



# LEGACY INTO PROMISE

The Redeemer Campaign for a Welcoming Campus





If the church is the soul of The Redeemer,  
the Parish House is its heart.

Through God's grace, we are free to live lives of gratitude and hope.

We feel God's grace as gratitude when we sit in a pew, stroll through the churchyard or gather for fellowship in the Parish House.

We feel God's grace as hope when we envision how our campus could better support the mission of the Church of the Redeemer.

## Our Legacy

The Redeemer's beautiful campus is a cherished gift handed down from one generation to the next over more than 150 years. Eight times, the parish community has been inspired to enhance this legacy of giving through new construction, additions and renovations.

Now is our time — a rare and particular moment of possibility when visionary stewardship of our campus can have a profound impact on our experience of this special place and our ability to grow in service to God and the community.

Since the 2008 renovation and restoration of our elegant church building, we have enjoyed a more gracious, functional and enduring space for worship, rituals and passages that remind us of our mortal and immortal lives.

If the church is the soul of The Redeemer, the Parish House is its heart — a vital center for fellowship, hospitality, education, guidance and outreach.

Sadly, over time, the three buildings in the Parish House complex have become defective and deficient. The historic original Parish House and Sexton's Cottage require major renovations. The only fiscally responsible solution for the 1955 Parish House addition is to raze and replace it.

## Our Promise

With the blessing of hope, we can seize this moment to realize more fully the promise of our mission: to become ever more open and welcoming; more dedicated to worship, learning and growth; more supportive of each other and our world.

To that end, our clergy and vestry, along with members who volunteered their professional expertise, have been working with engineers, architects and campus planners on a transformational plan to make the Parish House complex and our entire church campus a manifestation of our mission.

By funding and stewarding this plan to completion, we not only advance our church mission in our lifetimes, we also promise those who follow us that The Redeemer will continue to be a vibrant place of unfolding promise in an unpredictable and often unpromising world.

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# Let us make creative use of our gifts

*This is our time.*

## GOAL

### Support our mission, programs and ministries

The Redeemer is a thriving parish community at a time when many churches are struggling and shrinking. The beauty of our church building that supports our worship is a major source of strength.

To continue moving “from strength to strength,” we need to improve and expand the facilities that support our learning, our growth in faith, our support for each other and the community, and our service to God in the world.

Those facilities include indoor and outdoor spaces that time has rendered inadequate in quality and quantity. They are variously outdated, deteriorating, unused or underutilized. The buildings lack air conditioning and waste energy through inefficient windows, heating systems and lighting. They lack the infrastructure to support modern technology. Lack of an elevator makes most of the building inaccessible.

Because these facilities house our programs and ministries — and the strength of our programs and ministries is essential to the strength of The Redeemer — responsible stewardship compels us to take action.

## PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

- Raze the 1955 Parish House addition, an inferior building that would not be cost effective to fix
- Build a new Parish House addition and renovate the 1885 original to meet current and future programming needs
- Leverage the Parish House project to improve the entire campus

## GOAL

### Create a unified and welcoming campus

The Redeemer campus is an invaluable asset and an indelible part of our identity as a parish. Just as a college campus bespeaks the value of learning, our campus stands as a witness to faith.

Historically, the church, churchyard and Parish House have drawn us together in the continuity of time and the communion of saints. Looking to the future, we seek to strengthen those bonds.

The need to replace the Parish House has become an opportunity to rethink the relationship of that building to the rest of the campus and the neighborhood. With its central role and location, we envision the Parish House as a hub that unifies our campus and makes it more welcoming to all.

## PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

- Reorient the new Parish House so that its main entrance faces the church, visually and psychologically connecting the buildings
- Design the Parish House as a gateway to the campus, with an inviting entrance, terrace and courtyard, and easy accessibility for all to gracious gathering spaces, meeting rooms, classrooms and offices
- Repurpose the Fishers Road driveway, which divides the campus, primarily as a pedestrian walkway connecting to every other walkway on the property



## GOAL

### Reclaim all unused and underutilized spaces

Many spaces on our grounds and within our buildings provide us no value or use.

A large portion of the historic Parish House is unused because the rooms are sterile, decrepit or impractical. The Sexton's Cottage is empty and in disrepair. The north corner of the grounds is not seen, tended or appreciated.

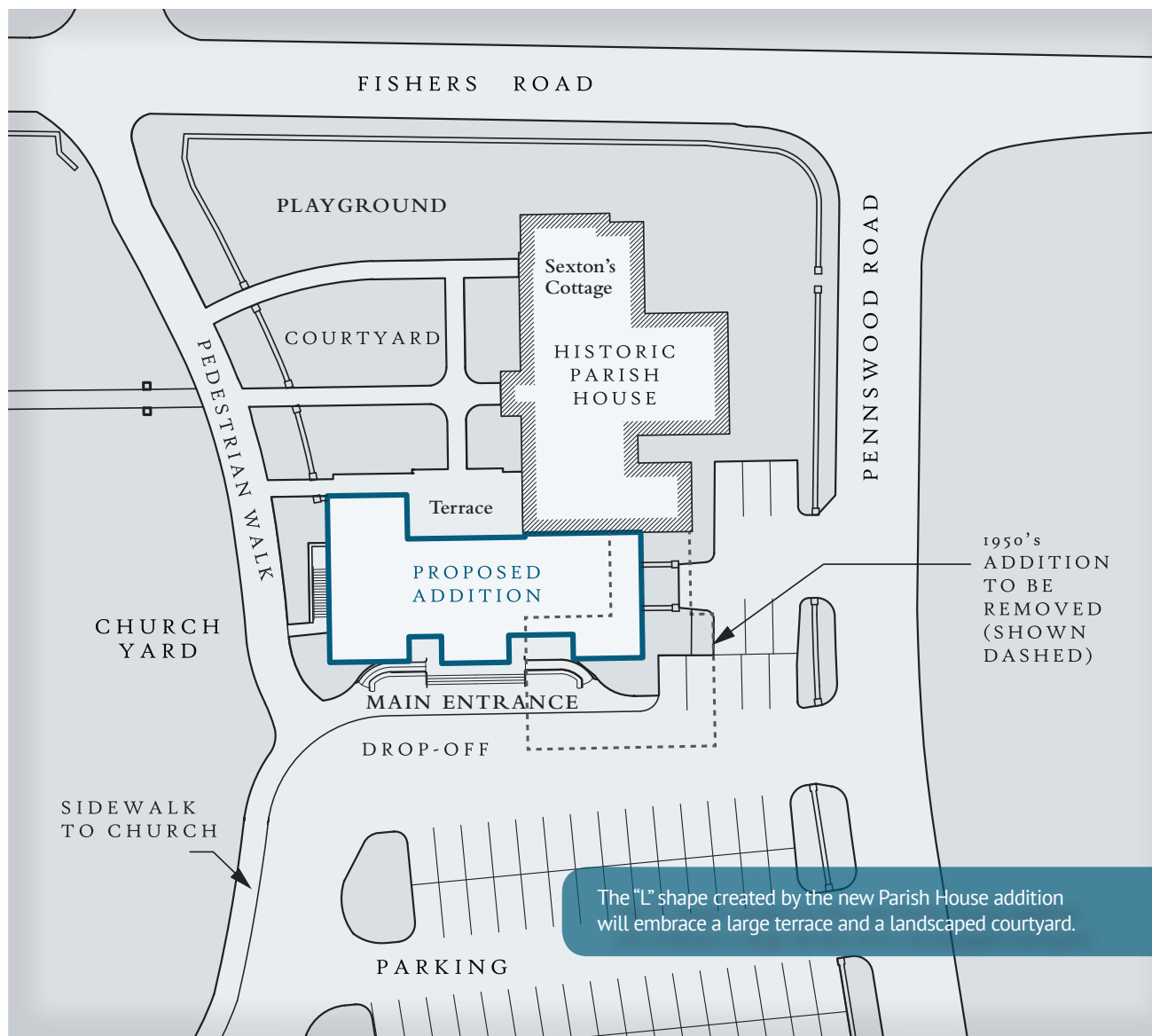
Our plan is to reclaim every square foot on campus, putting it to work on behalf of the church, its programs and ministries.

### PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

- Renovate every part of the historic Parish House to be purposeful and comfortable, eliminating wasted space
- Renovate the cottage as a gathering space, connect it to the Assembly Room and add a glassed-in porch along the back wall with access to the main first-floor hallway and the north corner of the grounds
- Landscape the north corner, creating a cottage garden that adds to the appeal of the new porch

*"Church of the Redeemer needs a Parish House that matches the vitality of our community, that facilitates the work we do here every day and that reveals the truth that we are relevant, thriving and enduring."*

— David Senior, parishioner,  
Rector's Warden, senior vice president  
of finance at AmerisourceBergen  
Drug Corporation



# We can make visitors feel they belong

*Our current Parish House quietly contradicts everything we say about welcoming people in.*

## NOW

### An inscrutable and disconnected building

Parishioners have grown accustomed to the Parish House building, but newcomers and visitors facing the exterior are puzzled. The building's face does not reveal its function, it appears to have no connection with the church and it gives no evidence of its essential role in our community life.

The driveway and parking lot cut off the Parish House from the rest of the campus. The main entrance facing the churchyard is hidden from view as Sunday worshipers walk toward the building after services. So they head to the closest visible door: a small, dark side entrance.

For weekday visitors or strangers, the disorientation is even worse because they don't have a crowd to follow. There are no visual cues to tell them how to navigate the building.



The main entrance to the 1955 building was obscure so the secondary entrance was used by default.

## NEXT

### The purposeful hub of a unified campus

Our plan to create a welcoming Parish House starts with razing the linear 1955 wing and replacing it with an L-shaped wing that reorients the building toward the church and parking lot. The building's new face is like a friendly smile. Wide stairs flanked by ramps lead to wide double doors that invite everyone into a lovely, light-filled space. Across that entrance hall, glass doors open onto a large terrace flowing into a landscaped courtyard.

Doors and windows also connect the new courtyard with the Assembly Room and adjoining Sexton's cottage, offering many new options for combining indoor and outdoor spaces for receptions and fellowship gatherings. The cottage, presently unused, is transformed into a beautifully detailed two-story gathering hall with a porch addition facing a verdant green space.

Completing the integration of the Parish House with the campus, the Fishers Road driveway is repurposed primarily for pedestrian use. The building buffers the courtyard area from vehicular traffic, so it becomes a natural extension of campus green space.

With these changes, the Parish House becomes the purposeful hub of a unified campus. It exudes connection and expresses welcome to parishioners and visitors alike.

*"If this building were a horse, I'd shoot it. While this may be a humorous way to reflect on the 1955 addition, the real issue is that the building and its systems are well beyond their useful life and have presented both functional restrictions and maintenance problems for many years. The addition was evaluated for modernization, but the cost of the necessary improvements, the fundamental code issues that would remain, and the facility's inherent disconnection from The Redeemer's programmatic needs, make replacement a practical necessity."*

— Bob Nalls, parishioner, vestry member, president of Nalls Architecture, Inc.




*"Great campuses are characterized by memorable and welcoming gateways that beckon all people to enter, even those who may not feel like they belong. The public realm improvements to the hallowed grounds of The Redeemer, and the long-awaited and magnificently designed Parish House, together serve as our church's gateway to the life of our parish, a place that truly welcomes all."*

— John Fry, parishioner, chair of Advisory Council, president of Drexel University





A detailed architectural sketch of a two-story building, identified as the Parish House. The building features a prominent gabled roof with a diamond-patterned shingle design. The facade is composed of horizontal siding. On the left side, there is a large, multi-paned arched window on the second floor and two smaller rectangular windows on the first floor. The central entrance is characterized by a wide, multi-paned glass door and is flanked by additional glass panels. To the right, another gabled section of the building is visible, also with diamond-patterned shingles and several rectangular windows. The building is surrounded by mature trees with dense foliage, and a paved area, possibly a driveway or walkway, is in the foreground. A dark teal text box is overlaid in the upper right corner.

The new front entrance to the Parish House will clearly convey the message that we are an open and welcoming church community.



# We can and should be better neighbors

*We don't look open to the community when we turn our back on the neighborhood.*

## NOW

### Views of a dumpster and a shabby house

In an era when the church is largely considered a stodgy, insular institution, our Parish House complex reinforces this caricature.

Most people in the community don't come onto the campus. Their primary experience of The Redeemer is what they see of our buildings from the street.

When they drive, bike or walk by on the north leg of Pennswood Road, they see a parking lot and the utility area at the back of our Parish House: a service drive that leads to our dumpster and emergency doors locked from the outside. By facing away from the street, the building tells passersby that it is meant for insiders, not for them.

From the corner of Pennswood and Fishers Road, the view of our campus is dominated by a shabby, vacant house. We know it as our historic Sexton's Cottage, but to outsiders it is an eyesore. Worse, the appearance that we don't care for our property belies our intentions as caring people.

*"When our family walks to church on Sunday we see, as all our neighbors do, the church's rather nondescript corner of Fishers and Pennswood Roads. To say that corner of The Redeemer property is not very welcoming would be an understatement; it's a mix of driveway, back doors to buildings, and trash containers! From an aesthetic standpoint, alone, this new campus plan makes a huge improvement to this highly visible corner, with plantings and an entrance to a glass porch on the back of the Sexton's Cottage... and no more dumpsters! I can imagine the glass porch will glow in the night when the Parish House is in use and will be a handsome and welcoming presence on the street."*

— Jim Buck, parishioner, member Advisory Council, partner in TDH



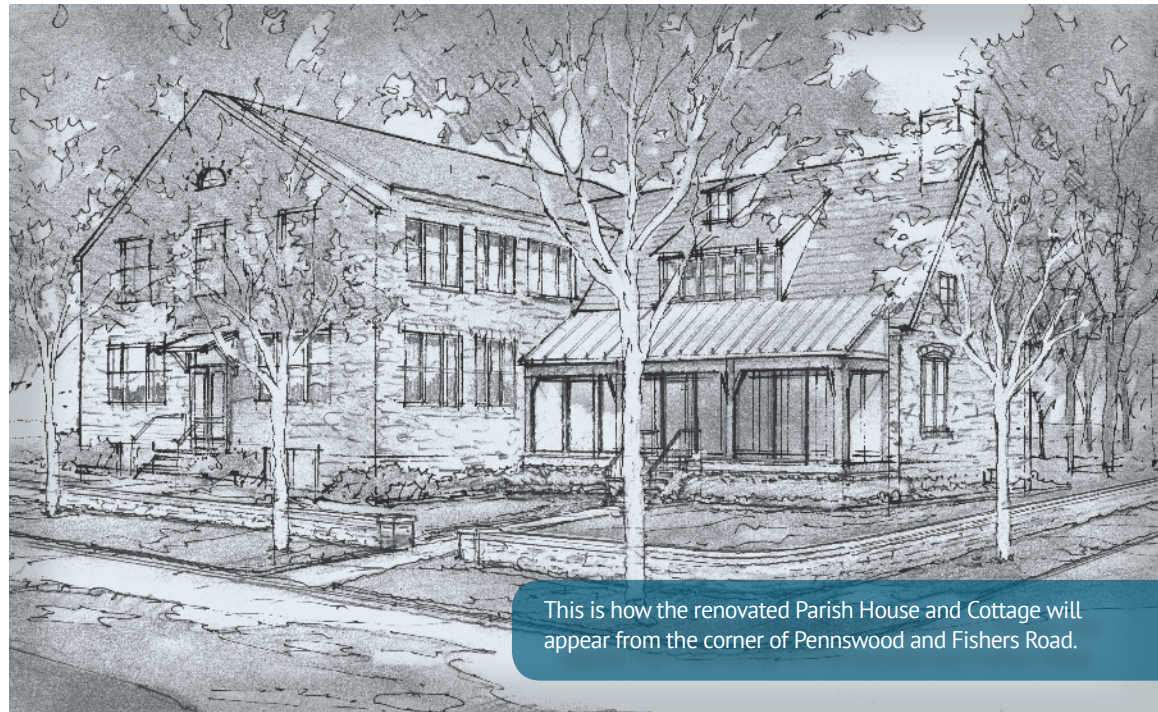
## NEXT

### A campus that beckons to all who pass by

We cannot afford to appear insular or uncaring. Our campus renovation plan addresses the interface between our property and the street as an opportunity to present a better face to the community, one that bespeaks the warmth and vibrancy of our parish life.

Picture the positive impression this will make: The entrance to the new Parish House is visible from the street, its wide staircase and ramps beckoning friends and neighbors to take a closer look. The renovated Cottage opens onto a glassed-in porch, visible from Pennswood Road across a pretty cottage garden.

Instead of hiding our activities, the Parish House and cottage showcase our vitality. The entire north corner of our campus draws interest by its garden color, by the interior light and action seen through glass, and by showing the neighbors ways to come onto our beautiful grounds and explore.



This is how the renovated Parish House and Cottage will appear from the corner of Pennswood and Fishers Road.



# Entryways should open in, not close out

*An entrance is more than an aperture. It sets a tone and an expectation.*

## NOW

### A building that seems empty even when full

We have a vital and vibrant church community. This ought to be revealed in the entrances to our campus, our buildings and the rooms within them. It is not.

The entrances to the Parish House hide our vitality. The interior hides it further still from those who enter. The hallways feel like hotel corridors, with windowless walls and solid doors on either side. Passersby are literally closed out. Little natural light shines in any direction. Our activities are closed to view.

Even when the rooms are filled to capacity, the building can feel empty. This sets a tone and expectation that discourages involvement.

*"Our new Parish House layout does so much to make it easier for everyone to make their way easily and for newcomers to feel comfortable right away. The main entrance hall is large, full of natural light and allows a gracious welcoming for large events. Our new elevator and redesigned entrances allow full accessibility throughout the facility and we will now have spaces for every kind of activity, for groups large and small. I am so excited our new parish home will give us such support to flourish as a vibrant, welcoming church community."*



— Ginger Woods, parishioner,  
co-chair Design Development Committee,  
principal, Ginger Woods Design, LLC

## NEXT

### A building that encourages involvement

The new Parish House entrance sets an entirely different tone and expectation. People see into the spacious entrance hall as they approach. Upon entering this open, airy space, they quickly feel at ease. The implicit message is: we are expecting you, please come in.

To the left, a reception area and stairway to the second floor are clearly visible. Straight ahead, the view through glass doors and windows presents a terrace, a verdant courtyard and the Assembly Room wing. To the right, more light pours in from a skylight and another window in the corner where the hallway turns.

Although signage is prominent, newcomers immediately sense how to navigate the building. As they walk the halls, double glass doors into every room reveal the vitality of our parish life.

Our newcomers ministry is bound to flourish in a building that communicates community and encourages involvement.



A large, light filled entrance hall helps people feel welcome.



# Gathering spaces need to foster fellowship

*Fellowship isn't optional. It is essential to who we are as a parish.*

## NOW

### Inadequate and impractical communal spaces

Christian faith is communal. Whatever the particulars of our individual beliefs, we practice and enrich our faith through the shared experiences that shape our lives.

To this end, we gather: in meetings, for meals, at receptions, for education and at life's milestones — baptism, confirmation, marriage, burial.

Through fellowship, we uplift each other on joyous occasions, comfort each other in times of loss, encourage each other to overcome our challenges and energize each other to serve God in the world. The support we receive helps each of us to grow stronger in hope, conviction, purpose, discernment and commitment to action.

Over time, our parish gathering spaces have become inadequate and impractical, along with the outdated kitchen that serves them. The Assembly Room, Shortridge Room and Conference Room fall woefully short in meeting our needs for hospitality and outreach. They restrict our ability to host wedding receptions and other large events.

In addition to placing obstacles in the path of intentional connections, our Parish House discourages serendipitous connections. Every room opens onto a narrow hallway leading directly to an exit. There are no common spaces or nooks where people can stop for conversation without blocking the flow of foot traffic.



Currently, a paved driveway between the parking lot and Fishers Road divides the Parish House complex from the churchyard.

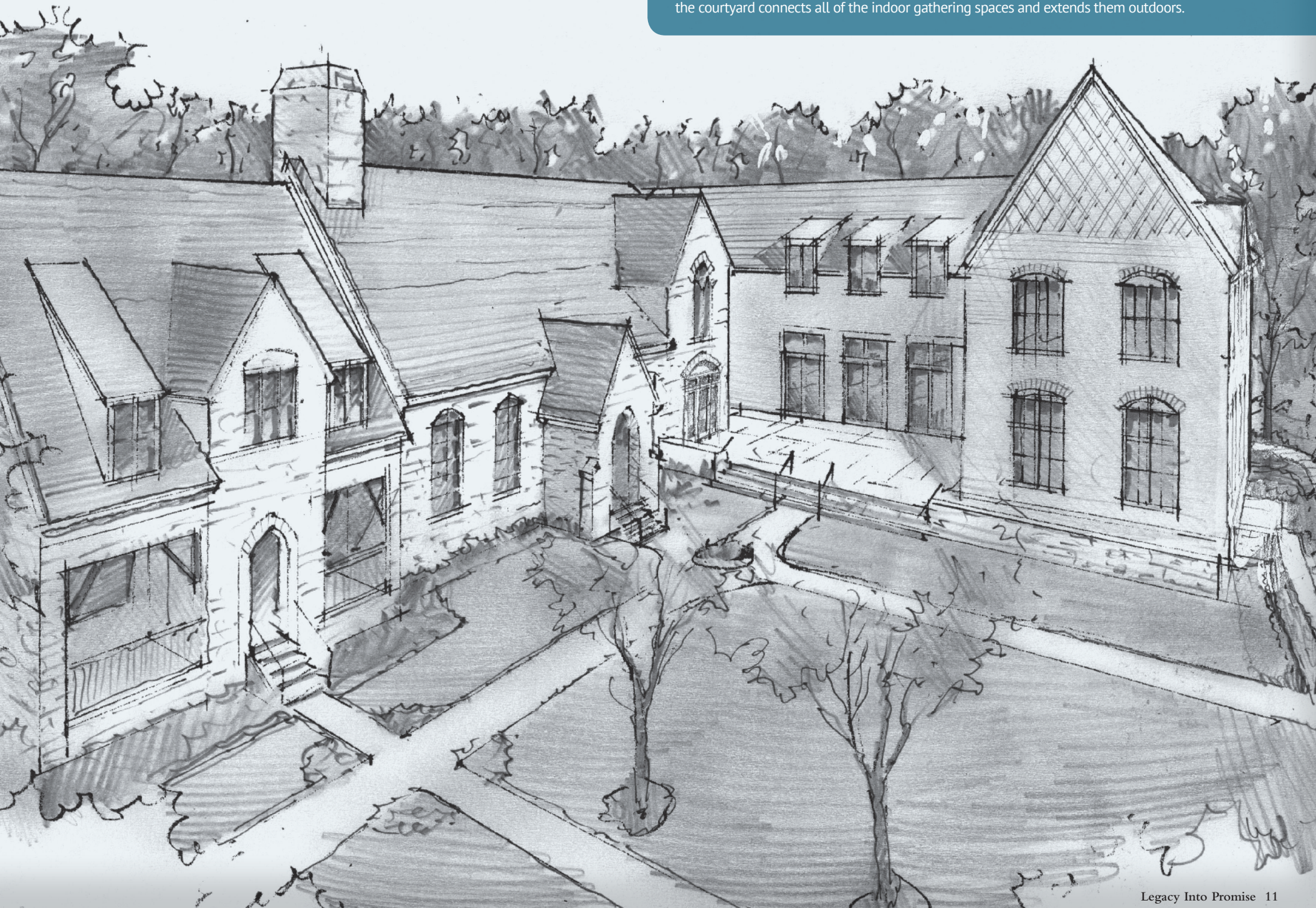


*"I think a great feature of our plan to unify and beautify the campus centers on the space between the Parish House and the churchyard. By allowing the Fishers Road driveway to become chiefly a pedestrian walkway, we create space for a level courtyard — a welcoming "backyard" for our Parish House. This green space, extending off the Assembly Room and adjacent to the lovely new terrace off the back of the new wing, will provide a vista and a gateway to the churchyard. It will give us space for all kinds of activities and play, and will be easily tented for larger festivities and receptions."*

*— Tad Sperry, parishioner, former Rector's Warden, chair of Campaign Gifts Committee, professional artist*



A landscaped courtyard will nestle into the "L" shape created by the new wing of the Parish House. Contiguous and accessible to the entrance hall, Shortridge Room, Assembly Room and Cottage, the courtyard connects all of the indoor gathering spaces and extends them outdoors.





## NEXT

## More and better space than we have ever had

Our renovation will dramatically increase and improve the available gathering spaces, providing more varied options to accommodate groups from 2 to 200. Every event, program and project we undertake will benefit.

With renovations completed, what was the Sexton's Cottage becomes a beautiful and prayerful gathering space with a vaulted ceiling that echoes the architecture of the Assembly Room. The rood screen, now in storage, is set within the north wall, where it fits perfectly. Families who come for interments may gather here before and after the ritual in the churchyard.

A new doorway annexes the cottage to the Assembly Room, which adjoins the Shortridge Room. The three contiguous rooms provide a larger indoor gathering space than The Redeemer has ever had.

The available contiguous space more than doubles when we add the outdoor area and the main entrance hall to which it connects. Both the Shortridge Room and the entrance hall open onto the terrace, while the Assembly Room and cottage open onto the landscaped courtyard.

The "L" configuration of the Parish House puts arms around the terrace and courtyard, allowing for a natural circular flow among the indoor and outdoor spaces. The terrace and courtyard are designed to accommodate tents that can make the entire space usable, rain or shine. The completely redesigned and updated kitchen fully supports expanded fellowship, hospitality and outreach.

The new design also builds in common spaces for spontaneous conversation; notably, the commodious entrance hall and the glassed-in porch off the back of the Cottage. In addition, an open area in front of the new kitchen will have chairs and tables for casual conversation.

We all know that productive and meaningful conversations are often unplanned. They occur because two people happened upon each other at the right time in a space that supports connection.



Currently divided into multiple small rooms on two floors, the cottage will be transformed into a single unified space with a vaulted ceiling.



*"I am personally thrilled to see our historic rood screen become an exciting component of this plan, which calls for the total renovation of the Sexton's Cottage. The Cottage will become a single two-story meeting space, perfect in dimension to house the rood screen. Hurrah! This semi-sacred space will be used for teaching, churchyard interment gatherings, liturgies, recitals, meetings and conference space. It will also open into the Assembly Room to allow spillovers when desired."*

*— Betsy Crowell, parishioner, former Rector's Warden, co-chair Design Development Committee*



# Let's do more to support youth programs

*Contemporary education programs cannot be sustained in time-worn classrooms.*

## NOW

### Our classrooms seem frozen in time

The Redeemer has strong children and youth programs that attract new families to the parish every year. The high level of participation in these programs is a testament to the energy, care and dedication of our leaders. Our facilities, however, fail to match the quality of these programs.

Our too-small nursery is inconveniently located on the second floor, requiring young parents to carry babies and assist toddlers in climbing up and down the stairs.

We deliver our programs for preteens and teens in spare, worn basement rooms of concrete block, tile and exposed pipes. Rather than expressing the continuity and power of time, these classrooms seem frozen in it. None of us want to think of this as evidence that we don't know or care about the very different world our youth inhabit.



Our current youth classrooms are an anachronism.

## NEXT

### Our new spaces will make youth feel at home

The Parish House plan expands the nursery by 65% and relocates it to the first floor, adjacent to the main entrance hall. At the same time, renovations lift up all of our classrooms and youth gathering spaces, making them contemporary places of warmth and welcome.

Recognizing the importance of digital connectivity to our young people, we provide technology infrastructure to facilitate teaching and learning. We embrace fellowship as a central component of youth ministry. Our rooms have easy access to food preparation areas, encouraging informal congregation and conversation.

These improvements support bonds of caring that cross the divisions of age. By making young people feel at home in spaces that reflect their needs and desires, we nurture and support their discovery of a mature faith that can sustain them throughout their lives.



Engagement of our youth is one of our highest priorities. Our facilities must support our programs for youth and attract their participation.

*"This new building will enable us to implement new and innovative children and youth programming that we have only been able to dream of until now due to space and infrastructure limitations. Whether it is offering simultaneous Church School programs, providing parent-focused formation opportunities or folding more hands-on/gross motor activities into our current programs, the benefits of an upgraded and flexible facility are invaluable."*

— Tory Dunkle, Director of Children's Ministries



# Our working spaces can connect us every day

*Good building design connects people to one another; in that, our Parish House falls woefully short.*

## NOW

### Lack of access and inadequate space

People crave connection, especially the face-to-face connection that no digital interaction can match. Fostering human connection is the chief purpose of the Parish House.

**Meeting space.** Members of our many volunteer groups connect through meetings, as do many people from the community. Most evenings, they fill many or all of the usable meeting space. While we would like to provide comfortable, modern meeting rooms, we cannot, due to building design and technology issues. The upper and lower floors are not accessible to the handicapped. The rooms are not wired or equipped for current technology. Many of the meeting rooms are awkwardly proportioned and only one is air conditioned.

**Office space.** Many of our church members come into the building to seek out clergy or staff. Yet even long-time parishioners have difficulty navigating the disconnected jumble of offices to find the person they came to talk with. Whether the parishioner is seeking guidance at a time of crisis or just stopping by to share a concern, lack of access can feel crippling.



Our basement meeting rooms are not accessible to all.

## NEXT

### Accommodations for greater connection

**Meeting space.** The new design provides comfortable, modern meeting spaces for our volunteer groups, as well as the 12-step groups, clubs, public service organizations and other community groups that use our Parish House nearly every day. We become a bigger blessing to the community by adding more meeting space and creatively redesigning existing spaces. We become a better resource to all users with the installation of up-to-date technology infrastructure. We become accessible to all by providing an elevator.

**Office space.** The new Parish House design assembles all clergy and staff offices in a contiguous space directly adjacent to the entrance hall for easy access. Within the office area are private meeting rooms for conversations with parishioners and visitors, and open workspaces for collaboration with the many volunteers who contribute to our church life each week.



Preparing meals together is an important aspect of our fellowship. The kitchen will be much more accommodating with a better layout, new appliances and air conditioning.

*"We currently use the 'adapt and endure' mentality when meeting, hosting and cooking in the Parish House. How fabulous to imagine a kitchen and gathering spaces with air conditioning – and good design! – that would allow us to cook year-round and be proud to welcome others to our beautiful parish!"*

– Deann Mills, parishioner,  
Outreach Food for Friends and chef extraordinaire, architect





# We are called to meet this challenge

Dear Friends,

In my love for our parish, the people and the place are nearly inseparable.

As people, we feel deep bonds of fellowship formed and strengthened over years of shared worship and experience. Because our connection to one another is rooted in this place, it has real presence for us. Here we experience together the love of God that transforms existence into life.

To me — and I suspect, to many of you — The Redeemer campus is a liminal space, a beautiful and mysterious threshold suspended between heaven and earth. It reminds us of the possibility of holiness. It also reminds us to frame our earthly lives within the promise of eternity.

In our time here, we are responsible for this place and the quality of the experiences that take place here. As individuals, we ask God to help us become better versions of ourselves — more compassionate, more forgiving. As stewards, we ask ourselves how we can help The Redeemer to become a better version of itself — more welcoming, more supportive of our programs and ministries, more reflective of the grace of God that is all in all.

Right now, there is a need for improvement. The condition of our 1955 Parish House addition is deficient in so many ways that fixing it is not cost effective. Replacing the addition provides a timely opportunity to create a better version of the entire campus.

It is clear from the plan set forth in this booklet how much better our campus could be a few years from now and for generations to come. The investment required is substantial, but I believe we are called to meet this challenge in service to our mission.

When I or a fellow parishioner asks for your contribution, please give as generously as you can.



A handwritten signature in white ink, which appears to read "Peter Vanderveen", followed by a small cross symbol.

*The Rev. Peter Vanderveen*  
*Rector*



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To inquire about making a gift, please contact  
Ken Garner, Director of Communications &  
Stewardship, at 610-525-2486, ext. 19.