



By His *Grace*
For His *Glory*

First Baptist Church | September 20, 2015



The Stained Glass

The Stained Glass above is located at the entrance to the new Welcome Center. It is a historic walk through the life of First Baptist Church.

We are proud to feature several old historic stained glass windows in our new Entrance Hall. There are three at the east end, next to the brand new Main Entrance, and four above the west end above the Connection Center Entrance. All but one of these were from our church building that was dedicated in 1892. These historic stained glass windows feature the names of some of our faithful church members of past generations.

The two tall windows at the west end of the hall were discovered in the church basement prior to the renovation.

The small pointed window at the top of this newly arranged historic tribute grouping was made specifically for this renovation and features the phrase, "By His Grace For His Glory" — the mission of our current church renovation. This particular celebration window was made to match the newly designed original windows. Amazing grace!

By His Grace For His Glory



This statement has been the guiding theme for our recent renovation project. It is our desire to glorify Christ as we extend the message of Christ to others with a challenge toward faith and trust in Him. As people are reached and lives are transformed there is a sense of thanksgiving that motivates us toward a greater service to Jesus.

Our efforts toward the renovation of our church facilities are done with the intention of fulfilling our vision:

To glorify Christ by making disciples who make disciples in our community and around the world.



In the spring of 1827, Elder Robert Daniel of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, visited the town of Suffolk to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the local population. Elder Daniel preached several sermons in the "Old Meeting House" that stood on the present site of Cedar Hill Cemetery, and a number of people responded to his message, desiring to be baptized.

On Wednesday morning, September 12, 1827, thirty-three men and women gathered at the Old Meeting House to hear a sermon by Elder Daniel and to sign their names to the Church Covenant. They organized the new Suffolk Baptist Church, which would later become First Baptist Church of Suffolk.

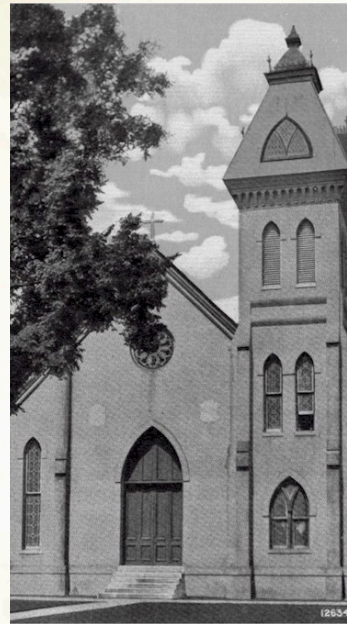
History

The new church flourished, and they soon moved into a new church building on Main Street where the

present church building stands. Not only did they meet for worship, but they began to reach out to their community and to the world through missions.



By the 1880s, the need for a new, larger facility had become overwhelming. A fundraising campaign was begun with-



in the church to provide for that need. The old wooden structure was moved to the rear of the lot, and a new brick structure was built facing Main Street. It was dedicated January 12, 1890.

The next twenty years brought yet further growth, and another expansion of the church building became necessary. In 1912 the new sanctuary expansion was completed and gave the front of the church an entirely new appearance.

The growth of First Baptist Church in the years following World War II resulted in another building program. An entirely new sanctuary was dedicated in 1957, and weekly attendance grew to nearly a thousand people.

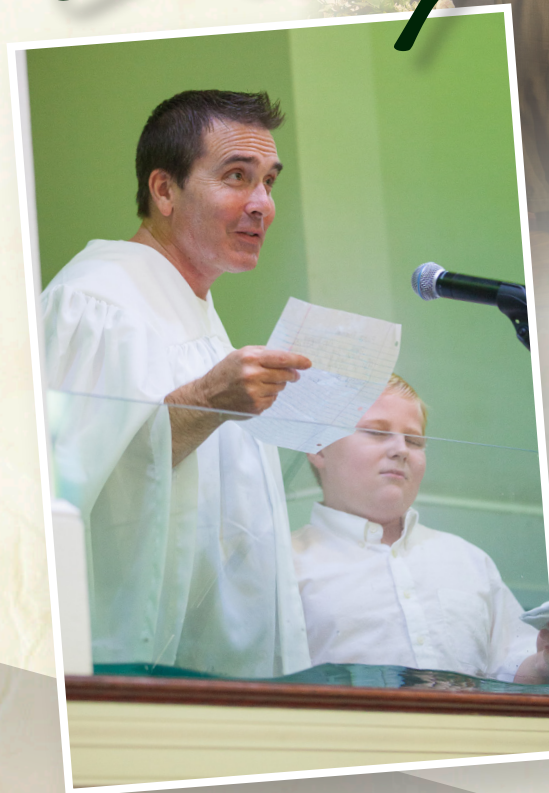
The 50's, 60's, and 70's were times of expansion as First Baptist established three new mission churches in the Suffolk area – Wilroy, Southside, and Nansemond River, as well as three other churches in Richmond and Pennsylvania.

In the late 1980s the church constructed a Family Life Center building, thereby opening new opportunities for further ministries and for outreach to the community.

In 2012 the church members decided that it was time to renovate the entire church facility, inside and out, in order to effectively minister to the spiritual needs of people in the twenty-first century.

After three years of preparation, study, and construction, the new facility is ready for use as its members seek to fulfill the Great Commission.

Victory



A Word from our Pastor

This is a very significant day in the long and illustrious history of First Baptist Church of Suffolk, Virginia.

It is a day of thanksgiving! We are thankful for the wonderful church family He has given us, and for those who have run the race before us and passed on the Good News of Christ to us. Let us pause and "count our blessings" today for God's abundant provisions, to each of us and to our church family.

It is a day of celebration! We rejoice today "with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory" (1 Peter 1:8). We rejoice in the salvation God has given us, and rejoice in the greater opportunities that renovated facilities will give us in knowing Christ and making Him known.

Three years ago, our church made the decision to move forward in faith with extensive renovations and additions to our campus. The purpose was very simple: To help us better reach people for Christ. The result is what you see today: A church campus that is more attractive, more inviting, more accessible, more functional, and better equipped to meet the needs of people in the 21st century. Extensive remodeling of preschool, children, and student ministry areas will help us reflect Christ's heart for kids and their families. A beautiful and practical renovation of our sanctuary will enhance worship. The welcome center and gathering area will enable us to fellowship with more people, and thereby extend greater warmth and love to them. The new points of entry and ramps make our facility more accessible to all people, and the upgrade to the exterior makes a building that represents Jesus Christ more attractive to our community. There is much to celebrate!

This is a day of dedication! On this day, let us not only dedicate a building to God's glory, but let us dedicate ourselves afresh and anew to Christ and the advance of His Kingdom. All that we have – time, talents, and treasure – have been given to us by Him. Today, let us rededicate ourselves and all we have as living sacrifices to the One who sacrificed Himself for us, and rose from the dead that we might have life.

By His grace we have come this far. For His glory we move into the future with joy, thanksgiving, and dedication.

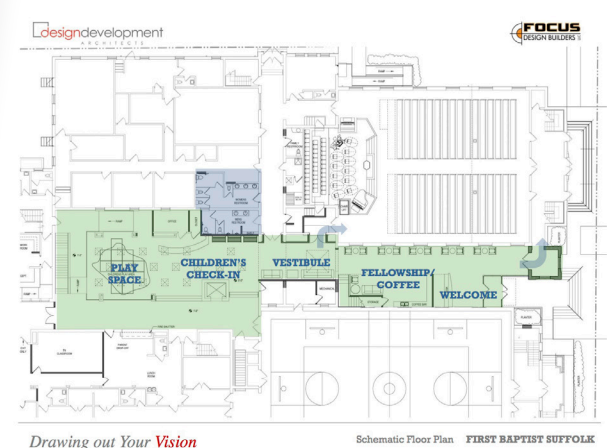
Pastor Thurman

Dr. Thurman R. Hayes, Jr.

By His Grace
For His Glory

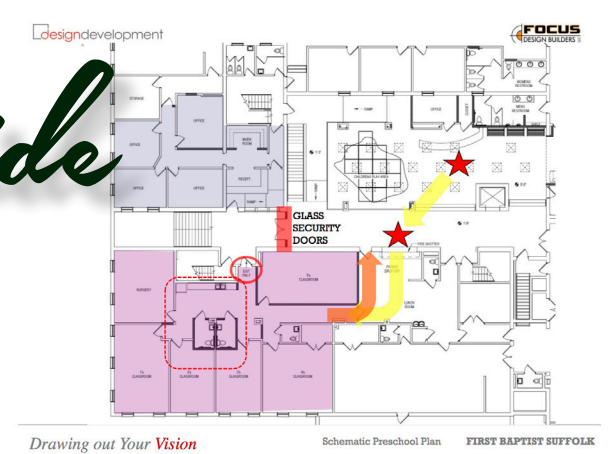
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"
~ Matthew 28:19-20.

Results



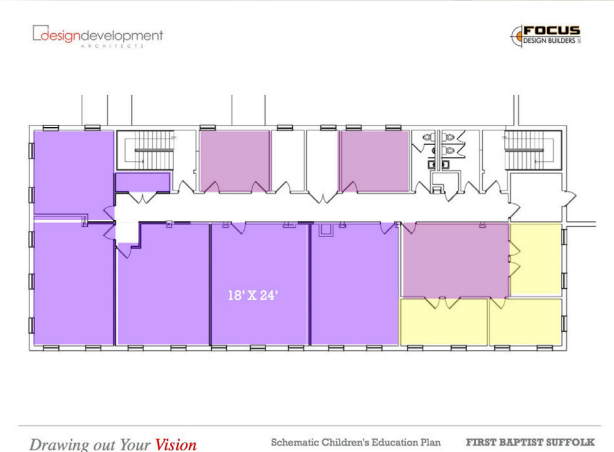
Drawing out Your Vision

Schematic Floor Plan FIRST BAPTIST SUFFOLK



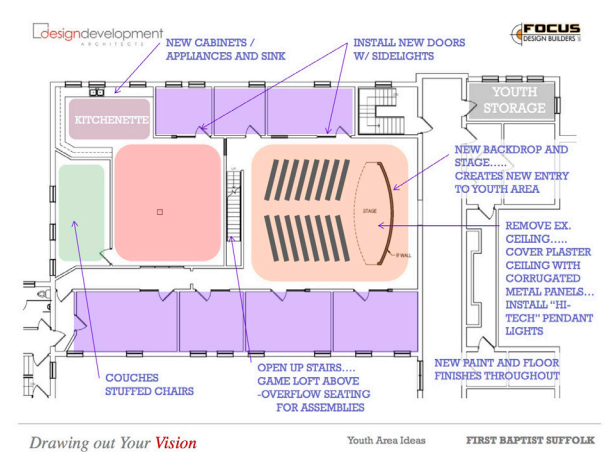
Drawing out Your Vision

Schematic Preschool Plan FIRST BAPTIST SUFFOLK



Drawing out Your Vision

Schematic Children's Education Plan FIRST BAPTIST SUFFOLK



Drawing out Your Vision

Youth Area Ideas FIRST BAPTIST SUFFOLK



Fellowship and Welcome Areas

The new Welcome Center and Fellowship areas will allow us to make a great first impression with people who visit us each week. The fellowship areas provide settings for visitors, attendees, and members to gather between services and at other times for conversation and reflection. During the week, these spaces will be used for Bible studies or other events.

Worship Enhancements

The church sanctuary is the focal point for Christian worship. Most of the first time guests who visit our facility do so in our Sunday morning services. Upgrades to our sanctuary afford us the opportunity to glorify Christ through enhancements to worship as God is glorified through prayer, preaching, praise, and giving.



Preschool Security and Education Facilities

Our desire to disciple the next generation begins in our preschool and nursery areas. Our increased level of security allows parents to feel comfortable as they bring their families to our campus. The biblically illustrated classrooms give a place to teach the depth of God's love to each of our little ones.

Children's Education Area

Children's ministry is a driving force of our church. Disciples are made as we teach the great stories of the Bible and Scripture memorization is emphasized. The third floor of the Traylor building provides attractive classrooms to teach children the hope of the gospel.

Student Center Remodel

The worship of Christ and the teaching of God's Word will be vital in our ability to reach the youth of our community. Places for teaching, worship, and fellowship have been renovated and will provide space for authentic teaching and missional ministry.

New Opportunities



Our Vision

To glorify Christ by making disciples who make disciples in our community and around the world.

Our Discipleship Process

We seek to carry out our vision through helping people establish three points of connection in their lives.

- Connect persons to Christ
- Connect persons to community
- Connect persons to compassionate service

Our Core Values

- Biblical Faithfulness (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Expository Preaching (Luke 24:32)
- Commitment to Missions (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)
- Prayer (John 15:5; Matthew 7:7-11)
- Humility (Ephesians 4:1-2; 1 Peter 5:5b)
- Unity (Ephesians 4:3; John 17:20-23)
- Servanthood (Matthew 23:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- Kindness (Ephesians 4:32)
- Generosity (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
- Joy (Philippians 4:4)
- Excellence (Colossians 3:23)
- Faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Vision



