

Vision Night 2024 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of Vision Night 2024?

The purpose of this gathering is to celebrate God's continued grace over First Baptist Church Lenoir City and to encourage its members to continue with its faithful service and giving in expanding God's kingdom, locally and across the world. In 2021, the church established three goals: to reach a weekly worship attendance of 1,500 on Sunday mornings; to have at least 100 baptisms each year; and to have zero debt. We are presently averaging 1350+ attendees each Sunday morning (559 in 2020), 1,457 over the past two months. Our baptisms have risen from 34 in 2021 to 73+ this year. In January of this year, the debt was eliminated. All honor and glory are given to God in these accomplishments! As we seek the Lord's will and guidance to move us towards greater glories for His kingdom, our work and service are not done.

Who comprises the Long-Range Planning Team?

The Long-Range Planning Team comprises three church members (presently Rick Raines, Bruce Giles, and Paul Chaveriat), chairs of standing committees (Personal-Joey Hughes, Stewardship-Hayden Park, and Property-Sam Linginfelter), the Deacons Chair (Jason Brock), LCCA Headmaster (Jim Koan), Senior Pastor (John Hunn), and Executive Pastor (Jeff Bowden).

What is the long-range plan to handle the growth we've seen?

As everyone is aware, we have added multiple services on Sunday to accommodate the growth described above. We will continue this approach into the Fall. What we need to do is create additional space for member areas where we've seen significant growth. Two such areas are in the nursery /preschool and adult discipleship. Since 2021, our average preschool attendance has nearly doubled (27 to 50+ for discipleship and 48 to 70+ in worship care) with a high attendance of 96 preschoolers, especially space for bed babies is needed. Adult discipleship numbers continue to grow as well with educational space being needed. Given these needs, the Long-Range Planning Team has developed a phased approach (containing three phases) to address these needs.

What are the three phases of the Long-Range Planning and how were the phases determined?

The three phases were established to address the most pressing church needs and establish long-term visions for supporting overall church growth. Phase 1, the most pressing, is to add nursery/preschool space by converting space presently containing the church library (which is being relocated) and renovating existing spaces on the first floor of the education building. Phase 2 addresses the need for additional discipleship classroom space. This requires extensive renovation and extension to the second floor of the education building. Phase 3 addresses the church's main entry point and provides additional gathering spaces via connecting the Worship Center with the Family Life Center.

What is the timeline and how much will each of the phases cost and will the church go into debt for these phase completions?

Answering the last part of the above question first, **NO, the church will not go into debt for any or all of the phases.** Exact beginning times for each of the phases will be driven by the faithful giving of the church membership. The Long-Range Planning Team worked with a local architectural firm, Studio-Four-Design, to develop detailed design drawings and receive cost estimates for each phase. Phase 1 is estimated to cost \$450,000 and could possibly begin in January 2025 if present giving continues. Phase 2, due to the extensive work and addition to the second floor of the education building, is estimated to cost \$3,100,000. Phase 3, again, an extensive addition to connect the buildings and create a new main entry to the church, is estimated to cost \$3,800,000.

Can the ordering of the phases be changed?

The Long-Range Planning Team ordered these phases based on documented **needs** of the church. It is certainly possible to change the ordering of, say, Phase 2 and 3, but the original ordering was based on need.

How will we pay for these phases?

Presently, it is anticipated that Phase 1 could be funded through 2024 giving which exceeds budgetary requirements. Phases 2 and 3, due to their nature and anticipated costs, will require continued and faithful giving as well as a designated pledge campaign.

What about the other maintenance projects on campus?

Yes, the church has several maintenance projects still needing attention on our campus due to deferred maintenance for lack of funds in the past. The staff and property committee has done a great job of completing some of these projects, but still has some to complete. These projects have been funded from our budget and overage in annual giving. We will continue to fund these projects in this matter to bring our campus facilities to standard maintenance.

Are there additional projects that the church needs to complete?

Over the past few years, our budget and budget overage have been focused on reducing our debt and completing deferred maintenance issues on campus. There exists a number of additional projects that are needed but have been delayed. Each of these projects support vital ministry areas which range from updating the Student Ministry Room, providing needed acoustic treatment panels in the Family Life Center, to expanding our pavilion and updating/creating new outdoor signage. These projects vary in estimated cost from \$55,000 to \$104,000. While the church's focus is to work towards completing Phases 1-3, these additional projects will continue to be needs for completion when funding is available.

What is the status of the new Loudon County High School and how does it impact the church?

It is anticipated/projected that the Loudon County Schools will be able to have site preparation (i.e., earth moving) begin in 2025. As part of the agreement between the church and schools, the church would be able to have a connecting road from the back portion of our facility to adjoin to a school provided road linking Simpson Road with Highway 11. The costs associated with the building of the church's road and connections must be borne by the church along with any site modifications which are needed to the church's property. The church will work with the school's contractor, once determined, (via a separate contract) to ensure seamless and coordinated efforts take place. At present, there is no estimate on how much this work will cost the church.

Will we receive updates concerning the "Excitement is Building" initiative?

Yes! We will provide updates as least quarterly or when we have an important update concerning the progress of the phases, projects, or giving.



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