gather

grow

go

Arcola Church

ArcolaChurch.org

Campaign Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for those who came before us: women and men, children and grandparents, who sought Your will and built Your church in Arcola. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We honor this heritage by the lives we lead and the future we help to build. We know this future includes an expansion of our building to allow for growth of the ministry You have entrusted to us.

We pray for a room where songs of praise are learned and sung; for classrooms where Your good news is taught; for meeting space where the broken and hurting know Your healing; where strangers know community and where disciples are made and nourished.

May we bless the generations to come in the same way this great cloud of witnesses has blessed us. In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Dear Arcola Family,

Nearly 165 years ago, a handful of committed women and men built a church in Gum Spring, Virginia. Over the years, this simple structure housed many worship services where songs of praise were sung. It was the setting for many weddings where vows of love were exchanged as well as funerals where loved ones said goodbye. It hosted baptisms where grace was poured out and communion meals where bread and cup were received in remembrance of the Lord who died and rose.

This simple white structure—now called The Chapel—stands as a constant reminder of those who came before us: women and men, children and grandparents. They were folks who sacrificed and loved, who worked and prayed, who sang and served, who created the firm foundation upon which we stand today. We have known grace upon grace.

Over the past year, the Church Council created three strategic teams, Gather, Grow and Go, that sought God's will regarding the future of the ministries of Arcola Church in light of our continued growth. This discernment process has convinced us of the need for expanded fellowship space, more classrooms and meeting areas, and space to allow our music, youth and community outreach ministries to continue to thrive – and expansion of our online ministry. We see this expansion as Phase 3 of a master plan that allows us to continue fulfilling our purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

In response to this need, I ask each of you to prayerfully consider what God can do with your financial commitment to this capital campaign. I ask for your support of this campaign not lightly, but with the knowledge that pledges will mean sacrifice. However, your pledges also will mean a future where ministry will continue to thrive and disciples will continue to be nourished. Our heritage was constructed by members who were not afraid to make such sacrifices, and abundant harvests were the results. I look forward to joining with you in making our own pledges so that we may gather, grow and go.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Chris

Our Plans for Phase 3

gather

Gather *for worship and community*

- Develop multiple community outreach events and opportunities
- Maximize use of Social Media and technology
- Make Arcola Diner a weekly gathering
- Building: Expand and enhance the current narthex and other space for gathering and fostering community

grow

Grow *as disciples*

- Link sermon and Sunday school and write curriculum
- Expand prayer and small groups
- Maximize use of technology
- Continue to grow music and worship ministry
- Be mindful of All of God's Children—expand our ministry for people with special needs
- Building: A dedicated Chapel, rooms for Bible studies and small groups, new youth space, expand music rehearsal and special needs ministry space

go

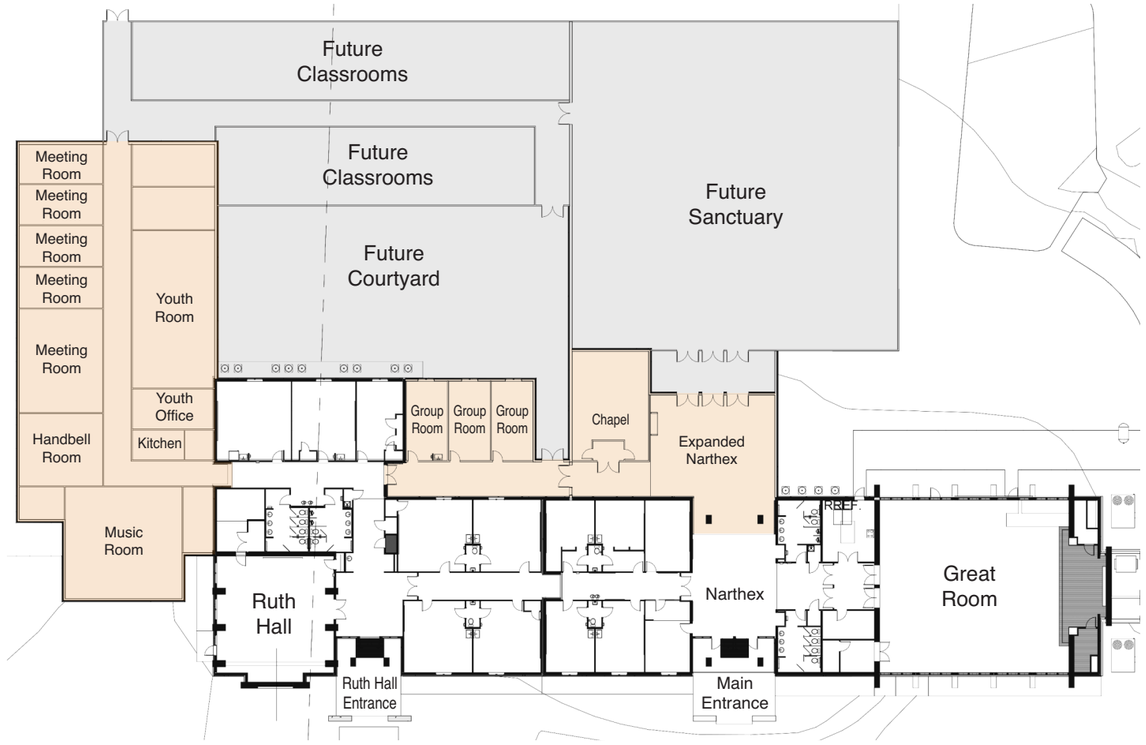
Go *to serve and share*

- Maximize digital technology including Livestream
- Fishing expeditions
- Expand Care and Recovery ministries
- Determine places to plant new community
- Building: Expand audio visual capabilities, office and counseling space

Gather-Grow-Go

Phase 3

(shown in light orange)



**Future building shown in gray will be Phase 4*

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, [17]and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. [18]I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19]and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-21, NRSV

What Arcola Church Members say…

From the beginning of my time at Arcola Church, the words Pastor Chris has spoken over and over again have taken root in my heart: "When our obedience matches God's call, blessings happen." This church encourages that fact with every worship service, every program, every mission trip, every sermon. That still, small voice that urges us to follow the call of Jesus to make disciples of every nation can be easily drowned out in the busy-ness of our culture in Northern Virginia. There is no other place that I hear that voice more clearly than at Arcola Church. The leadership here gives us the opportunity to use the unique talents that the Lord has given us to further His kingdom. (For me it has offered the chance to utilize my love of writing to compose devotionals and to submit articles for the website. I've been challenged and loved by a community of women at weekly Bible studies. My children have been mentored by other adults in the congregation through confirmation and have gained invaluable lessons in servanthood through mission trips.) I am grateful every day to have walked through these doors thirteen years ago. And I am even more so when I am sent out those doors with a renewed spirit to obey the call and watch as blessings abound.

-Jennifer P. Skinner

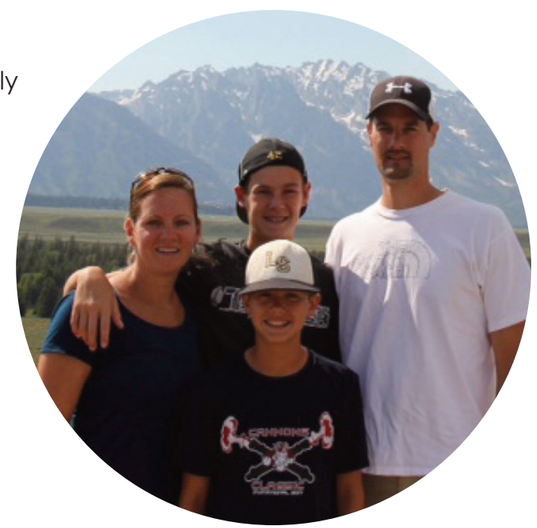
Arcola UMC has been such a blessing for my family and me for so many reasons. After relocating here a couple of years ago for work, we were in search of a new church home. We checked out a few churches before we came across Arcola Church. One Sunday at Arcola was all it took for us to know we had finally found our new church home. Everything just felt right; such as the wonderful youth ministry for our young boys so they can learn and grow in their faith alongside us-while being surrounded by a community of love, support and forgiveness. In addition, the warm, inviting welcome we received made us feel right at home. Furthermore, Pastor Chris has a gift of delivering God's word in a way that really connects and resonates with us and the music ministry that leads our praise and worship feeds our hearts and souls. And, lastly but not least, just the genuine, authentic people that have touched our hearts in so many ways.

-Bo Oldham

Being a part of Arcola United Methodist Church has had an enormous impact on me and I have created relationships within the church that I know will last a lifetime. Through both the youth program and the music ministry I have seen my faith grow immensely. The deep, meaningful relationships that I built with others in the youth program could not have happened without the leadership and mentorship of our youth leaders, specifically, Katie, Dave, Jake, and Johnathan. Through discussions, and many fun activities, they successfully built a welcoming and loving community. Music has always been a big part of my life, so it's only fitting that music is where I found a way to worship God that really clicked with me. I began singing with the Joyful Noise almost two years ago, and it has been one of my most enriching experiences. While songs that sound amazing and are fun to play are important, it's the words of a song that really make the difference. Tianna's ability to understand the message of the sermon and pick songs that directly correlate is a true gift, and is also a big reason I have grown much stronger in my faith. Frequently, after practices, Tianna shares a message that she finds particularly relevant that week. One of the first messages I recall was from the song "No Longer Slaves." "I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God," are the words we focused that week. I loved the music but, it was the message of the song that gave me chills when we sang it that Sunday. I am so grateful for these two ministries and how they have helped me grow in my faith.

-Megan Ladany

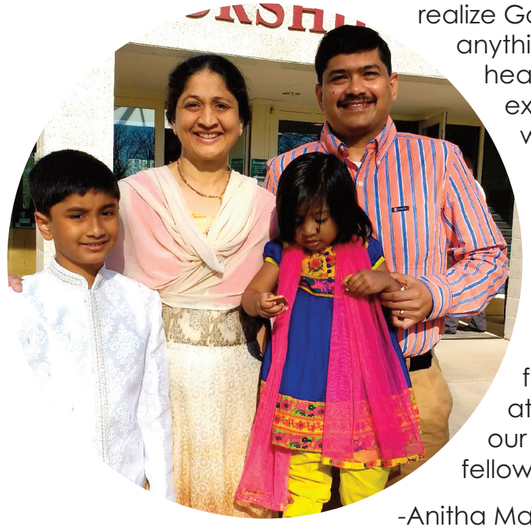
Growing up the church was a big part of my family life. When I started a family of my own, I sought a church where my neighbors worship, that celebrates music, has a youth program and where I could get involved in small groups. I found all of that and more at Arcola. I've grown in my faith by connecting with other women. After attending a few book studies, I am now leading the morning women's study. It is a joy to see the group grow in number and in their relationships with God. I look forward to seeing all that God has in store as Arcola continues to grow in their capacity to make disciples of Jesus Christ.



-Deborah Taylor

What Arcola Church Members say…

Over the past 12 years that we have been worshipping and fellowshipping at Arcola UMC, the Church has been a constant anchor to our family—especially during the times when we faced uncertainty, disappointment and grief and needed to stay grounded. The time spent in worship each Sunday recharged us and kept us going. The insight from the sermons gave us the perspective needed to face challenges by helping us realize God's grace and love is enough to overcome anything. It wasn't just worshipping God through singing, hearing or learning His word, but the fellowship we experienced instilled a strong sense of community which transcended race, nationality or color—a sense of belonging and being one with Christ. Having been married here and having our children baptized here, we have come a long way in our spiritual growth and our faith in God. It brings us great delight to see our children grow in Christ through their participation in Sunday school and singing in the children's choir. We look forward to many more activities and opportunities at Arcola Church in the coming years—deepening our relationship with God and strengthening our fellowship with the congregation.



-Anitha Manne

I love church because I love Sunday school.
The teachers are nice. They give me hugs
and read me stories about God and Jesus.
I like singing the music—that's super fun.
I REALLY like the bread and the cookies
they are delicious.

-Hadley Humphries

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—[9]not the result of works, so that no one may boast. [10]For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:8-10, NRSV

I am thankful that Arcola Church is more than a Sunday morning church. As the son of preachers, I have been involved with music and various committees pretty much all my life. Music activities fill me with awareness of the presence of God while sharing His word through song. The growth of Arcola Music Ministry spawns from the praising of God while lifting each other in prayer, spiritual inspiration, and fellowship. I particularly enjoy making new friendships with the mix of both youth and adults that now make up many of the groups. But when I was asked, rather, urged to join a men's small group I was reluctant to make a time commitment to another meeting. I praise the Lord that I finally did, because it has become so much more to me. Becoming comfortable enough with a group of men to be able to really share one's joys and concerns at every level has now become the norm! My Men's group has become a team who not only enriches my prayer time and devotional study, but also one that holds me accountable to the Word. These ministries continue to expand and to help me grow in my faith walk. I am thankful I found Arcola, for its leadership and the facilities that have given me the opportunity and guidance to gather, grow and go.

-Phil Mowrey

Why We Give

All we have is a gift from God, so we believe that giving to God's work is an act of worship.

Generosity provides an undeniable path to great joy.

We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Ways to Give to the Gather-Grow-Go Campaign

This is 'above and beyond' your regular weekly offering.

One-time Gift (cash, check, debit, bank transfer or credit card)

26-Month Recurring Giving Pledge (cash, check, debit, bank transfer or credit card)

Company Matching Program

Stocks/Securities, Real Estate

Planned Giving (make Arcola Church a beneficiary in your will)

Please contact Chris Slupe, Church Administrator, at (703) 327-7878 ext. 101 or ChrisS@ArcolaChurch.org with questions or to make a donation of securities or real estate. Gifts made to Arcola Church are tax deductible—check with your tax advisor to learn more.

Gather-Grow-Go Campaign Giving to reach $1.6 Million

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2 Peter 2:9-10, NRSV

May God pour on the love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone around you, just as it does from us to you.

1 Thessalonians 3:12, The Message

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