

Hello Vineyard family!

If you were at church on Sunday, you probably noticed the first visual evidence that we have a construction project coming up! The missing pine trees next to the building definitely leave a hole, but we'll be filling up that space with the new addition before long. We've got a lot to update you on below, so stick with us!

### **BUILDING:**

After some delays, we seem to be turning a corner towards construction! In our July update, we talked about our new cost estimate coming in a bit higher than anticipated. Since then, we have...

- **Revised the floor plan** and exterior elevations to reduce the overall square footage and lower costs without changing the overall layout. The square footage of the addition is now closer to what it was when we first started the design.
- Received additional bids and **awarded subcontracts** on the HVAC, electrical, and plumbing work, resulting in further cost savings and more progress towards complete construction drawings.
- **Submitted plans** to the City of Des Peres to begin the zoning approval process.
- **Discussed "self-performing"** renovations on the existing two story building and potentially a few other aspects of the project as recommended and guided by our general contractor.
- **Selected a bank for project financing** after getting several competitive offers and consulting with trusted professionals. We're very pleased with the terms of the loan as well as the experience the bank brings from other local church expansion projects.

Through a combination of design changes, more competitive bids, and self-performing certain tasks, we think the project cost has come back down to the \$1.2M level we had expected to hit. In the last several months, we've become even more aware that while it takes more time, a thorough evaluation of all our options really does lead to better results at a better price.

We are also beginning to prepare for the messy and not-so-comfortable things that will come with having the building under construction! There are several aspects to this that we will discuss more soon.

**Pray that we will easily and quickly gain all necessary approvals from the City** and other government entities to move forward. And pray for continued wisdom and guidance from the Spirit as we make more decisions.

### **PARTNERSHIP:**

We have great news! Thanks to your generosity and God's provision on this project, **we were able to fully fund our first Partnership project – a 15 passenger van for the Christian Activity Center (CAC).**



As you know, our church has partnered with CAC, an afterschool program and community center in East St. Louis, for four years. CAC has been in need of a new passenger van to replace the very old and unreliable van they use to help transport kids for daily pickups, weekend trips and field trips. They began looking for vans when we first spoke with them about our project and recently approached us saying they were ready to make a selection. Amazingly, this happened just when our partnership fund had reached the \$20,000 mark – exactly what we had committed to provide them! While we didn't plan it this way, the gift to CAC is actually the first significant check we've written for anything on the project so far. **Praise God for his clear hand in these decisions and for the reminder that we can trust Him with the "first fruits" of what He gives us!** As you can see, the kids are just a wee bit excited...



Please be praying that this new van blesses the children at CAC and that the staff and volunteers will feel supported in their efforts to share God's love with these kids and their community.

**RESPONSE:**

We're so grateful for each and every response we've received for the project so far! They've all reflected the conversation with God and the response in faith that we had hoped to see on this project, and that includes responses that didn't include a monetary commitment. With 53 families responding so far, we think there are still quite a few responses in the works.

**If you're a committed part of our church and you haven't responded yet, we'd love to hear where you're at in this process!** Whether you're not quite sure where to start, have run into some obstacles, or just haven't gotten around to turning in a card, we'd encourage you to keep going to God and don't hesitate to ask questions in the process. If you are newer to the church and want to learn more about the project, we'd love to tell you all about it! Remember that our goal is not a monetary one, but is instead for each person in our church to have an authentic conversation with God about the response He wants each of us to have.

You can learn about the project and respond any time by going to the project website and clicking on "Online Response Form": [www.stlvineyard.org/expansion](http://www.stlvineyard.org/expansion). If you'd like to talk to a pastor as you are processing your response, don't hesitate to contact David or one of the Leadership Community Pastors, listed below.

September 2017 Update:

Total Responses:	53
Prayer Commitments:	48
Partnership Interest:	11
Total Fund + Commitments:	\$685,038

Leadership Community Pastors:

David Stark ([david@stlvineyard.org](mailto:david@stlvineyard.org))  
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If you have any questions about the Expansion Project or this update, email [expansion@stlvineyard.org](mailto:expansion@stlvineyard.org), or talk to one of our Project Team Members:

Caleb Chou ([calebchou@gmail.com](mailto:calebchou@gmail.com))  
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Thanks!  
The Project Team