



First Baptist Church of Tupelo, Mississippi Capital Campaign 2017

Church Family,

Thank you for participating in today's service. The desire of our church leadership is to share with you how the Lord has been leading these past months. The presentation you are holding in your hand should not be considered as "set in stone." Rather, it is a concept of how we could maximize our space and structure in a strategy and building layout that best meets current ministry needs as well as prepares for the future. We ask that you not hesitate to ask questions or provide commentary. Tonight we will have a Special Called Business Meeting to provide a venue to facilitate a church-wide question and answer time.

We know that the "church" is not a building (whether in the past, present, or future). However, throughout our church's rich history, we have seen God use our buildings as a tool for ministry and missions. Desiring to be good stewards of what the Lord has so graciously entrusted to First Baptist Church of Tupelo, we believe these proposed changes are consistent with the faithfulness and vision of those who have gone before us here at the corner of Jefferson and Church Streets.

Please pray for our church over the next few weeks as we consider these changes. With confidence, we know that God has used, is using, and desires to use this body of believers.

What He Begins... He Finishes!

Matt Powell

Our Church property and buildings are the home base for our family. For 147 years the people of God at First Baptist Church, Tupelo, MS (FBCT) have gathered each week in this building to worship the Lord, teach various age groups the Word of God, disciple followers of Christ and reach out to those in our community that are searching for truth in a world filled with hopelessness.

The building is much like your home where your family gathers daily and from time-to-time for special occasions. In the past, many have sacrificed so that we may enjoy the building that occupies the corner of 300 North Church Street today. We honor the investments and the service of these generations of believers.

Some in our congregation remember when various parts of our current facility were constructed. In the 1950's, a devastating fire destroyed the Sanctuary building; the church rose from the ashes to rebuild so ministry could continue and people could gather for worship. Others remember the 1960's when the current children's building was constructed, which provided additional space for discipling believers. In the 1970's, a great outreach ministry was started as the result of constructing the Christian Life Center. FBCT has continued with a vision to provide a place of worship and ministry to her members and community. Each time the need arose to provide additional space, the congregation sought the Lord and made sacrificial commitments to building under the Lord's leadership.

The most recent construction projects took place in the mid 1980's and 1990's with the construction of the Adult Education/Office building and the Fellowship Hall, Grand Hall, Preschool and Youth building at a combined total cost of \$6.3 million. These buildings were constructed under the leadership of Dr. Gayle Alexander, Pastor from 1983-2000, who challenged the church to build without debt. The congregation accepted the challenge; and under the Lord's Leadership, the church was able to build two buildings without incurring long-term debt.

During the last twenty years, FBCT has been able to grow Her ministry because of those who gave sacrificially to build without debt. These years have proven to be a time when the church has taken great strides in mission outreach. This growth in ministry was possible because the church was not burdened with debt; the tithes and offerings could be used to reach and teach those who have yet to hear the gospel of Christ.

The church body has always sought to build for those yet to come. In many ways, this is evident in our current facility with the physical plant we have for ministry. The time has come to take the next step in preparing for the future through expansion and much needed renovations to our church home. The challenge now is for each one in the church family to continue the legacy of faithful stewardship to prepare for the future. Members must prayerfully seek the Lord and ask Him to lead us individually and as families as to what He would have us give over the next three to five years to help provide the resources needed in the proposed renovations and expansion of the church campus.

THE PROCESS THAT BROUGHT FBC TO TODAY

Work on the proposed concepts shared April 23, 2017, began almost twelve years ago when the church entertained a study by Lifeway Church Architect Department about how we could maximize space with the footprint of the current property at that time. Moving forward at that point was not in God's timing. Discussions have continued, however, and through many meetings of the Strategic Planning Committee, Properties Committees, Stewardship Committees and Deacons, and through personal discussions and other venues, the church has sought the proper timing to expand in downtown Tupelo.

The operating budget of the church provides between \$50,000.00 and \$70,000.00 each year for capital improvements. The funds placed in this savings account provide funding for major capital needs during the year, or funds are accumulated for major repair work in the future. Over the last eight years, the Capital Improvement Budget, along with a \$300,000 Capital Campaign has provided resources for the following work as approved by the church:

- Replacement of the heating and cooling system in the Christian Life Center-\$35,000.00
- Replacement of the roof on the Grand Hall/Fellowship Hall/Youth/Preschool building - \$82,000.00
- Replacement of the heating and cooling system in the Children's Area - \$10,000.00
- Replacement of the heating system in the Sanctuary - \$17,000.00
- Demolition of the Whitfield House - \$23,000.00
- Surveying and engineering preparation of parking lot renovations - \$8,000.00
- Replacement of several heating and cooling units (other than those listed) - \$20,000.00
- Renovation of the Preschool Area - \$55,000.00
- Tree removal and renovation of sound and media equipment in the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary - \$65,000.00
- Renovation of the Grand Hall and Fellowship Hall, repainting of the second floor area, replacement of carpet in the second floor area and a renovated main office entrance - \$300,000

The insight of the church to provide a Capital Savings Fund, along with the one Capital Campaign, has proven beneficial through the years. The funds have provided \$615,000.00 for the maintenance and upkeep of the church facility without placing a strain on the church budget or membership. However, current expansion and renovation needs exceed the capacity of the Capital Savings Fund.

I am excited about this opportunity and I believe this plan will set us up for ministry and growth for the foreseeable future.
DON LAND, PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN

THE LAST SIX MONTHS

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Strategic Planning Committee started meeting in October to determine the best way for the church to meet current and future needs. Because of their work, the following strategy was presented to the Stewardship Committee, Properties Committee and Deacons in recent days.

Proposed Strategic Plan

OUR VISION

We see Tupelo's First Baptist Church ...

Taking the lead of Jesus ... letting Him lead and empower us by His indwelling Spirit and using us as a servant people on mission to Tupelo, Lee County, the region and the world!

We see Tupelo's First Baptist Church taking the lead of Jesus and sharing the Gospel – here, there, and everywhere – as a servant people on mission! “whoever wants to become ‘first’...” (Matthew 20:26b-27a)

OUR MISSION

To share the Gospel with people and help them become passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

OUR VALUES

Faith, Authentic Worship, Transformation, Compassionate Ministry, Giving, Excellence, Relationships

OUR OBJECTIVES

A. **Connecting ... People to God and One Another in Christ**

Objective: To connect people to God through worship and to connect people to each other through fellowship.

1. Increase the campus capacity for future growth of worship participants to accommodate comfortable seating for double the current average, or a total of approximately 1,300, by December 31, 2020.
2. Enhance the on-campus experience by improving parking, signage and access points.
3. Improve efficiency, quality, and capacity of the facilities to accommodate one contemporary service, one traditional service, and one Grow Group time (including all supporting ministries) for both short term and long term growth expectations.
4. Improve quality and efficiency of the worship experience to promote worship participation and grow worship team leadership in sync with growth by December 31, 2020.
5. Update the church website and interaction with social media to broaden connections with church members and increase local impact by December 31, 2020.

B. **Growing ... Through God's Word in Small Group Discipleship**

Objective: To involve all of our members in a discipleship process of becoming mature and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

1. Engage 90% of regular worship attendees in Grow Group or one weekly Bible Study by December 31, 2020.
2. Identify and develop new and established Grow Groups and small group settings to facilitate discipleship.

C. **Serving ... Jesus Christ through Ministry and Mission**

Objective: To actively engage members in sharing the Gospel and in offering love and compassion for a hurting world.

1. Engage 90% of regular worship attendees in at least one area of ongoing ministry by December 31, 2020.
2. Maintain participation of at least 75% of regular worship attendees in mission projects.
3. Research, develop and present to the church a plan for developing a non-profit Mission Organization for local mission ministry by December 31, 2020.
4. Develop a world missional resource center to educate, resource and mobilize the church body by December 31, 2020.

D. **Supporting ... the Church through Faithful Stewardship**

Objective: To provide personnel, finances and facilities to support the life and ministry of the Church.

1. Promote an increase in budget giving by 10% per year through December 31, 2020.
2. Evaluate current facilities and develop a master plan to maximize current space and future expansion.

I am excited about how this concept brings our church together. These changes allow both the people here and those God wants us to reach: room to park, an environment to grow, and a place to worship and experience God's love and truth.

STEVE TYBOR, STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

THE CHURCH INTERIOR CONSULTANTS

In late October 2016, the church staff contacted Church Interiors, the premier church consulting firm for churches with current facilities needing renovation and expansion evaluations. The committee asked about ways to increase the seating capacity of the Sanctuary, along with an overall evaluation of Preschool, Children and Youth areas. The call led to the opportunity, with the approval of the Properties and Stewardship Committees, to engage Church Interiors in a process that would provide an overall evaluation of the church facilities to determine possible options and concepts for improved and additional space for parking, Preschool, Children, Youth and Sanctuary seating. The Lord provided this opportunity at an initial cost of less than one-half of the normal cost of \$8,000. The Properties and Stewardship Committees agreed for an initial concept evaluation cost of \$3,500.00 for the work from Church Interiors.

Church Interiors returned in late December 2016 with a proposed concept like the one presented to the church body on April 23, 2017. During the time Church Interiors was assessing our current facility, the Properties Committee continued to evaluate the most pressing need - the development of additional parking, along with an overlay of the existing parking lot.

The Need for Additional Parking

The current parking at FBCT provides approximately 294 parking spaces with no approved ADA handicapped parking currently available. Approximately four years ago, the church had an initial plan developed by ESI Engineering Firm of Tupelo, which determined that the west parking lot nearest the Main Office entrance could be reconstructed to provide easier access to the building by reducing the grade of the slope in the parking lot, including the development of the grass area due west of the church. Since the parking study four years ago, the church has acquired additional property due west of the back parking lot, as well as property due north of the church that should be included in the proposed parking lot renovation. Without full design work on the proposed parking areas, initial estimates indicate the possibility of 550-600 parking spaces.

The Need for Additional Space in the Building

Several ministries of the church are out of space. The three areas in critical need of space are the Preschool Ministry, the Children's Ministry and the Student Ministry. In addition to the education space needs, two other areas were identified: a recognizable main point of entry into the building and the expansion of the seating capacity in the Sanctuary. Note: Capacity of age group areas is based on industry recommended square footage.

The Preschool Ministry Area - 35 square feet per child

This area built in the most recent 1996 addition has reached its capacity. The current capacity of the Preschool area is 100 children; the current average attendance is 94. Current space does not provide room for additional growth at this time for the necessary square feet per child.

The Children's Ministry Area - 35 square feet per child

The current Children's area was constructed in 1966 and renovated in 1986. Current capacity for the Children's area is 90; the current average attendance on Sunday is 85. In addition, the children do not have a location other than the Fellowship Hall for large group meetings and activities.

The Student Ministry Area - 25 square feet per student

The current Student Ministry area was constructed in 1996 with a capacity of 95 students. The current average attendance on Sunday is 75, and on Wednesday nights between 80-100 meet in a large group space designed for 70 students.

The Identifying Main Point of Entry

During the meetings over the last several months, many members recalled their first visit to FBCT and the question of where to enter the building. The building currently provides twenty-one different access points. The identifying common entry point for many churches is the front steps; however, twenty-one front steps are not the best option for entering the building as identified by the 1984 Strategic Planning team. This discussion led Church Interiors to include an atrium concept as a common point of entry.

The Increased Seating Capacity of the Sanctuary

The current Sanctuary has a seating capacity of 400 people, including floor and balcony seating. Church growth studies indicate capacity is approximately 80% of seating capacity, which gives the current Sanctuary a capacity of 320 people on any given Sunday. Other limiting factors impacting our current Sanctuary include limited ingress and egress, as well as a small foyer for those entering or leaving the sanctuary.

BRINGING THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CHURCH INTERIORS CONCEPTS TOGETHER

The proposed concepts presented by Church Interiors enables the church to move towards the year 2020 with a plan to accomplish the goals and directions recommended by the Strategic Planning team and embraced by the Stewardship and Properties Committees. The work is proposed in two phases.

PHASE ONE: PARKING LOT RENOVATION/EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF THE ADULT AREA

ESTIMATED COST: \$975,000 - \$1,200,000

Parking Lot Renovation/Expansion

The current main parking lot will be renovated in its entirety and expanded to full capacity on adjacent property owned by the church. Renovations will include the following:

- ◇ Milling and overlay of the east side parking lot, the parking area north of the playground and the lower back parking lot.
- ◇ Removal and complete overhaul of the west side parking lot from the Fellowship Hall to Jefferson Street.



West side of parking lot—Whitfield House area

- ◇ Removal of the existing asphalt surface, followed by extensive dirt work to lower the grade on the west side and include the green space where the Whitfield house once stood. The renovations to this area will provide handicapped parking which meets ADA code and provides better access to the building for those with mobility limitations.
- ◇ Development of parking on the west and north property currently owned by the church. The development of these two areas will depend on city code and city drainage requirements.
- ◇ Installation of new and expanded LED lighting throughout all parking areas owned by the church.
- ◇ Installation of new and additional landscaping and irrigation as required by city code across the new parking areas.
- ◇ Installation of new landscape on the south side (Jefferson Street) of the church property.
- ◇ Installation of new exterior directional signage.
- ◇ Construction of a fenced, covered parking area for church vehicles and utility trailers.

Renovation of Adult Education Space (1 F Floor)

The Space utilized for Adult Grow Group classes, ESL and Choir Suite area will undergo a major renovation for the first time since being built in 1986. Work in this area will include the following:

- ◇ New LED lighting throughout the area.
- ◇ New ceiling tile.
- ◇ New painting throughout the Adult area.
- ◇ Creation of a new corridor where the current prayer room is located. Prayer room will be relocated to a location yet to be determined.
- ◇ New floor covering.
- ◇ New matching seating - some with arm rests and without arm rests.
- ◇ New wooden-slat blinds for the classrooms.
- ◇ Renovation of the restrooms located behind the Choir Room.
- ◇ Installation of multimedia in classrooms where the need is identified.

The Lord's direction has been evident in recent months as we have sought His will for the future of FBC Tupelo. We have now an exciting and unified vision of His plan to follow.

JON MILSTEAD, STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

It is awesome to see how God can put His plan in place. From discussions I've personally witnessed to our meetings with Church Interiors, the pieces just keep landing in place. Ideas are brought forth by one committee with no knowledge that the same ideas are being pursued by another committee.

God's plan will happen as long as we have faith!

My faith in Him has never let me down, so why should

I think it will start now!

BRAD MCCULLY, PROPERTIES COMMITTEE



West Side Parking



North Parking



Adult Education Space and Choir Suite

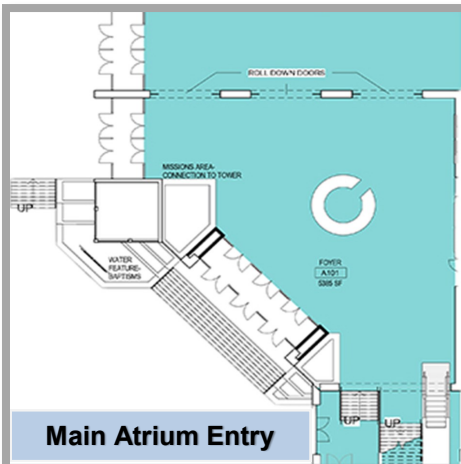
**PHASE TWO: CREATION OF MAIN ENTRY ATRIUM;
NEW PRESCHOOL, CHILDREN'S AND STUDENT MINISTRY
AREAS; RENOVATED SECOND FLOOR EDUCATION BUILDING;
AND SANCTUARY - ESTIMATED COST: \$6.5-\$8.9 MILLION**

Note: With church approval of the concept, a Feasibility Study will be completed to determine the best option for construction.

- A. Renovation of existing Children's building built in 1966 with additions on the east and west sides, OR**
- B. Demolition of the current Children's building and construction of a new building to meet current and future needs.**

Main Entry Atrium

- ◇ A building will be constructed on the west side of the current Children's building between the Main Office entrance and the west Grand Hall entrance.
- ◇ From this new main entry point, members and guests can access the Grand Hall/Fellowship Hall, and Sanctuary, and Adult Education space will be easily accessible.
- ◇ Restrooms in the Entry Atrium will meet a longstanding need to provide accessible restrooms for those entering the building and for the Fellowship Hall/Grand Hall areas.
- ◇ Parents of Preschoolers will be able to check in their children in the new main Atrium.
- ◇ This addition provides a much-needed connector between our two areas of greatest use: the Fellowship Hall/Grand Hall and the Sanctuary.



I am looking forward to our church being able to address the parking issues along with correcting the confusion of finding your way around our facilities that visitors often experience.

PRENTISS JOHNSON, DEACON

Main Atrium Entry Inside



Current Main Entry



Main Atrium Entry Composite



Main Atrium Entry Overlay

I am excited about this project and our church's future. I am specifically excited as a church greeter for how these concepts provide more parking spaces as well as easier access to our building for our senior adults and guests.

JACK MCFERRIN, STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

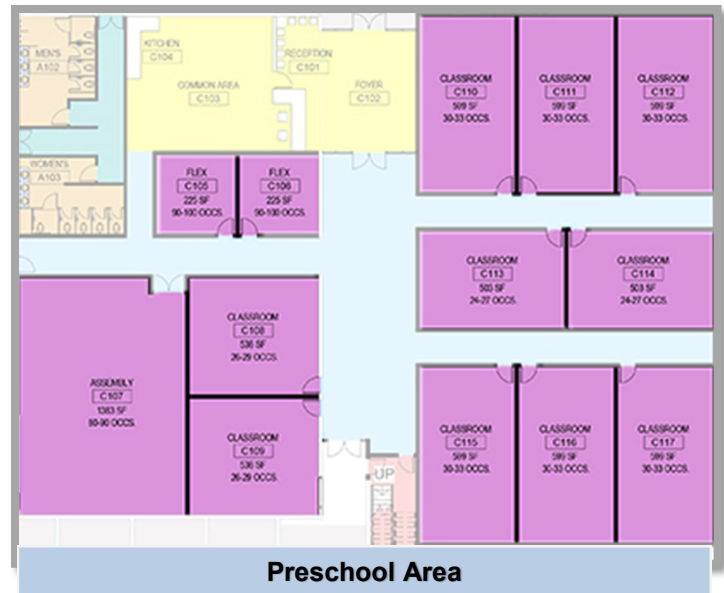
Preschool Area

The current Preschool space constructed in 1996 has provided many years of ministry but with great limitations. When the area was constructed, few churches had ever considered that future generations would have secure locked areas for Preschool Ministries.

- ◇ Fifteen years ago this need became a reality; therefore, a main north-south corridor was locked, limiting access with good flow throughout the building.
- ◇ The current space is designed for a capacity of 100. Our current average Sunday attendance is 94.
- ◇ The current space is not equipped to handle the many needs now required in Preschool Ministry; nor was the space designed for a full-time Day School Ministry with an enrollment of 140 plus children.
- ◇ Storage space is extremely limited.

As a preschool teacher and extended session worker, I am very excited about these proposed changes. These plans will provide an adequately designed, safe and secure space that will be large enough to accommodate growth that our current setup can't support.

RANDY GAMMILL, STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

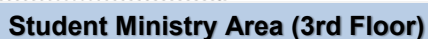


The Relocation of Preschool Ministry

- ◇ The proposed concept is to build a modern state-of-the-art Preschool area in the 1R building. This area would be on the backside of the new Atrium and would extend east to the handicapped parking area on the east side of the building to the point where the sidewalk currently comes in front of the Grand Hall entrance.
- ◇ The current Preschool area would be repurposed to house adult classes, an indoor play area, teacher resource/preparation rooms, and possibly a large group Preschool meeting space.



- ◇ The proposed concept will provide additional space for children along with a large group meeting space.
- ◇ The area will provide a main check point in the Children's Area, along with security enhancements.
- ◇ The main hallway passage from the upper foyer to the Sanctuary will be accessible during church-wide worship and event times. At other times the area will be secured.



JILL WEST, STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

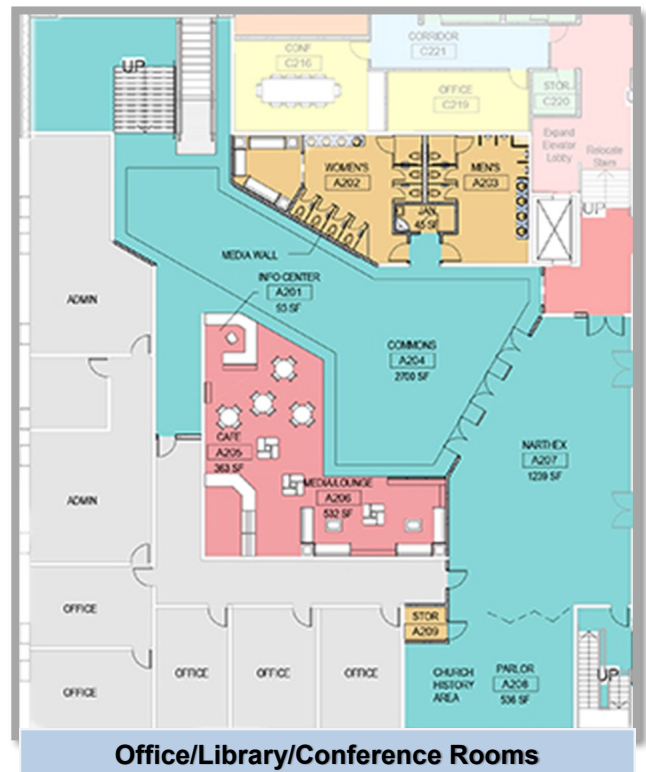
Student Ministry Relocation

The current Student Ministry area was constructed in 1996 with a capacity of 95 students. The current average attendance on Sunday is 75, and Wednesday nights between 80-100 in a large group space designed for 70 students.

- ◇ The current Student Ministry area will become Adult Grow Group space in the proposed concept.
- ◇ The proposed concept provides a new third-floor addition to the current Children's Building to house the new and expanded Student Ministry area.
- ◇ The current area utilized by the students was constructed in 1996. Space limitations currently exist in the area.
- ◇ A Feasibility Study will determine if an addition of this size can be achieved and the cost effectiveness of such an addition.

Education Building - Office/Library/Conference Rooms (2nd Floor)

- ◇ An enlarged foyer with a common informational area will be included in the area now occupied by the Library and center rooms on second floor.
- ◇ An enlarged Foyer and Commons area will provide much improved ingress and egress from the Sanctuary area.
- ◇ A quiet area with a glass foyer will separate the Sanctuary area from the Commons area.
- ◇ Renovated and enlarged restrooms will be installed.
- ◇ A bridal dressing area will be included.
- ◇ Corridor renovation on the second floor will provide open flow from the newly constructed Atrium to the Sanctuary, as well as open access from the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall.
- ◇ A second elevator will be installed in the area next to the steps on the west end of the Educational Building, providing additional access for the increased traffic.
- ◇ A pastoral greeting/ worship counseling area will be provided.
- ◇ The Library and some offices will be moved to an area yet to be determined. One possibility is transforming the Library into a bookstore-style area where church members can have easy access to the latest Christian reading, discipleship material, CDs and DVDs of services and sermons.

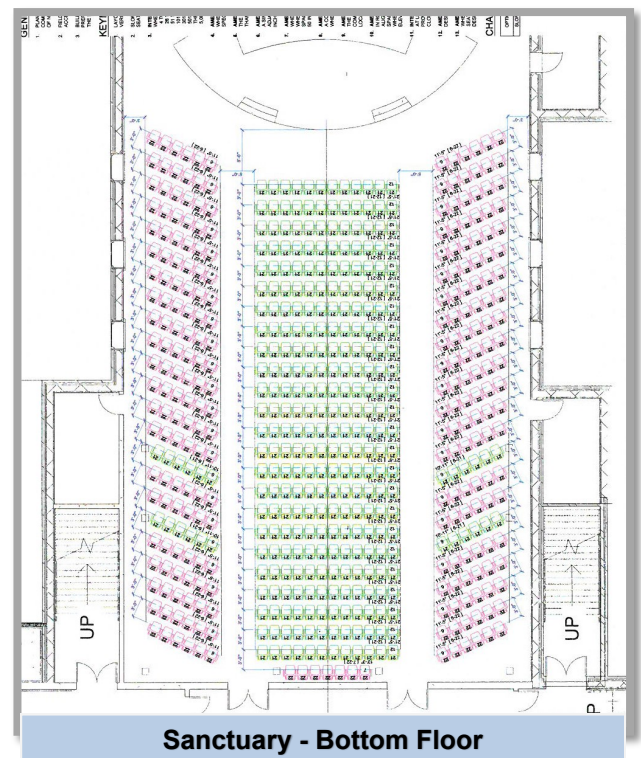


Office/Library/Conference Rooms

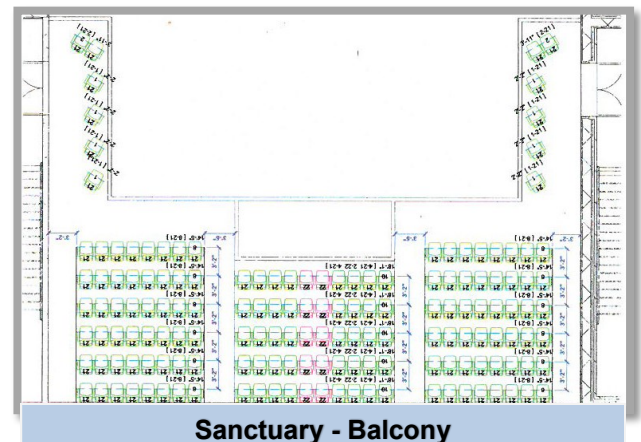
Sanctuary Expansion/Renovation

The current Sanctuary was built following the devastating fire in November 1950. Through the years the Sanctuary has undergone many renovations to meet the needs of the congregation. The proposed concept includes renovations to meet current and future needs to continue being a lighthouse from the corner of Church and Jefferson Street.

- ◇ The seating capacity of the Sanctuary will be increased from the current 400 to 729. This provides true seats by providing theatre-style seating on the main floor and in the balcony.
- ◇ All lighting in the Sanctuary will be replaced with more energy-efficient lighting. Current lighting is proving more challenging as regulations eliminate the production of bulbs currently used in the Sanctuary.
- ◇ The 67-year-old baptistery will be replaced. It has been patched almost beyond repair. The current heating, plumbing and material used in construction are well beyond life expectancy.
- ◇ The HVAC will be replaced with a more energy efficient system. The current system is inadequate and aging. Heating and cooling the building is challenging and costly. The proposed renovation will be all inclusive renovations—heating, baptistery, stage, sound system, flooring, HVAC and lighting.



Sanctuary - Bottom Floor



Sanctuary - Balcony

I think the main thing I'm most excited about is selecting the service we want to attend versus attending where our class we teach attends. We will be able to reunite our youth group and have solid leadership for each grade if we all are in Grow Groups at the same hour. We also will attract young families that are the future of FBCT. AMANDA ANGLE, TREASURER



Layout of Second Floor - Sanctuary, Office, Library, Conference Rooms, Children's Area



Overlay of Renovations

I am excited that this project will provide greater opportunity for all age groups to worship together. Fellowship is vital for unity within the church body and serves as a powerful witness to seekers of Christ's redeeming love! "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me ..." John 17:23

BETTY DICKEY
PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

Other Areas to be Addressed in the Proposed Concept Development

- World Mission Center
- Relocation of the Storage and Maintenance Shop Area
- Increasing accessibility to the interior areas of the building

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Listed below are some of the questions that have been asked by your staff, committee members, and Deacons.

How much will the proposed Phase One parking and Adult Education renovations cost?

With limited engineering work complete on the parking lot proposal and estimates on the Adult Education space, an initial cost estimate in the range between \$900,000-\$1,200,000 to complete Phase One. With the approval of the Phase One concept, the Church will approve funds to complete the study and bring a firm bid cost to the Church for approval.

How much will the proposed Phase Two work cost?

Initial estimates place completion costs in the \$6.5-\$8.9 million range for all concepts presented in Phase Two.

Why do we need to spend this much money when we currently have space that works?

- ◇ "What we are building today is not just for those of us currently at FBCT. We build for those that will come after us." (Stated by a member of 1997 Building Committee).
- ◇ The current parking limitations greatly hinder the ability of the Church to grow beyond our current membership. If there is no place to park, those seeking to come will never be able to experience the worship, love and growth opportunities at FBCT.
- ◇ The current layout of the Preschool, Children, and Student areas provides many challenges and limitations in ministry, such as access to key passage ways and impeding the flow of foot traffic through the building.
- ◇ Space will become even more of an issue in our worship areas as we grow. The space currently utilized by the 9:45 a.m. service is approaching capacity.
- ◇ The relocation of our Preschool, Children and Student Ministries will strategically locate all three age groups in the center of the building so that parents will be an equal distance, whether located in the Fellowship Hall end of the building or on the south end of the building in the Sanctuary.

Will the front steps or corner sign change in any way?

The iconic 21 front steps leading to the Sanctuary will not be changed, and the sign will continue to identify this body as First Baptist Church of Tupelo.

Where will the Maintenance Shop and Storage areas be relocated?

One concept is to take the front of the Gym lobby and create an area for the Maintenance Shop and Storage; however, this question will be answered through deeper study.

Will the church be able to return to two worship times and one Grow Group before Phase Two is complete?

With the space limitations discussed in regard to the various age groups and lack of space for adult expansion, the return to one Bible Study time is not feasible without the proposed renovations. In regard to the worship space, seating limitations (80% capacity being 320) of 640 in two services would greatly limit the space available for growth. The optimal time for returning to two worship times and one Grow Group will be at the completion of the renovations in Phase Two.

How will the work proceed?

Upon approval by the Church, the Properties Committee will constitute a Building Committee as prescribed by the Constitution and By Laws and submit those enlisted to the Church. Once constituted, the Building Committee will continue discussions with ESI Engineering of Tupelo and Church Interiors to determine feasibility of Phase One and Phase Two. The committee will work with the two companies to prepare plans and cost estimates for Phase One parking renovations and Phase Two building renovations/additions. All proposals and cost estimates will be presented to the Church for approval. In addition to the work of the Building Committee, the Stewardship Committee will proceed with determining the best possible means for bringing a Capital Campaign to the Church to raise the funds necessary for construction.

Where will Grow Group and worship meet during the renovations?

Some classes and the Sanctuary will need to be closed at various specified times. At that time, worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall and classes will be relocated as needed.

What other needs will be addressed in the work?

- ◇ The fire alarm system will be updated. Currently our system is operating by two systems, one built in 1986 and one built in 1997, merged into one system. The system is outdated, and replacement parts are no longer available. Parts must be found on Amazon or Ebay to keep the system running.
- ◇ The burglar alarm system will be replaced. The current system is approximately 31 years old.
- ◇ It will be determined by code if a fire suppression (sprinkler system) will be required in the renovation.
- ◇ Additional security cameras and door lock systems will be installed.

How will the funds be raised to pay for the proposed work?

Upon approval to proceed, the Church will authorize the Stewardship Committee to determine the best possible means by which to raise the necessary funds.

How much will we need on hand to start the work?

The goal is to do the work debt-free. With that goal in mind, the Stewardship Committee will recommend a percentage of funds to be raised for each phase before work starts.

Why doesn't the church just borrow the money and do all the work in a timely manner?

- ◇ First and foremost, the Church trusts that the Lord will provide for where He leads his people. If the Lord leads the church to do the proposed work, then we must trust that His provision through the faithfulness of His people is sufficient to provide the needed funds.

- ◇ Secondly, the First family has twice previously given testimony of the Lord's faithfulness in building without long-term debt. The 1986 and 1997 projects were built without long-term debt.
- ◇ Long-term debt assumed by God's people removes the faith of His people that He will provide.
- ◇ Long-term debt places limitations on the Church's ability to do ministry. For example, an average monthly payment on a \$10,000,000 30-year note would be \$48,000 a month, with more than \$7,000,000 in interest over the 30-year life of the note.

If we go back to two services, will those services be identical?

With a return to two services, the services will be distinctly different in worship style. The first service will have a more traditional worship style with choir like our current 11:00 a.m. service. The second service will be the contemporary service much like the 9:45 a.m. service now held in the Fellowship Hall.

I do not like to ask questions in a large group meeting.

How can I get more information?

Individuals have the opportunity to come at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday night, April 23, and hear answers to questions submitted by the congregation on Sunday morning. This time will be followed by questions and answers from the floor. Additional times for small-group discussion will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary on the following days: Wednesday, April 26; Sunday, April 30; and Wednesday, May 3. You may also contact Bro. Matt, Bro. Lee, Bro. Ricky, Bro. Randy, Bro. Shandy or Miss Carrie, as well as members of the Strategic Planning, Properties, and Stewardship Committees.

What am I voting for on May 7?

There will be a joint three-part recommendation which will be voted on by the congregation at the close of each morning worship service on Sunday morning, May 7, 2017, in a Special Called Business Meeting.

I will be out of town on May 7. Can I vote absentee?

Yes. Absentee ballots will be available in the church office during regular office hours Monday, May 1 - Friday, May 5. All absentee votes must be cast in person. No electronic votes will be accepted.

2016-17 Strategic Planning Committee:

Fred Flatt, Jim Johnson, Janie Lee, Michele McBride, Jack McFerrin, Jon Milstead, Steve Tybor, Mitch Waycaster, Jill West

2016-17 Stewardship Committee:

Amanda Angle, Debbie Arnold, Randy Gammill, Justin Griffin, Mark Ledbetter, Mike Robinson, Keith Vandersteeg, Amanda Angle, Treasurer

2016-17 Properties Committee:

Donna Cox, Betty Dickey, Scott Emison, Brad McCully, Hugh Holcomb, Shad Lamb, Tony Miles, Paul Poland, Christy Waycaster

Deacons' Meeting, April 2017:

Active Present - Alan Brown, Jonathan Chaney, Cory Dewett, Danny Dickey, Fred Flatt, Tim Harrell, Bryan Henderson, Lee Henderson, Don McCain, Gerald Pittman, Palmer Triplett

Inactive Present - Scott Angle, Frankie Blackmon, David Blackwell, Larry Booth, Elmer Clark, Curt Collins, Jeff Cox, Ivy Duvall, Scott Emison, James Floyd, Justin Griffin, David Hall, Hal Hancock, Jim Harris, Prentiss Johnson, George Mason, Jack McFerrin, Paul Poland, Bill Smothers, David Smothers, Steve Tybor, Greg Warnick, Kenny Weems and Kenneth Wicker

Meeting Times for Small Group Questions and Answers

Sunday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 26, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 30, 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3, 5:00 p.m.

All meetings will be in the Sanctuary.

**Commitment Sunday
May 7, 2017**

On Sunday morning, May 7, 2017, you will be asked to vote by ballot, on the proposed "2020 Vision" three-part joint recommendation as listed below.

Joint Recommendation to the Congregation of First Baptist Church of Tupelo, MS from the Strategic Planning Committee, the Properties Committee, and the Stewardship Committee

Three-part Joint Recommendation regarding the 2020 vision for First Baptist Church of Tupelo

- Adopt the Strategic Long Range "2020 Vision" Plan as recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Approve the Parking and Building Renovation/ Construction Concepts as presented and authorize the Properties Committee to constitute a "2020 Vision" Building Committee to determine the best and most feasible means by which to realize the proposed concepts and report to Church for approval to proceed with "2020 Vision" Phase One and "2020 Vision" Phase Two as funds become available.
- Authorize the Stewardship Committee to determine the best and most feasible means by which to raise the necessary capital funds for the "2020 Vision" Plan and recommend to the Church for approval.

It has been an honor to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee. God has led the way and I am looking forward to seeing First Baptist join with Him as He continues to lead us.

The opportunities to grow as a church family and to share the love of Christ that will be possible with this new plan and schedule are so exciting.

MICHELE MCBRIDE, STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

I love our church for what it has meant to me, my family and this community. I want FBCT to continue to impact lives into the future. We need to be prepared to touch lives and minister to people.

DONNA COX, PROPERTIES COMMITTEE