

Making Room at our Table

April 6, 2011

On Tuesday, April 5, a meeting was held as part of our parish's ongoing process to meet the facility needs. Courtney Cooper and Murray Mack with Hagemester Mack Architects presented preliminary concept drawings to parishioners who were part of six focus groups convened in November 2010 to give input related to parish facility needs. The six focus groups were on the topics of: Ministries/Outreach, Buildings and Maintenance, Parish Staff, Education, Special Events/Community and Worship.

The group saw options that addressed priorities identified by parishioners for a gathering space and fellowship hall served by a kitchen, as well as handicap accessible bathrooms. Both an East and West option were presented, with strong support for building on the West side of the church, between the current church and the school. The group encouraged the architect team to move forward with presentations to all parishioners at an open forum in the coming weeks.

This planning process, which began in 2008 when a Programming and Facility Evaluation Team (PFET) prepared an initial analysis of parish needs, has identified specific needs for the parish in terms of maintenance, new and expanded space and accessibility. Following analysis by consultants in February to determine the feasibility of a capital campaign, the parish is moving forward in the planning phase.

In coming weeks, you will hear much more about the needs of our parish and how the architect's concepts address those needs. We hope that everyone will embrace this effort to address immediate needs for space and facilities and plan for the long-term growth and success of our parish.

Complete documents related to this process (the 2008 report, reports by various committees formed after the PFET report, the results of the feasibility study and background documents), are available on the parish website at www.churchstjoseph.org under the "communications" tab.