemade at times—while that presents a homemade cozy approach perhaps that may not always be the best approach. On the flipside, I have to say, the homemade signs are very cute—and I don't find them objectionable.
- Longer term, take away the embankment in front of the church, and flatten it out. This would provide more visibility for people to see the church as they drive by on Rt. 28.
- Perhaps plant an attractive evergreen, low maintenance, and no extra watering plants in this area.

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

- See above

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

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

- I hope to see us grow and be a more cohesive congregation. Cohesive with the three services. Fellowship space large enough for 200 people to eat together, dance together, and fellowship together. Having three services segments our congregation into three separate congregations. I have met terrific people at an event; and then I don't see them again for a long time. If we had a larger fellowship hall; perhaps once a month we could have an ALL CHURCH potluck or get together to make our members feel more cohesive and inclusive. This will allow us to get to know each other better AS A WHOLE CONGREGATION.

8. What would make our space more comfortable?

- Perhaps a parlor to sit and talk quietly (maybe have a cup of coffee). Now is the time to dream and look at other churches—to see what works for them. We don't need to re-invent the wheel. We just need to look around at other churches to see what works for them and to see what would work for POP.

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

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