

A Place of Grace
in the Heart of Durham



First Presbyterian Church Proposed Expansion & Renovation Plans

We value your input!

After reviewing the enclosed information,
please return the enclosed survey form by August 8.

Also, please join us at one of these informational sessions:

Thursday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m. *online only*

Sunday, August 1 at 12:00 p.m. *at church after worship*

Monday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m. *at church*

Visit our website to find instructions to join
these informational sessions: www.firstpres-durham.org

Thank you!



Dear Friends,

After 150 years, even in a pandemic, First Presbyterian remains a vibrant and faithful witness to God's love in downtown Durham! Our active social ministry program is a hallmark of our faith community, as we support local and far-reaching ministries with our financial resources as well as our time and energy. Our inclusive welcome of all is guided by Jesus' welcome of all.

We are learning, however, that our physical plant does not always support our calling to share Christ's love within our community of faith and beyond our walls. Special events often overflow from our fellowship hall into additional spaces. Our bathrooms, entryway, and fellowship hall are not equipped to support large community gatherings with ministry partners. Our second-floor office space is not fully accessible or ADA compliant. Repairs and replacements are outpacing resources.

In order to grow in our efforts to be welcoming, mission-driven, and a source of encouragement to both our membership and our community, changes and improvements to our physical plant need to be considered. We see opportunities to continue to grow in congregational ministries and community partnerships through significant, targeted expansion and renovation of our current facilities. Based on guidance from the [long-range plan](#) presented to the congregation in 2019, preliminary building expansion and renovation plans have been developed.

This brochure is intended to provide information and continue to gather input from the congregation as part of this planning process. Please take time to read this brochure. Attend an informational session listed on the front page. Your voice matters as we seek to discern the ways God is moving us forward.

We invite you to fill out and return the survey found at the end of this brochure. You can drop off the survey at the church office, mail it to the church, or quickly respond to the survey online by going to our church website at firstpres-durham.org. Please respond by August 8.

Thank you for your input. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for helping us prepare for the future, so we may continue being a beacon of faith, hope, and love to one another and the larger community!

Your friends in Christ,

The Vision Team,

*Paul Baldasare, Mindy Douglas, Sharon Hirsch, Mac McCorkle,
Tyler Momsen-Hudson, Karen Romines, Chuck Wilson*

150 Years: Downtown by history and by choice

Our Mission:
Worshipping God in community and
bearing witness to God's love and justice in the world.

Why a Building Expansion and Renovation Project?

It might seem a distant memory, but before Covid-19, the church building was a busy place. Most of us were familiar with Sundays, starting with Sunday faith formation and followed by worship in the sanctuary. We gathered and welcomed others to study together, to worship and sing together, and often to share meals together. We passed the peace, joined together at the Lord's Table, prayed together, and felt the joy of being in the Body of Christ. Later, after fellowship in the foyer, committees and small groups frequently searched for space to meet, and the youth groups followed later in the evening.

A constant hum of activity marked the other days of the week: choir practice, more committee meetings, book groups, memorial services, weddings, meetings by community groups, the daily work of the FPC staff, and the regular ringing of the doorbell to answer individual human needs. Many of us were less familiar with this weekly rhythm.

All this activity has been modified or postponed during the pandemic but will come roaring back as we are able to gather again safely. In the interim, we adapted to being physically distanced, but we also learned there is no substitute for being together.

Our last major building project upgraded and enhanced our sanctuary, removing physical barriers to participation in worship. We are justifiably proud of and grateful for this beautiful and inspiring space.

Now is the time to make other parts of the church building work better for all.

A group of FPC members known as the Vision Team has met over the last 16 months to identify how the church building can better support the mission and program of First Presbyterian Church. This group studied all the ways people use our building and how to support them. We looked at the entire church property with an eye toward the future, knowing that the downtown area and the church itself will continue to change.

The Vision Team discussed the many challenges of using and maintaining a physical plant built in stages over many years and recognized that only part of these challenges can be addressed at one time. The group focused on the most pressing needs, things that are probably evident to most members and visitors to FPC.

We want to be a welcoming and inviting church, and we want to make our facility demonstrate that. We propose to build a bigger, more hospitable space for church and community fellowship, with a functional kitchen and much better restrooms.

We propose to build better entryways for all users, from Sunday morning visitors to weekday Walk-In Ministry clients. We propose to build a safe way for everyone to access the staff offices. In short, we want our building to say that we honor and welcome everyone who comes to our doors.



Annual MLK Jr. march of 300 to 350 people that ends in our sanctuary

Our Building Expansion & Renovation Goals

Preliminary architectural plans have been created in consultation with the Vision Team to provide the following:

- **Replacing the fellowship hall and renovation of the church kitchen**

This hardworking area would receive a major facelift. The fellowship hall would become 50 percent larger, with proposed seating of 275. The kitchen would include a serving area and post-COVID accommodations. The fellowship hall would include direct entry from the exterior sidewalk.

- **Reimagining of the lobby access to the church**

A second row of glass doors would be added on the parking lot side of the current glass doors to provide a more energy efficient entryway. The proposed vestibule would provide shelter from weather while visitors wait to be let in.

- **New space for Walk-In Ministry**

We will provide a reception area for Walk-In Ministry clients and a separate smaller consultation room for privacy, all in a location yet to be determined.

- **Renovation of the East Main Street entrance**

Landscaping and signs to make entrance to the church from East Main Street more welcoming and accessible for both members and visitors. Current accessible entrance is not easy to find.

- **Construction of additional first floor men's and women's restrooms next to the fellowship hall**

Fully accessible restrooms would be added just off the main lobby. Current restrooms will remain as non-gendered restrooms.

- **Installation of an elevator in the church house for greater accessibility**

The current staff offices are inaccessible to anyone who cannot climb stairs.

- **Targeted Community Mission Project**

With congregational input during this process, the project will be determined by the Session in consultation with the Service and Mission Committee.

Relocating the FPC Memorial Garden

After exploring multiple fellowship hall expansion possibilities with the architects, the Vision Team realized that the only realistic option would be to relocate the FPC Memorial Garden northward toward the parking lot to provide space to provide for a larger fellowship hall. This decision was not made lightly. We recognize that the ground in the FPC Memorial Garden is holy ground, and every effort would be made to preserve and relocate the soil. The memorial plaques are also holy and would be relocated with great care and intentionality.

The enlarged fellowship hall would include doors opening directly into the FPC Memorial Garden, which would allow greater flexibility in conducting memorial services in the garden. The doors to the garden would allow connection to a serene and beautiful outdoor space when desired. All relocation efforts would be well-planned and supervised to honor this sacred space.

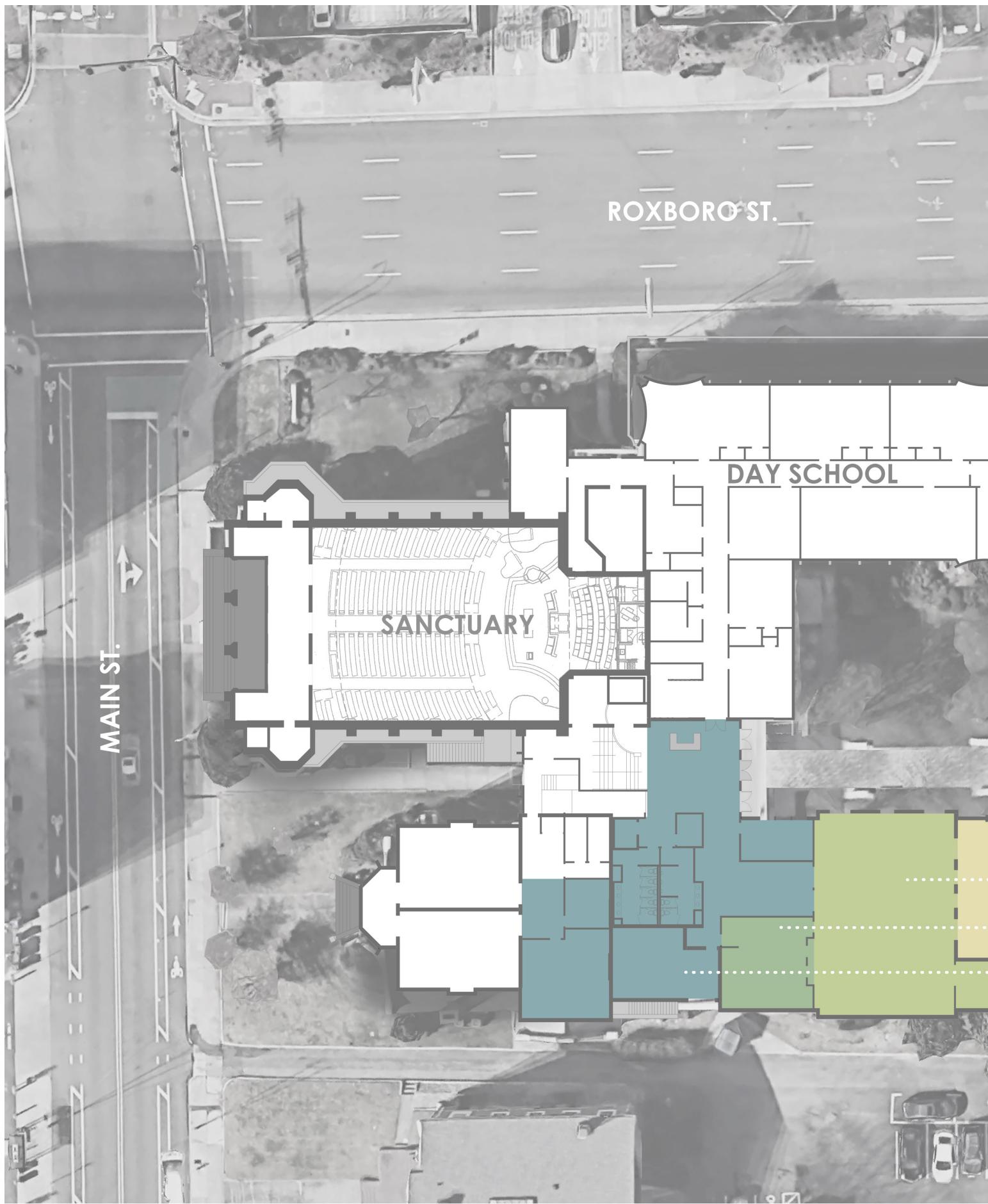


Exterior View



View from Inside the Fellowship Hall







Potential Project Funding

The estimated cost of the proposed expansion and renovation project is \$3 million to \$4 million. Also, we propose using additional funds for a mission outreach project yet to be determined. Potential sources of funding include the following:

Capital Campaign: A capital campaign would occur if there is a solid consensus among the congregation in support of the proposed vision for the building expansion and renovation project. The success of this campaign would go a long way in determining the scope of our building project.

Borrowing: We could consider borrowing funds, if necessary. Any borrowing would be accompanied by a sound debt retirement strategy. At the present time, our congregation is debt-free.

The exact scope of our expansion and renovation project would be determined after we know the financial commitments made by our members as a result of the capital campaign. The project plans would be revised with affordability in mind.

Three Things We Ask You To Do

1. Attend one of the informational sessions listed on the front page.
2. By August 8, complete the online survey found at our website www.firstpres-durham.org or return the enclosed survey to a survey box located in the church entrance.
3. Continue to pray for God's blessings on our planning process as we prepare for the future.

If you would like to speak to someone, please contact one of the members of our Vision Team:

Paul Baldasare..... pbaldasare@outlook.com
Mindy Douglas..... m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org
Sharon Hirsch..... shirsch@preventchildabusenc.org
Mac McCorkle..... mac.mccorkle@gmail.com
Tyler Momsen-Hudson tylermmh@embarqmail.com
Karen Romines kromines@nc.rr.com
Chuck Wilson chuck@ctwilson.com



First Presbyterian Church

Congregation Response Sheet

We value your input!

1. List the things that you like best about the proposed expansion and renovation plans.

2. Provide any questions, suggestions, or concerns you have regarding the proposed expansion and renovation plans.

3. I/we would contribute to a Capital Campaign to fund the proposed expansion and renovation plans.
(Saying yes is not a financial commitment, but an expression of support for a Capital Campaign to be conducted later.)

Yes

No

Uncertain

Comments: _____

Name(s): _____

Tear off this page and return it to the designated drop box at the church, or quickly respond by going online on our church website at www.firstpres-durham.org.

Please respond by August 8.

This page may be used for additional comments.

CORE VALUES

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church.

Reformed Worship: Through a shared liturgy of Word and Sacrament, FPC invites all, in creative and faithful ways, to focus heart, soul, and mind to the Glory of God.

Diversity and Inclusivity: As God has claimed us in the waters of baptism with our differences, we are called to invite and nurture a diverse and inclusive community.

Faith Exploration: FPC welcomes and encourages all to explore the call to discipleship and to consider questions of faith at all points on their journey with the Risen Christ.

Pastoral Care: God has loved us first; so too, we love and care for one another, nurturing mind, body and spirit throughout life's journey.

Historic Placement: "Downtown by history and by choice," we are committed to being a witness to God's steadfast love and justice in the heart of the city.

Social Mission: FPC advocates for social justice and responds to the "cries of the poor," remembering Jesus' promise to be found among the hungry, homeless, sick and imprisoned.

Faithful Stewardship: Called to be stewards of the gifts God has provided, we support the foundation that enables this faith community to be generous in hospitality and in faithful ministry.

Community: As a reflection of God's beloved community, we seek to affirm and challenge one another; rejoicing together as the Body of Christ.

First Presbyterian Church
305 East Main Street
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 682-5511
www.firstpres-durham.org



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**Important time dated material enclosed.
Please read immediately. Thank you.**