



## **First Baptist Church of East Greenwich – A Vision for the Church House**

*Leading people to faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ.*

We are a church community that want to be hospitable and welcoming. We are a people who look to serve others every way that we can. This is what we can see from the results of the voting. Let me offer you a dream of what we can be:

*You walk up to the Church House on a weekday evening. Maybe you see the Cub Scouts learning and playing games. Maybe you hear the orchestra rehearsing or see the Art Club meeting. Maybe a musical group is getting ready to offer a show in a couple of weeks or a dramatic group is rehearsing a play that will be produced in the spring. A support group meets in the downstairs, a community group uses another room to talk about how to help East Greenwich grow. Stop by on a Saturday and you will notice the smells coming from the kitchen. Since the updates, the kitchen use has increased, providing meals for the homeless twice a month, cooking church suppers, making food for community dinners, and other events.*

*If you walk around the fellowship hall you will see that the building is able to be used as a community center for people in a time of crisis or if a natural disaster impacts Rhode Island in any way. The bathrooms, two of which are handicap accessible, are spacious and clean, and have the options to provide short-term living in case a crisis does occur.*

*The parking lot is easy to navigate and well-marked; the church is inviting even before you walk into either of the buildings. In the hot summer days summer you will notice the cool breeze from the air condition system. Just by visiting and seeing all that is happening in the building, you know that this is a welcoming community that is looking to serve.*

*Come back on a Sunday and walk around the Church House after service. The kitchen continues to be active and busy with people setting up food for the fellowship café or for a church meal. Downstairs you notice that the rooms for Christian Education are clean, exciting, and inviting for children of all ages to grow and learn about God. You notice that there is a group that meets weekly for Bible Study or another kind of small group, but they do not meet in the church. They bring the experience of the church community to individual homes. You hear about the “Be a Church” Sunday when, for one Sunday, people do not go to worship but go and serve at different places because they want to show what it means to be a follower of Christ.*

*Walk around the Church House, visit the Church House, and you will quickly note that First Baptist Church in East Greenwich is a people who want to be welcoming of all people from all walks of life and wants to use the Church House as a way to reach out and connect. You will notice and see real, tangible ways that the community is leading people to faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ.*

Now, this is a vision that I see in the top items of the vision list and it is just a start. Because of your input, I believe that the Holy Spirit is moving us to be a church that is actively connected with the community through the Church House. I am excited with what we have done so far and I am looking forward to what we will do next. The next step is for the Trustees to get a sense of what kind of work will need to be done, what the costs might be with the hope that we will be able to give an estimate of that at our Annual Meeting in May. Keep them in prayers during this part of the process. Thank you for your input thus far, and for your continued support and input. And, as always, keep the questions coming!

Peace,  
Pastor Jonathan

Idea	Votes	Percentage
<b>Voting Statistics—2019 Church Vision</b>		Updated: Feb. 24, 2019
Total Votes Cast:		1137
Update the Kitchen	130	11.43%
Handicap Accessible Bathrooms	103	9.06%
Expand Use of the Building (ex. Dinner Theater, Music on Main Street)	70	6.16%
Make the Building a Safety Zone for Times of Crisis	54	4.75%
Update Parking Lot	51	4.49%
Air Condition in Church House	48	4.22%
Bible Study/Adult Education for Couples/Small Groups in Homes	40	3.52%
Once or Twice a Year - “Be the Church” Sunday	39	3.43%
Sunday School Program	37	3.25%
Elevator/Chairlift in Church House	37	3.25%
Learn the History Behind the Story	35	3.08%
Kid’s Week	35	3.08%
Hymn Sing/Music Programs	31	2.73%
Eldercare Services, Nursing Homes	28	2.46%
Spiritual Retreats	27	2.37%
Build Relationships with People from Different Churches	27	2.37%
Participate in Three Activities with Other Churches	26	2.29%
Open Discussions to the Community Around Current Topics	26	2.29%

Inviting More Christian Music Groups to Use the Space	25	2.20%
Greater Use of Technology in Sunday School	25	2.20%
Food Truck Offering “Meals on Wheels” and Other Services	24	2.11%
Flexibility with Classroom Space	23	2.02%
Pot Luck Dinners	23	2.02%
Homeless Shelter	22	1.93%
Utilize Space for the Community (ex. Family Youth Center)	20	1.76%
Developing Volunteers for Leadership	20	1.76%
Evangelism Connected with Fundraisers	19	1.67%
Improve Audio System (For Church House)	18	1.58%
A “Living Room” for More Relaxed Gatherings	17	1.50%
Reading the Bible in Various Ways	14	1.23%
Increasing Social Media	13	1.14%
Have a Learning Base/Bio of Talents and Interests	8	0.70%
Study the Hymns as Poetry	6	0.53%
Write-in: “Windows - Remove Curtains”	5	0.44%
Experiential Connection with Bible Stories	4	0.35%
Intergenerational Focus in Education	4	0.35%
Merging with Other Churches	3	0.26%
Connections with Other Groups of Congregation for Bible Studies Retreats	0	0.00%
Visual Learning	0	0.00%