



What Do 1985, 1995, and 2005 All Have In Common?

In each of the 3 years above, we moved into a new or remodeled facility. All 3 of these moves represented a significant marker in the history of this Vineyard. Each time we were bursting at the seams before we built and the new facility allowed our growth to spurt. Each time we also thought it would be perhaps the last building we needed.

Since 2005

We opened our current addition in October of 2005. At that time we were averaging about 1600 people. Today we are averaging almost 2400 during weekend services. That is an amazing 50% growth. While we still have room for a few more adults, our children and youth space has become cramped and is somewhat out of date. Even if we go to a third service, it doesn't bring our youth facilities up into the category that we believe is necessary to fulfill the goals and plans that God has given us.

Thinking About the Next Step

We have begun thinking about what we should do next. While we could use some improved facilities immediately, we realize we have a 3-4 year lag time from the start of planning until we actually use the facilities. Thus we are beginning to assemble builders, architects, thinkers, and key lay leaders to begin processing our next step.

Options

At this time we believe we have several options:

1. Build a new facility immediately south of our gymnasium. This would probably meet all of our needs for a long time. It is also the most expensive.
2. Remodel our existing facility by making the gym into a 2-story facility and enclosing the patio for a much larger café and dining area.
3. Some combination of the first 2 options as well as buying facilities nearby to expand our space.
4. Aggressively plant churches and hope to keep our numbers roughly around 2300-2500.

Your Help Is Needed

During the next few months, I am asking everyone to pray. This is a major decision and we need everyone on board at some level. In addition, I would like to hear from those of you with ideas about what you would like to see. You may email me or simply talk with me when I'm

around at services or during the daytime. If you would specifically like to be on planning committees, we would like to know that as well.

As we clarify our options, we'll be saying more. I am sending this note to simply alert you that the process is on the burner and the heat will begin to turn up over the next few months. Thanks for being friends and partners.

Happy Notes at Home are a monthly reflection of community life at The Vineyard Church and are produced by Happy Leman.