

January 5, 2024

Dr. Dennis Trull  
First Baptist Church  
619 N. Stonewall Street  
McKenzie, Tennessee 38201

Dear Bro. Dennis,

Thanks for the opportunity to serve First Baptist Church of Mckenzie. It is always a joy to reconnect with you and meet members of the Building and Grounds Committee and staff.

Observations:

1. The majority of the classrooms are off major traffic corridors of the church that allow members and guests of all ages to navigate.
2. There are limited rooms available on the first floor with easy access to the worship center for senior adults.
3. The rooms for elementary age children are scattered throughout the building from the rooms below the worship center and the second floor.
4. The daycare maximizing the space available on the first floor with little room to grow.
5. The adults classrooms are scattered throughout the building and more concerningly is are mingle with the children classrooms.
6. The adult rooms on the second floor are designed for departments with an assembly room and then smaller classrooms. For the most of the twentieth century and my early ministry, this was the standard recommended organization for Sunday School (by the way, it worked). Today, churches primarily have a class organization based on life stages and do not organize by departments. Many churches have redesigned these areas to more effectively use the space.
7. The preschool and children do not have secured dedicated space.
8. The youth do not have secured dedicated space but do use classrooms on the second floor outside this area.
9. Most of the available classrooms are being utilized with very little room to grow.
10. The Worship Space and Gym make up for a large portion of the facility.
11. The suggested location for the new Preschool/Children's building is near the playground, gym and the kitchen. The area is also easily accessible from the worship center and the classrooms for parents.
12. The church is already using adjacent space to meet the needs of adults and college ministry.
13. Providing multiple Sunday School hours in addition would be extremely difficult due the smaller halls in the educational building and smaller entry area near the worship center.

Recommendations:

1. I would recommend that the church strongly consider proceeding with building a new children's building.

Some reasons:

- a. The new building would be designed for both accommodating the growth of the church and the needs of the daycare.
  - b. The building certainly should provide for all security measures and safety measures that would limit future liability issues.
  - c. The building can include or allow for future installation of the latest technology.
  - d. It will make a great first impression for new families looking for a church home.
2. The existing space on the first floor should be remodeled to provide some much needed space first for senior adults and then for other adults.
  3. The youth can utilize some of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Classrooms to expand their organization as needed.
  4. The church would be able to consider moving the classes and ministries currently meeting in the houses to the existing rooms in the main facility, until these areas are needed.

Reach out if you have questions about these observations or recommendations. Thanks again for the honor to serve you and your church.

Sincerely,



Mark Miller  
Baptism-Discipleship Team Leader  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board