



The Happenings

SPECIAL EDITION

A Vision for the Future

Our Purpose and Mission

*To share the love of God, by serving within our church, community and beyond;
and to develop and empower passionate followers of Jesus Christ.*

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Dearest Fine People,

This special edition of the *Happenings* is designed to help us to envision our future. The center section is a view of the *Master Plan*. A Master Plan points to something bigger than we actually are at the moment. Remember that a Master Plan is closely associated with our understanding of *Vision*. A Vision is a clear mental image of a preferable future, given by God, based on an accurate (*faithful*) understanding of God, what God calls us to be, and our circumstances. A vision is always larger than we are, but it helps us to move forward and it helps us to visualize what is possible. On **May 31st** we will be voting on whether or not God is calling us to take on a *vision*.

In order to reach that vision (*which is rarely done in a straight line*), phases are created... or **goals**. The various goals, when met, will allow us to begin the next phase or goal toward the vision. A goal is definable. It's collaborative and interdependent. Each phase noted on the drawing is definable and is one piece of the whole. The proper sequencing of a phase makes it possible for the future goals to be more smoothly and efficiently attained. Another way of saying this: Without phasing (*or goals*) we practice poor stewardship and we risk building something that does not adequately meet our current or future needs.

Also included in this edition are *questions* that have been asked by you. *Answers* are provided, and it is hoped that you will read this edition of the *Happenings* carefully before coming to the meeting on May 31st. To some of you the answers are obvious, but all questions are valid, and the more *knowledge* we have the less *fear* has a chance of blinding and binding us.

What exactly will we be voting on at the May 31st meeting?

We are voting to approve the Master Plan as presented by the Visioning Team. The renderings have been hung in the lobby area of the church and in Mauldin Hall. Members of the Visioning Team are there on Sundays before and after both services to further explain and answer your questions. The Master Plan is a vision for the future of our ministry, of the facilities that we will need for that mission, and an exercise in the stewardship of our time, talents, and treasury.

If we approve the Master Plan, what happens?

We will move on to the design development phase with the architect. In the fall, The Vision Team will bring, first to the Session and then to the congregation, both the design development drawings and estimated costs for Phase I.

Before we commit to any construction there will be two more congregational votes:

- (1) authorization for us to move forward with a capital campaign
- (2) after the outcome of the campaign, authorization to move forward with construction

This is an exciting time at First Presbyterian, and your involvement with our church home is needed. Be part of the promise that is ours in Christ. He will work it for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes... and I believe we are. I'll see you in worship.... and don't forget to bring one of your unchurched friends along.

Much love and peace, *Rebekah*

The following are questions that have arisen as we move closer to the May 31st meeting. Hopefully, the answers will allow you to come more prepared as we vote on moving forward with a Master Plan.

Q: What is our membership?

A: As of December 31, 2008, we have 517 active members.

Q: What is our worship attendance?

A: In 2008, Christmas Eve was the high with 635; the low was July 6 with 335.

Q: Is our attendance affected seasonally?

A: Yes. When our winter visitors are here we average around 400, and during the rest of the year, around 370.

Q: How many does the current sanctuary hold?

A: There are 168 pewlets, which could accommodate 336 if every single *pewlett* had two people sitting on it... including the front rows. Including the choir it seats around 370.

Q: If we approve the Master Plan and move into a Design Development of Phase I, how much will that cost?

A: Approximately \$45,000 including architectural, engineering and consulting fees.

Q: What is the design development phase?

A: There are four phases remaining to complete a building. They are: a) Design Development phase; b) Construction Document phase; c) Bidding/Negotiation phase and; d) Construction phase. The Design Development phase includes further refinement of the site plan and of the building wall sections. It also includes exterior elevations, materials and details necessary for the preparation of Design Development drawings in sufficient detail needed to estimate the cost of construction. The Visioning Team will come back to the congregation with these drawings and cost estimates in the fall if we vote on May 31 to approve the Master Plan.

Q: How much was spent for the master plan?

A: Approximately \$38,000 including architectural, engineering, and consulting fees.

Q: Why is the Master Plan phased?

A: The plan is phased to prioritize the church's needs to more effectively live our mission and to be good stewards of the church's resources. While each phase must be functional without dependence on future phases, it must be built so that it anticipates the remaining phases. For example—making sure the sewer lines put in for phase I are easily tied into for the following phases.

Q: What will happen in phase I?

A: In Phase IA, Campbell Hall (approx. 2000 sq. feet) will be replaced with a classroom building of approximately 5500 sq. feet that will include new bathrooms. In phase IB, the kitchen will be remodeled and will include the area that now houses the bathrooms in Mauldin Hall. Also in phase IB, the closets on the west side of Mauldin Hall will be removed, allowing for seating of about 40 more people in Mauldin Hall fellowship gatherings. The area in Mauldin Hall currently covered by flat roofs and the new classroom building will share a peaked roof.

Q: Why address classroom space, kitchen renovation and fellowship space as Phase I instead of building a new sanctuary?

A: If our worship attendance were to balloon, additional worship services could be created to address not only "*comfort*" in numbers, but also alternative worship experiences to draw those who are seeking a closer relationship with Christ. Phase I will help address our core values as a church that will, in turn, develop growth in discipleship and worship.

By addressing our immediate call for more classroom space, and by enhancing our current facilities that would empower the mission ministries of the church (*such as Meals-on-Wheels; food preparation for feeding the homeless off site, youth; fellowship gatherings of the congregation that involve food/ meals, reception area and community services, etc...*), we will be able to continue our forward momentum in being faithful to Christ and his purposes for our church family.

Q: Why do we need to remove Campbell Hall?

A: Phase I more effectively adds additional space for current uses of Campbell Hall and also includes accessible bathrooms and kitchen usage for the frequent utilization of this part of our facility. Also, the electrical and AC are inadequate. Plumbing is non-existent. The new, flexibly laid-out classroom spaces could more appropriately fit the needs of the church, youth groups, outside groups and provide necessary restrooms to facilitate all functions.

Q: But what about the hand prints?

A: The hand prints have become a very important part of the tradition of the youth of the church. However, the paint is wearing away, and the youth do not utilize Campbell Hall because of its poor condition. As a result, the youth began to duplicate their hand prints on tile which can be relocated to any new space at any time in our future. Former youth members can come back and put their handprints on moveable tiles, if they so choose.

Q: How many outside groups use Campbell Hall, Mauldin Hall, Discipleship House on Morgan Street?

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Campbell Hall	NA (50) Noon NA (75) 6pm	NA (50) Noon NA (100) 7:30pm	NA (50) Noon	NA (50) Noon NA (50) 8pm	NA (50) Noon NA (75) 6-8pm AA (50) 8:15-9:15pm	
Mauldin Hall	ALANON (10) Room B 8:15pm AA (40) Room A 8:15pm WOMEN'S INVEST- MENT GROUP (10) Room 7 3 rd Mon 7-9pm	TOPS (20) Room A 5:30 AA (20) Room B 8pm OHMBUDS -MEN (40) Room D 3 rd Tuesday 9:30am-3pm		AA (15) Room D 8:15	WIDOW/ WIDOWERS (30) Room D 1 st Fri of Month 1-2pm AA (25) Room D 7pm STITCHERS (20) Room A	AA (40) Room A 8:15pm
Disciple- ship House	DAISY SCOUTS (18) 6:30pm		BROWNIES (10) Every other Wed 3pm			CODA (10) 10:30am

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous

Alanon—Families of Alcoholics

NA—Narcotics Anonymous

CODA—Co-Dependency Anonymous

TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Q: Why is so much importance placed on the remodeling of the kitchen?

A: The current kitchen was dedicated in May 1963. A cosmetic renovation was done by lay persons years later. In essence, we are using the same kitchen we were using in 1963 when our membership was approximately 150, when our ministry to the community around us was minimal by comparison. The existing equipment challenges, rather than aids, food preparers. Plumbing problems have been persistent; space is inefficiently used. The kitchen does not meet current building codes or fire codes. There is not enough refrigeration or ventilation or drainage. The A/C is inadequate.

Q: Why do we need more fellowship space?

A: Mauldin Hall was designed to be multi-purpose... a sanctuary on Sunday mornings and a fellowship hall the rest of the week. It was designed to hold 150 people comfortably. We now have 517 active members. Adjacent rooms are cut-off from sound or visual access to the speakers or performers. Use of the main overhead screen or other visual aids compromises the viewers line of sight from many parts of the room, further limiting seating capacity. There is no room for growth.

Q: What about the improvements that have been made this past year? Will construction ruin it?

A: It would be very poor stewardship to re-work what has carefully and thoughtfully been renovated. The changes that have happened were done in consultation with the Visioning Team so that the changes would fit in nicely with the Vision. The recent work is beautiful, and has served as an inspiration to the Visioning Team to create the phasing that we are presenting to the congregation.

Q: Is construction going to affect the preschool?

A: The preschool ministry will be maintained throughout construction and will ultimately be expanded in later phases. All of the ministries of the church will be affected in some ways by the construction, including the preschool. Construction should not hinder the day-to-day functioning of the school.

Q: Are the A/C problems going to be addressed?

A: Yes, they are. All future air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, security and fire systems will be improved as a part of the ongoing work, with more efficient systems put in place. Air conditioning is a high priority on our list.

Q: What about those awful flat roofs?

A: The goal is to do away with all flat roofs, which will be a major part of Phase I renovations, should adequate funds be available.

**Should the Master Plan be strongly received, the following Financial Questions,
with varied answers, have been asked**

Q: The economy is awful. Why are we even talking about building?

A: Any expansion is being driven by our calling to be faithful to the mission and ministry we have been given. The reason we do ministry does not change because of the economy. In fact, the ministry needs grow because of the bad economy. We are called to respond faithfully, moving forward... not backwards, being the good stewards of all that God has given us.

Q: How are we going to pay for Phase IA and IB?

A: Any of the phases will be paid for through capital campaigns. The Foundation for the Future currently has \$229,513.34. The annual budget of the church has \$6000.00 going into the Foundation each month as though we were paying for a mortgage. This practice was started when our church became debt free two years ago, in order to illustrate that we can afford sustaining *reasonable* debt without hindering the strength of our ongoing mission and ministry. The more a capital campaign receives, the smaller the debt incurred.

Q: When would a capital campaign start?

A: If the Master Plan is overwhelmingly approved on May 31st, then another congregational meeting will be conducted within 3-6 months to examine the Design Development drawings and construction cost estimates and approve entering into a capital campaign for Phase I.

Q: Does the church have enough members contributing to support this kind of construction expansion?

A: Yes. The number of members contributing gifts to support the church is above the national average. There are some members and friends of the church who have expressed a desire to contribute up-front financial support to the construction expansion. Ultimately the favorable responses to the capital campaign will answer this question.

Q: How much is this going to cost?

A: If the Master Plan is approved, the next step will be to have design development drawings and construction pricing estimates prepared for Phase I.

Q: How long will all of this take?

A: If the congregation approves the Master Plan on May 31st, and then approves a capital campaign for Phase I by year-end, and enough financial gifts are contributed, then construction of Phase I could start in 2010.