



Dear First Baptist Family,

This handout has two parts, both important to our life together as Conway's First Baptist Church. **The pages in first part support and enhance today's presentations from the Deacons and Building Team. The second part, though most important, is "An Invitation to Prayer."** The "Invitation" is for you to join your brothers and sisters in Christ at FBC in prayer for two weeks and a day. From today through November 11, you are invited to join your pastor, staff and deacons in prayer as we, specifically, ask God's guidance regarding the "what next" in our adventure as the Body of Christ in this time and place.

God is at work among us. How wonderful!

Grace and peace.

## Why We're Here Today – Bob Guffey

- To honor God
- To pray for discernment
- To move forward a vision for ministry

## **Biblical Backgrounds: *Giving Structural Support for Effective Ministry: Buildings, Teams, and Budgets***

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, “*they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means*”
- Luke 8:1-3, “*who provided for them out of their resources*”
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, “*for the rendering of this ministry*”

## What That Means in Today's Context

- As a particular congregation listens for God's call to ministry to the congregation in a particular time and place, that congregation faces the challenge of answering the call to ministry and of providing the structural support that makes ministry possible.
- We create and adopt an annual operating budget because we believe God would have us be involved in ministries of worship, discipleship, fellowship, missions and outreach.
- As individual Christians, God calls upon us to evaluate regularly our giving against the call to be faithful, sacrificial, and joyful in our giving.
- Through meaningful conversations, courageous decisions, and faithful implementation of our sense as a congregation of God's call to ministry in this time and place, we seek to implement plans to provide the best structural tools possible for reaching the people God has called us to reach.

## **Why We're Here This Morning: Presentation and Information**

1. Pastoral Preface
2. Overview from Deacons
3. Building Team Details
4. Q&A as time allows\*  
(\*Remember the other meetings.)
5. Prayers

## **The Proposal Regarding the Minister to Children and Adult Education**

1. The Need (Children's Min./Min. of Ed. in a Baptist Church)
2. The Funding Mechanism
  - a. A Fitting Memorial
  - b. The Entrepreneurial Moment
3. Return to the Deacons for Further Review

## A Brief Overview on the Two Proposals from the Deacons – Michael Barnett

### **PROPOSAL 2-Proposed Amendment**

#### **Recommendation from the Deacons to the Congregation Regarding the Snider Property**

*The Deacons of First Baptist Church Conway unanimously recommend to the congregation the motion to sell the property at 801 Sixth Avenue, known to the congregation as the Snider Property or Snider House, and apply the funds to the building program recommended in Proposal 1, ~~except for a portion of the proceeds, up to \$150,000, which would be set aside to supplement the first three years' salary for a full-time Minister to Children and Adult Education. (As required in the Bylaws, the position of Minister to Children and Adult Education, as it would be a new position, will be presented by the Deacons to the congregation at the November 11, 2007, Quarterly Business Meeting, also.)~~.*

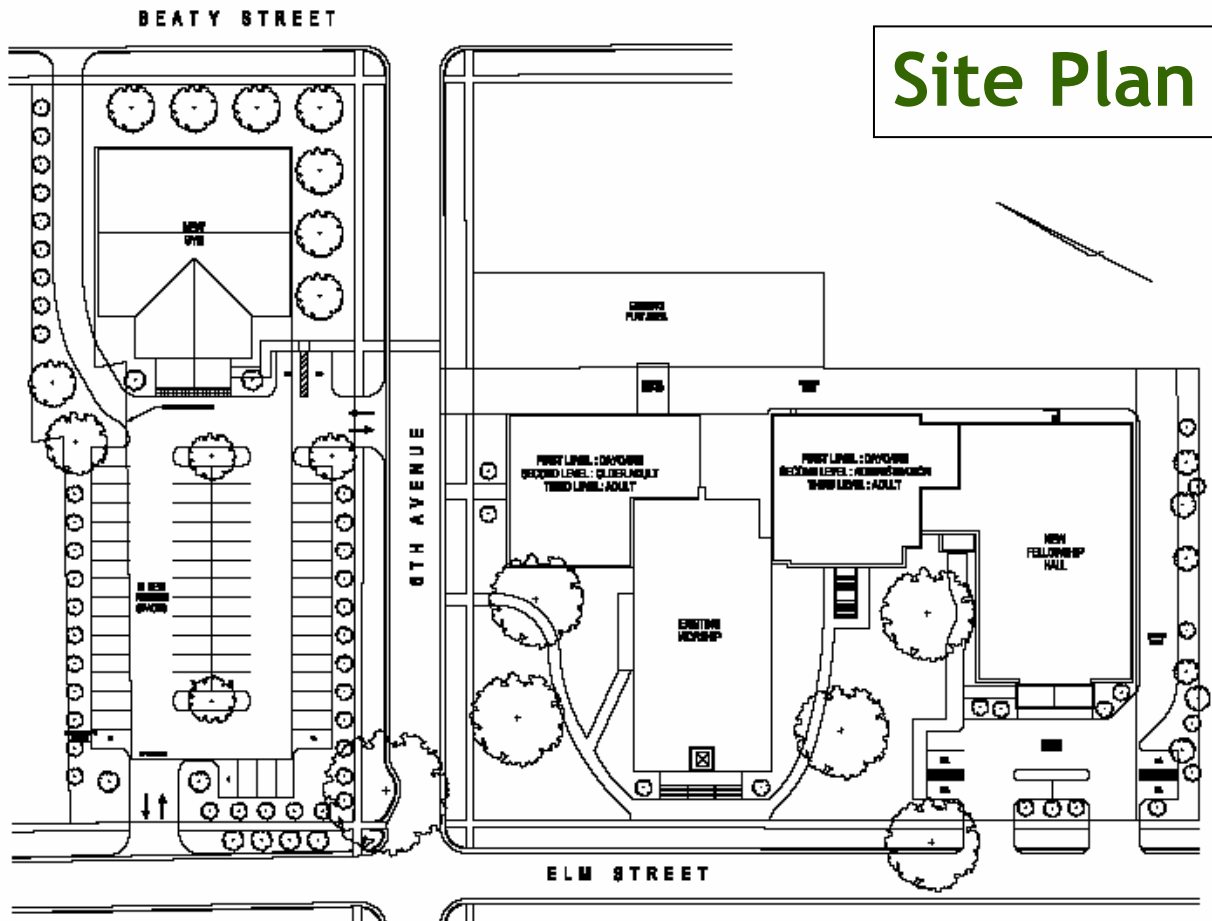
Building Team Details – Hal Holmes

**PROPOSAL 1**

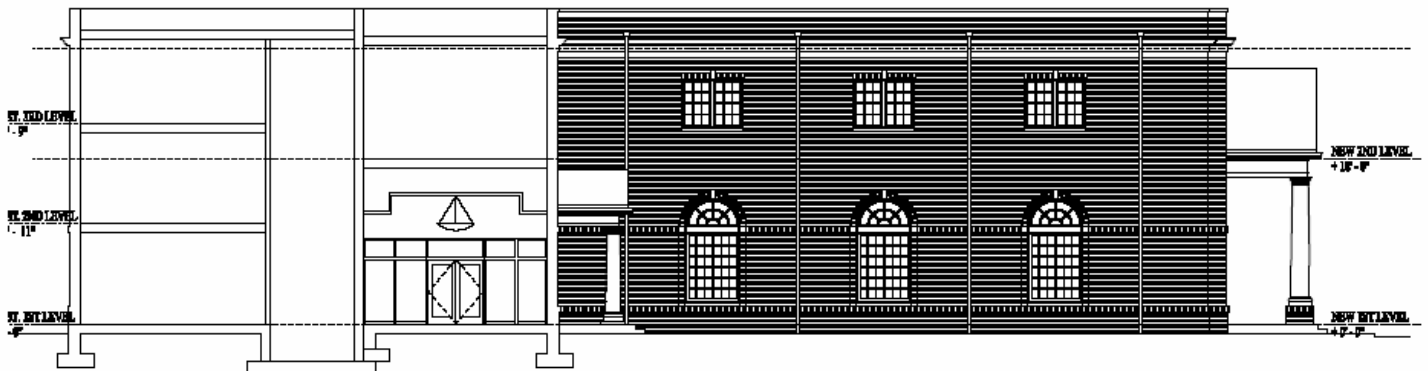
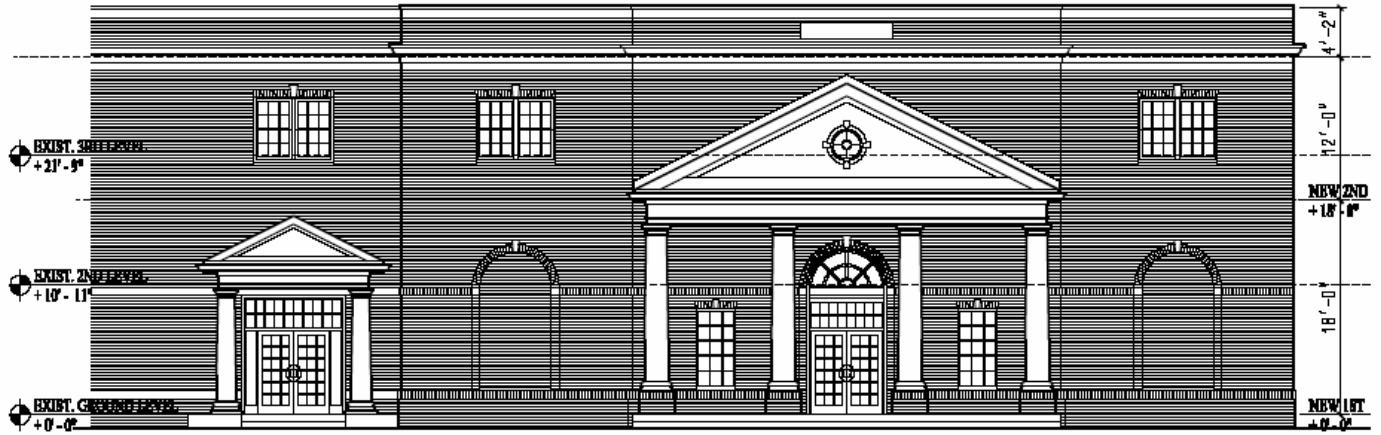
**Recommendation from Deacons  
to the Congregation  
Regarding a New Building Program**

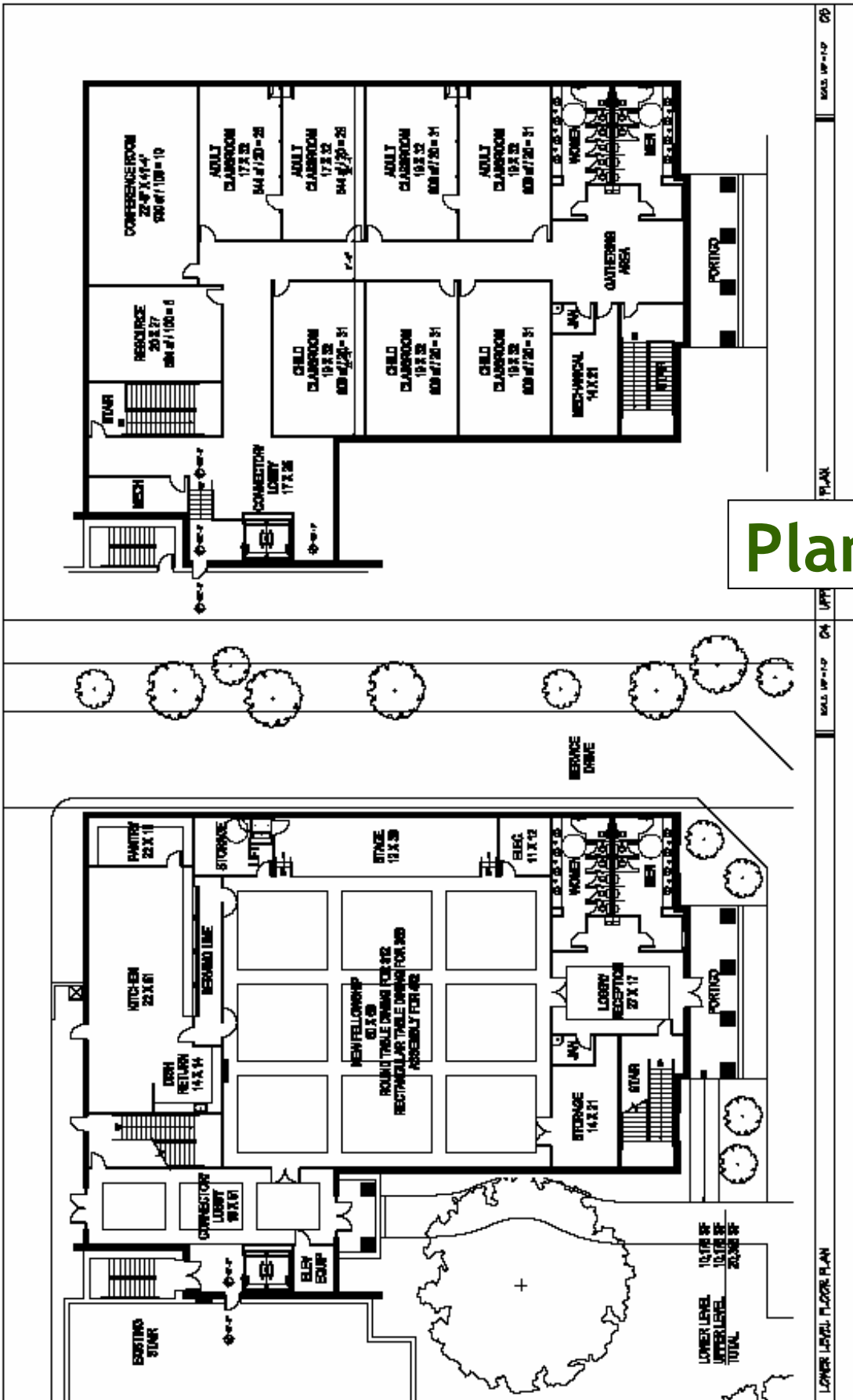
*The Deacons of First Baptist Church Conway unanimously recommend to the congregation the following program as reported to the Deacons by the Building Team to meet the space and ministry needs of our congregation in its entirety:*

**First**, the construction in our current parking lot of a 20,000 square foot building with a kitchen and fellowship space on the first floor and educational space on the second floor, in general conformity with the schematic drawings and floor plans to be presented at the Sunday, October 28 congregational meeting. The estimated cost of this is approximately \$3,500,000. Upon completion, this building shall be named “Snider Hall” in loving memory of Evelyn Mayo Snider and her mother, Maud Mayo Snider.



# Elevations

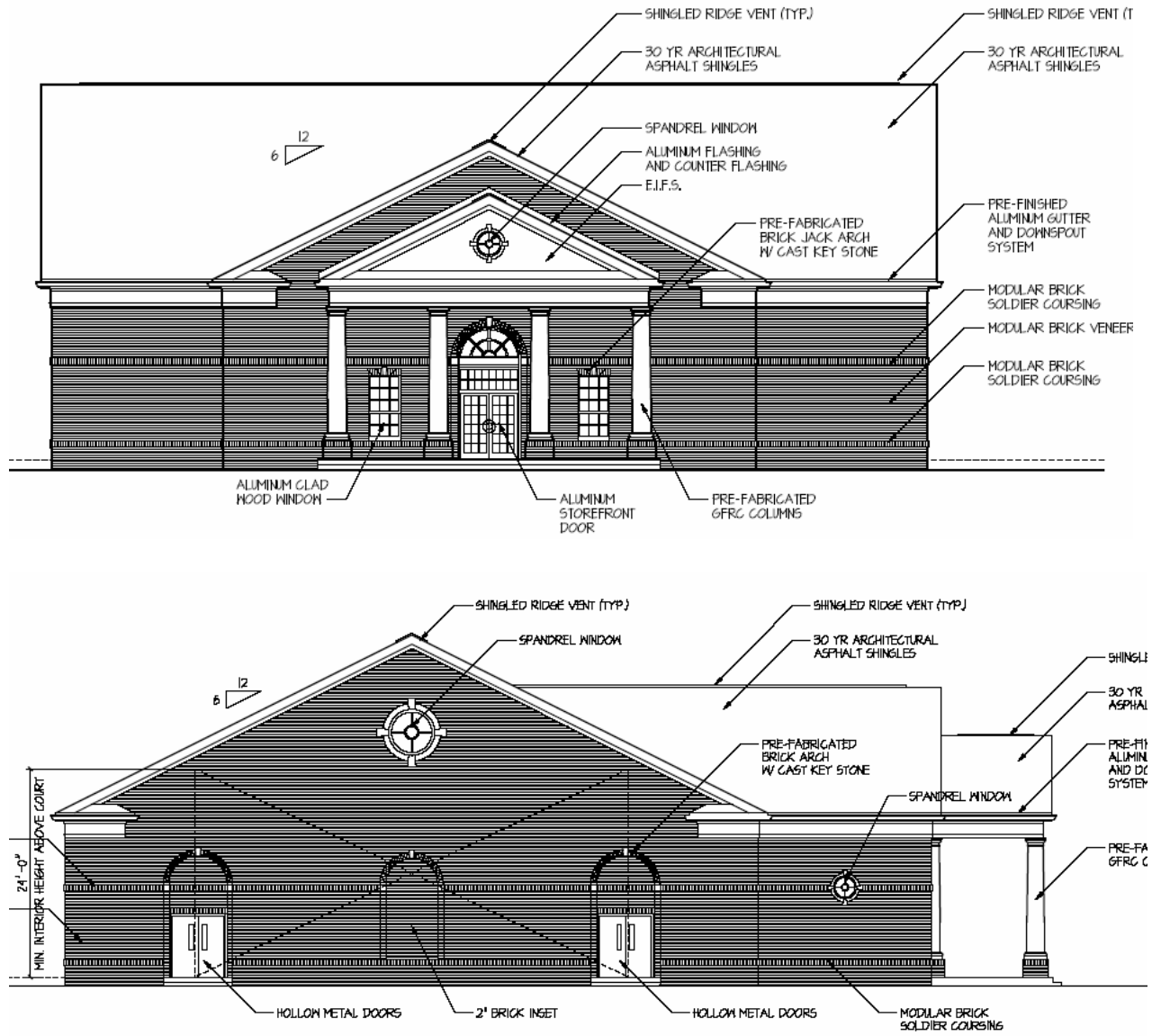


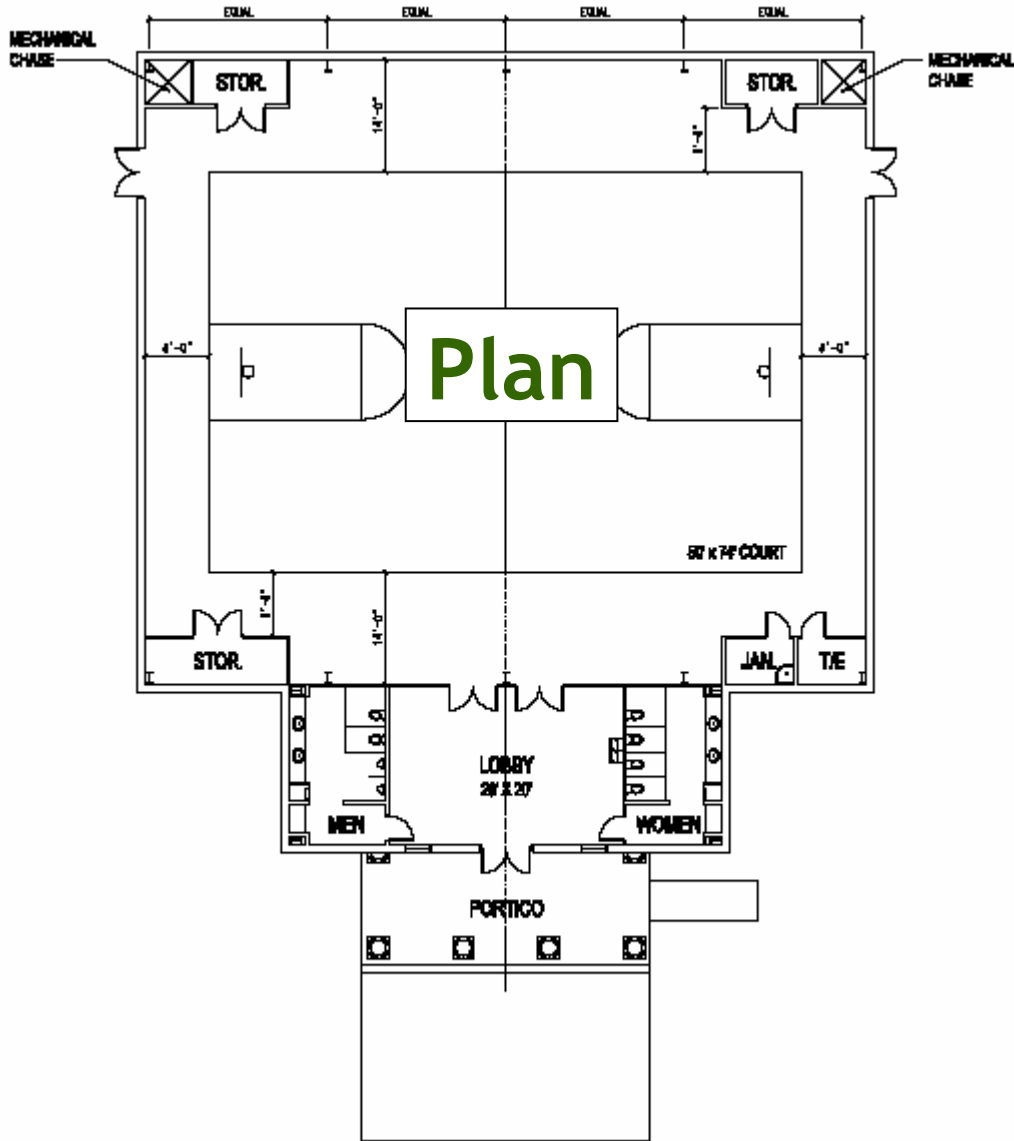


# Plans

Second, the construction of a pre-engineered steel building with an appropriate brick veneer exterior for use in activities ministries for all ages. The estimated cost of this is approximately \$1,000,000.

# Elevations





**Third**, the two houses owned by the church on existing properties at 1104 Sixth Avenue and 508 Beaty Street be razed and the lots graded and grassed for use as parking.

**Fourth**, if this plan meets with the approval of the congregation, that a capital campaign be undertaken as soon as feasible to obtain a combination of commitments and cash contributions (including the existing Petrey Fund) sufficient to pay off the existing church debt (approximately \$550,000) and to pay at least 60% of the expected construction costs (approximately \$2,700,000), prior to obtaining final architectural drawings or any construction contract. This is necessary to demonstrate our commitment and to facilitate the financing of the entire cost of the project.

**Twenty Benefits for the Church's Ministry  
Provided by the New Building Plan  
and Renovation of Existing Space  
for Education and Fellowship Ministries**

1. Challenges the Congregation to the vision of meeting significant current church ministry needs and provides for the future growth of ministry and mission on our campus through the first major expansion of space for growth since 1960.
2. Follows building priorities based on the April 2007 Congregational Survey.
3. Successfully addresses most of the challenges and needs raised by the Congregation during consideration of the previous Family Life Building Proposal, including: (a) total project cost; (b) connecting the new building to the existing facilities; and, (c) size of the building relative to the neighborhood and the architectural characteristics of our current buildings.
4. Doubles space for Children, grades 1–6, in new space designed to meet their developmental needs.
5. Doubles space for Students, grades 7–12, and includes new student/youth recreation (computer, video, table games, and student lounge) space on the third floor of the Administration Building.
6. Increases space for Younger Adults for Sunday morning Bible study in new space.
7. Provides space for every existing adult Sunday School class, including those meeting across the streets, with room for new classes.
8. Creates a new Fellowship Hall space to about double our current seating capacity and that, by design, could function as an attractive performance or special meetings space.
9. Brings the growth capacity of our Sunday School space more in complement to the growth capacity of our worship space.

10. Includes video and Internet capabilities in all new and most other education spaces.
11. Requires relatively minimal refurbishment of the current Education Building.
12. Honors current space use by Senior Adults on Sunday mornings with minimal changes.
13. Adds elevator access to the Administration Building.
14. Increases access to all buildings for persons with disabilities.
15. Creates multiple Sunday morning “Welcome Centers.”
16. Provides at four new classrooms for Lovell Weekday Ministries, provides indoor play space, and dedicates use of the current kitchen to LWM use.
17. Provides new multi-purpose space in an activities building on the Beaty Street property, across the street from the current Fellowship Hall, to enhance ministries to all age groups and LWM.
18. Redevelops the church’s properties across Elm Street and Sixth Avenue for parking.
19. Realizes a minimal net loss of parking spaces by reutilization of existing properties.
20. Honors great friends of FBC, Evelyn Mayo and Maud Mayo Snider, and their commitment to the spiritual development of Children, Students and Adults.

Questions?

Parting Comments and Prayer – Bob Guffey

# An Invitation to Prayer

✠Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you,  
the part that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before.  
—C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

## THE CONTEXT AND PURPOSE OF OUR PRAYING/Bob Guffey

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*The Church is created by God and called into being to embody and express the spirit of Christ. Our mission and calling as Conway's First Baptist Church is to: Proclaim the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ; Teach the essentials of the Christian life as revealed in God's Holy Word; Nurture Christian growth and service through worship, teaching, training, fellowship; Minister in love to the needs of the community, and Cooperate with other Christians in reaching out to the whole world.*  
(FBC Bylaws and Constitution)

Do you ever wonder what sets apart congregations that effectively reach people and those that do not? Some churches fail to reach people because they lack resources in leadership and financial stewardship. Some fail to reach people because they exist in communities that are apathetic or hostile to the Gospel. Some fail because their efforts have turned inward on themselves, their needs and perceived problems. Others fail because they lack significant spiritual vision to see the need to reach people.

Congregations that excel in reaching people are those that: (1) pray for God's guidance and direction; (2) seek to understand the context for ministry that God has given them; (3) seek to discover where God is at work in the church, the community and the world; and, (4) invest significant resources in planning and joining God in God's work. These congregations have defined their purpose, or objectives, for a given *time* and *place*, and have acted with intention to carry them out.

As we consider the recommendations from the Deacons regarding proposals that will impact our future, it is important to seek God's will and to ask God to help us discern the path to take and the choices to make. *For fifteen days, from today through November 11, let us join our hearts, minds and spirits in prayer.* Plans and buildings are not everything. The body of Christ transcends buildings. Like budgets and team structures, buildings and properties are tools that can support ministry and help or hinder it. Let us pray and ask God for the direction of the Spirit in regards to the proposals. Let us pray and ask how God wants us to grow in this place and time. The goal and desire of the proposals is not to have spacious facilities but to provide new and renewed tools and structures to support our objectives to reach people with the good news of Jesus Christ and to help them grow in Christian discipleship.

The calendar and prayer guide that follows will help us as we pray. Please see the guide as just that: a guide. You may have other prayer practices to follow. Please do. Follow the Spirit of God in your praying. Pray for your church. Pray for one another. Pray for our community. Whatever the final outcome on November 11, all who pray will be changed by the experience.

## CALENDAR

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|--------------------|------------|--|
| <b>October 28</b>  | 9:45 A.M.  | Combined Adult and Student Sunday School Assembly to hear the Report and Recommendations of the Deacons and Building Team, Sanctuary |
|                    | 5:30 P.M.  | “Make up” Presentation Meeting for those unable to attend the 9:45 Report, Fellowship Hall   |
|                    | 6:30 P.M.  | Dialog Meeting on the Building Team Proposal, Fellowship Hall  |
| <b>November 4</b>  | 6:30 P.M.  | Dialog Meeting on the Snider Property Proposal, Fellowship Hall  |
| <b>November 11</b> | 12:15 P.M. | Vote by printed ballots at the Quarterly Business Meeting. Absentee ballots available by contacting the Church Office.               |

# A GUIDE TO DAILY PRAYER, OCTOBER 28–NOVEMBER 11, 2007

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**Beginning Prayer.** Find a quiet place where you can be alone with your own thoughts and God. Bring your Bible, this guide and an open spirit. You may want to bring a pen or pencil, too. For convenience, all scripture passages are provided. Read and compare these to your favorite version for clarity and personal insight.

**Relax.** This is your time. Clear your mind. Breathe deeply. Put aside the joys and burdens of yesterday. Leave worry for tomorrow. Right now be as present to God as you can be. God is already present and waiting.

*Is there anything you will not leave for Christ? ...  
Would you rather keep this or that, with imperfection,  
than part with it to be perfect [in Christ]?  
—George MacDonald, *Creation in Christ**

## Sunday, October 28

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### Jeremiah 29:11–14a

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD.*

♦ Today, ask God to prepare you and your church to hear God's plans for our future.

## Monday, October 29

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### Psalm 62:1, 2, 8a

*For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.  
Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him.*

♦ Today, pour out your heart to God. Ask God to teach us to trust him in all things.

## Tuesday, October 30

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### Psalm 139:23–24

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;  
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,  
And lead me in the everlasting way.*

- ◆ Today, ask God to reveal to you any corners of your life that are hidden and need to be surrendered to his will over your own. Ask God for forgiveness from sin.

## Wednesday, October 31

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### 1 Corinthians 2:9, 10

*However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”—but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

- ◆ Today, ask God to make in you a new sensitivity to God’s Spirit that you might hear “deep things.”

## Thursday, November 1

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### James 1:5, 6

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

- ◆ Today, ask God to show you his wisdom as we seek God’s will for our future together.

## Friday, November 2

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### Ephesians 2:11–17

*So then, remember... that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.... So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.*

- ◆ Today, thank God for the gift of Jesus and for those who told you the Master Story.

## Saturday, November 3

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### John 15:14–16

*You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

- ◆ Today, ask God to guide us toward a decision-making process that will ensure we do what God wills when it comes to buildings and structures for worship and ministry.

## Sunday, November 4

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### Matthew 28:18–20

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

- ◆ Today, ask God to give us a passion for reaching others with the love of Jesus.

## Monday, November 5

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### Mark 16:19–20

*After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

- ◆ Today, ask God to show you the signs of God’s work already among us.

## Tuesday, November 6

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### Numbers 13:27–33

*They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large....” Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw giants in the land. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”*

- ◆ God had promised Israel the Land, but they still had to do their part and reach out and take it. Today, pray that God would identify the “giants,” or roadblocks, to accomplishing what God would have us do and pray for discernment in overcoming them.

## Wednesday, November 7

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### Joshua 3:2–5

*After three days the officers went throughout the camp, giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it.” Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”*

- ◆ Today, ask God to make of your church a holy people prepared to be and to do the Gospel.

## Thursday, November 8

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### Acts 2:43–47

*Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

◆ Today, ask God to allow our church to know the power of his Spirit, the fellowship of work together in God's Name and the joy of introducing new persons to Jesus.

## Friday, November 9

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### Haggai 1:5–8

*Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD.*

◆ Today, pray that God will speak about the kind of "house" God would have us build: the spiritual "house" of becoming a disciple of Christ and the structures that support Christian ministry.

## Saturday, November 10

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### Ephesians 4:1–6

*I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

◆ Today, ask God for the gift of the unity of his Spirit as we consider such important matters of Kingdom business.

## Sunday, November 11

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### Luke 6:46

*"And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

◆ It's not enough to ask for God's guidance; we must have the courage to follow our convictions. As led by God's Spirit, are you praying for courage to complete the task?

**QUESTIONS I'D LIKE TO HAVE ANSWERED:**

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