

The St. Stephen's retained Frank, Goring & Straja Architects to develop a master plan that addressed necessary improvements to the aging facility as well as expansion to accommodate a growing staff and religious education program. After working closely with church and community groups, we developed a scheme that brings together all staff spaces in a new upper floor, and reconfigures the Parish Hall to open up to a landscaped courtyard and the existing Sanctuary.

The new structure, finished in wood siding with an exposed timber structural system, is characterized by a playful open dynamism. This will provide a deferential contrast to the solid and somber character of the poured in place concrete Sanctuary.

In addition to office space, the project will provide new meeting rooms for Religious Education and adult groups, a new commercial kitchen, and a more organized and generous entry to the facilities.

To provide a more inviting sense of welcome to the now imposing Sanctuary, a new canopy and glazed teak doors and side lights will be added, along with interior improvements to the Narthex.

All of these improvements will be accommodated within the facility's existing footprint, and with only minor increases to the building's mass by significantly lowering the current height of the Parish Hall's street elevation.

City variances and design review were granted in our first hearing, and construction was completed in November, 2003.