

**St. Margaret's Church
Annapolis, Maryland
October 16, 2007**

**FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS REVEAL BROAD SUPPORT
FOR BUILDING PLANS, SOME CONCERNS**

In September, the Long Range Planning Committee held 16 focus groups for members to present our architect's concept for a new church building, education and office space. Of St. Margaret's roughly 1,000 members, 287 attended one or more meetings, and 122 attendees completed questionnaires about the proposed project.

A summary of findings follows, based on responses to the questionnaire and comments voiced during the meetings. The summary is organized by questions asked on the questionnaire.

What is the most important benefit to be realized as a result of the proposed plans?

- More education space; worshiping together.
- Increases our capacity to serve and minister.
- Larger worship space with more classrooms that keeps with architectural integrity of church and community.
- Allows for continuing growth; love the design of the church; congregation is growing, need to support that.
- Easing of seating crunch; keep the St. Margaret's family together; consolidation of community, more of us together at services.

Some attendees expressed concerns about the project.

- I am not for building a new church.
- Agree there is a need to enlarge building structure, but will we lose small church feeling?
- Haven't been shown benefits yet; larger congregation not really a benefit; would we be losing coziness?

Overall, about 120 comments were positive about the plans, and about a dozen were negative or expressed reservations and concerns.

How would building plans/vision help fulfill our mission?

- No more turning away people due to lack of space; meet our goals of caring for members as well as those beyond our parish.
- Forming Christians in better space; should enhance all aspects of church's mission.

- Room for God to grow His church; youth group would enjoy better meetings, increase attendance.
- Provide facilities to benefit our community and greater Annapolis community; community is built by communal worship, people seeing and knowing each other.
- Education for all requires more space.

Examples of concerns expressed:

- I do not believe God's Kingdom will be furthered by this proposal; improvements seem excessive.
- How do these improvements feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, heal the sick?
- How does a pipe organ support our mission?

Have we forgotten anything?

- Would like to hear more about our environmental stewardship.
- Elevators, stairway to basement from narthex; "cry" room, more bathrooms, elevators.
- Youth lounge, gathering space; stained glass windows; one or two pews with sound system for hearing impaired.
- Missing on-going operations and maintenance costs; room for wedding parties to get ready.
- Is Parish Hall big enough to accommodate larger congregation? Parish Hall seems too small.
- Choir vesting room, bowling alley.
- More detail on how we plan to raise this money.

Will you volunteer time to raise money, support financially?

- Seventy-four attendees said they would support the project financially, and 30 said they needed more information before committing themselves financially. Thirteen attendees said they would not support the project financially.
- Fifty-four said they would volunteer their time, and 34 said they needed more information first. Ten said they would not volunteer their time.

Any additional comments?

- Love it; very exciting; love it that design is "old-fashioned".
- Do we really need so much; don't see how we'd be able to pay for this; dislike concept of the baptismal pool.
- Put parish hall in basement below sanctuary.
- Build the whole thing NOW for heaven's sake.