

Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill Activity Center Building Project Mission Statement

The leadership of St. Andrew's strongly believes that construction of a new Activity Center places the Church on a firm foundation for growth that will more than repay the investment. St. Andrew's leadership has developed several goals that will be met in our new activity center, as reflected in this Mission Statement.

For many years St. Andrew's has not had a room large enough for all members to meet for meals and activities. This is a significant impediment to our growth. Our new Activity Center will provide a great place for members and the community to gather for parish activities, receptions, community events, performances, dining and much more. We believe these attractive new facilities will enable numerous new programs that will draw many visitors into membership.

The Activity Center will include a meeting hall, meeting rooms, kitchen, storage, and restrooms with showers in a 3,325 sq. ft. facility located in the northeast portion of current church property. It will be constructed over a portion of the current church building and integrate with the current appearance and include landscape improvements.

Building the Activity Center is one of several expansion alternatives considered by Session and the building project team. Expansion of our current fellowship hall was considered, but would not provide the net overall gain of space that retaining the current hall with the new Activity Center will together provide. Significant uses of the new facility are large congregational and community gatherings, such as dining or large meetings, or where a large open space is desired. This large space will also enable new forms of worship - beyond our Sanctuary worship. Improvements to our existing buildings are important and will continue, but the Activity Center will give us the additional large single space to drive our mission growth.

Having both the Activity Center and the current hall will permit two large simultaneous activities on the campus, permitting significant expansion. The Activity Center will provide a space nearly as large as our Sanctuary, and will be larger than the combined area of the room it displaces plus our current fellowship hall. With the addition of the Activity Center, the music program will be able to make fuller use of the former fellowship hall as a dedicated rehearsal area, and community musical activities requiring a larger floor area, such as the Bay Area Handbell Festival, can now be hosted at St. Andrew's.

Our ability to hold significant events and invite the surrounding Community will be enhanced with this project. The Activity Center will provide a beautiful space for receptions, space for games and activities for all ages, space for drama, dance and musical rehearsals and productions. Dinner and activities in a spacious atmosphere will be inviting to members and friends of St. Andrew's as well as the surrounding community.

Depending upon the table configuration used, the Activity Center will seat between 200 and 245 for a sit down dinner. It will seat between 250 and 300 using a theater style setup for meetings. In contrast, our current hall can only seat between 100 and 125 for a sit down dinner, and between 125 and 150 for theater style seating for meetings. During a recent gathering to hear the Rev. Ray Campton speak on worry and anxiety, we filled the hall to capacity.

All ages and groups in the Church will have access to the Activity Center. The new hall and classrooms will provide needed space for adult education, expansion of our Small Group ministries, and widening Children and Youth ministries. At Session's direction, we have added hours to our Children's Ministry Director and our Youth Director in anticipation of this growth.

The leaders of St. Andrew's recognize the need for growth to bring the investment in the Activity Center to fruition. Staff and lay leaders are adding new outreach and promotion activities to new and effective programs we already have in place. The very best way for church to grow is when its members invite their neighbors and friends to worship and other programs. We have emphasized that all must be involved in growing Christ's Church.

Our Building Project enriches the life of our current membership, but also is an important outreach to our community. Expanding our local mission outreach is a stated goal for the Activity Center, and shower facilities are provided for overnight stays on the Church campus to shelter those in life transition and host mission visitors to the area.

We have a great family of faith at St. Andrew's, and we invite others to worship with us, learn more about the Church and the building improvements, and see what Christ is doing through St. Andrew's. As part of our outreach to the community, we will be personally notifying our neighbors of the impending project and use this as an opportunity to familiarize our community with St. Andrew's. We believe growth is ahead through continued outreach by drawing newcomers to worship, serving the community, offering rich music and arts, and opening our improved facilities for a wide range of activities.

Session pledges to continue to seek God's guidance as we do our best to grow the kingdom of God here on earth. We need to understand the needs and how to best meet those needs by reviewing and weighing all the possibilities and choose a path that will lead St. Andrew's to a tomorrow that feeds our souls and meets the needs of the congregation and community. We want to assure you that St. Andrew's Session and Sub-Committees have done a tremendous amount of work over the last five years to evaluate all the possibilities and make choices that would be best for St. Andrew's now and in the future.

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."