

Hello Vineyard!

Our apologies for the long delay since our last update in November. After some frustrating delays at the end of last year, things have started zooming ahead so fast it's been hard to know when to stop and give an update. The great news is that we finally have a projected ground-breaking date... we're almost there!

**BUILDING:**

At our last update, we were waiting for construction documents to be completed so the project could be fully priced by our general contractor. We're happy to report that since then:

- Architectural and structural drawings for pricing were completed, allowing our general contractor to bid the remaining parts of our job (steel, concrete, carpentry, finishes, etc...)
- After getting bids back, our guaranteed max price came in right in line with our expectations (great news as we were very concerned about rising construction costs)
- We have clarified the work that we'd like to do ourselves to save on costs, including modifications to our existing two-story building and some of the painting in the addition
- The appraisal ordered by our bank was completed with no issues, clearing the way for us to close on the loan when construction is about to begin
- Our new electrical equipment (the first thing we need) was ordered and will be arriving in 4 weeks
- All drawings for building permits and the Architectural Review Board were finalized (including the new rendering below) and, as of yesterday, have been submitted to Des Peres for approval!



Figure 1: View from west side parking lot

Our design process has been very thorough, but please pray for a smooth permitting process, which can sometimes generate unexpected issues and delays. **If all goes well, demolition and construction on the addition would begin in mid to late April!** We may need some volunteers very soon to help get the building ready for demolition, so stay tuned.

Even before that, you are going to start seeing some changes within the next several weeks. The relocation of our main electrical gear will require demolition of the interior of the Prayer Room and youth group's "Upper Room" in the sanctuary. You will also see a "nice" new electrical transformer outside of our current entry doors. Not pleasant, but remember it will be pretty far from our awesome new entrance once the expansion is complete.

**Once construction starts, things will start to happen very fast!** You may just drive up one Sunday in late April and find the back of our building missing! We'll spend some time on an upcoming Sunday morning getting us ready for what construction will mean for us as a church family. *For a reminder of the expansion plans, see the building video on [www.stlvineyard.org/expansion](http://www.stlvineyard.org/expansion). We'll post the updated final plans before breaking ground.*

**PARTNERSHIP: La Vina School – Bluefields, Nicaragua**

Great news from La Vina in Bluefields, Nicaragua! They have completed phase one of their building project that OUR Expansion Project contributions will help fund. To get ready for the beginning of their school year in January, they have shored up the back side of their existing primary building (pictured below) and replaced the ceiling and roof on that building. This was a big improvement for all those children YOU helped sponsor for the school year. (If you missed it, individual members of our church sponsored an amazing 96 kids through special gifts in December. Great job everyone!)



The Expansion Partnership Team is now working out how best to send funds to continue their building project (not a straightforward task), which could be right around the time our own expansion is being built as well! You can see a video from Pastor Norman here, showing us the La Vina site and where their new addition will be located: <https://youtu.be/ecJxK37CgDo>

**RESPONSE:**

Our goal from the beginning of this Expansion Project was for each person in our church to have an authentic conversation with God about the response He wants each of us to have to what God is and will be doing during the duration of the project. Maybe that involves money, maybe it doesn't. **If you're a committed part of our church and you haven't turned in a response card 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! Feel free to ask us in person or you can always check out the expansion website to read the Project Booklet: [www.stlvineyard.org/expansion](http://www.stlvineyard.org/expansion).

**When you're ready to respond**, be sure to read the "Responding" section, starting on page 31. You can record your response by clicking on "Online Response Form" on the website, or just go to [www.stlvineyard.org/expansion/respond](http://www.stlvineyard.org/expansion/respond). 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.

March 2018 Update:

Total Responses:	60
Prayer Commitments:	49
Partnership Interest:	11
Total Fund + Commitments:	\$701,226

Leadership Community Pastors: David Stark ([david@stlvineyard.org](mailto:david@stlvineyard.org)), Debi Stark ([debi@stlvineyard.org](mailto:debi@stlvineyard.org)) Caleb Chou ([calebchou@gmail.com](mailto:calebchou@gmail.com)), Kitty Cramer ([kittycramer1@yahoo.com](mailto:kittycramer1@yahoo.com)), Bill McKay ([bill@stlvineyard.org](mailto:bill@stlvineyard.org)), Dannielle Strassner ([dcstrassner@gmail.com](mailto:dcstrassner@gmail.com)), Bob Tarr ([bobtarr02@gmail.com](mailto:bobtarr02@gmail.com))

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)), Debi Stark ([debi@stlvineyard.org](mailto:debi@stlvineyard.org)), or Jerry Orf ([jorf1950@aol.com](mailto:jorf1950@aol.com)).

Thanks!  
The Project Team