

The following presentation was given by Don Bray, Parish Steering Committee Chair at the end of Mass on January 24-25, 2015.

Intro.....

We are all witnesses to the significant growth in our parish these last couple of years. Our pastor Fr. John asked me to form a Steering Committee to oversee the efforts of the numerous councils, committees, ministries and interest groups as we move forward addressing the current and future facility needs of our parish.

Before we look at what we are doing, let's take a moment to update what we have accomplished. At our Surf City location, the structurally challenged building that provides support for Mass has been repaired and refurbished. This will allow us to continue celebrating weekend Mass on Easter and from Memorial Day to Labor Day, supporting our island parishioners and summer visitors. There is NO change in Diocesan policy that precludes holding Mass at the location at other times.

Turning our attention to this building, we are currently bursting at the seams. Not only does the building not meet our current needs, but the greater Hampstead/Topsail island area serviced by All Saints is projected to experience significant population growth over the next 25 years.

Here are a few relevant statistics:

- Expected population growth in Pender County is 34% over the next 25 years.
- The Catholic population will double in 15 years.
- All Saints experienced a 15% growth in average attendance last year.
- Our parish registration increased 17% in the last 3 years.
- Faith Formation saw a 45% growth in the last 5 years.

The case for a new church complex is compelling.

The architect of this present church is working with civil engineers to determine if there is usable land on this site to expand and build new facilities. There are concerns about the extent of wet lands at both ends of our property. Unfortunately, this building is **not** designed to allow us to build vertically.

Another unknown is the extent of the impact of the Hampstead Bypass on our property.

During all this, our New Facilities Committee is busy meeting with the 11 All Saints Church ministries, to help us determine the space requirements needed to support; worship, office, Youth Ministry, parking, classrooms, meetings and future growth. At the end of February, the committee will hold general sessions with parishioners who are not involved with parish ministries, but would like to give their inputs.

Here is where you come in. Your involvement in this process is **crucial**. We need to hear your ideas and past experiences at other churches. What would you like to see us build, what needs should we address? This new church and its support structures are ours. We must take ownership, get involved,

and let our voices be heard. Our beautiful new church will serve us and many generations that will follow. While this is a true statement, it is not going to happen soon. PAUSE

The architect who designed this building estimated the cost for a new church in TODAY'S dollars would be \$7-8 million. At present, we have \$470,000 in parish savings and \$377,000 in the designated building fund.

Projects like ours usually take 6 to 8 years or longer. There are 3 major components to the time line. Fund raising, building design and approval, and construction. Design and approval can take 1 and a half years. Construction takes 1 year. The only variable we control is raising the funds. The overall time line is compressed or expanded by raising the necessary funds and pledges in order to obtain a Diocesan mortgage loan.

As with any major endeavor, effective communication is at the top of the list. Our Communications Committee will be using all the tools available to keep us informed; church bulletin, web page, face book, electronic mail and the like. Once we have answers to the critical questions that I mentioned earlier, we will form a New Church Advisory Board. Open to every parishioner, this group will meet as required, to hear of our progress and solicit input at key decision points.

The floor is open for questions. I'm sure you understand, there are far more unknowns than knowns at this stage. If you have a question, please state your name, we will do our best to give an answer, but if we cannot, we will get back to you.