



THE NEXT CHAPTER

BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE TOGETHER

 FIRST BAPTIST
SHREVEPORT

HUNTER HALL
REMODEL & REVITALIZATION

A STORIED PAST

In February 1845, a small band of believers gathered for the first worship service of the First Baptist Church of Shreveport, Louisiana. Drawn together by their conviction to plant the gospel in a place desperately lacking the body of Christ, the congregation pushed forward without a permanent place to meet.

From its earliest meetings in unknown locations, to its first home on Travis St in 1848, to a new building on Texas St. in 1880, and finally to its most recent home on Ockley Dr. in 1963, First Baptist Church Shreveport has always been more than a building. Since the beginning, the congregation has sought to honor God, making the Kingdom known in Shreveport and beyond. The church's buildings have been extensions of that mission — places to bring in the lost, to give glory to God, to serve the community, to help people grow in Christlikeness, and to offer unmatched love and life-changing light.

For the church's 150th anniversary, Dr. James Carter wrote the history of First Baptist Shreveport in a book titled *To See and Serve Jesus*. He wrote the following in its conclusion: *"Having lived for a century and half with the goal of both seeing Jesus and serving Jesus, the First Baptist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, faces the future with an outstanding history, an enviable heritage, and a firm foundation built upon Jesus... With an eye to the future, an understanding and appreciation of the past, and a faithful reliance on God, the church moves into the next era of church life."*

With 178 years of history, it is time for the next chapter of our story. Our mission remains unchanged. We seek and serve Jesus, pouring out love to our community as we grow to be more like our Savior.

WILL YOU JOIN US?





CURRENT VIEW OF PROPOSED RENOVATION AREA

BUILDING TOGETHER

Dear Church Family,

I am excited to share with you a project that has been a long time in the making. For many years, we have talked about updating Hunter Hall, the building at the back of our campus that houses the children's area and our adult Sunday School classrooms. After months of deliberation with a planning committee of devoted church members and talented architects at Newman Marchive Inc., we are ready to present to you a plan for the remodel and revitalization of Hunter Hall.

In the proposed project, we are addressing several critical issues. First, our children's area is outdated, inaccessible, and difficult to keep secure. A family visiting several churches in our city might conclude we place a low priority on ministry with children—when nothing is further from the truth! A second important aspect of this project is creating a central, welcoming area to receive campus visitors and connect them to our faith community. This includes renovating adult Bible study classrooms. Finally, we are adding a covered drop-off and improved handicap accessibility near our Sanctuary. This is a big project, but our church has a history of bold steps of faith.

When our church moved from our downtown location to our beautiful thirteen acres on Ockley Drive, we took a massive step of faith. The congregation left behind a treasured history of sacred spaces and holy moments to follow God's call for a fresh start. I marvel at the faith and boldness embodied in that step. Every Sunday when we gather, surrounded by beauty, we benefit from the sacrifices made by that generation. Every bride and groom who repeat their vows on that platform, benefits. Every new believer who goes under the waters of baptism, benefits. Every child who wiggles during worship while they hear songs of faith and the Word of God, benefits. The church members of that generation surely had other options for their resources: personal expenses, investment accounts, college funds, and all kinds of charitable causes. They chose to invest in our church as a place where generations would have new encounters with God.

Every generation faces its own challenges and calls to faith. I believe such a time is upon us. May we, just like the saints who came before us, step forward in bold faith.

DR. JEFF RAINES, PASTOR

A BRIGHT FUTURE

As Minister to Children, I see again and again the influence children have on where their family attends church. Because of the incredible experiences I had at a church as a child, my parents committed to the congregation and faithfully served in the church's ministries for years. To this day, my parents are still members of my childhood church.

While I am incredibly proud of how our dynamic volunteers serve every week, many issues in our children's area severely limit the ministry's reach. These issues include overwhelming color schemes, spaces with limited functionality, loud whistling from the HVAC system, and the impossible task of securing so many entrances, to name a few. I have personally heard guests share that while they love the children's ministry, the volunteers, and the programming, they have chosen not to come back because the children's space is outdated and difficult to navigate. After seeing the children's space, they assumed children were not a priority for our church.

Too often, prospective families and volunteers can't even consider participating in our ministry because of inaccessibility. Children in wheelchairs cannot join their peers in our elementary Bible study rooms because we don't have an elevator to the second floor. For one family, I offered to move their child's class to the main floor, but the parents did not want their child to feel any more different than they already do. A flight of stairs kept their child from experiencing Jesus at our church. It broke my heart. This is not what we want at First Baptist Shreveport.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Do not keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them" (Matt. 19:14). Our children's space should reflect the love we have for children and our deep commitment to helping them grow in faith. It should be easily accessible for all and comfortable to navigate. When children and families visit the space, they should see the open arms of Jesus, inviting them in. With this project, our children's space will physically express all the qualities that make our church special — open, inviting, and full of love, light, and joy.

MEREDITH HANNA
MINISTER TO CHILDREN



FOR GENERATIONS

I spend a lot of time giving directions. "When you pull in the parking lot... no, the other parking lot... take a right and go down a little way... then park and go through those doors, the ones by the bricks... When you get inside, take a left down that hallway... Go down a little further and you'll see a door...."

Have you ever tried explaining to a first-time visitor how to get somewhere on our campus? It's a confusing game of approximations and directional guesswork! When you walk into any one of the many possible entrances around Hunter Hall, you're greeted by a long, dark hallway with little natural light and no distinct gathering

space. Hunter Hall has been a fitting home for our Bible studies and group meetings for decades, but it is time for an upgrade!

In addition to Wednesday and Sunday church activities, our campus hosts hundreds of visitors nearly every day of the week. From the school and its many programs, to Bible Study Fellowship (which uses almost every one of our classrooms), to weddings, funerals, various musical groups, and neighborhood associations, the campus of First Baptist Shreveport is a hub for our community. By making our spaces as welcoming as the people who call this church home, we serve those around us and glorify God.

At FBC we emphasize gathering together. Young or old, when we meet for prayer, Bible study, worship, and Christian support, we encounter the love of God. We want to make it as easy as possible for all people to find their place here at First Baptist. Our church building is a gift from God. It's a tool to facilitate holy gatherings and divine encounters. In this space, God's people gather and God's Kingdom is glorified.

RYAN MCCOY
MINISTER OF YOUTH & DISCIPLESHIP



A PLACE FOR ALL

On Sunday mornings, the entrances around our Sanctuary are heavily utilized by visitors arriving for worship. If someone needs a covered drop-off, the only current option is on the other side of our children's area — almost one-tenth of a mile away from their seat in the Sanctuary! This portion of the project seeks to accomplish the same goals as the Hunter Hall work: Make our campus accessible and inviting.

We plan to add a covered drop-off along the side of our Sanctuary. This will include a handicap-accessible ramp from the lower-level parking lot up to the drop-off area and additional handicap spaces alongside the Sanctuary. Visitors to our Sanctuary will benefit for years to come!



WILL YOU HELP US WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER?

FUNDRAISING



RAISED

\$2.2 M

SEEKING

\$3.8 M

Our architects estimate the total project will cost around \$6 million. To date we have **\$700,000** collected and have received additional pledges of **\$1.5 million**. While the remaining \$3.8 million is a significant amount, our church has a wonderful history of generous giving!

WAYS TO GIVE



Make a commitment using one of the special campaign envelopes OR mail check with "**Hunter Hall Remodel**" designation



Online at www.fbcshreveport.org/hunterhall



Drop in **offering boxes** located around the church



Call our Finance Office at **318-841-8436** for any giving questions

As much as we would like for all to participate in this exciting project, please make campaign gifts above and beyond your regular gifts to the church budget. We certainly understand that not everyone can participate at this time. In addition to financial giving, please join us in praying for this enormous undertaking.

PROJECT TIMELINE

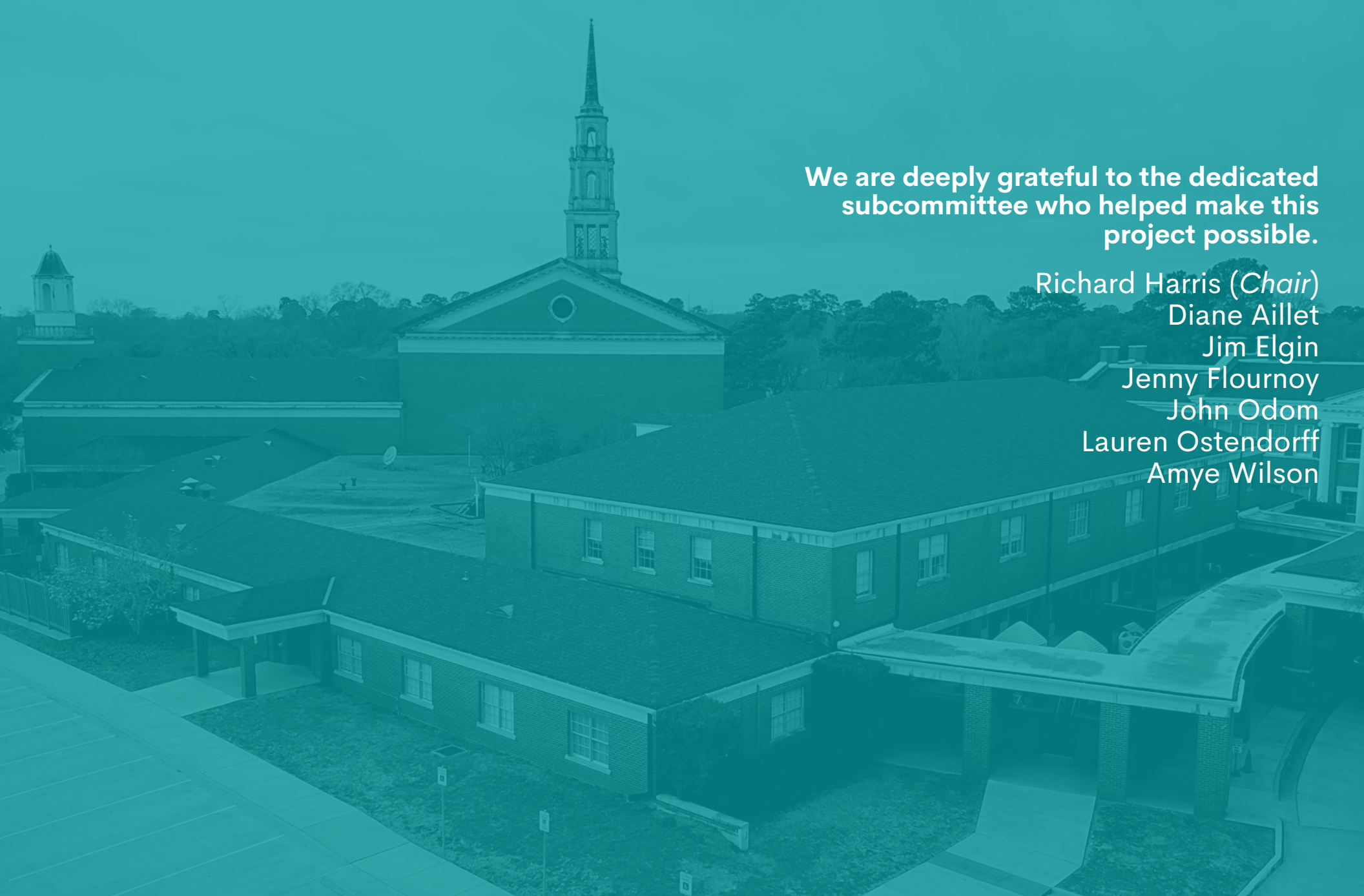
Many factors will affect each stage of the project schedule. We plan to move as quickly as we can while maintaining essential campus operations. Gifts to the campaign can stretch out over the course of the project and beyond. The faster we raise the funds, the faster the project can progress!

8 TO 10 MONTHS

FUNDRAISE, FINALIZE PLANS, PERMITS

12 TO 14 MONTHS

CONSTRUCTION



We are deeply grateful to the dedicated
subcommittee who helped make this
project possible.

Richard Harris (*Chair*)
Diane Aillet
Jim Elgin
Jenny Flournoy
John Odom
Lauren Ostendorff
Amye Wilson



To learn more about the project, including
renderings, videos, and giving information, visit
www.fbcshreveport.org/hunterhall

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A Professional Corporation
Architects/Environmental Consultants