

Genesis 



THE NEXT BEGINNING

BE A PART OF OUR STORY...



 **FBC**
RUSSELLVILLE
know him. make him known



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RUSSELLVILLE, AR 1873 - PRESENT

GENESIS: THE NEXT BEGINNING

Our church family has been an integral part of the River Valley for over 142 years, a rich history full of challenges, victories, and progress. Through all the years, God's glory and the advance of the Gospel has always been at the center of this story.

We've learned a lot about God's story by studying the book of Genesis since the Fall of 2014. We've begun to see a familiar cycle: God does something new and then, either through sin or just natural decline, He has to step back in and author regeneration. Generation, degeneration, regeneration.

Just as all of creation has experienced this cycle, so do individuals and even families, communities, and churches. And our church family is in the midst of an exciting arch in our great story.

The door to reach future generations hinges upon our ability to rise to the task ahead of us. We stand upon a rich historical foundation, but God is doing something new – something that will take a move of unity and faith unlike any we have experienced. I deeply believe that the time to secure our church's future is now, and I am confident you will agree as you read through the pages of this booklet and celebrate all God has done and is doing in His story.

Humbled to be your pastor,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Sykes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

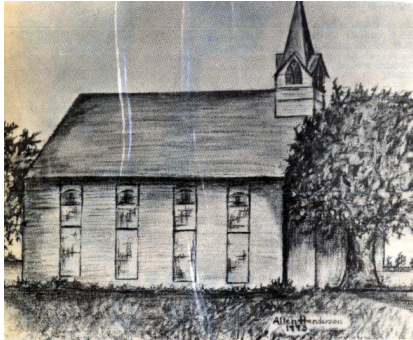
Greg Sykes, Pastor



"I know your works. Behold I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name."

Revelation 3:8,9

CHURCH HISTORY



First Baptist Church original building in 1874

themselves into a local body. This initial church, completed in 1874, was merely a one-room building with a vestibule. And yet, from these humble beginnings, their faith and sacrifice planted what has blossomed to become one of the most vibrant churches in the River Valley and even the state of Arkansas.

In 1917, plans for a new church building were completed and construction began on the site. The pastor at that time, A.F. Cagle, led the congregation through fundraising to construct the new \$25,000 place of worship. The money was raised through the congregation,



Exterior of Sanctuary Building in 1917

First Baptist Church (FBC), Russellville has a rich legacy of faith dating back to 1873, when 13 believers decided they wanted to proclaim the gospel in the River Valley and organized

as well as with a gift from the Home Mission Board totaling \$6,000. The new building had a capacity of 400 in the sanctuary and had 12 education classrooms.



built. As the church continued to grow and the existing 1917 building began to show its age, the church recognized the need to build a new sanctuary.

On Oct. 16, 1960, the church voted to construct a new sanctuary. The church stepped out in faith again by mortgaging all church properties to secure a bank loan, and church members also had to sign



Inside of Sanctuary Building in 1917

In 1924, a city-wide revival swept through Russellville and the church added 143 new members in one year! The church also experienced significant growth during the 1940s and 1950s, requiring a new, three-story educational building to be



Existing Sanctuary Completed in 1962

1873 - PRESENT

personal notes. Obviously, it was another milestone in the church's history. In 1962, the present sanctuary construction was completed.



Breaking Ground in 1972 for
New Educational Building

FBC believes in proclaiming the Gospel around the world and has been missional-minded for most, if not all, of its existence. As early as 1891, records reflect that FBC was engaged in missional work in Dover. In 1924, Pastor C.V. Hickerson's decision to begin preach-



Presenting the Storying Cloth in
Congo, 2004

ing services about two miles south of Russellville yielded a new church, Sunny Point Baptist Church. So, again, when we affirm our church purpose statement, "to Know Him and to Make Him

Known," we are well aware that FBC has been fulfilling this statement from its earliest beginnings.

FBC has provided leadership and financial support for seven additional missions, churches, and numerous preaching stations around the River Valley, including Second Baptist (1924), Baker's Creek (1944), the Baptist Student Union at Arkansas Tech University (1951), Kelley Heights Baptist (1957), Fair Park Baptist (1961) and First Baptist of Pottsville (1962). And this outward approach led to congregational growth.



Pottsville First Baptist Church,
Planted in 1962 by FBC

Thirty-five pastors have served FBC over the years and our current pastor, Greg Sykes, has been leading the congregation since 2011. FBC now has three services, an active membership of 1553 and an annual budget of \$2.7 million dollars, not including over \$300,000 for the mission fund.



Current Pastor Greg Sykes &
Missions Pastor Jay Ham in Africa, 2014

HAVE FAITH, ENDURE, WORK HARD





NEW WORSHIP CENTER BUILDING:

TOTAL COST
\$5.1MILLION

From the very beginning, corporate worship has been crucial to not only the greater church, but also to FBC. Over the first 142 years of our church, there have been four significant construction projects related to the worship center.

The reason we worship corporately hasn't changed; however, the buildings and atmosphere have. Improvements in sound, lightning and technology will be used in the new sanctuary to create an atmosphere that fosters both community connection and the fellowship, worship, and spiritual growth of FBC – with the public proclamation of Scripture as the centerpiece.

The new worship center will help us each move toward maturity in the word of God so that we might be His ambassadors in the River Valley and beyond.

- Worship center will increase capacity by 69% or 368 actual seats, based on actual seat count and statistics that show capacity for defined seats is sustainable at around 90% vs. 70% for pews
- Theater seating for ease of access, comfort, and increased capacity
- New state of the art lighting, sound and projection to hear and see God's word better
- Wider aisles and corridors, facilitating easier entrance and exit
- Closed circuit TV broadcast for preschool workers
- Additional Life Group classrooms for our senior adults next to the new sanctuary
- Additional rooms for our preschool and nursery ministries that are in close proximity to the new sanctuary.
- Creation of a bridal room for weddings
- Larger projection/video screens on both the left and right of stage
- New off-stage area for worship preparation and rehearsal
- Larger stage to hold full orchestra, larger choir, and additional instrumentation
- New lighting to allow flexibility on the worship platform
- Intimate Worship Center design to bring the congregation closer to the stage

TOTAL COST

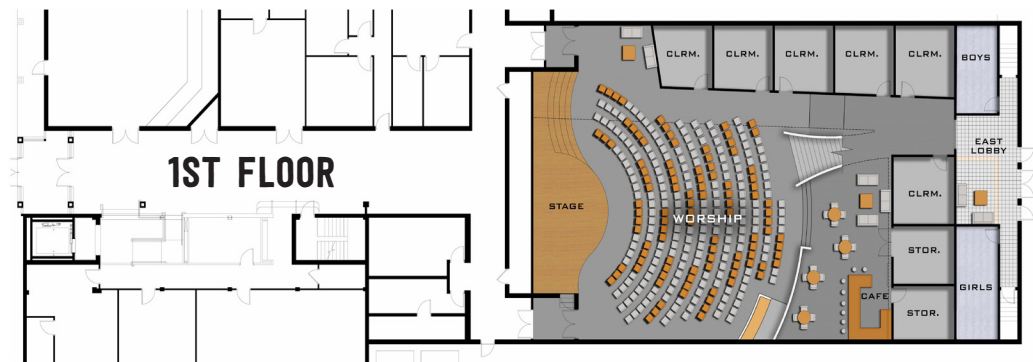
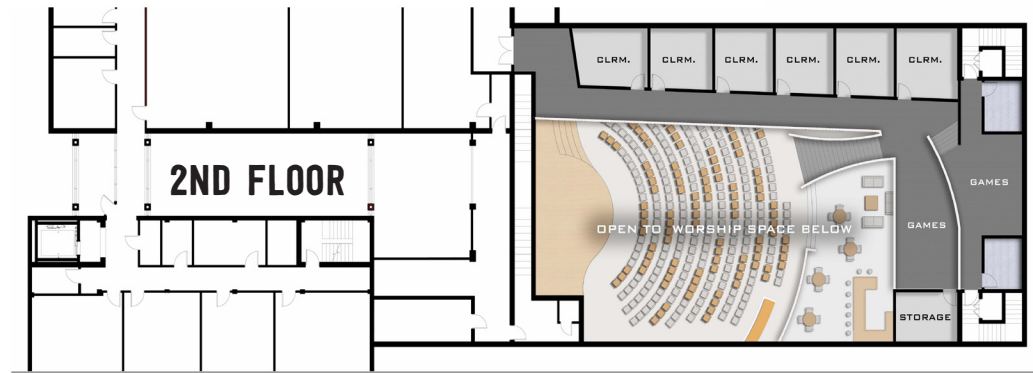
\$1MILLION

GENERATION, DEGENERATION, REGENERATION

EXISTING SANCTUARY RENOVATION:

The addition of the new worship center will greatly enhance our Sunday worship services, but the Genesis project addresses much more. Even within the new worship center, there will be additional senior adult classrooms and nursery space that, like most of the rest of our campus, will be utilized for worship and ministry throughout the week. Also, crucially, our existing sanctuary – built in 1962 – will be renovated to provide an incredible space designed specifically as a venue for our youth, collegiate, and international ministries. This part of the Genesis project will alleviate space constraints that have hampered these ministries for years and position us for immediate and future growth, and will include new classrooms, breakout areas for small group discussion, fellowship/greeting space and a flexible floor plan. This renovated sanctuary will be a key addition for our entire church in the years to come.

- Will create a strategic space for our collegiate and youth ministries
- Create a practical space for smaller weddings, funerals, and meetings
- Add crucial educational space in our East Building
- Reshape the stage for the renovated space
- Addition of a café/lounge area to allow the students to build relationships and relax
- New flooring
- Upgraded sound and lighting to enhance the audio/visual environment of the room



GENERATIONS TO COME

TOTAL COST
\$3.6MILLION



PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S RENOVATION:

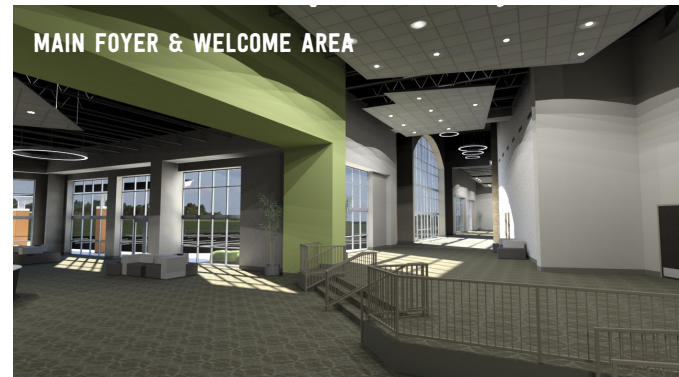
The new preschool desk and children's ministry check-in area will provide a stream-lined entrance to our facility for young families while also providing a great sense of safety and security. It will lead to a large, open area with hallways diverging to the various classrooms and the second-floor children's area. Many of the design touches of the new foyer will carry over into this entrance area, ensuring that it will also be a warm and inviting space. There will also be additional classrooms for infants and toddlers, with nursing rooms, play areas, and more.

- Easy access from the sanctuary facility to the nursery and children's wing
- Additional preschool classrooms close to the new sanctuary
- A nursing room attached to bed baby rooms for young mothers
- Indoor/outdoor play area and seating for parents to watch kids as they play
- Upgraded security/check-in systems throughout the facility

WELCOME FOYER RENOVATION:

One of the most important places to connect with others, welcome visitors, and fellowship with the church is a lobby/foyer that is spacious and comfortable. The new lobby will be a great place to congregate before and after the services and will be very warm and inviting. It will create a needed "front door" that invites guests from our community into our church life, and it will provide ample fellowship space for many other church activities.

- Create a warm, inviting place to congregate before and after service with visitors and members
- Creation of a "front door" to our church where visitors and members alike clearly know the location of the sanctuary
- A welcome center that is open and inviting to guests
- Large, spacious entry way with sitting areas, a welcome desk, and coffee bar
- This area will help alleviate traffic jams before and after services
- Modern restrooms that are fully handicapped accessible



TOTAL COST
\$1.3MILLION

REACHING FUTURE GENERATIONS

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS:

As we build for the future generations, we will be needing to refresh a number of areas around campus. Most notably, we will need to add additional parking to facilitate growth and to make up for lost parking spots due to the new worship center. We will accomplish this both by building new lots but also by reconfiguring existing lots.

These additions will be much safer and include designated handicapped parking, adequate lighting, and traffic flow islands. Also, we be adding new directional signage to welcome visitors and help direct them on campus. And we will create a more cohesive campus by the use of consistent colors, materials and design touches between the old and new structures at FBC.

These capital improvements will both serve our members and our greater community alike, and increase our ability to impact the River Valley with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



- Modern restrooms that are fully handicapped accessible
- Adequate parking lot lighting and traffic islands
- Handicap accessible parking immediately in front of the worship center
- Directional signage to help visitors and members navigate around campus
- Additional parking lots to increase current parking spaces
- Renovation of existing interior and exterior spaces to give a cohesive design between the old and new building
- Reworking existing parking lots to maximize parking and ease traffic flow
- Comprehensive security system throughout the campus

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL THROUGH MISSIONS & MINISTRY



Primary school students in the Keiyo District of Kenya, Africa

FBC has always been “on mission,” from our unique formation in 1873 until today. We yearly donate over 20% of all tithes and offerings received for missional opportunities locally and abroad.

Over the years, many members of FBC have been sent out of the church to proclaim the gospel all around the world as short-term missionaries and others have been called to the mission field full-time. We have been involved in countries like China, El Salvador, India, Kenya, Congo, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Ukraine, Thailand, Japan, and others.

Stateside, FBC has taken short-term mission trips to most of the major cities in the United States. Currently, we are working closely with former staff member, Jeremy Aylett, and his church plant, Mission Trails Church, in San Diego, California.



FBC mission group Brazil, South America

Our goal at FBC is not to fill your life with things to do,

but create opportunities through missions and ministries that allow you to participate in proclaiming the Gospel and strengthening your relationship with Christ. We have incredible outreach ministries like the Horseback



Baptism at a Horseback Ministry event

Ministry and Celebrate Recovery, tied with long-term foundational ministries like Awana, Life Groups, and Upward Basketball.

We are passionate about what God is passionate about, and that is seeing the lost come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and bringing glory to the father. Our hope is that through this building

project you not only get involved in helping build a building, but that you also get involved in all aspects of FBC. We are convinced that our congregation – with God’s direction and blessing – has the financial means to complete this project and, even while doing so, donate a portion of the receipts to other missions-minded ministries, both local and abroad.



Awana Kids on a Wednesday Night



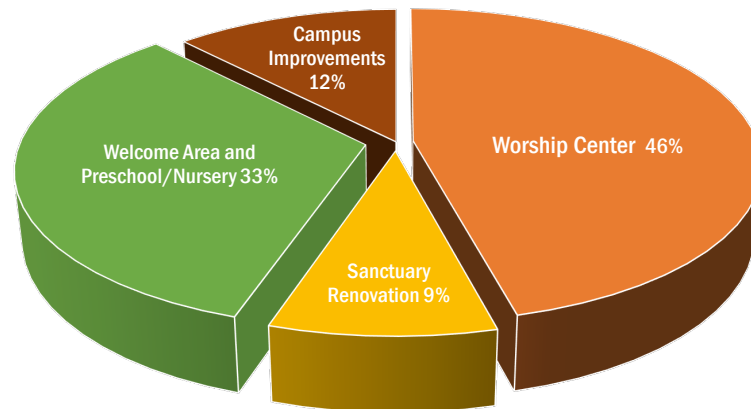
Child in Kenya, Africa

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As you prayerfully consider what God has called us to do as a church, we hope you understand it can't be accomplished without prayerfully considering what God is asking you to do. See how God is not only leading you to give, but to be involved with FBC on a greater scale. Be a part of our story, the continuing story of FBC Russellville by:

- Proclaiming the Gospel to a lost and dying world through missional opportunities
- Serving the local body through Awana, youth/collegiate/children's activities, VBS, Horseback Ministry, etc.
- Helping build our community of believers by being involved in a Life Group
- Leaving a legacy of faith by ensuring the Gospel continues to be preached today and in the future by participating in the Genesis project

\$11 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Capital Stewardship Campaign relies on every church member to make gifts “over and above” their current level of giving. FBC Russellville has a history of giving generously to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, and we are committed to keeping this first as we move forward; therefore, gifts must be above and beyond the norm.

The best way to increase your giving is to celebrate its spiritual implications and to continually seek to be heavenly-minded rather than earthly-focused. This can be defined as “Lifestyle Stewardship,” a term that describes giving and sacrificing in a way that affects one’s living. The challenge with Lifestyle Stewardship is to find ways, boldly and prayerfully, to let our giving touch our living.

We can only accomplish the task before us by trusting in God’s word and the Gospel. Paul declared in Ephesians, “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Often, Lifestyle Stewardship means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another. The three keys to effectiveness in Lifestyle Stewardship are:

- Reassessing lifestyle
- Rearranging priorities
- Reallocating resources



Based on a 3 year pledge.

Gross Income		Suggested Offering Guideline Above Normal Giving				
Yearly	Monthly	TOTAL GIFT	3 Annual Gifts	12 Quarterly Gifts	36 Monthly Gifts	156 Weekly Gifts
15,000	1,250.00	3,600.00	\$1,200	\$300	\$100	\$23
20,000	1,667.00	4,800.00	\$1,600	\$400	\$133	\$30
25,000	2,083.33	6,000.00	\$2,000	\$500	\$167	\$38
30,000	2,500.00	7,200.00	\$2,400	\$600	\$200	\$46
35,000	2,916.67	8,400.00	\$2,800	\$700	\$233	\$53
40,000	3,333.33	9,600.00	\$3,200	\$800	\$267	\$61
45,000	3,750.00	10,800.00	\$3,600	\$900	\$300	\$69
50,000	4,167.00	12,000.00	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$333	\$76
60,000	5,000.00	14,400.00	\$4,800	\$1,200	\$400	\$92
70,000	5,833.33	16,800.00	\$5,600	\$1,400	\$467	\$107
80,000	6,667.00	19,200.00	\$6,400	\$1,600	\$533	\$123
90,000	7,500.00	21,600.00	\$7,200	\$1,800	\$600	\$138
100,000	8,333.33	24,000.00	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$667	\$153
110,000	9,167.00	26,400.00	\$8,800	\$2,200	\$733	\$169
125,000	10,416.67	30,000.00	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$833	\$192
150,000	12,500.00	36,000.00	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$230
175,000	14,583.33	42,000.00	\$14,000	\$3,500	\$1,167	\$269
200,000	16,667.00	48,000.00	\$16,000	\$4,000	\$1,333	\$307
225,000	18,750.00	54,000.00	\$18,000	\$4,500	\$1,500	\$346
250,000	20,833.33	60,000.00	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$1,667	\$384
300,000	25,000.00	72,000.00	\$24,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$461
350,000	29,166.67	84,000.00	\$28,000	\$7,000	\$2,333	\$538
400,000	33,333.33	96,000.00	\$32,000	\$8,000	\$2,667	\$615
500,000	41,667.00	120,000.00	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$3,333	\$769

Please plan on joining us and participating in the following dates:

APRIL 26: Church vote to proceed and not to exceed \$11 million for the entire scope of the Genesis project

MAY 3: “Celebration & Kickoff Sunday” - Begin facilitating and discussing campaign throughout all Life Groups

SEPT 6- SEPT 27: Stewardship series in worship services

SEPT 27: “Commitment Sunday” - time for church members to submit their contribution pledges

OCT 4: “First Fruits Sunday” - three years of giving begins as church members make their initial contributions toward their pledge amounts

