

ADVENT 2022

TRANSFIG THE HILL

A 5 YEAR VISION FOR CONNECTION, CHARACTER & KIDS

at



Church of the
Transfiguration

Last Advent, our parish witnessed **a miracle of generosity**. In response to a significant budget deficit, we set a goal of raising \$50,000, but received over \$75,000 in gifts. Your generosity reminded me of **Jesus' miracle** of transforming water into wine. You had saved the best for last and we celebrated with jubilation at your outpouring of financial support. Your generosity not only allowed us to overturn our budget deficit, it allowed us to **rebuild**. We hired a new music director, we undertook some important repairs to our building, we invested in hosting a Movie Night on our Hill. But most importantly, it gave us **the stability to dream** about our future once again.

Last year in our Stewardship Campaign, I quoted from the musical South Pacific, where a character sings, "If you don't have a dream, how you gunna have a dream come true?" This year has been a year **to dream and discern** where God is leading us as a Church. And it has been a year to create **a vision and a plan** that moves us towards that goal. In the next five years, I invite you to join me as we dream about how to **"Transfig the Hill."**

Transfig the Hill is a five-year vision and plan to re-focus our mission and write a new chapter in our parish life. It builds off our desire to make 'the Hill' a place of connection, but dreams of moving beyond a point of connection to the **building of relationships** between Hill visitors and the Church. As I watch the activity on our Hill, I see three key areas where we can transform our mission to our neighbours.

First, **rebuild our Children's Ministry** to welcome the growing number of young families in our neighbourhood. Second, **connect our Church and Hill** by building a beautiful and accessible pathway to our entrance. Third, **create a distinct character** for the Hill that reflects our Church community and makes our green space more than a neighbourhood park.

We have set the goal of **raising \$40,000 annually** over the next 5 years as we seek to Transfig the Hill for missional growth. We have already witnessed the opportunity that our Hill offers us to be a place of connection in our neighbourhood. Now we aim to invite these neighbours from steps on the Hill to steps in the journey of faith.

As a Church, we gather on the Hill to learn about the transformative power of God's grace in our lives through Jesus Christ. Let's equip ourselves with the resources to share this gift, so that we might build up the next generation of parishioners and continue the work of raising up new Disciples of Christ on the Hill.

In the pages below, you will learn about key areas of **Connection, Character** and **Kids**, as we aim to Transfig our Hill.

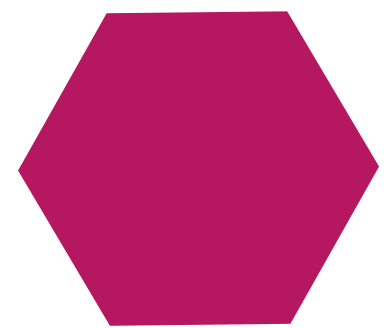
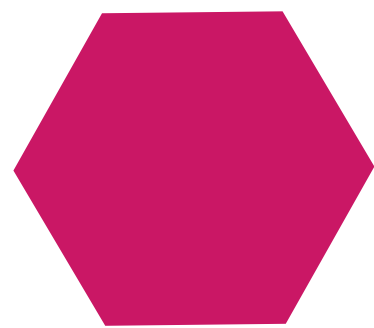
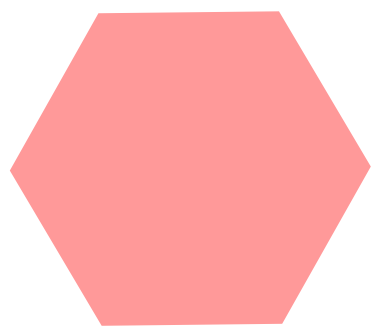
In communion,
Michael



CORE PILLARS

In the next five years,
our Hill will be:

- **Connected** to the Church
- **Characterized** by the Church
- **Equipped** to grow the Church



Connection

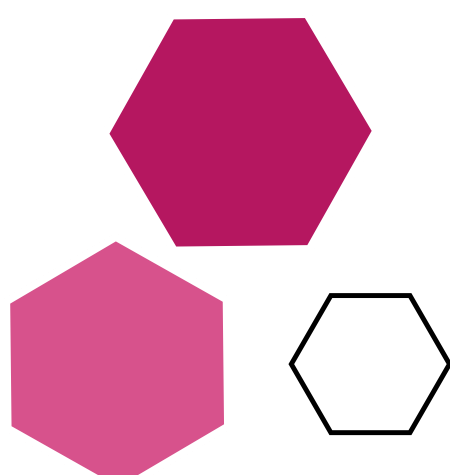
Create a beautiful and accessible pathway to **Connect** our Garden Doors and the Hill and knit together our indoor and outdoor space for ministry and mission.

Character

Create a distinctively **Christian Character** to the Hill that distinguishes our space from a city park through intentional choices for benches, gardens, lighting, signage and art.

Kids

Equip our parish with the resources we need to rebuild our **Children's Ministry**, focusing on providing programming to parents with children, where they can grow in faith as a family.





A 5-Year plan

Building on our vision in stages, with a different focus each year.



2023

Seed

\$40,000



2025

Stretch

\$40,000

2024

Grow

\$40,000



2027

Finish

\$40,000

5-Year
Objective
\$200,000

Flourish

\$40,000

2026



Each year, \$40,000
will be allocated to our
three pillars as follows:

Connection

\$20,000

Character

\$6,000

Kids

\$14,000

Annual

Total \$40,000



2023



2024

Grow

\$20,000

Grow
\$20,000

2024




Stretch

\$20,000

2025

Stretch
\$20,000

2025



Build!

2028

Build!

2028

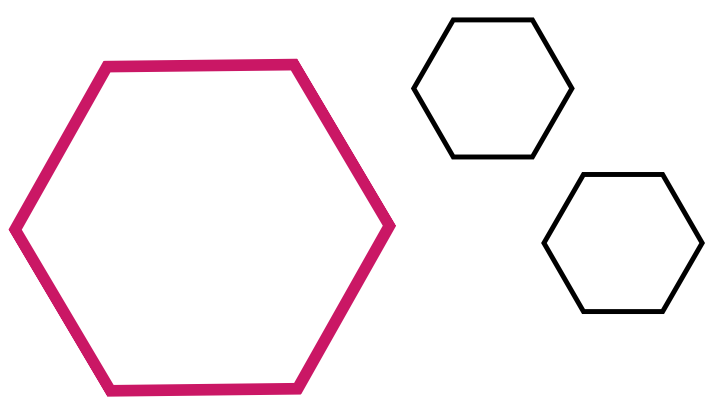
2021



Flourish
\$20,000

Revisions & finalization of design

Revisions & finalization of design



Character

Many visitors see our Hill as a park. Differentiating our green space through a unique **Christian Character** is the second objective of Transfig the Hill. How can we offer welcome and hospitality to our neighbours in a way that also invites reflection and extends our Church beyond our building?

Instead of a park bench, can we reuse old **pew benches**? The unmistakable style of the pews will give a distinctive character to our Hill. Can we dedicate these benches to past parishioners? Can we engrave Scripture on them?

We have a beautiful indoor space; can we illuminate our **stain glass** windows at night to provide visual beauty to our Hill, invite passers-by to pause and maybe even come inside?

Or could we imagine how **art** could be used to create a distinctively Christian character? For example, through a prayer corner, labyrinth, or sculpture?

And before we break ground for the accessible entrance, let's transplant our much loved **gardens beds**.

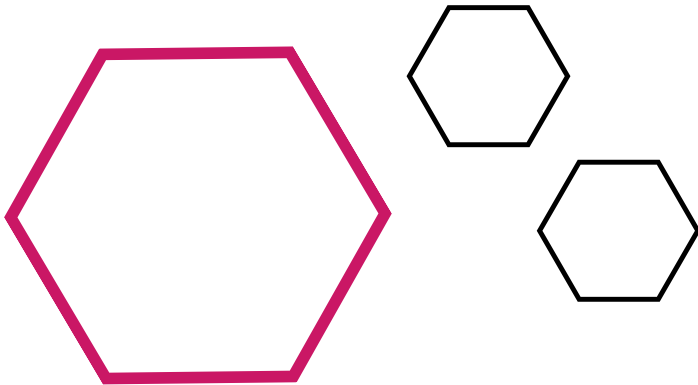


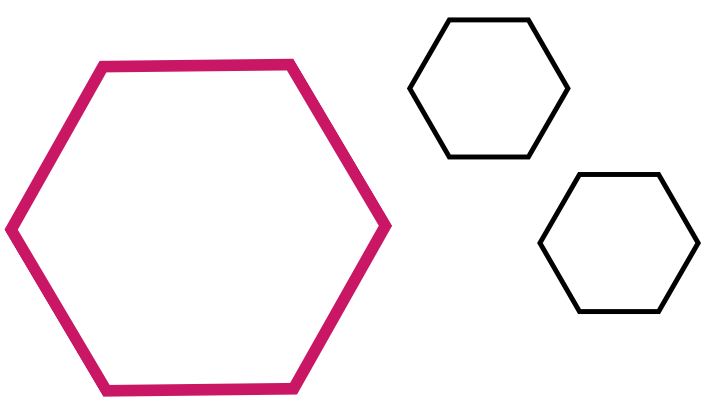
Transplant the gardens beds to the west side of the driveway

Artscape on the Hill

Illuminate the stain glass windows in the evening

A new garden at the north-west entrance to the Hill





Kids

This summer, God surprised us. One Sunday, I looked out and counted eight children on the Hill. We quickly brought out our children's materials and set up the **Children's Chapel**. Every Sunday, volunteer teachers, with the assistance of the older children, teach the next generation of children the stories of the Bible.

In October, we started two new programs: **First Fridays** is our once-a-month, all ages drop-in with games, activities and a whole lot of fun, spear-headed by our People's Warden, Patti. **Tots at Transfig**, is a Saturday morning drop in for young families. This initiative from Jessica, a new mother in our parish, offers community and creative play to cooped up families in nearby apartments. Thirteen toddlers and their parents dropped in on opening day.

The Harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Transfig the Hill seeks to place **children and families** back at the centre of our mission. This fall has demonstrated to us that there is a need in our neighbourhood and that with resources, personnel, and planning, we can become a place where children grow in the knowledge and love of God.



Integrate the funding of Children's Ministry into our regular budget

Create a path for kids to graduate to a Youth Group.

2027

Finish

\$14,000

2026

Flourish

\$14,000

Stretch our Children's programming to two classrooms (0-6, 7-12) and support First Fridays, and Tots at Transfig drop in.

Grow our Children's Ministry program through a Summer Camp

2025

Stretch

\$14,000

2024

Grow

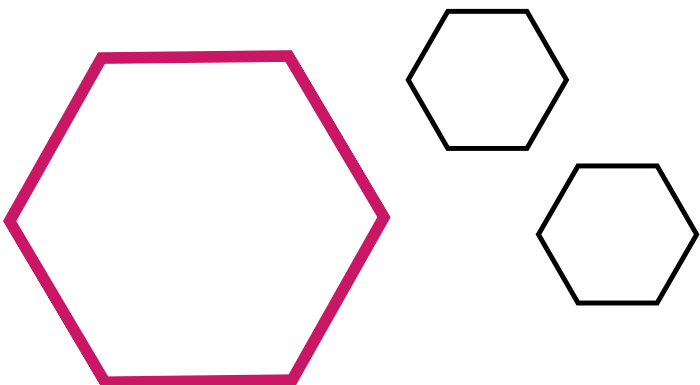
\$14,000

Seed Money for Children's Ministry, with a Target to hire in Fall 2023

2023

Seed

\$14,000



Words from the Advisory Board

When I contemplate the future of our parish, I think about how we might lay a foundation for future generations to experience the transformative love of God in their own lives. I've had the joy and privilege of witnessing firsthand how my own children have been nurtured and supported in faith by the Transfiguration community. I think it's vital to continue to create spaces and opportunities for connection where children and young adults can flourish in the knowledge of God's love for them, and where they are loved and accepted as full partners in our worship and communal life. We've begun some hopeful steps toward this vision with our First Fridays drop in program. Not only do First Fridays provide a chance for young people to connect with parish members in a relaxed and fun setting, it allows them to use their unique gifts to help shape and lead the program. From meal planning and cooking, to setting up tables and welcoming in neighbours, kids are at the heart of this growing ministry in our parish. Which probably explains why it is so much fun! ~Patti Ryan



Here at the Church of the Transfiguration we often say 'all are welcome' when we describe our services and events to the community as we want to express our desire to remove perceived barriers to participation. With our new vision to improve the accessibility of our entrance to the church and the hill, we are putting those words into action. By removing the physical barriers to joining these events, our neighbours will hear *and* see our sincere expression of welcome. What a wonderful way to show our actions and words align with our hearts. ~Heather Hanson



Moving back to in person worship and gathering earlier this year has reenergized us also in moving back out onto the hill and putting energy into the plan to connect with our neighbours and celebrate outdoors. An expanded vision moving beyond connection to becoming a greater place for mission and evangelism is very exciting. We continue to love our neighbourhood and have made many great connections through Transfiguration and want to do all we can to increase our spiritual connection and support for our neighbours. ~Steve Klose



After I saw the 5-year plan for The Hill I said to my partner, "Guess what Michael wants to do? He wants to make to The Hill more accessible and connect the church to the hill! It's so simple, yet genius!" He agreed with me that it is a fantastic plan. I am so happy that our church leadership has a clear vision to make our beautiful space accessible for everyone. I look forward to supporting the plan in any way I can and seeing it come to fruition.

~Kileen Sprock



What excites me when I first heard the 5 Year Plan is how the hill is going to be enhanced to make it more welcoming and accessible for the community. It also provides a natural connection of the hill to the church through the garden doors. We are so blessed to have the grounds and the hill which are unique to our church.

~Kamalini Dugan



Here is a concrete vision in which I can engage. It has integrated components and a broad framework that provides great possibilities for engagement within our parish community and between the parish and the broader community. This could be a dynamic process that is refined as we move forward. May this greater physical accessibility also reflect a greater openness in us to share the non-physical gifts of being a Christian to so many in our surrounding area struggling in a post-Christian world.

~Susan Lloyd





When Michael presented the 5-year vision of transfiguring our parish, I was immensely impressed with his thorough and thoughtful thinking put in its development. I couldn't contain my excitement (as someone passionate about environmental and social justice), when I learned that this vision is to make our church more accessible and hospitable. The fact that we'll be upcycling some of existing pews into outside benches makes my heart sing. I hope all of you reading our Stewardship package will be as excited as me, and feel inspired to help us financially. I cannot wait to volunteer my skills and be part of this meaningful transfiguration. ~Alina Racoviceanu

Now that he has settled in and knows the Parish, Michael has developed a long term vision that unites the "Hill" with the Church building. This is particularly exciting because it will enable us to connect the Parish with its surrounding community.

~David Rounthwaite



The Church of the Transfiguration - "Transfig" - is many things to me. Being a part of it is a tangible expression of my faith. I tell friends that I "go to Transfig." It is my church family with whom I share my faith. It allows me to sing with friends - there wasn't an audition required. Transfig is my go to place. It grounds me. It enriches my life. It helps me to be me. ~Kathy Bailie



Do you have questions?

Rev. Michael would be happy to have a conversation with you or take a walk around the Hill if you have more questions. He can be reached at **mperry@churchofthetransfiguration.ca** or via telephone at **647.526.4393**.

HOW TO GIVE

E-Transfer

- Use your online banking or mobile app
- Send to: office@churchofthetransfiguration.ca
- Write "Transfig the Hill" in the comment Box

Canada Helps

- Easy to use & directly on our website
 - You can use your credit card and there is an option to cover your fees
- <https://churchofthetransfiguration.ca/give/>

Cheque

Mail to:

Church of the Transfiguration
111 Manor Road East, Toronto, ON M4S 1R4
or drop them off during a service or in the mailbox

Write "Transfig the Hill" on the Memo line

Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)

Do you give monthly to the Church of the Transfiguration? Have you considered moving your donation to PAR? Call the office 416.489.7798 and Ann would be happy to walk you through how it works.