

Gardner-Webb University

Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University

First Baptist Church Anniversary Celebrations

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

1972

125th Anniversary

First Baptist Church Shelby

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/baptist-historical-collections-first-baptist-church-anniversary-celebrations>



*“ . . . to strive for the advancement
of this Church
in knowledge, holiness and comfort . . . ”*



“... to strive



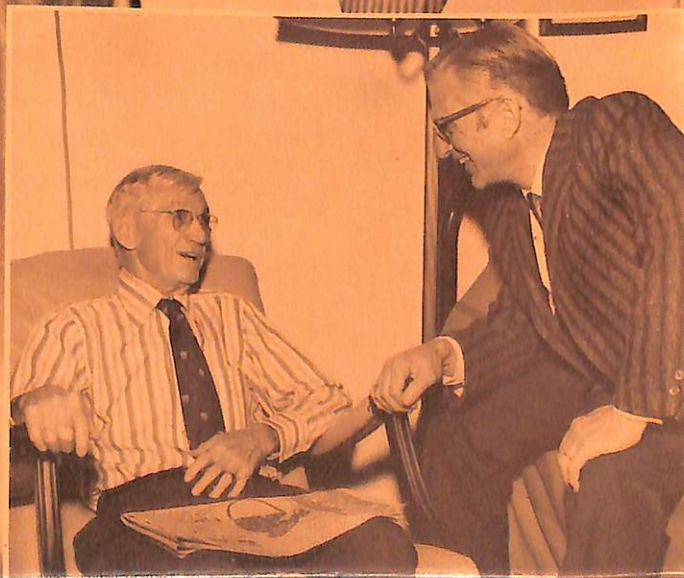


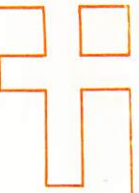
for the advancement of this Church . . . ”

The words on the cover of this brochure are taken from the Church Covenant. Right from the founding years of Rev. Webb down to Dr. Wall and our other great leaders, “advancement” has been a key to our heritage.

Advancement, not so much in terms of building and numbers, although we have been blessed with these things, too, but more in terms of God’s word reaching people’s hearts.

Also we have advanced our ability to anticipate our needs—a quality that keeps us alive and strong. And, finally, we have advanced in our efforts to bring the word of God to others beyond these shores. These, and other, qualities have advanced our Church. God’s Church, our Church—the First Baptist Church of Shelby.





Thy Will Be Done

On the eve of its 125th Anniversary, the First Baptist Church of Shelby presents a heartening picture. Always one of the foremost Southern Baptist churches in North Carolina, the Church is effectively ministering to the spiritual needs of its people in many different ways.

Today, overflow crowds attend services each Sunday to hear the Church's dynamic new Pastor, Rev. Gene L. Waterson, preach. Some Sundays people are actually turned away because of lack of seating.

Nearly 500 men, women and children of the Church are currently taking part in the Ministry of Music. Only last summer the Good News Choir under the capable direction of Van H. Ramsey, completed a highly-acclaimed tour of Russia.

With the leadership of Rev. Roland Leath and a dedicated volunteer teaching staff, Sunday School attendance is rising again. Six Nursery School sec-

tions are now needed and there are also four Beginner sections. Children and Youth group classes are equally well-attended, and well over 600 adults take part in Bible Study

Always "mission-minded", First Baptist ranks second in North Carolina as to the amount of its resources it gives to bring God's word to others—near and far. Much of this emphasis is sparked by the work of the Woman's Missionary Union and the First Baptist Brotherhood.

These, and many other, activities make ours a Church where His word moves people: where witness to Faith means word **and** deed.

But the mark of greatness also carries with it a certain restlessness. The feeling persists that no accomplishment is great enough to allow complacency. Were it not for this ability to look ahead, First Baptist Church could never have come so far, nor done so much in His name.





A Program From The People

The current Planning and Building Committee under the able chairmanship of J. A. West, has undertaken a study of the entire physical complex of the Church with a view to the future, and has developed this master plan to cover all needs. The feeling is that the time has come to make changes, to move forward once again.

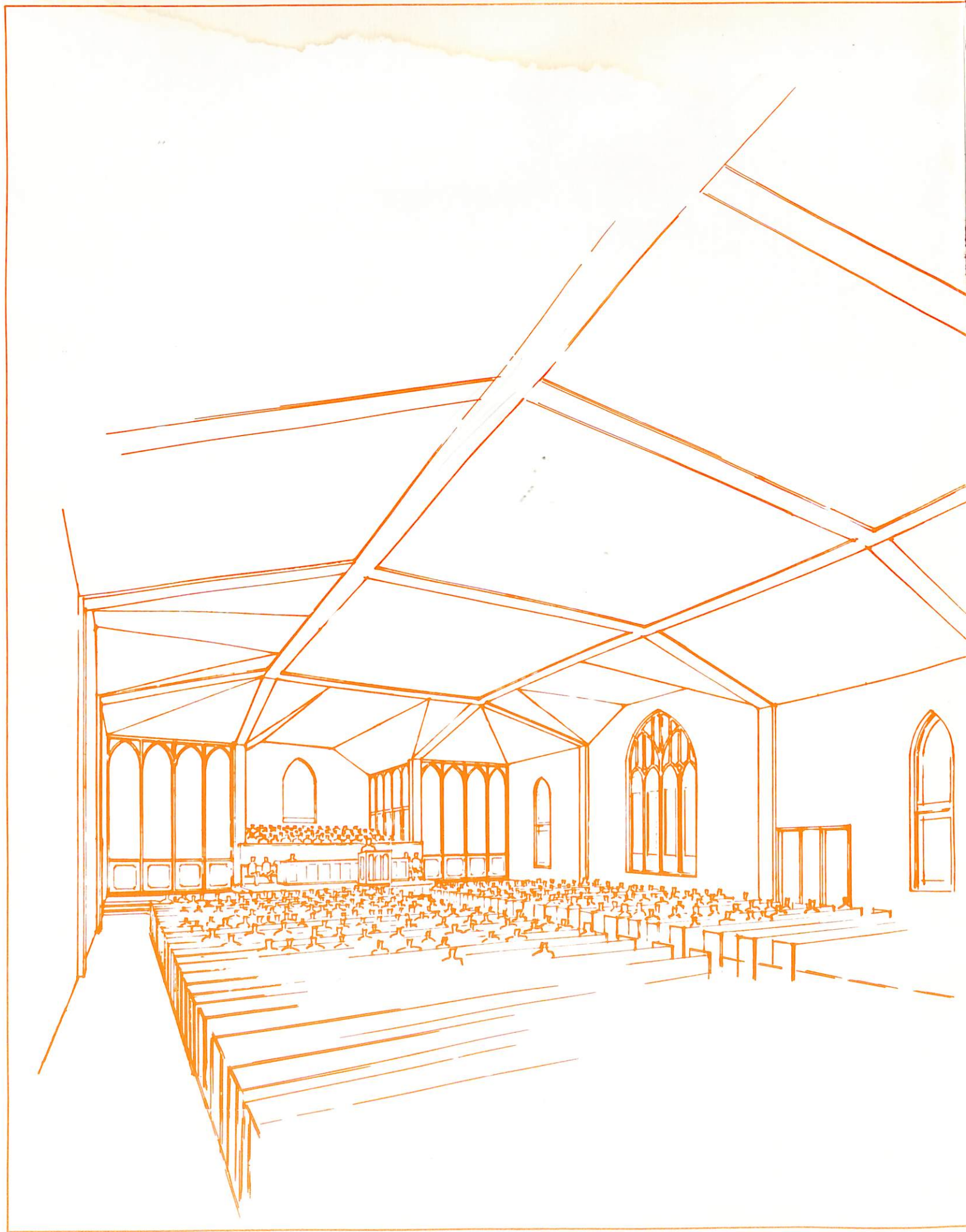
One problem of particular urgency involved the Church buildings. For too long, maintenance problems had been handled on an "emergency-to-emergency" basis. The result was, the experts said, that very soon members of the Church family could be in physical danger inside their own Sanctuary.

A second factor for consideration was the changing nature of the City of Shelby itself. The once quiet country town has gone. Shelby's economic upsurge has brought many new people to the area—and many new responsibilities to the First Baptist Church. Since the last Church Building Program, there has been a "membership boom" as Baptists moved here from elsewhere, and a brand new generation of young people has grown to near maturity in a world with many new problems to face.

The Planning Committee's conclusion was that these new factors must be served. Not only should the Church building be made safe, but consideration also should be given to enlarging the seating capacity in the Sanctuary and providing the physical means to enrich the Youth Program.

The most obvious answer to these problems was a capital campaign for funds. But the Committee wisely chose to go slow, draw its plans carefully with an eye to "dollar value received" and consult with as many as possible among the membership. Only in this way, they knew, could they attract the needed support from the First Baptist family, support which, once given, would assure success.

Working closely with the Finance Committee under chairman Lloyd Bost, the planning process went forward. Every attempt was made to meet people's concerns realistically. Finally, a plan was worked out. Together with a Finance Committee recommendation for a fiscal objective to meet the outlined needs, the Planning and Building Committee submitted their plan for approval by the Board of Deacons.





Our Essential Needs

At a meeting of the congregation on January 24, it was voted to launch a capital fund-raising campaign with a goal of \$750,000. The funds secured in this effort will make possible a number of alterations and improvements in our Church's physical plant. To be accomplished without significant changes to the exterior appearance of the Lafayette Street building, the program's objectives are as follows:

1. Enlargement and modernization of the present Church Sanctuary to increase its seating capacity from 904 to 1350 persons. These interior changes will also provide for the improvement of the acoustical and visual setting for those attending services and singing in the choir.

2. Creation of a modern, fire-proof activity area underneath the Sanctuary on the ground floor. Featured will be a large all-purpose room suitable for suppers (300 capacity) and large gatherings (500 capacity) for meeting, drama and music programs. The same area will serve as a young people's sports center at other times. There will also be five activity rooms adjacent to the main area for the use of every age-group, as well as a Prayer Room and Youth Activity Lounge.

3. Alteration, re-wiring and air-conditioning of the old educational building.

These improvements will give us a suite of ministerial offices with adjoining library. It is also planned to alter down-stair space to provide a Child Day-Care Center.

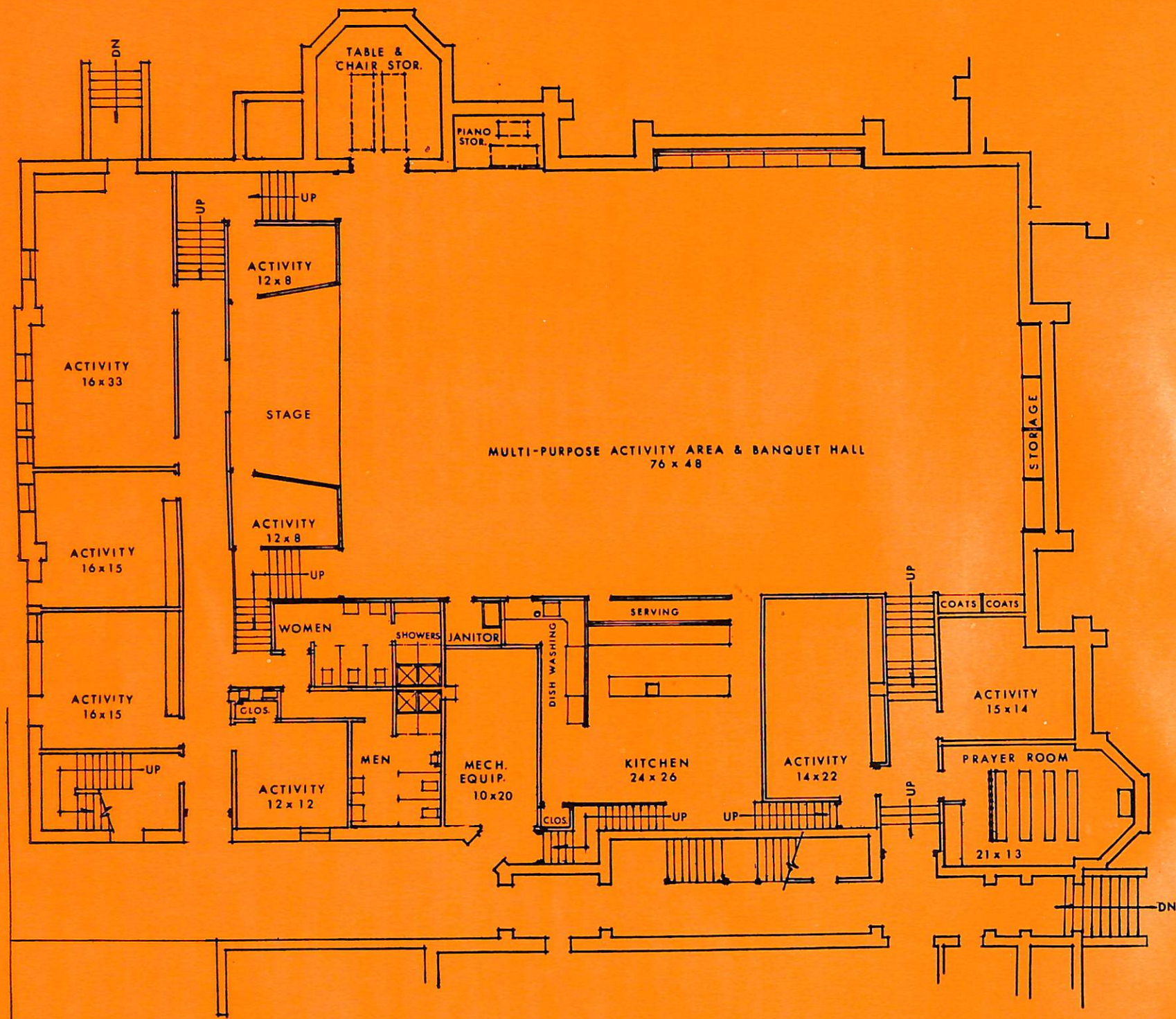
4. Air-conditioning the new educational building is also necessary, as is conversion of the heating unit there from oil to gas.

TOTAL PROGRAM COST \$750,000

Note: It has not yet been determined if the present organ will be adequate for the new Sanctuary. After expert consultation, a decision will be made. Until that time, however, no provision for organ costs can be reasonably projected. Therefore, these costs are not included in the program described here.

Planning committee studies indicate that this program as outlined will give our membership the maximum amount of benefit for the least expenditure of dollars. As one example, the experts estimate that the space to be created for activities on the ground floor will cost only about 25 per cent as much as it would to build on an entirely above ground site.

It should also be noted that these improvements will bring our Church facilities in line with modern Southern Baptist standards.





How We Can Succeed

With such a substantial goal before us, it is fair to ask: **Can we really expect to raise the entire amount in a single campaign?** There is no sure answer to this question, but your Finance Committee has studied the problem most carefully. Out of their studies have emerged two factors which must be understood if we are to succeed:

One is that our campaign must attract leadership and memorial gifts in four and five figures from those few members who have the capacity to lead.

The other is that we must also a-

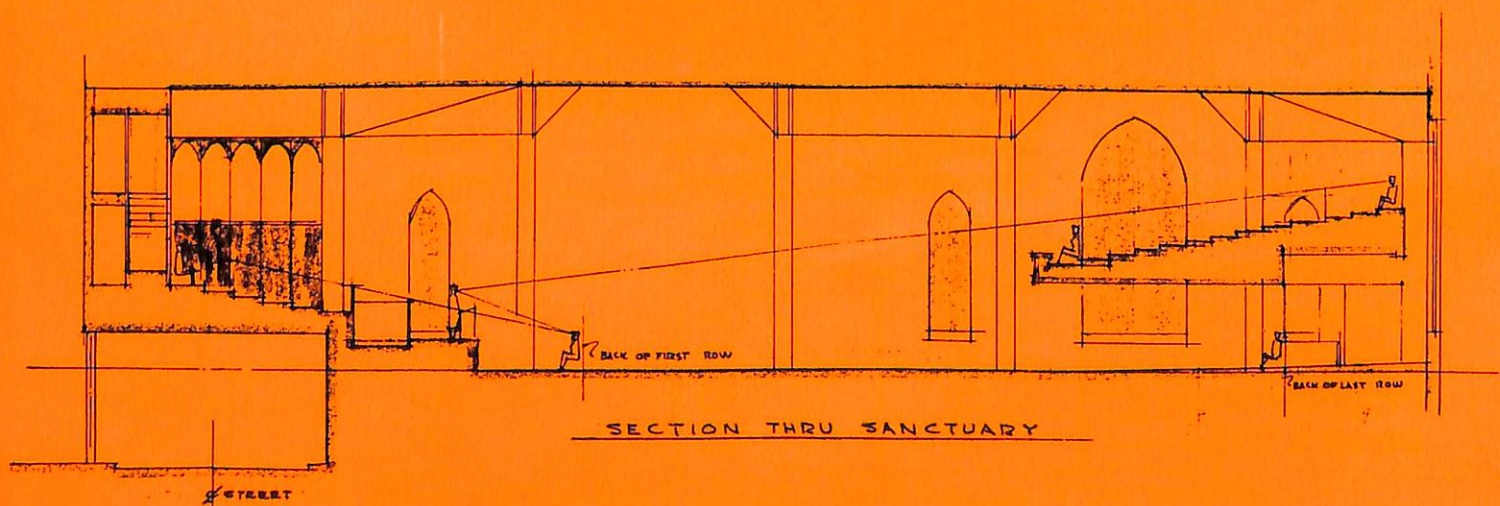
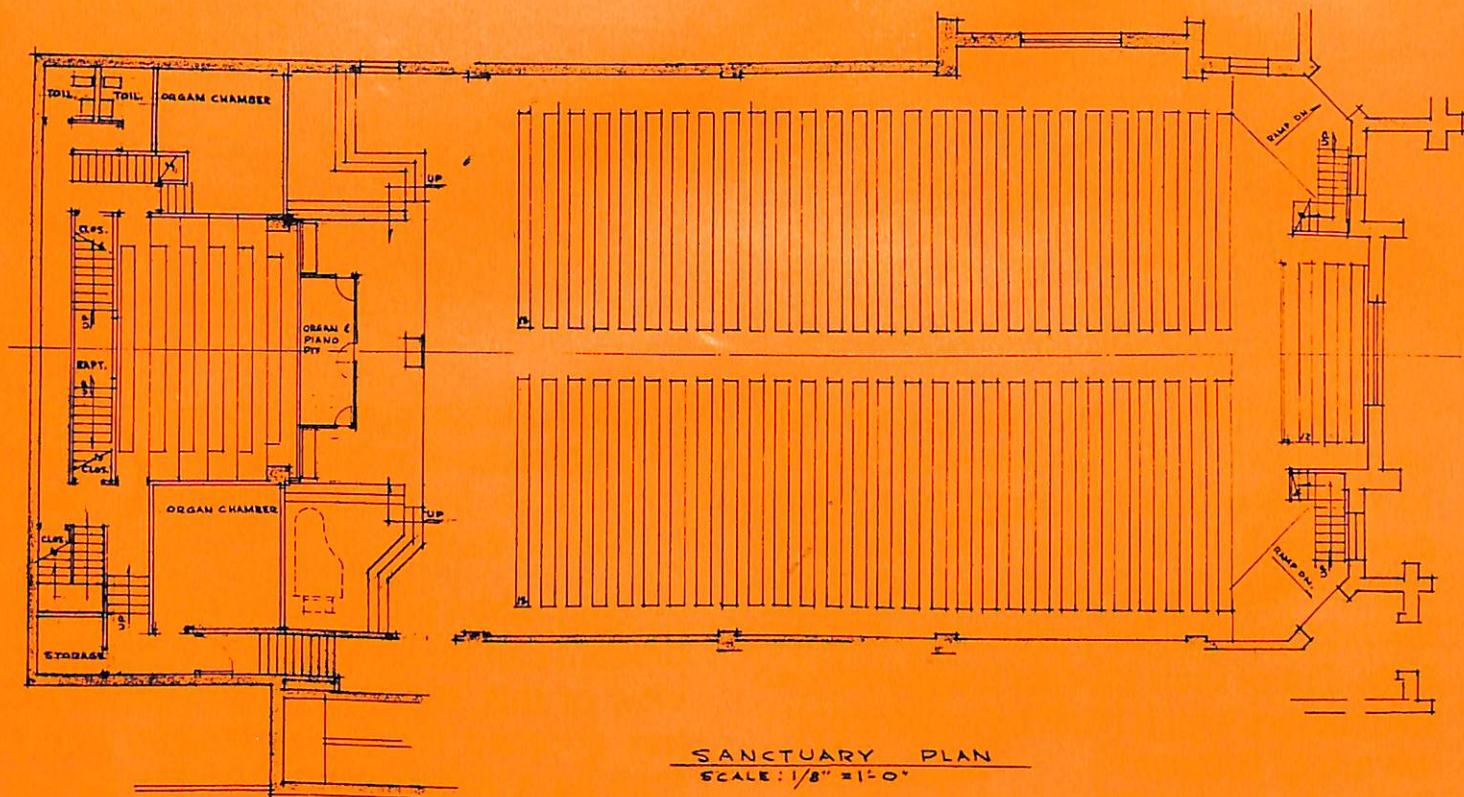
chieve widespread participation from all members in the form of three-year pledges in amounts ranging from \$360 to \$3,000.

Only when both of these factors are present can we be certain of success. In view of this, the Campaign Committee has adopted the accompanying Share Plan as a suggested guide for giving. Gifts in any and all amounts will of course be gratefully received, but it should be emphasized that many scores of gifts at the levels indicated in the Share Plan must be forthcoming if we are to obtain our goal of \$750,000.

FIRST BAPTIST SHARE PLAN

Level of Sharing	36 Monthly Payments	12 Quarterly Payments	3 Annual Payments	Total Pledge
Family Share	\$83	\$250	\$1,000	\$3,000
Commitment Share	50	150	600	1,800
Advancement Share	40	120	480	1,440
Builder's Share	30	90	360	1,080
Progress Share	20	60	240	720
Donor's Share	10	30	120	360

SPECIAL NOTE: Because Share Plan gifts are so essential to this campaign's success, the names of all Share donors will be inscribed in a Book of Appreciation for permanent display at the main entrance to the new sanctuary.





Named and Memorial Gift Opportunities

Because there are specific areas in the First Baptist Church's program with special donor appeal, named and memorial gift opportunities are being made available. These memorial opportunities also provide an effective and enduring way to associate an honored family name with the continuing work of our Church.

Listed below are some of the opportunities presently available. The donor will be consulted as to the form of recognition desired.

Opportunities in the New Sanctuary

To provide the Sanctuary	\$75,000
To provide the Baptistry	50,000
To provide and furnish the Pulpit Area	25,000
To provide an entrance to the Sanctuary (2 available)	15,000
To provide and furnish the Choir Loft	15,000
To provide and furnish the area for the Special Purpose room	15,000
To provide the Baptismal Dressing Areas	10,000
To provide the Balcony Area	10,000
To provide the Front Pew Row	5,000
To provide Audio-Visual Facilities	\$ 5,000

To provide a Downstairs Pew	3,000
To provide a Balcony Pew	1,000

Opportunities in the New Ground Floor Activity Area

To provide the Group Activity-Banquet Hall Facility	\$50,000
To equip for Dining (including Kitchen)	\$15,000
To equip for Youth recreation	10,000
To equip for Drama-Lecture purposes ..	10,000
To provide and furnish the Prayer Room	\$25,000
To provide and furnish the Youth Activity Lounge	25,000
To provide an All-Purpose Meeting Room (five available)	10,000
To equip for Scouting ..	\$5,000
To equip for Arts & Crafts	5,000
To equip for Adult Recreation	3,000
To equip for Meetings ..	3,000

Opportunities in Existing Buildings

To provide the Child Day-Care facility	\$15,000
To provide the Ministerial Suite ..	25,000
To provide the Church Library	10,000



Dear Friends:

Our people have Faith in God—Faith that we can yet do something in this world. We believe in the future of this great Church of ours, as our forebears did before us.

The program we have begun is tangible witness to our Faith. It represents the kind of energy and foresight that is God's gift. His hand is on us all in everything we do.

In the immense task before us we commit ourselves to His service and "... in all ways acknowledge Him and trust Him to direct our paths."

Gene L. Watterson
Pastor

First Baptist Church of Shelby

SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA

REV. GENE L. WATTERSON
MINISTER

REV. ROLAND LEATH
ASSO. MINISTER

VAN H. RAMSEY
MUSIC MINISTER

MRS. H. S. PLASTER
ORGANIST

Planning and Building Committee

J. A. West, Jr., Chairman
Hoyt Bailey
Ray Webb Lutz
Mrs. Rush Hamrick, Jr.
Charles A. Horn
Mal Spangler, Jr.
Mrs. Gene Branton
Harold Causby
Claude Lawing

Building Fund Finance Committee

Lloyd Bost, Chairman
Hoyt Bailey
John L. Hawkins
Dr. Avery W. McMurry
F. O. Champion
Dr. Robert Litton
Newlin Schenck
Ken Street
Rush Hamrick, Jr.
Paris Yelton

DEACONS — 1971

John L. Hawkins, Chairman
F. O. Champion, Vice Chairman

Blake McWhirter, Secretary
Ed Spangler, Asst. Sec.

Terms expiring at end of 1971

Richard F. Bowling	J. Hugh Mauney
Robert L. Eskridge	C. C. McMurry
John C. Hamrick	Blake McWhirter
John L. Hawkins	W. B. Wilder
Claude M. Lawing	Ed Young

Terms expiring at end of 1972

Lloyd C. Bost	J. Edwin Spangler
Harold W. Causby	E. T. Vanhoy
W. Hill Hudson, Jr.	Paul Wilson
George L. Magness	Paris L. Yelton
W. Gerald Osborne	Carlos Young

Terms expiring at end of 1973

Bob C. Allen	O. V. Hamrick, Jr.
F. O. Champion	Charles Heath
Max Daves	Gene Kirkpatrick
James Frazier	Ray Webb Lutz
Lee Gilliatt	J. A. West

Some Hints

In a capital development campaign, there are a great many methods of making a gift, each of which presents certain advantages to the donor depending upon his financial status at the moment. Here are some of them:

BUDGETED GIFTS—In making a gift to meet the Church's capital needs, it is often advantageous to "budget" one's gift over a definite period of time. For this reason, a three-tax-year payment period has been adopted as a suggested standard for pledges. Payments may be made in monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or yearly installments, or according to any other schedule which is preferred.

GIFTS OF CAPITAL ASSETS—Of all methods used for making substantial contributions to the institutions such as the First Baptist Church, this is perhaps the most advantageous. Through it the donor simply transfers directly to the Church a block of stocks, bonds or other securities which have been held for more than six months and which are worth more today than when purchased originally. Thus, the donor is freed of paying the "capital gains tax" which would be incurred if he sold these securities on the open market and contributed the cash proceeds. The gift of securities is deductible to the extent of their market value on the date turned over to the Church, and the donor is permitted to enter this "market value figure" as a deductible benevolence on his next income tax return.

Quite often, this will mean that even if the donor has the cash available to make his gift, it will be more helpful to contribute stock which currently carries a high "paper profit." Then, if he wishes, he may use an equivalent amount of cash to purchase anew the same

Some Hints on Giving

In a capital development campaign, there are a great many methods of making a gift, each of which presents certain advantages to the donor depending upon his financial status at the moment. Here are some of them:

BUDGETED GIFTS—In making a gift to meet the Church's capital needs, it is often advantageous to "budget" one's gift over a definite period of time. For this reason, a three-tax-year payment period has been adopted as a suggested standard for pledges. Payments may be made in monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or yearly installments, or according to any other schedule which is preferred.

GIFTS OF CAPITAL ASSETS—Of all methods used for making substantial contributions to the institutions such as the First Baptist Church, this is perhaps the most advantageous. Through it the donor simply transfers directly to the Church a block of stocks, bonds or other securities which have been held for more than six months and which are worth more today than when purchased originally. Thus, the donor is freed of paying the "capital gains tax" which would be incurred if he sold these securities on the open market and contributed the cash proceeds. The gift of securities is deductible to the extent of their market value on the date turned over to the Church, and the donor is permitted to enter this "market value figure" as a deductible benevolence on his next income tax return.

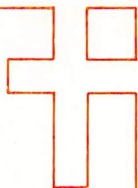
Quite often, this will mean that even if the donor has the cash available to make his gift, it will be more helpful to contribute stock which currently carries a high "paper profit." Then, if he wishes, he may use an equivalent amount of cash to purchase anew the same

stock, which thereafter will be carried on his books at the prevailing higher cost.

CLOSELY-HELD BUSINESS—In the case of a family-held corporation, the owners will save themselves from double taxation by having the gift made in the name of the company. Otherwise, the same money would be subject first to tax at the corporate level and then, when distributed to the owners, taxed again as personal income. By combining individual and corporate gifts in the same year, the owners of a closely-held business are able to make deductible contributions against not only the corporation's taxable income, but also against the individual's combined gross incomes.

TRUSTS—In a situation where a person may wish to make a substantial gift to the First Baptist Church which would bring his total philanthropy above the allowable tax deduction, he may set up a trust with the income payable to the Church. Through this method a block of securities is transferred to such trust for a specified period of at least ten years, with the provision that the income from it be paid to the First Baptist Church. Under these conditions, such income is no longer considered taxable personal income, nor is it counted against his philanthropic deduction. Thus, he is able to increase his giving substantially without tax penalty. When the total intended amount has been paid to the Church, the corpus of the trust, if desired, can revert to the donor.

SPECIAL NOTE: All pledges, gifts and stock contributions should be made payable to the First Baptist Church of Shelby and qualify as a charitable contribution for Federal income tax purposes.



First Baptist Church of Shelby

SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA
