

## First Presbyterian Vision

---



### Worshipping God through the Next Century: The New Sanctuary and Worship Space

*'Master, you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'* *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

Matthew 25:20b -21



## First Presbyterian: A Vision to the Next Century

Seventy years ago, 111 men and women, through faithful prayer and discernment, chartered First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach. Beginning their worship life at the Women's Center of Vero Beach, these men and women soon committed to building a permanent sanctuary. For the past seventy years, our sanctuary has served generations of Christians faithfully and well. We are the inheritors of their faithful vision! Sadly, our sanctuary is not aging well!

---

*Our congregation, diverse in age groups and interests, is growing. So too are the ministries we offer. The "Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ" capital campaign is too large for any one of us. It seems overwhelming for us put together. No effort, however, is too large for God. What anticipation we have in knowing He plans to do even greater work in the years to come.*

---

*- Lyn Smith*

- The support beams are showing signs of fatigue.
- The windows and wood support are compromised.
- Materials used in the original construction have degraded.
- Even years of upgrades are now insufficient for ministry.

In the Hurricanes of 2004, the facilities were overwhelmed with two to four feet of water in every building. The damage was well over a million dollars not considering the lost opportunities and resources that were diverted for repair and recovery efforts.



## The Vision for our Future

First Presbyterian Church seeks to own the reputation as the church where . . . "they love each other so very much!" This reputation will only be generated if we speak the Gospel with words and do the Gospel with deeds. Thus, First Presbyterian Church wants to:

- Offer the Best Reformed Christian Worship Possible
- Provide an Attractive, Effectual, and Engaging Space for Worship
- Empower Worship and Fellowship Before and After Each Service

In order to accomplish these goals, First Presbyterian Church will need to protect and develop its diminishing infra-structure and, through development, expand the ministries that it can provide. It is clear that to grow significantly enough to support these ministries we are called to fulfill, we will need a more attractive, inviting and functional facility. First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach is poised to experience tremendous growth in the next five years. Our congregational spirit and unity is strong. The time to act is now!

---

*Having been members of First Presbyterian Church for over 30 years, we have seen tremendous growth, several renovations, devastation from 2 hurricanes, campus flooding, and most recently, the dire need for a new Sanctuary. The building we worship in now was the hopes and dreams of our Charter Members; a dream that their church building would stand for many years into the future. Now, 70 years later, and in God's time, our dream is to build a new Sanctuary so that in years to come, our congregation and future congregations will have a new, beautiful and healthy place to worship, to sing songs, and to hear God's word. Together, with our own resources, donations, and continued prayers, we will make this happen!*

Elders Jerry and Judy  
Garrett

---

## **Why Pursue Our Vision Now!**

The following are several of our initiatives that are intentionally designed to strengthen First Presbyterian Church for the next seventy-five years:

### **Protecting our Property from Future Flooding!**

This will be done by bringing the new sanctuary above the present floodplain. At present, FPCVB is below flood plain which has adversely impacted our ability to get adequate insurance. First Presbyterian Church has a moral obligation to protect future members from facing the degree of flooding we endured in 2004. It is also impossible to get permitting to improve a facility that is below floodplain.

### **Growing the Church through Faithful Worship**

While all ministries of the church are important, worship is the singular event that binds us together as a community! The worship of God through Jesus Christ centers us in our mission and call, and worship inspires and confirms our hopes and dreams.

### **Expanding Our Worship Life**

The development of a new sanctuary would be a useless enterprise if we were not envisioning the "expansion" of our worship life. Our goal is to allow the church, for years to come, to be nimble and not stiff in facing change, not limited but able, not bound in a box but able to break free to realize new opportunities. Knowing how our worship life has expanded and transformed in the past 70 years, just imagine what the church will face in the next 75 years. Our vision today will enable "Breakthrough" possibilities for the future!

### **Closer Worship Experience**

Our sanctuary has been re-configured dozens of times. It has been widened. It has been lengthened. The chancel has evolved! The result is that our sanctuary is very long, 30 rows deep. The new sanctuary will be 12 rows deep, semi-circular in shape, and will allow our members to have a closer, more engaged worship experience.

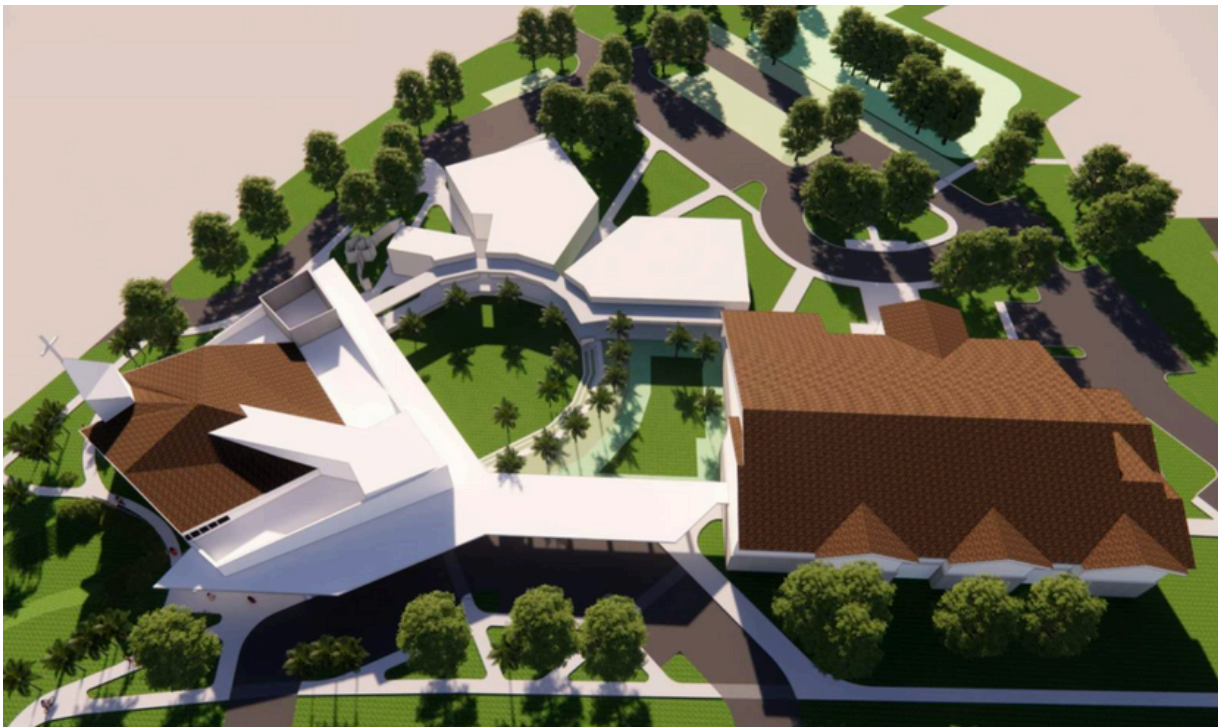
### **A Narthex - Yeah!**

A narthex is the entrance or lobby area of a church. This architectural feature serves as a gathering space for worshippers before entering the main part of the church. Presently, we do not have a narthex. We are either in or out! There is no transition from the world to the sacred. We have no dedicated space to greet our brothers and sisters. With the new sanctuary, this changes. We should not underestimate the value of this space.





## The Full Campus: Envisioned



## Beauty, Tradition, Faithfulness, Honor



**A Familiar Bell Tower and Clear Windows toward Indian River Blvd.**



**Welcoming and Sacred Narthex**







## The Cost of Our Vision

The cost of development of any church facility needs to be examined in terms of the cost of **not** doing development. The cost of **not** doing development is to ensure that First Presbyterian Church will slowly follow the course of other fading and diminishing congregations who lacked vision for their future. The cost of **not** doing development “kicks the can down the road” to a new generation who possibly will not have the ability or resources that we possess! If we do not accept this vision at this time, the cost will most certainly be the almost total marginalization of First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach as an effective voice for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now compare that cost with the financial and personal cost of developing the ministries, leadership, property and facilities of First Presbyterian Church. Our congregation will be in a position of “most potential” as we call our community and world to faith in the challenging years to come. The “Worshipping God through the Next Century: New Sanctuary” Capital Campaign is seeking to raise a minimum of \$16 million. As of September 2024, First Presbyterian Church has reached sacrificial gifts nearing \$9 million. It is the vision of Dr. Tim and the leadership of the church, that we should realize no debt by the first Sunday we worship in our new sanctuary. Now that is a vision!



The Sanctuary looking from Southeast to Northwest!

*The Narthex is a place of welcome - the gathering space at the main entrance to the church building just outside the nave - and is often referred to as a “vestibule” or “foyer.”. In the Narthex people often gather before and after church to greet each other. It is an area bridging the “sacred” and the “secular”*

*The area aids the transition from the outside environment of daily life to the celebration of the liturgy in the worship space. It is intended to offer a comfortable and spacious environment for fellowship without upsetting the quiet, reverent atmosphere of the sanctuary.*

*It was designated in the early Christian era, probably between the third and fourth century, for those who were not allowed to enter the main worship area, the nave, but who still wanted to hear the sermon.*

Hilary Dobson  
Head Usher

---

## Schedule of Progress

As this capital campaign is realized, you can expect to see the following schedule of progress:

- \* Design of the new sanctuary by our architects, Leo Daly, is underway now with construction drawings completed by April 2025.
- \* Site plan development by our civil engineers is underway now, along with state and local permitting, and will be completed in March 2025.
- \* Proctor Construction will develop the Guaranteed Maximum Price for Construction in May 2025 along with Building Permit application.
- \* Worship services will be transitioned to McAfee Hall in the Center for Christian Life June 2025 followed shortly thereafter by demolition of existing sanctuary.
- \* Construction will start by September 2025, taking an estimated 16 months, with completion at the end of 2026.

---

*"It is plain to see over the 12 years I have been here that all of our programs have grown in quality and size due to the incredible people that are a part of our church. We seek always to limit constraints so that growth continues, and it is clear and ironic that one of the most challenging concerns we face is the actual worship space itself. A new and redesigned worship space will ensure that our programs and the people participating in them flourish, their presentations will be unrestricted, and the quality of those productions will be exponentially amplified."*

Jacob Craig  
Director of Music and  
Arts

---



# **FIRST PRES VERO**

**Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ**

**520 Royal Palm Boulevard - Vero Beach, FL 32960 - 772.562.9088**