

- Phase II Building Committee Listening Sessions Summary
- Parishioners Respond in a Big Way with 600 New Hymnals
- Senior Social Photographs

Summary of Parishioner Feedback From Phase II Building Committee Listening Sessions

The Phase II Building Committee was charged with maintaining momentum, systematically listening to parishioners, planning for the future implementation of the Master Plan and leading the parish efforts to raise funds for Phase II.



Connie Bauer and Alan Bronikowski are two members of the Phase II Building Committee. They, along with other committee members, collaborated on the Listening Sessions Report.

In an effort to both maintain momentum and listen to parishioners, a series of listening sessions were held in the early summer and early fall. At these sessions, the Building Committee members thanked all parishioners for their efforts in building up the parish and asked for feedback on how the Phase I project was conducted. Small groups of parishioners gathered and discussed seven questions. The questions and a summary of the responses from parishioners are listed below. A complete list of the responses is available upon request.

Anyone who has not had an opportunity to respond to these questions can fill out the questionnaire that was recently mailed to all parishioners. It contains a summary of what was said at the listening sessions and has these same questions listed. Please return your questionnaires to the parish office.

Question 1: What did we do well in the Phase I process? What could we have done better?

A. Capital Campaign Process:

Did Well:

- Use of professional expertise — helped provide comfort zone.

- Proud of what has been accomplished — building blocks for the future.
- Finally got the ball rolling after 40 years — let's keep it going.

Could Do Better:

- Need to get people to give that didn't give or pledge. Could have pushed and asked parishioners to squeeze (sacrifice) a little more.
- Need to tell the whole story more than once before people really hear it — connect with parishioners to get sense of commitment.
- Utilize different concrete levels of giving, such as altar, pews, etc.

B. Building Process:

- Displaying the plans up front was a good idea — the parish needed to see the physical building for motivation.
- The project started quickly, and actually happened and in a timely fashion.
- Gathering space first was positive & negative — Positive in that it will be part of the church to come and is wonderful. Negative that the church didn't come first.

C. Communications Process:

- Lots of listening sessions (good idea) showed the committee sincerely cared about input.
- In home visits are nice, especially when Fr. Bill visited the homes.
- Continual updates in the bulletin were good. Informational materials were professionally done.

D. General Comments:

- Everything turned out better than I thought it would!
- It feels like we have been in this new building a long time — creates camaraderie.

Continued on next page.

Question 2: What motivated you to participate in Phase I, or what caused you to be reluctant to participate?

Motivation:

- 40 years we've been talking — never got off the ground. Wanted to be part of the generation that did it!
- Wanted to do our part — our parents did theirs — we need to do ours — to fulfill our responsibility to our church.
- Belief in Parish/Catholic Education/Family life at St. Matthew — this is home — help enhance our parish life.
- Need to move forward — fulfill visions of ancestors: Church and Gym.

Reluctant:

- Didn't believe in the "Glorified Entrance" concept
- 3 year pledge a little scary — preferred one time payment and offer more later.
- Many wouldn't contribute because they didn't believe it would really be built.

Question 3: Are you receiving enough information about the building projects? Do you have suggestions for improving communications?

- Did we give up on Phase II with the remodeling of the present church? Many probably think so! Need to emphasize this was part of Phase I, to temporarily improve the current worship space to tie us over until completion of Phase II.
- Father Bill could give a monthly or quarterly update on the Building programs during the closing of each Mass. Very important to communicate timely, very important not to do it every week but compose a motivational summary or update on our progress and our plans. State the obvious in the summary, many don't know as much as you may think.
- Continue with constant information about campaign as in Phase I.

Question 4: What is most appealing about Phase II (New Church & Gym/Performance Facility) for you and why?

- Church/worship space was a number one priority. Others felt the need for both church and gym equally. Others stated that if you build a new church, you already have

the gym to satisfy both groups.

- Show true stability of this parish for the next generation!
- To build more pride amongst our membership.

Question 5: What can the Committee and Parish do better for Phase II?

- Keep parishioners constantly informed. Frequent pulpit information: reach those who attend but do not participate in parish life. Contact Home & School.
- Use more audiovisuals which are better received — people don't read their letters. Develop a PowerPoint (audiovisual presentation) showing new gym in existing church.
- Waiting for 40 years — maybe Phase II should be completion of projects not finished and Phase III should be church/gym.

Question 6: If we are to be more successful in the next campaign we must _____

- Strong focus on two marketing groups, i.e. those that want church to be built, and those wanting the gym — show how one accomplishes the other, i.e. win/win for everyone.
- Must have visual recognition — can be done by church/gym model in major documents (i.e. bulletin). Make it real, make it something that is very close to happening — again the audiovisual during Mass is well received.
- All of the major contributors must lead by example and be very positive about project! In order to stay positive — perhaps quarterly or biannual meetings to re-motivate and clarify our direction. Must be vocal as well as supportive.
- Consider establishing a date to break ground! Could be a great motivator (check with the fundraiser experts on this one). If you do use a date, make sure it is realistic.
- Church and gym must go together.

Question 7: Anything else?

- Remind people it wasn't so bad, keep giving!
- Survey what kind of money parishioners will be able to give to Phase II.
- Have a way for people to ask questions such as a hotline call number, email box or suggestion box and get answers and then publish answers in the bulletin or the Buzz.
- Please thank the Building Committee for what has been accomplished.

Something to Sing About, Hymnals At St. Matthew!

There is a welcome addition to the worship space at St. Matthew Parish. Starting on the first weekend of Advent (November 26th & 27th), 575 hymnals will be put into use during all Masses, with 25 more on the way.

Hymnals Offer Many Benefits

Using permanent hymnals, instead of the photocopied music in the Order of Worship bulletins, was the idea of Judy Wargin, the Director of Liturgy and Music. Several months ago she proposed the idea to the Prayer & Worship Committee and got their approval. Judy says, "There are a lot of benefits to switching to the hymnal. First, the hymnal is cost effective. We will no longer have to print every song, psalm and acclamation in the Order of Worship. This will cut back considerably on the cost of printing Orders of Worship here or at a printers as we currently do. It will also cut down on the cost of purchasing copyrights for every piece of music. Of the four different copyrights St. Matthew currently has, we will only need one for the music we use that is not in the hymnal."

Judy also says the new hymnals will cut down the time it takes to put together an Order of Worship for printing. There are also benefits for choir

members who have the Choir edition of the hymnal — that means harmony is available without having to purchase Octavo music. Hymnals will allow Judy to teach new music to everyone at any time, rather than waiting until that music appears in an Order of Worship as is done now. The hymnals have songs that are often requested for funerals, and which are not in our funeral booklet. The hymnals will also be used at weddings, thus saving printing costs for the couple being married.

New Songs and Old Favorites

The new hymnals won't mean your favorite music will be retired. In fact, over 90 percent of the songs, psalms, acclamations we now sing are in the new hymnals, plus many more new songs (570), psalms and Masses are there for us to learn over the years. Most importantly, an attractive, hard cover hymnal says that we at St. Matthew's are committed to praising God in song through quality music at our liturgies.

Since the hymnals are donated, they cost the parish nothing, and each year the parish will save money it currently spends on copyrights and on Orders of Worship of many pages. Many, many parishioners, plus visitors to our parish, have made the hymnals possible.



Judy Wargin, Director of Liturgy and Music, thought hymnals would be a good idea for the parish. Parishioners agreed, and funded the purchase of 600 hymnals.

Fabulous Response From Parish

Judy adds, "I want to thank the people of St. Matthew Parish for their generous and positive response to getting hymnals. It shows that they are serious about praising God through sung Prayer — which is what hymns, psalms, acclamations are!"

As one great saint said, "The one who sings prays twice!" Now, the people of St. Matthew Parish will have a new guide in that part of worship.

— Article by Robert Tabern

Senior Social Photos on This Page and The Next

The Senior Holiday Social was held on Sunday, November 13 in the cafeteria. This annual event is a favorite with parish seniors as well as seniors from the community. It's an afternoon of games, gifts, food, music, and fun, as you can see from these photos.



Smiling Faces From Our Senior Social

—Photos by Dick and Carol Tenner



St. Matthew Parish Buzz

Produced by the St. Matthew
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Submit Photos, Stories or Story Suggestions
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New Parishioners

Loren and Denise Bedward, Hanna

Stephan and Masnah Coppola

Eric and Jennifer Meyer, Matthew

Kristi and Brian Peterson, Jacob, Bryce and Zachary

Steve and Jyl Posto, Lauren

Mark and Elaine Wenig, Taylor