

DREAM COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
2023
by Rebecca Waycott

The Dream Committee was formed in spring of 2023 to oversee the collection of opportunities and ideas for the future of St. Thomas. A main goal of the group was to try to reach as many members and interested parties at St. Thomas as possible.

Beginning in June 2023, members of the Dream Committee held listening sessions open to all those affiliated with St. Thomas. Three listening sessions were held during the Adult Education period – one each in June, July and August. Individual sessions were also held with the choir, St. Thomas Playhouse, and the parents and director of Children & Youth. Close to 100 individuals were reached in this way. All of the listening sessions were very animated and positive, eliciting creative ideas and excitement about opportunities for the future of St. Thomas. An online questionnaire was also available for any and all.

The results of the Dream Sessions were organized and listed in a document that is available online and in the office for those interested. There are some addendums with dreams particular to various groups such as KCDC, ST Playhouse, parents of children and youth, the Choir, the Worship Committee and those overseeing special events, such as weddings, funerals and community gatherings. The Dream Committee examined all of these results and came up with the following main themes that surfaced as of primary importance to all the participants.

1) GREATER OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY AS A VILLAGE CHURCH

- A center for large community gatherings/meetings/fellowship
- Enhance our ability to serve, and provide for, those in need
- Offer welcoming locations for prayer and reflection and for those seekers exploring spirituality
- Enhanced support of St. Thomas Playhouse
 - Music facilities for use by the larger community

2) ENHANCEMENT OF OUR WORSHIP AND MUSIC OFFERINGS

- Dedicated space for all choirs and other music programs
- Improved classroom facilities for adult education
- Build a chapel/dedicated quiet space to provide easy accessibility to those seeking to deepen their spirituality and/or begin engaging with our tradition.

3) STRONG SUPPORT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH

- Enhanced educational programs for children & youth.
New programs for adults of all ages.

- o Recreational opportunities for children and youth (and adults – yoga)
- o Possible establishment of a Day Care/Pre-School.

The following items are possible building projects that could help St. Thomas achieve the goals listed above.

New Parish Hall

It may be possible to construct a new and larger Parish Hall with much greater capacity for larger events at the courtyard's current location. This would enhance our congregation's fellowship gatherings while also providing sufficient space for community outreach events. Our Ketchum Community Dinners Curbside Ministry (KCDC) dreams of the opportunity to host community sit-down meals. A larger enhanced Parish Hall would also provide St. Thomas with an opportunity to host congregant's meetings such as book clubs, bridge clubs, birthday parties, wedding receptions, and other social events.

Above New Parish Hall

It may also be possible to add additional interior rooms above the Parish Hall that would provide recreational/gathering space for children, youth and adults, as well rehearsal space for St. Thomas Playhouse.

Kitchen

No expansion of programs and activities should be attempted without planning for a much larger and better equipped kitchen facility. This would support our outreach goals of hosting larger community gatherings, as well as further supporting the needs of those in the Wood River Valley. Additionally, an expanded Kitchen would allow our children's, youth and family ministry to grow by making it easier for these groups to socialize. Finally, a new kitchen would make St. Thomas a more attractive venue for wedding receptions, community parties and large scale community meetings/events.

Location of Current Parish Hall

The existing Parish Hall space could be remodeled to provide a dedicated room well suited for all our music programs. The choir dreams of a dedicated rehearsal space, as well as a vesting room and music library. In addition, the

remodel would present the opportunity of expanding current office workspace and gathering rooms.

Removal of Labyrinth

In consultation with our current labyrinth stakeholders, it has been decided that the Labyrinth is so disintegrated and would be so expensive to rebuild that it must be removed. This will free up the upper courtyard for a variety of possible uses such as a chapel/dedicated quiet space for prayer, contemplation and engagement with our tradition.

Dreaming of a Bigger Campus

If property adjacent to the church property were ever to become available, we could then plan for additional expansion of our current parking for Sunday services, current ministry programs, and community events.

- An after school program for Playhouse
- An auditorium for the Playhouse ministry and community events
- An Episcopal school

The **Dream Committee** completed its work in December of 2023 and has now morphed into the **Vision Committee**, who met for the first time in January 2024. Members of this committee will work on the following tasks:

- Synthesizing and analyzing the Dream Requests to come up with a list of those opportunities that are most often mentioned as being integral to the achievement of our dream goals
- Searching for and interviewing architects who specialize in church design and planning
- Day Care Feasibility Study.

Members of the Vision Committee include:

Jonah Kendall - Rector, Kathleen Bean - Associate Rector, Paul Ahern - Senior Warden, Rebecca Waycott – Committee Chair, Dell-Ann Benson, Roger Gould, David Lister, Chris Neilson. Suzy Orb, Arthur Scully, Margot Shuford, and Junior Warden (as Vestry Liaison)