



EXPRESSIONS

*"God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home."*

HENRY ALFORD, 1844



HARVEST FUND UPDATE

Shea McNease
Chairman, Facilities Planning Committee

Dear Church Family,

It has been about 7 months since the Facilities Planning Committee announced a campaign for the Harvest Fund—a fund for the use of updating the facilities of First Presbyterian Church. As has been the case throughout the Church's history, we have seen God move and bestow blessings upon this congregation. FPC's members have graciously pledged approximately \$1.12 million to the campaign, with over \$800,000 of the pledged funds received to date.

In light of these encouraging developments, the Committee has selected a contractor and is prepared to move forward with an initial phase of projects throughout the FPC campus. Construction is slated to begin toward the end of July. These projects focus on refreshing and updating our walls, flooring, furniture, lighting, and audio-visual systems. The Committee has worked with experts in each of these areas, and samples of the selected materials are in the church library for you to view. Many of the



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SUNDAYS

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

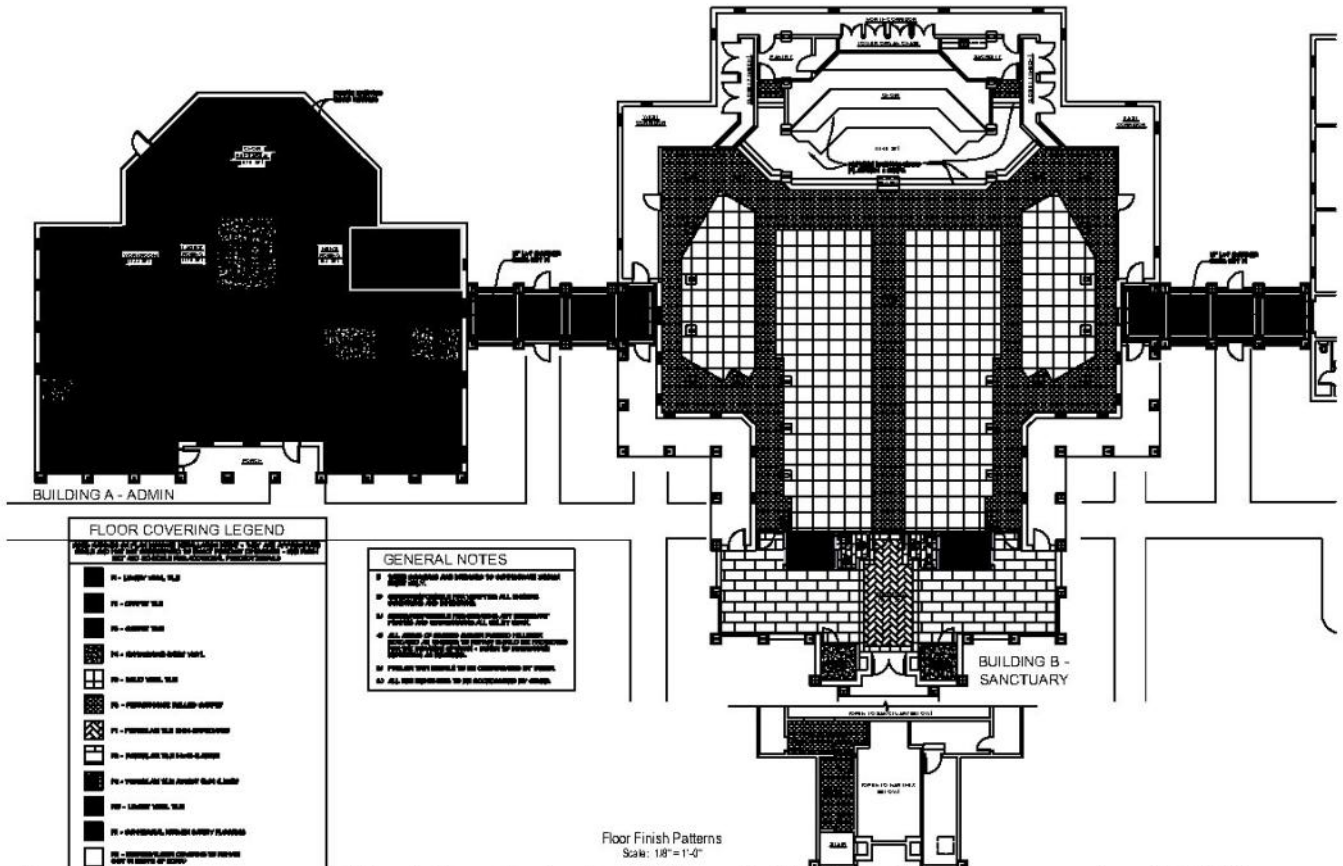
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items on the project list have not been updated since the buildings were originally built, so this is truly a monumental undertaking in the life of our church. It is also a testament to the care and attention the facilities have received thus far in service to our congregation.

As we embark on this endeavor, I would ask a couple of things of you as fellow members. First, that you pray for this to be a blessing to our church and that it be used to further the work of God's kingdom here on earth. Second, please have patience! We anticipate this work to take most of the fall. If all goes well, the facilities should be back in service by the end of the year. Certainly, there will be inconvenience, the need for joint Sunday School classes, and a change in our place of worship, but these things are temporary and necessary to accomplish the task. Finally, if you feel led, consider giving to the Harvest Fund. The goal for the fund is \$1.5 million, which should allow the church to fully pay for this phase of renovations.

It is right that we take care of the things put in our charge here on earth. I can say without reservation that this Committee has sought to do that throughout the project. The members are Abb Payne, Jennifer Payne, Elizabeth Tullos, Arrington Rhett, Rob King, and Lee Norman. I would like to thank them for their dedicated service, and I hope that if you see one of them that you will do the same.

Grace and peace,



First Presbyterian Church Hattiesburg
Spring - 2025

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FPC FACILITIES REFRESH

Listing of Design Objectives

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

Office Suite

New flooring, fresh wall paint, update lighting and furnishings in Pastor office, new ceilings

Parlor

New flooring, fresh wall paint, repaint millwork details, update wall sconces, replace curtains, recover existing chairs, new couch, update lighting, repaint ceiling cove

Choir Suite

Update lighting, fresh wall paint, acoustic wall panels, music folio cabinets, projector

Restrooms

Replace flooring, update lighting, fresh wall paint, new partitions, counters, and fixtures

SANCTUARY

Nave and Corridors

Replace carpet and hard surface flooring, new lighting system, new sound system, new livestream and graphics system, new pew cushions, refinish wood platform, re-upholstered platform chairs, update wall coverings, refurbish pulpit, relocate audio/livestream equipment to floor

Narthex

Replace flooring, update wallcovering, update chandelier and accent lighting, keep stained millwork, repaint millwork panel details, new furniture

Restrooms

Replace flooring, update lighting, fresh wall paint, new partitions, counters, and fixtures

TAYLOR HALL

Multi-Purpose Room

Replace carpet, remove plexiglass and moveable walls, maintain existing stained wood finishes, repaint walls, replace acoustical treatments, update sound system, new banquet chairs

Classrooms and Hallways

Replace flooring, update lighting, update window treatments

Kitchen

Replace lighting, update furnishings and equipment

Men's Restroom

Replace flooring, update lighting, fresh wall paint, new partitions, counters, and fixtures

CURRIE HALL

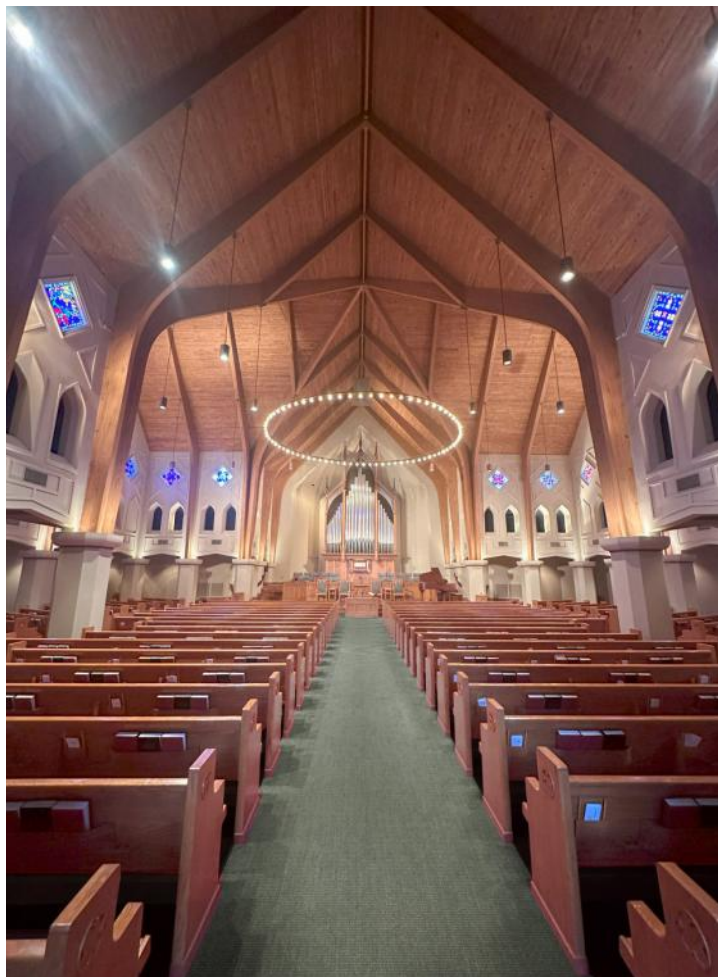
Loft

Motorized shade for window

MCINTOSH HALL

Gym

Add acoustical wall panels, new audiovisual system, new projector and screen



Rendering of Sanctuary featuring selected flooring style.

“PACK THE MAC!”

Sunday, August 3, 10:45 a.m.

With renovations in the Sanctuary underway, **Sunday worship services will move to McIntosh Hall beginning August 3** and continue in there through the fall.

Reserved handicapped parking will be available near the main entrance to McIntosh Hall. Members and guests are encouraged to access worship services through either Stanway Hall or Currie Hall entrances.

Deacons and volunteers will be near each entrance to assist worshipers.



We salute **Tracy Ross**, who recently completed twenty years of service on staff at First Presbyterian Church!

UPDATE ON FPC PASTOR SEARCH PROCESS



**McGOWAN
GLOBAL
INSTITUTE**

During a joint Sunday school class on July 27, Matthew Boyd presented an update on the Session's recommendations for the formation of a **Pastor Search Committee**. To assist in the process, the Session has engaged **McGowan Global Institute (MGI)**, a non-profit ministry known for its deep experience and strong reputation in guiding churches through senior pastor searches.

Nominations for members of the Pastor Search Committee are being accepted through August 10, with nomination forms available at the church office or in the *Grace Notes* e-newsletter. Following a review of those nominated, the Session will present a proposed slate of individuals to be voted on by the congregation on **Sunday, September 7** following the morning worship service.

MGI will be represented by consultant Ed Norton, a Teaching Elder in the PCA who most recently served for 25 years on staff at Independent Presbyterian Church in Memphis. Ed will provide guidance and assistance to the Pastor Search Committee throughout the selection process.

The Session has identified a representative cross-section of the congregation (non-officers) who will be invited to participate in a "Discovery Weekend Assessment" led by Rev. Norton to help in development of a profile of our church. In addition, a congregational survey will be made available to all members through a customized MGI survey portal between August 3-17. The results of the survey will also be used in preparation of a church profile.

**Thank you for your prayers as we enter into this important season
in the life of First Presbyterian Church!**



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