



'A Time to Build' – Newsletter

WINTER 2009

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Our time to build

Welcome to the first of a new series of newsletters about our property development plans. We look forward to sharing our news and activities with you from time to time. In this issue, we are focusing on bringing you up to date.



Some thirty years ago, St Jude's was in need of additional facilities and a new hall was constructed as an extension to the 1924 Parish Hall. This provided a larger hall with a store room and toilets. This met the immediate needs of the church but was a compromise after plans for a major community centre were abandoned in the mid 1970s.

In the twenty first century, the ministry needs of St Jude's have changed. At the beginning of 2005, we commenced a 9:45 am contemporary style of worship service which is held in the Parish Hall. With its more informal approach, it suits the needs of today's young families. This service has grown and continues to grow.

In conjunction with this service, K@CH (Kids at church) has been developed. This also has grown to the point where it is now necessary to use rooms in the Public School for the Sunday morning program.

Our real need

We cannot grow any further without larger and better facilities to meet the demands of today and the next thirty years. In addition, it is readily apparent that the existing facilities are inadequate to meet this challenge. We need:

- A large, well designed multipurpose hall with the capacity to hold 250 people, provision of areas for a variety of activities and accommodation for the needs of the expanding contemporary services
- An adjacent but separate area for children's ministry activities connected to an outdoor play area
- Office space for the ministers and administration staff with easy access for the public
- Joint communal area for informal gatherings prior to and after worship services and other functions
- Meeting rooms for seniors' ministries and small groups
- Improved access and egress from the church building
- and the hall including wheel chair access
- Modernised and larger kitchen facilities.
- New male, female and disabled toilet facilities
- The linking of all facilities under cover
- Off street parking for more cars

*It has become very
evident that now is the
"Time to Build"*

Our steps so far

- Strategic Planning Committee formed and charged with developing a building plan to accommodate projected requirements for the next 5, 10 or even 15 years. Consideration given to Parish demographics and attendance trends.
- Meeting held between Strategic Planning Committee and leaders of the various ministry groups in the parish. A detailed table of requirements was constructed and from this a design brief was established.
- An architect with substantial experience in church design and heritage issues was engaged.
- An updated and revised summary of accommodation needs prepared and incorporated into a brief to the architect.
- A survey of the existing site and buildings completed then preliminary sketch plan prepared by the architect.
- Numerous meetings between architect and committee followed with many plan alterations and presentations to parish council.
- Research into the existing cemetery, drainage and an arborist's report completed.
- Preliminary meeting with town planning representatives of the local shire council, which elicited a positive response to the concept plans and proposal.
- Major presentation made to the Annual Vestry Meeting of March 2008 where parishioners were invited to submit written responses.
- Parishioner responses collated and summarised and discussed with the architect, resulting in a further revision of the draft plan. This was aimed at addressing as many of the concerns as possible, reducing the overall size and therefore the projected cost.
- A preliminary costing obtained from a quantity surveyor on the August 2008 plan revision.
- Preliminary discussions held with the Regional Bishop's Assistant and the Diocesan Major Parish Project Panel
- A trust known as "The St Jude's Christian Education Centre Building Fund" as a separate legal entity has been established and an ABN issued. This is a necessary step in applying to the ATO to gain Deductible Gift Recipient status.
- Preliminary discussions were held with the Diocesan Architectural Panel on 16th December 2008. No objections were raised.
- The Australian Taxation Office has granted Deductible Gift Recipient status for the redevelopment.

The Challenge

It is estimated that the cost of construction and furnishing will be over \$3 million and with the ever increasing cost of labour and materials, it is likely that this amount will increase.

Our challenge is to raise sufficient funding to provide the desperately needed facilities outlined on page 1. How will this be done?

1. We are investigating the feasibility of selling 2 Miro Crescent and/or 82 Bowral Street and/or the Edward Street land. It is hoped that this would realise \$1.5 million
2. We would borrow by way of a bank loan, something in the order of \$500,000
3. We encourage the sacrificial giving of donations by all parishioners and friends of St Jude's, over the coming months and for the next 3 to 5 years so that the bank loan can be repaid. We need to give over \$1.5 million.

The Team

As mentioned above, a team of people will be involved in the planning and preparation for this challenge. At the time of issue of this newsletter, the team is:

Neil Abrahams	Co-ordinator — Responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of the team. To keep in close contact with all team members, Parish Council, Wardens and Ministers
Peter Evans	Building Development Committee Chairperson — The Committee has the responsibility to liaise with the architect, Ministers, Parish Council and 'stakeholders' to ensure the building proposal meets the current & perceived needs..
Peter Evans	Asset Management & Disposal Chairperson — To examine the feasibility and options of dealing with our existing properties and to place recommendations to Ministers, Wardens and Parish Council
David & Rita Brake	Prayer Convenors — Prayer should be the foundation of the program. <i>The convenors</i> will promote prayer within the church throughout the duration of the program by co-ordinating prayer points and will organise special half days of prayer from time to time.
Bob Cady	Communications Convenor — With such a large Parish, communication about the vision and detail of the program is vital. The Convenor & team are responsible for the production and distribution of Newsletters and the Parishioner Pack.
John & Wendy Clark	DVD producer — To arrange for the production of a DVD to be included in the Parishioner Pack which effectively conveys the need for individuals to support the entire program
Gerry Remmerswaal	Small Group Presenter: To arrange for and carry out information presentations to all the small groups including all of the Bible Study groups.
Wardens and Parish Council —	To have overall responsibility, on behalf of the Ministers and Parishioners, for the entire Funding and Development program.
Ministry Team —	The ministry team to have responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the program.

How will this happen?

Over the coming months a team of people will be developing, refining and presenting this challenge to all parishioners. It will involve:

- ◆ **Prayer:** We want you to pray for the planning and the financial support, individually, in your small groups and at our special days of prayer
- ◆ **Information meetings:** We will be organising day time and evening consultation meetings so that your questions can be answered and any concerns discussed
- ◆ **Presentations:** We plan to visit all of the small groups and Bible Study groups within St Jude's to explain the development program and the funding challenge
- ◆ **Parishioner Packs:** An information pack including a DVD presentation will go to all parishioners presenting in detail the challenge to give
- ◆ **Commitment:** A special Sunday will be set aside, where at the various services, we plan to receive the pledges and gifts to meet the challenge before us.

Q & A

Q. Parking and traffic flow is tight already, how can we provide parking for a larger number of cars and keep access safe?

- A.**
- ◆ The plans provide for 35 parking spaces at the eastern end of the Rectory land, making 90 in total.
 - ◆ It is probable that the traffic flow will be one way only.
 - ◆ There is provision for vehicle access to the church entrance for weddings and funerals as well as to the new foyer.
 - ◆ A traffic management plan prepared by an expert consultant is required as part of the Development Application to Council.

Q. Will the new entrance with access to the church building through the south transept cause disruptions?

- A.**
- ◆ The new access is an additional point of entry. All existing access points remain.
 - ◆ It is expected that the existing main entrance to the church will continue to be the main entrance, but the exterior will be landscaped to provide easier access, including wheel chair access.
 - ◆ The new access doors through the south transept can be closed while the service is in progress.

There will be more Q & A in future newsletters.

Dates to remember

<p>Special half day of prayer. Come when you can; leave when you must. (In the Church)</p>	<p>Wednesday 17th June 2009 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Information Exchange 1. An opportunity to ask questions and discuss any concerns. (at the Parish Hall)</p>	<p>Wednesday 24th June 2009 7:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Information Exchange 2. An opportunity to ask questions and discuss any concerns. (at the Parish Hall)</p>	<p>Thursday 25th June 2009 2:00 p.m.</p>



Find out more

Check out our web site for the latest information about St Jude's and the redevelopment plans.

www.bowralanglican.org.au