



Sandy Level Welcomes You to **NEWS ON THE LEVEL**

May 2011
Volume 31 Issue 5



May 5th
10:00 a.m.



May 19th
Karen Hewlett's



May 23rd
(date change)

Everyone over 55
Invited bring a dish
for Fellowship fol-
lowing the 11:00
a.m. meeting.

May
1st



Children's Choir Musical
(Fellowship Hall)
May 22nd

YOUTH
May 14th
Donations
Welcome



May 15th
Graduate
Recognition

Vote

May 15th - Building Committee

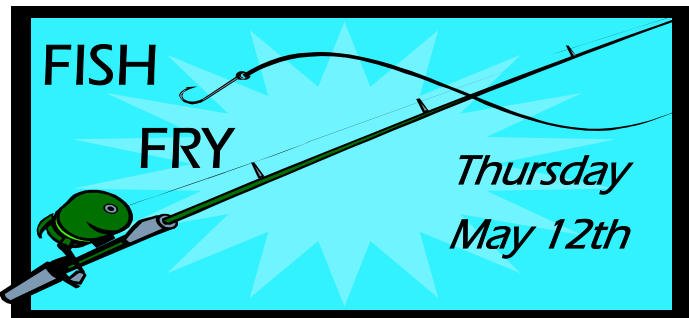


**Nicaragua
Team
Report**
May 15th
6:30 p.m.
Come & see
what you
have built!



Mother's Day
&
Child Dedication
May 8th

Youth State
Bible Drill
May 14th



Thursday
May 12th



May 1st

Annual church-wide picnic

White Oak Conference Center. (Picnic Pavilion)



Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided; Sunday School classes will be bringing the fixins'. The church will provide the drinks, plates & utensils. Don't FORGET to come to church dressed casual to go on to White Oak after the Sunday service. White Oak will have lifeguards so we may use the paddle-boats, canoes or fish in the lake. There is a disc golf course as well as horseshoes and volleyball or bring your own favorite outdoor game! So plan to come and bring your family. This is such a relaxing time of fellowship for your family and the entire church family!

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An Important Decision

The Building Committee has recommended a phased approach to the construction of the Family Life Center. Plans for phase one have been presented to the church and include a two story building to be constructed at the north end of Blackmon Hall. The first floor will be dedicated to children; the second, to youth. You will find floor plans and conceptual drawings elsewhere in the newsletter.

The vote is scheduled for Sunday, May 15. The motion to be decided is as follows: "The Building Committee proposes that Sandy Level Baptist Church approve the conceptual plans and the bid estimate presented by Fitts and Goodwin Construction Company for Phase I of the Family Life Center. Work will be performed over an approximate 9 month period for an estimated cost of \$1,200,000. It should be noted as part of this proposal that the plans as presented today will have some minor adjustments relating to codes and functionality and will be presented as final plans at a later date for church approval. The bid estimate will be finalized and the Finance Committee will present an exact financial package, also at a later date for church approval. The church-wide vote on May 15, 2011 will approve the completion of the building package and its general cost. The later vote after finalizing plans and the financial package will authorize the trustees to enter into contract with Fitts and Goodwin Construction Company and the Building Committee to begin construction."

Good questions have been raised about this project. Why phasing? Architect Don Golightly, who developed the conceptual drawings for the Family Life Center, estimated the cost at \$3.9 million. The capital fund-raising campaign netted a little over \$500,000. Borrowing over \$3 million dollars for the project is unrealistic for a church the size of Sandy Level. The options were to wait until the money was in hand, which would likely take many years, or to break the project down into smaller, more manageable parts. Urgent calls for action by some and the prospect of a tremendous loss of momentum and enthusiasm upon delaying action for a decade or longer prompted the committee to opt for the idea of a phased approach.

What is the big picture? Phase one would consist of the construction of the proposed two story building (at a cost of up to \$1.2 million) that would serve as a link between Blackmon Hall and the future gymnasium. Blackmon Hall would be slightly renovated (hopefully at minimal cost using in-house labor) to create large adult Sunday School classrooms. Personally I would also like to see some of the space in Blackmon Hall devoted to usages such as future office space, church library, prayer room, and conference room. Phase one would also likely include another capital campaign to generate sufficient cash flow to enable the church to pay off the mortgage within five to six years. Phase two would focus on construction of the gymnasium.

Is it wise for the church to consider borrowing money at this time? I called Robert Grant who works as a church consultant with the South Carolina Baptist Convention to ask his professional opinion about church loans. He gave me two criteria to keep in mind: (1) make sure the loan is not more than three to four times the amount of the annual church budget; and (2) the annual loan payments should not exceed, ideally, more than 18% of the annual church budget. The amount of money needed for phase one would fall within these boundaries. Three other factors provide reassurance about borrowing: the past success of Sandy Level with capital campaigns, the history of the church of relieving debt quickly, and the tendency of people to give more generously when they see action. The Building Committee thinks now is a prime time to build due to anticipated price increases for building materials and a rise in the cost of financing.

What are the benefits? The new structure would provide meeting space needed for the youth ministry. It would also provide a nice, up-to-date facility for our children, including spacious classrooms, welcome and resource areas, rooms that meet codes so that a day-care ministry could be established if the church so desired, and better security for both children and youth ministries.

Do we really need the space? The new building and the renovation of Blackmon Hall would provide ample education space for current needs and future growth. Opportunity abounds for Sandy Level. What seems adequate for today may be insufficient for tomorrow. The church must prepare now to seize tomorrow's opportunities.

Didn't we say that we would not break ground unless we had 75% of the funds in hand? This was a Building Committee proposal but was never voted on by the church. This proposal was attached to a \$3.9 million project. The current project is much smaller, so the loan amount would be less than 25% of \$3.9 million.

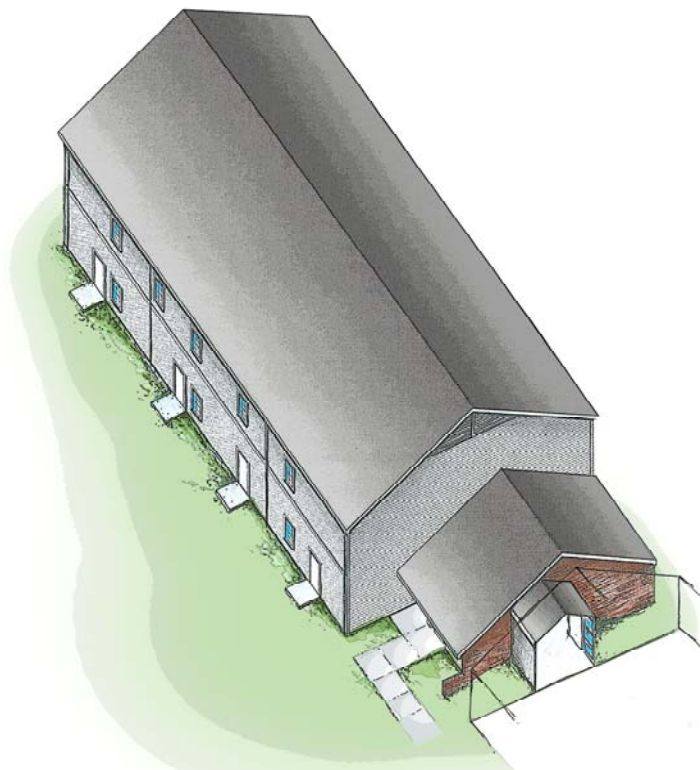
Raising and seeking answers to questions is important in a church' decision making process, but more important is the need to pray. So let me encourage you in these few days before the vote to set aside time to pray. Ask the Lord to impress upon your mind His will concerning this project. Give priority also to participation in a church-wide prayer meeting scheduled for Friday, May 13, at 6:30.

Let me leave you with a few quotes from an incredible little book I read recently called The Butterfly Effect by Andy Andrews. The premise of the book is based on the principle that a butterfly can "flap it wings and set molecules of air in motion, which would move other molecules of air, in turn moving more molecules of air—eventually capable of starting a hurricane on the other side of the planet." Andrews writes, "Science has shown the butterfly effect to engage with the first movement of any form of matter—including people." Near the end of the book he says, "There are generations yet unborn whose very lives will be shifted and shaped by the moves you make and the actions you take today. And tomorrow. And the next day. And the next. Every single thing you do matters." This principle applies to churches as well. Churches make decisions that impact the lives of people not only for time but eternity.

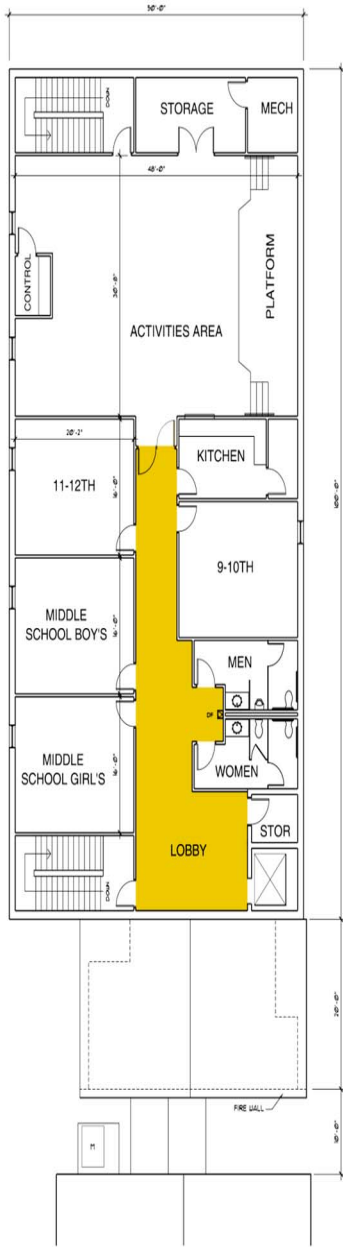
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bo'.



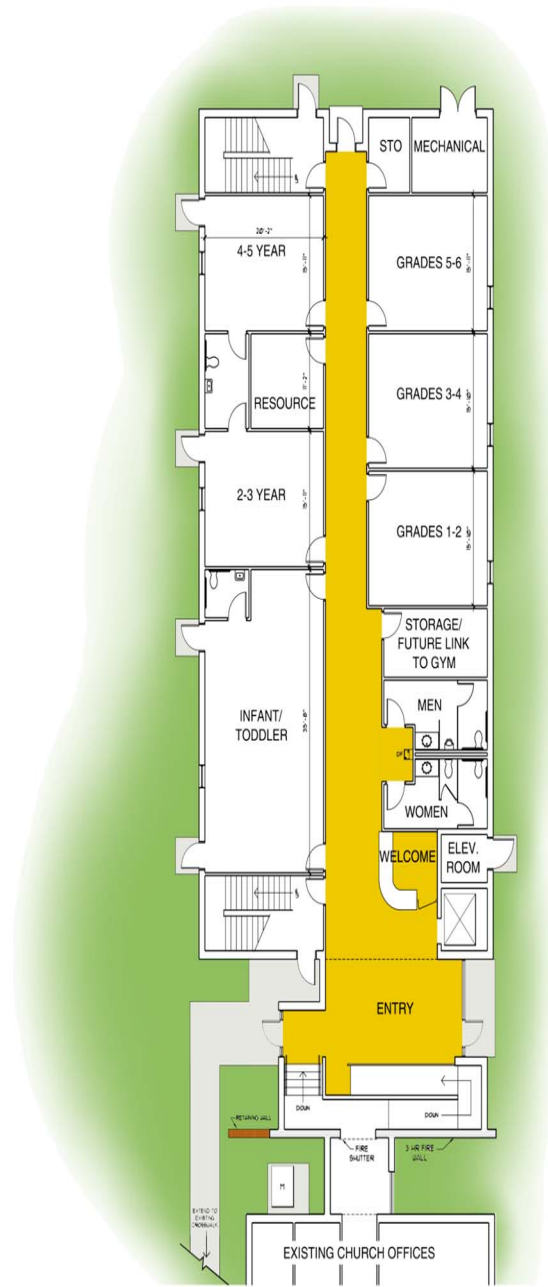
Elevation



Isometric



Second Level



First Level

Plan

From the Building Committee:

We have decided to move the vote on the project to Sunday **May 15th**. This will eliminate interference with the church picnic. We will also gather for a Prayer Service from 6:30 to 7:30 on Friday May 13th.


In the meantime, we hope you are in prayer daily and seeking guidance from the Lord. We want more than anything for this vote to allow God to speak through our congregation. Thank you for your prayers.

Andy Rose ~~ Chairman Building Committee SLBC



MISSION MISSISSIPPI 2011
JULY 23-30
DEPOSIT(\$30) DUE MAY 1



TRAINING STARTS MAY 15!



Youth Ministry Adventure Day
Saturday, May 7 \$50



D-NOW 2011!



Children's Ministry Schedule - MAY

May 1st **Nursery:** Babbi Bowers * Gertrud Whitlock
Toddlers: Tara Horton * Lea Oakes
Children's Church: Jerry Kaiser * Brian Wooten

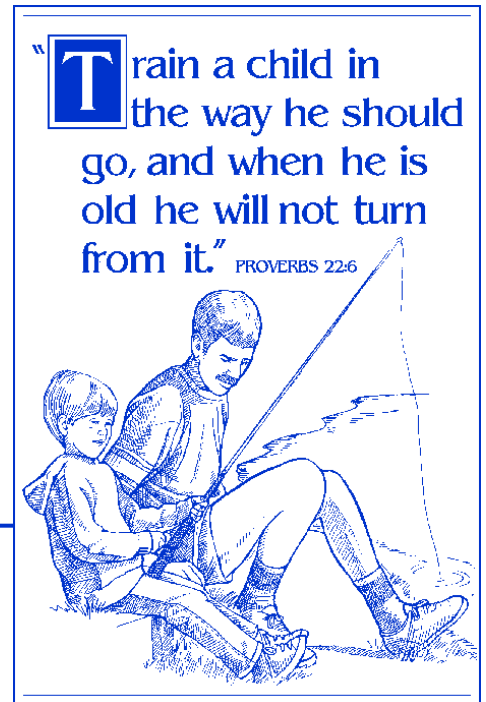
May 8th **Nursery:** Paula Thayer * Lauri Dees
Toddlers: Susan Combs * Janice Phillips
Children's Church: Jason & Leigh Powell

May 15 **Nursery:** Donna Baughman * Cyndy McCormick
Toddlers: Lea Oakes * Jessica Barfield
Children's Church: Christopher & Alice Wofford

May 22nd **Nursery:** Donna Cribb * Gina Lee
Toddlers: John Combs * Jane Plante * Carisa Buff
Children's Church: Benji Barfield * Michelle Creel

May 29th **Nursery:** Herb & Billie Wofford
Toddlers: Butch Royson * Mary Doble
Children's Church: Robin Blume * Gina Moak

**Kids
 For
 Christ
 May 1st
 Linda McGuffin**



Ushers May

<i>May-1</i>	<i>Jerry Whitlock</i>	<i>Jim Zimmerman</i>
<i>May-8</i>	<i>Jerry Kaiser</i>	<i>Bruce Hubbard</i>
<i>May-15</i>	<i>Jim Goodwin</i>	<i>Jason Powell</i>
<i>May-22</i>	<i>Wade Boozer</i>	<i>Alan Branham</i>
<i>May-29</i>	<i>Derrick Horton</i>	<i>Greg Dees</i>

Happy Anniversary!

Grant & Rhonda Meisner	8
Kevin & Vicki Williamson	12
Fritz & Frances Jolly	22
Wade & Gayle Boozer	26
Ray & Loretta Kersey	27
Dan & Marcia Stewart	30

Happy Birthday!!

2 Ben Newman	20 Frank Boney
3 Thomas Drafts	21 Benji Barfield
7 Rachel Branham	22 Ruth Gunnell
11 Dot Blume	25 Alice Wofford
12 Landon Kahle	28 Bobby Loner
12 Jacob Hughes	28 Frances Jolly
13 Josh Hughes	28 Jason Wilson
19 Ginger Kramer	30 Kendall Hewlett
	31 Darrell Hayes



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Church Vote</i> <i>Building Committee</i> Church Pledge	2	3 YLT - 7:00 p.m.	4 <i>Fellowship Meal</i> 	5 	6	7 Youth Adventure Day
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>Corseage pick-up</i> Parent/Child Dedication FHall - reserved	9	10 Council of Leaders	11 <i>Fellowship Meal</i> 	12 	13 Church Prayer meeting 6:30	14 State Youth Drill Youth Yard Sale <i>donations welcome</i>
15 Graduate Recognition Nicaragua Team ~ 6:30 FHall - reserved	16	17	18 <i>Fellowship Meal</i> 	19 	20	21 FHall - reserved
22 Children's Choir Musical Fellowship Hall	23 	24	25 <i>Fellowship Meal</i> <i>Last until fall</i>	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	31				

Wednesday Night Schedule

- 5:30 Fellowship Meal
- 6:00 Music Makers, Youth Bible Drill
- 6:30 Prayer Meeting, RA/GA
- 6:45 Mission Friends
- 7:00 The Station
- 7:45 Adult Choir

Sunday Morning/Evening Schedule

- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:30 Morning Worship
- 5:00 Acteens/Iron Men
- Bible Buddies (Gr 1-3)
- Adult Small Groups (Childcare ~ Infants and Pre-School)
- 6:30 Children's Choir (2nd thru 6th grade)
- Youth Choir
- Men's Small Group



Bible Drill - Children

May

