

Let's Build through Prayer and Contributions!

As announced at Masses in February, our parish needs to raise \$5 million for construction of new facilities at our property on Fairview Road.



That equates to \$105,000 per month for 48 months. 94% of St. Like parishioners contributed to the **Building Peace** capital campaign to pay for the land. If at least the same percentage of our 1600 families contributes \$100/month, we can achieve that goal easily. Now that we are funding buildings, not just paying for land, we hope to achieve full parish participation in the building fund.

Some of us will contribute less, but many of us can contribute more. We ask that each parish family consider its financial circumstances and contribute as much as you reasonably can.

Every dollar that you contribute remains in the parish building fund. Your donations are not used for any other purpose.

We can contribute to the building fund by using the green **Building Peace** envelopes for the second collection of the first Sunday of each month, or through the online donation system.

Why now?

For those who have joined the parish in recent years and as a reminder to those who have been members for longer:

- We have outgrown our existing facilities. The current buildings were designed to accommodate 625 families. We now are at 1600+ families and growing. In the past 5 years, 400 new families have joined our parish.
 - The current worship space has 420 seats. With 5 Masses each weekend, that means 1 1/3 family members can participate in Mass if every family attends. Our average family size is 3-4.
 - In other words, we currently only can accommodate 33-43% of our parish at Mass each weekend. Obviously, not everyone participates every week, but we are significantly under serving parishioners and have no room for growth.
 - We have 200 parking spaces. Due to environmental restrictions, we cannot expand our parking.
- The Town of Mint Hill approved zoning of the Fairview Road property for church and related facilities use in September 2016.
 - The approval is valid for 5 years, until September 2021.
 - That approval requires that we complete construction or be in continuous construction at the end of the 5 years.
- The diocese has a moratorium on parish capital campaigns until the completion of *Forward in Faith Hope and Love*, the diocesan capital campaign, in July 2019. However, the diocese has informed us that we can have a building fund.
- If we wait until July 2019 to have a capital campaign, the probability of raising sufficient monies to have a building completed or near completion by September 2021 is very slim. That would require contributions of several hundred thousand dollars per month, an almost impossible task.

Diocesan construction financing rules

Before we can begin construction, the diocese requires that we have:

1. 50% of project costs in cash; and,
2. 30% in pledges.
3. The diocese will lend the parish the remaining 20%.

During the moratorium, until July 2019, we cannot take pledges. The diocese has indicated that they may loosen this requirement and allow pledges to be made at the end of next year, December 2018.

It is the opinion of the Building Planning committee that it eases the burden on parish families if we encourage donations now, so that those donations can be spread over a longer period, rather than wait until we can take pledges.

A short history

From its founding 30 years ago this year, St. Luke parish has continuously grown. Parishioners initially used a movie theatre in Matthews, then a store front in Mint Hill Festival for Masses. The first portion of our existing buildings was constructed in 1993. In succeeding years, the family life center, classrooms, kitchen, offices and the mobile classroom building were added.

In 2007, a committee was formed to address the future facility needs of the parish. The committee initially evaluated building on the diocese property adjoining our existing land.

This soon was rejected due to costs. The diocesan property is steep. There is a 40 foot height difference between the current buildings and the top of the diocesan property. Building on that land would need to be done in terraces, which is more expensive.

We also learned that we would be required to build 2 bridges across the creek that could accommodate fire trucks at a cost of +/- \$1 million each.

We purchased 31 acres on Fairview Road in 2011 with a loan from the diocese. We paid off the loan in 2015. The new land is located one exit north on I-485 from our current location. It is approximately the same distance from I-485 as our existing location.



The Master Plan

In 2008, and again in 2014, we surveyed the facility needs of Faith Formation, the more than 50 parish ministries, and the parish staff. From those surveys, we developed a master plan for the new property. The diocese and the Town of Mint Hill approved this master plan in 2015.

The plan consists of a church with a seating capacity for 1200 participants, approximately 3 times our current capacity, There will be parking for 550-600 vehicles.

It also includes a multi-purpose building with a family life center that can hold 800 for Mass, classrooms, kitchens, offices, conference room, and expanded storage requested by the ministries.

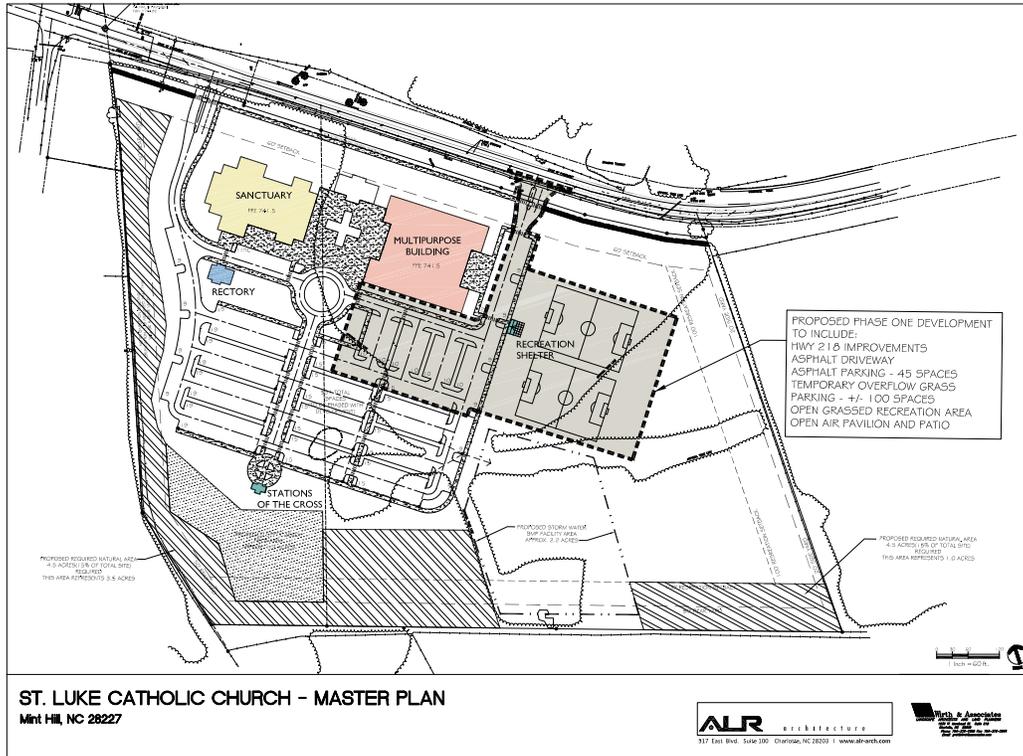
The master plan allows room to build a separate administration building if we outgrow classroom space in the multi-purpose building. Under the plan, offices in the multi-purpose building would be converted to classrooms if needed.



Phase 1 construction

There were excess funds at the end of the Building Peace capital campaign. We are using those funds to start construction. Construction costs are escalating. It is better to use the funds available to build part of the Master plan before costs increase. What is being built now is part of the Master Plan. We are being careful to do things only once.

For this phase, we are improving the highway in front of our property to provide the turn lanes required by NCDOT. We are constructing one of the 2 permanent driveways, multi-purpose fields that can be used for sports, recreation, and Luk-A-Palooza, parking for approximately 200 vehicles, and a pavilion. We are connecting electricity and water to the shelter.



ST. LUKE CATHOLIC CHURCH - MASTER PLAN
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It is our hope to have this phase completed in time to celebrate an outdoor Mass using the shelter and multi-purpose fields in October, the 30th anniversary of St. Luke parish.

Contact us

If you have questions or comments, please contact Chuck White, Building Planning Committee chair, or Jim Strauss, Building Peace chair, through this website or call the parish office.

Through prayer and contributions, we can build the facilities needed for the future so that we can continue to grow, worship, learn, and facilitate the many active ministries of St. Luke parish.