

Mountain Echoes



Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Gatlinburg
May 1, 2018

FROM OUR PASTOR

Our April Church Conference was an exciting one! Among the many decisions made by the church, two had to do with our Church property and grounds. Let me summarize them.

First, all necessary steps were taken to begin the process of replacing our old motel building lost in the 2016

fires including:

- ◆ Approving the building location (below our current building, extending toward highway 321 with back toward the creek).
- ◆ Approving the building plan as presented by BarberMcMurry Architects.
- ◆ Approving a budget of \$1.2 million. Approximately \$400,000 is currently available from insurance and contributions. A fund-raising campaign will be initiated with a goal of raising an additional \$400,000 in pledges from church members and friends, payable over a 3 to 5 year period. A bank loan will be secured for the final \$400,000. Annual receipts of \$24,000 from the employee parking lease with the Alamo Restaurant will be paid against that loan.
- ◆ Approving a Fund-Raising Committee made up of Charlie Anderson, Nancy Hays, Michael Hodges, Sandy McCown and David Ogle. This committee will be meeting soon to design a pledge form to be made available to church members and friends. Pledges will be submitted in a sealed envelope, the contents being seen only by our Church Financial Secretary Terri Soehn.
- ◆ Hiring Citadel Construction as our general contractor. Citadel offered to do the project at their cost which will result in significant savings for our congregation. Also, Church member and Deacon Jay Horner works for Citadel and will be overseeing the project.



Second, members voted to submit a request to the City of Gatlinburg for the re-routing of the portion of Oglewood lane that crosses our Church property. If approved, our church will be responsible for \$50,000 of the total cost of approximately \$100,000. The new route will take the road through where our motel building was located, then along the edge of our property where we connect with the Alamo restaurant. The result will be the consolidation of all Church property without the roadway which currently divides it.

For me, all the above is very exciting and just a bit overwhelming. Even after scaling down proposed building space to the bare essentials, it will still cost us \$1.2 million to replace a building for which we received only \$280,000 in insurance payments. Assuming indebtedness for the first time in several years will demand a new way of thinking and a new level of faithfulness.

Yet, there is no doubt that with a combination of God's help and the financial faithfulness of our membership, we can accomplish the task before us. And the prospect of a new building for Youth Ministry, feeding the hungry and countless other uses will prove to be an invaluable resource for FBC Gatlinburg.

You'll be hearing more... much more... in the near future. For now, be prayerfully considering what role you might play in these impending Church projects.

Larry

Special Thanks,

....to everyone who donated lilies for Easter.
They added so much beauty to our celebration.

Stewardship Report (\$10,268.46 needed weekly to meet budget)

April 1, 2018

General Fund	\$9824.25
AAEO	\$683.50
CBF	\$699.50
Lilies	\$10.00
Youth Building (In memory of Jerry Hays \$25.00)	\$225.00
SMARM	\$100.00

April 8, 2018

General Fund	\$14,231.00
AAEO	\$230.99
CBF	\$201.00
SCMF	\$20.00
Lilies	\$20.00
Tools	\$10.00
Youth Trips	\$50.00
CentriKid	\$100.00
Youth Building	\$665.00

(In memory of Jerry Hays \$175.00)

(In memory of Debbie Smith \$390.00)

April 15, 2018

General Fund	\$9729.00
AAEO	\$94.00
CBF	\$94.00
Benevolence	\$120.00
Youth Fund Raising	\$575.00
Youth Trips	\$300.00
Youth Building	\$1045.00
(In memory of Debbie Smith \$805.00)	
(In memory of Jerry Hays \$115.00)	
In Memory of Teresa McKinnon \$75.00)	
SMARM	\$100.00
Centrikid	\$350.00