

Gary Elliott Family Life Center

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why do we need a multi-purpose building, and what will it be used for?**

Kerry Beaty (updated 5/10/2016) - Why not?? Many are familiar with Bill Gaither and the Gaither Homecoming Videos and Concerts and often during those events, Bill will simply say – “Why Not?” Is there anything imaginable that the great God of heaven is not worthy of? As believers, we agree – No.

A few other reason that can be offered are as follows:

Several years ago, our old fellowship hall (which was located behind the sanctuary) had sink hole damage issues and we were told at that time – “We can fix it, but you won’t be happy”. Our response to that assessment was to collect what the building was worth (insurance) and to have it removed. Being without this building has hampered options that otherwise would be open to us with the facility being replaced. As we pray, look for and anticipate growth within our body, we must be prepared for such growth on the front end and not on the back.

With two new sub-divisions being built to the north of our property (Trapnell Ridge and Magnolia Green /400 plus homes), the ministry possibilities in reaching out to our new neighbors are enormous. A multi-purpose facility (gymnasium) being built would keep our options for dreaming and planning wide open. Effective ministry always calls and beckons for greater vision (Proverbs 29:18). Be a visionary.

A gymnasium type facility was given voice by Bro. Gary Elliott. Many times while working here at the church and considering the vacant plot of land behind the sanctuary, Bro. Elliott spoke of the possibility of having a gym type facility with an educational wing built where the old fellowship hall once stood. He spoke of a draw for kids and children in our area to come to a safe haven to run and to play and to plant seeds of faith in their young lives and to reach into their homes and families. He would always speak these words, or similar ones, with that Elliott twinkle in his eyes that spoke of his faith, his values and his care. A multi-purpose facility of this kind would open many doors for various activities to share our vision and our faith in Christ with a community that, in many cases, is void of it.

I am convinced that building a building much like we had before is not the answer. While the road to such a facility may be much easier, the faith factor is not near as great. God can do and has done, what at times for us seems to be impossible – proving Him is faith’s greatest joy!

- **We are not able to attend the congregational updates. I would like to know what is transpiring.**

Mike Stokes (updated 4/19/2016) - At this point, the committee is still on a quest to gather information. The two looming questions are: "What are our needs?" and "How much will it cost?" Last year, we (committee) put some thought into what our needs are in terms of space. We concluded that we were looking for a building that would include: a gymnasium area that could also serve multiple purposes; at least two large classrooms with the potential to be subdivided (e.g. the Children's Worship Center had accordion-like partitions); a replacement for our current nursery that would be located close to the sanctuary (for safety reasons); a choir rehearsal room located close to the back door of the sanctuary; and a lot of storage. It is likely that we would be required to include restrooms.

We visited several churches that had multi-purpose buildings to get some ideas and learn from their lessons/regrets. Almost every place that was over 10 years old had some leaks in their roofs, so we decided that it would be wise for us to upgrade to roofing components that are less likely to cause problems (e.g. standing seam roof). Another common regret was the lack of sufficient storage space.

Based on our needs and what we learned from our site visits, we penciled out an option which included a gymnasium with a large two-story educational wing (presented in December). We were able to get a very rough estimate on the building from a local contractor, and I was able to meet with a geotechnical engineer to formulate a reasonable plan for dealing with the soil conditions (both insurance and the county are requiring that we "fix" the problem). The months following the presentation, it became apparent that opinions were scattered concerning the building. In the March Men's Meeting, a few suggestions were made which caused us to reconsider our approach to the building project. Instead of voting yes/no on whether to build, it was suggested that we take a congregational survey to gain better insight on where the congregation stands. This brings us to last Sunday night, 4/10/16.

Since the March Men's Meeting, we've been working on varying levels of options (space and cost) in anticipation of conducting a congregational survey. These options are just concepts on which we hope to get feedback via the upcoming congregational survey. I'm going to work on some informative flyers for each option that everyone can take home to prayerfully consider. When the time comes, we'll conduct the congregational survey (online and/or on paper) to give us a more focused direction in which to proceed.

- **Do we have to "fix" the ground before construction?**

Mike Stokes (updated 4/19/2016) - As a result of the previous sinkhole activity recorded on our site and the previous repairs to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, Guide One (current insurance provider) has expressed a reluctance to issue a policy on a new building. In an e-mail correspondence with a Guide One representative, it was stated that "per the underwriter at Guide One, with a known sinkhole issue and no additional information from an engineer, they would not be able to consider providing coverage for a new building at this time." Hillsborough County (plans examiner) indicated that something must be done to the soil in order to receive building permits. I have already met with a geotechnical engineer, Arthur Baker who was our Engineer of Record during the Sanctuary repairs, and discussed feasible solutions for preparing the soil (safely and cost-effectively) to satisfy the county's requirements. By

moving forward with the repairs, more insurance providers would be willing to provide insurance on the building, although they would likely require us to sign a sinkhole collapse exclusion.

- **How much will utilities and insurance cost monthly?**

Mike Stokes (updated 4/19/2016) – I've contacted our insurance broker again (HUB International), and based on the building option which includes a gymnasium and one-story educational wing (previously identified as Option 2), the annual premium would be \$16,991 from Wilshire Insurance Company. The HUB representative (Tracie Godfrey) mentioned that Wilshire will require a sinkhole collapse exclusion on the policy. Another HUB representative, Mike Devereux, contacted later with the opinion that we could find insurance cheaper through someone else (possibly Citizens). Mike mentioned that nearly all insurance companies are going to be reluctant to include sinkhole coverage based on our site history, but we could probably purchase a separate policy specifically for sinkhole collapse (could be very expensive).

Zack Davis was able to obtain Medulla and Faith Baptist Church's utility costs from the previous year. Medulla's 12,320 ft² building averaged \$1,023 per month (monthly high \$1,238; monthly low \$734). Faith's 16,000 ft² building had a monthly high of \$1,200 and a monthly low of \$700-800. Both churches use their buildings throughout the week for various events.