

Making Room at our Table

May 1, 2011

Fellowship Hall: Multipurpose to Meet Multiple Needs

When the Programming and Facilities Evaluation Team (PFET) met in 2008, they identified approximately 50 groups who use the church facilities for meeting space or program activities. The primary needs identified by these groups were for meeting space, access to handicap-accessible rest rooms and a kitchen, and media set-up.

As many of you know, the church relies heavily on the school for meeting space. In addition, many groups meet off-site, in parishioners' homes, coffee shops or elsewhere. This is a practice that draws attention to our church in the larger community and offers the opportunity for parishioners to extend hospitality to each other. However, it is also limiting and should not be the result of there being no option at the church to accommodate groups and programs.

Also, there are groups that need to meet during the day, while school is in session. Right now these are required to use the small, heavily-booked conference room in the parish office, or a few other small meeting rooms that are not handicap-accessible. Funerals held during the week need to be held after 2:00 pm so that the school kitchen can be used after the children have been dismissed. A funeral on Wednesdays interferes with the set-up for faith formation on Wednesday evening.

The proposed designs for a fellowship hall include handicap-accessible bathrooms and moveable walls that can accommodate multiple meeting spaces or break-out rooms. Storage areas will facilitate the use of media equipment and a variety of seating arrangements. An adjacent kitchen will accommodate funerals and other functions.

For more information about the *Meeting Room at Our Table* process, please go to www.churchstjoseph.org and click on the Communications tab.