

RESULTS OF DREAM SESSIONS  
June 2023 – January 2024

**Overall Mission goals:**

- All are welcome – make the whole community feel welcome.
- Expand ST Playhouse reach throughout the WR Valley community, diversifying what we do and whom we reach.
- ST should become the center for Quality Music in the Wood River Valley
- More children, families
- Share all our talents

**Program and Outreach Ideas:**

- Open a Day Care and/or Pre-School that would care for children until they can attend Kindergarten. Very much needed nationwide. See addendum regarding plusses and needs for early childhood care.
- Start an Episcopal day school
- Tutoring Program
- After school programming – through ST Playhouse (See ST Playhouse addendum for many ideas they have)
- Expand outreach & programming – perhaps an outreach fair, community resource fair to identify volunteer opportunities for seasonal people
- Partner with other groups:
  - o ST Playhouse partnering w/ other theater groups, renting space from other groups, performing with others, etc. (See ST Playhouse addendum)
- More Inter-Faith activities
- More social activities – fill building with community members
- ST should always support ST Playhouse
- More church education & programming for youth

**Physical Plant Ideas:**

- Buy SV Associates building
- Build new parish hall:
  - o Expand out over the current patio to create a beautiful parish hall with big windows that can slide open. Suitable for parties – such as wedding receptions – as well dining for KCDC. Would be usable in winter – a big plus!!
  - o This larger space could also be used by ST Playhouse to accommodate larger casts
- Have space for a pre-school/day care
- Have a patio on top of potential new parish hall off of the columbarium
- Enlarge the kitchen to be suitable for cooking and catering for larger groups.
  - o Become a commercial kitchen with ability to serve meals

- Please see addendum with suggestions from Hospitality Group and KCDC committee for improvements/upgrades
- More office space
- Dedicated choir and robing room – for rehearsals, storage, choir robes, etc
- Enlarge whole church (without giving up intimacy)
- Have a real pipe organ? - relocate cry room so organ and pipes go the
- Make the chancel bigger so it could accommodate choir and organ
- Move Sacristy so that it could be directly accessed from chancel
- More parking – heat melt?
- Build something on the labyrinth/grassy space as there is need for a quiet space – a chapel??
- Make better use of SV Rd. side of property
  - Pocket parks, benches
- More visibility of our commitment to caring for Creation
  - Solar panels on roof whenever it is redone
  - Recycling and composting
- Spaces for youth and senior physical activities (yoga, basketball, etc)
- Make the best use possible of all of our land and building

#### **Staffing Needs:**

- Hire a sexton/caretaker – more support for Staff to keep a cleaner facility
- STPlayhouse – hire an additional staff member to be the program director taking responsibility for:
  - Hiring for Camps
  - Scheduling for Camps
  - Managing tasks outside of Creative Director’s realm
- See ST Playhouse addendum for further staffing wishes
- Clergy to support Latino/a community – address needs of Hispanic community

#### **Worship opportunities:**

- A chapel/ dedicated quiet space (could perhaps incorporate labyrinth design into flooring)
- Taize year round
- Salt water baptisms?
- More opportunities for people looking for spiritual path vs. religion
- Private/healing prayer after Communion – in Narthex?

## **ADDENDUM:**

### **TECHNOLOGY:**

1. A dedicated streaming/recording space in the sanctuary with a built-in setup for anyone to use.
2. Depending on how technology moves, St. Thomas could possibly build a mobile app.

## **Music Department Dreams Re: Space changes**

### **Sanctuary**

#### *General Thoughts:*

If the sanctuary is to be enlarged, we have two choices - keep the music in the back, or move it to the front. That will heavily influence any subsequent design choices.

A classically-oriented church music program benefits from a pipe organ, and a space with an acoustic that is nice to sing in. Right now, our digital organ is beginning to show its age. Singing from the front of the church is fair, and singing from the balcony is poor, sound-wise. Something about the space makes un-amplified voices not sound great, and a good acoustician should be able to answer those questions.

#### *Position of pipe organ:*

The pipes of the great division on the organ should speak in the middle, vertically, of the longest axis of the church. So if the musicians are to stay at the back of the church, I believe the nursery should be relocated, and the organ should take its place on the entire vertical plane of the back of the church.

If the chancel area of the church is to be greatly enlarged, I think it would benefit the program to have the organ and choir relocated to the front, along a more-typical Anglican style.

#### *Acoustician/Architect:*

I cannot stress how important hiring the right team to renovate the sanctuary will be. We should hire folks that have a record of buildings or renovations that we like. Consider chatting with the folks at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Denver, CO. Their renovation, around 2008, ended beautifully. They seat about 120 comfortably, so their space is somewhat smaller than ours.

#### *Seats:*

In our current configuration, I'd like to have musician chairs for everyone, rather than pews. That would allow greater flexibility in our limited space.

#### *Bell Choir:*

It would be great to have a permanent place for the bell choir to have a U-shape rehearsal and performance space. Right now, it is difficult to see and hear each other adequately.

#### *Notes from the choir:*

It is important to the choir to consider the following:

- Enough seating for all musicians (this is a problem sometimes when we are up front)
- Well ventilated (several folks have gotten sick from rehearsals or performances, and a better-ventilated space would prevent some of this)
- Better/new choir robes (current robes are coming to the end of their life, and they are hot to wear)
- Music racks for choir seats, or music stands for choristers
- Better arrangement for the bell choir

#### **Rehearsal/Robing**

##### *General thoughts:*

An ideal rehearsal space is large, but not too large, has high ceilings, windows that allow in great light, has great artificial lighting, and has some ability to modify the acoustics of the room.

I realize the most likely place is for the music department to move more permanently into the parish hall. It really isn't a bad place to sing - we can hear each other well enough, and the lighting is good.

I'd like to upgrade the lighting to non-fluorescent lighting, possibly change the ceiling material, and move the robes, the choir library, and my office into that space.

##### *Robes:*

The robes could be at one end of the room, possibly with some design elements that suggest a little more privacy. Some members of the choir like to take their shirts off before donning the robe, and doing that in the bathroom isn't ideal.

##### *Choir library:*

The choir library could be relocated somewhere in the space, with several heavy-duty bookshelves. The boxes we have work well enough, but converting the system to legal-size vertical files would prevent aging of the music better.

##### *Director of Music Office:*

My office should fit in there as well, and it would be great to be closer to all the materials I need on a day-to-day basis.

##### *Seating:*

I'd like to end up with enough seating for 30 musicians in the rehearsal room, as that is a little over our maximum we've had the past several years.

*Other thoughts from the choir:*

- Buy SV Associates, and/or the Bitterroot building
- Have a space to incubate a daycare business
- Make better use of the SV Road side of the property
- Move sacristy so there is direct access to the church
- Build a chapel on the labyrinth/grass area
- Build a parish hall on the patio, with a new patio on top

**Links to products/venues**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Denver CO

<https://www.standrewdenver.org/>

Timothy Kreuger, Director of Music

[music@standrewdenver.org](mailto:music@standrewdenver.org)

One option for musician chairs:

<https://shop.wengercorp.com/education/musician-chair.html>

Many choristers would like the book rack that can be installed on these chairs as well.

Possibly consult with SVMF.

Probably should have several Wenger music stands

Organ builders:

Paul Fritts (Tacoma, WA) builds trackers. We should consider several firms if/when we pursue this.

Something like this specification would be wonderful in our space.

[http://www.frittsorgan.com/opus\\_pages/galleries/opus\\_19/photo\\_gallery.html](http://www.frittsorgan.com/opus_pages/galleries/opus_19/photo_gallery.html)

**Specific to parents of youth and children:**

- **More space** – have a beautiful, large, multi-purpose space for sharing with the community, a place for meals, wedding receptions, etc
- Bigger & better kitchen
- More space upstairs – perhaps glass in the area under the bell tower so people can also congregate there.
- Create a chapel/quiet spot upstairs. Could have small weddings, baptisms, etc The narthex gets very jammed with people.
- Close in the space under the patio for storage area.
- Have a space for teens to hang out. Could be on street side of church.
  
- Service opportunities for children & youth to give back to community,

- Have an alternative service on Saturday or Sunday late afternoon/evening
- **Early childhood education center** – birth to age 3 – very needed in the community!! A day care with intention.
- Do not change the church service. Keep music, liturgy etc as is. No need to bring in alternative music, etc. Episcopal service is great.

## DREAMS FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

### Worship opportunities:

1. A **chapel**/ dedicated quiet space (could perhaps incorporate labyrinth design into flooring)

A small chapel could offer an intimate space for individuals and small groups to spend time in prayer/private devotions; baptisms, weddings, funerals.

This might be a space that is not secured (i.e. open at all hours). Could be inviting to people who are curious about the spiritual life but not ready for organized religion.

Small alcove-like structures in Italy were mentioned as another example of such a space.

2. **Taize** year round

Summer months were not perceived as a good time for Taize because people are busy with so many other opportunities and activities, and it will be more challenging to recruit the necessary volunteers. But there was interest in extending the winter season on both ends – perhaps beginning in November and going through Lent. A week night makes sense (rather than Sunday night) because many Sunday morning worshipers enjoy coming to Taize too and are probably less likely to come to both services in one day.

3. **Saltwater baptisms?**

The group wasn't sure about saltwater in our setting but thought that river or creek baptisms could be offered.

4. **More opportunities for people looking for spiritual path vs. religion**

Our banner says that "All Are Welcome" but what welcomes people in?

Poetry in the garden: Kaye Kearns' suggestion that we install a weather-proof sign on the Sun Valley Road side of the church that would contain a poem, which would be changed regularly. This could draw people into the new/proposed Mary Garden.

"Grand Tree" – A tree where people were invited to come hang prayers; these would be taken down from time to time to be prayed over in church.

The group considered whether music could be a component of an outdoor area but it

was observed that it would be difficult to have instruments outside.

Creating a space on the Trail Creek side of the property (with a vibe like the nearby Lucy Loken Park), very natural setting, peaceful place for contemplation.

Offer Tennebrae “last words” liturgy on Good Friday

The **labyrinth** was discussed, and it was suggested that we need to investigate again the relative costs of removing the current crumbling labyrinth and simply paving that space vs. installing a new weather-proof labyrinth. Heather Black researched some companies that offer such labyrinths. Depending on the size of a proposed small chapel, it might be possible to incorporate a labyrinth into the flooring.

**Advertising** our Adult Ed offerings was suggested as a way to invite seekers. Other “onboarding” opportunities identified were Playhouse, Cherub and youth choirs.

#### 5. **Private/healing prayer** after Communion – in Narthex?

Offering healing prayer after the service is a common practice and could be done, whether in the sanctuary or another space. Prayers could be offered by one of the priests, a deacon, Stephen Minister or other trained lay person.

#### 6. Other thoughts:

A **larger church** is also a dream – more seating in the chancel, more volume of air, a pipe organ.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

1. A dedicated streaming/recording space in the sanctuary with a built-in setup for anyone to use.
2. Depending on how technology moves, St. Thomas could possibly build a mobile app.

### **REASONS FOR SETTING UP EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:**

(as provided by Jeanne Cassell)

1. it would help us attract younger families to our church.
2. it would give us a way to work toward economic and racial diversity in our community by providing scholarships for children in families that need assistance.
3. it would provide good space for our own Sunday school and youth programs.
4. there is a great need in our community for space and programs that assist with early childhood education.

5. there is now a Wood River Early Learning Collaborative of 14 members (many of them non-profits) that has conducted a "Needs Assessment" and could provide further information at <http://www.wrelc.org/needs>

The main need, as they see it, is for space!

#### **FROM KCDC AND HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE FOR IMPROVED KITCHEN:**

Create a Commercial Kitchen if possible.

Definitely wish for/need:

Improved Venting

Multi section Freezer (or, walk-in)

Multi section Refrigerator (or, walk-in)

Much Larger 3 sink washer system with hanger spray unit and smoothly working drainage

Better Dishwashing system including racks to dry for commercial washer

Much more counter/prep space

Much more storage/cupboards (with doors); racks/slots for trays

Improved lighting

Plenty of Easy Access Dry Food Storage

Plenty of Easy Access Food Container Storage

Professional Mixer and Food Processor

Anticipate the kitchen would be enlarged, expanding into Classroom 1 and possibly even into the current hallway

#### **DREAMS FOR EVENTS AT ST. THOMAS – Weddings, funerals, etc.**

St. Thomas could host receptions associated with weddings, funerals and other events if our facilities were improved in a few ways:

🏠 Larger and more attractive Parish Hall (should accommodate at least 200 people, which would match our seating capacity in the sanctuary).

🏠 Kitchen facilities would need to be improved/enlarged to support catering for large events.

🏠 A four-season space (such as our lower patio if enclosed) could accommodate large groups year round.

🏠 We will need better storage for tables and chairs, linens, etc. An on-site washer dryer would be desirable.

We also note that the upstairs labyrinth area makes a good place for small receptions, including "champagne toasts" following a wedding.



In addition to physical improvements, offering reception facilities would require staff:

- A part-time, as needed Events Coordinator)
- A Sexton

## **FROM ST PLAYHOUSE:**

### Goals:

- In the spirit of the Village Church, expand St. Thomas Playhouse reach throughout the Wood River Valley community, diversifying what we do and who we reach.
- Offer a safe space to be creative, find your voice, connect with others.

### Dreams:

1. Additional programs
  1. After-school program
  2. Bumper seasons, a few weeks in between sports, could be workshops on weekends or after school x times/week for 3 weeks
  3. Winterized-type camps during other breaks (T'giving, Spring Break)
  4. Weekend "conference" with different performances and workshops in various rooms around the Church
2. New types of programs (especially to draw in people who don't sing and dance or who don't want to be onstage at all)(consider all ages)
  1. Voice training (diction, projecting, etc.)
  2. Improv
  3. Comedy
  4. Non-musical productions (kids Shakespeare, other shows that don't duplicate the types of shows other companies offer)
  5. Stage combat
  6. Devised theater
  7. Dance group
  8. Script writing
  9. Script reading, annotating, discussion (like a book club)
  10. Watching productions & exploring themes, critiquing, identifying characters that are a good fit for the kids/adults, etc.
  11. Poetry
  12. Music history/theory/famous composers
3. Current program add-ons
  1. Tech (if this is only for the 2nd week, consider filling the 1st week with the following, the student either electing or rotating through, shadowing the creative team member(s))

2. Set design & building
3. Choreography
4. Costume design & creation
5. Casting & direction
4. Individual Lessons (consider all ages)
  1. Voice
  2. Dance/movement (it's hard to find dance lessons in the valley w/o huge commitment)
  3. Audition prep
  4. Acting
5. Invest in staff
  1. Even without the expansion ideas above, hire an additional staff member to be the program director, responsible for:
    1. Hiring for camps
    2. Scheduling for camps
    3. Managing tasks outside of Creative Director's realm
  2. If the ideas above are implemented, consider an education director
  3. Consider a technical director to oversee all tech
  4. Consider someone with expertise in child behavior/counseling to be the dedicated resource for responding to mental health and behavior issues rather than somebody who is pulled in different directions or too inexperienced to respond well. This could be a mental health resource at a school who works for STP during the summer.
  5. Consider Spanish language translator or translation service
  6. Consider investing more in interns & creative team, increase stipends, invest in talent to make programs even better
  7. Additional professional development opportunities for staff (mental health support training, Spanish language enhancement, non-profit fundraising, etc.)
6. Additional dedicated space
  1. Spaces big enough for larger casts, flexible enough to also be used for Community Dinners, youth outreach, etc.
  2. Consider buy or rent, including from the Spot
  3. Consider collaboration with other theater companies for space and venues (SVCS is hard to schedule)
  4. Convert courtyard to indoor/outdoor (cf Denver airport)
  5. Bitterroot—upstairs apartments for clergy, visiting artists/musicians, etc. & downstairs studios, classrooms, etc.
  6. SV Real Estate
  7. House below the Church
7. Community connections:
  1. Partner with other theater companies
    1. Productions
    2. Space
    3. Continue sharing storage, costumes, props, etc.
  2. Outreach into the Spanish first community

1. Perform at Community Table? Summer Theater Project cast could volunteer & perform at an event
  3. Additional recruiting at public schools for June show & Summer Theater Project, coordinate with theater, choir, other teachers
  4. “Exchange program” with other camps to see what they do well, what we could incorporate into our camps and vice versa
8. Fundraising
1. GFL-type event for men or all genders
  2. More long-term—can STP have an endowment? Or could STP have an endowment through the Church?

**Miscellaneous:**

- Is it possible to set up an endowment for ST Playhouse?
- ST swag available for sale
- Materials in Spanish
- More advertising of programs, etc – ie, Wednesday walks
- Invite community to Adult Ed programs on Sunday
- Signage indicating “Open for Prayer”
- Expand data base to help identify like and interests
- Encourage diversity