

“Love, Hope, and a Place to Belong”

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” -Galatians 6:9

As our church moves forward with its various missions and projects, the Hospitality Committee recognizes the importance of this work and the importance of the church’s members in those missions. While a church is FAR MORE than the building, a person is likely to come up with their first impression in under two minutes when they are in a new place. We have a unique opportunity right now to refresh the church building and all it has to offer. The members of the Hospitality Committee feel the below findings will help make the church more welcoming to existing members and new members alike. As we move closer to a date when we can all worship together again, we want to show our pride in everything our church has to offer, and to do all we can to show our members and guests how important they are.

Findings of the Hospitality Committee after member and mystery guest walk throughs, broken down into Priority, Easy, Hard/Dreams/Wishlist:

PRIORITY ACTIONS: Things we feel should be done before the church reopens

- Declutter/Organize/Clean the entire church – as with any home, occasionally, you need to go through and declutter and do a deep cleaning. All parts of the church would benefit from this.
- Take advantage of unused corner with extra pews in the sanctuary to create a Children’s Corner. This is a clear, visual expression of how important we believe it is to have children present in the worship space. While there were concerns that having that space would make children and parents feel like they had to hide in a corner, the opposite is often true, as evidenced by attending other churches that have been providing a designated space for some time. Children can feel free to move between the pews and the designated space, and parents can feel more comfortable engaging in worship because they know their children have a safe and welcoming space to go to. The children are still able to participate in worship, and the congregation continues to get to hear the joyful noises of children. We are lucky to have a congregation that obviously loves children and encourages them to be a part of worship, so adding this physical space will be a visual sign of that love and acceptance.
- Transition from a nursery space in the back corner of the upstairs portion of the church to a designated corner of the Fellowship Hall. Ensure any fixtures like bookshelves, tables, etc., are on wheels so they can easily be moved around when more space is needed in the Fellowship Hall. Our committee feels this has several benefits:
 1. The current nursery space is set far apart from the sanctuary. It is not accessible for anyone who can’t do stairs.
 2. The Fellowship Hall offers accessibility both from the elevator and because it has the accessible bathroom attached to it.
 3. The Fellowship Hall already has a television, which we understand can be set up to have a live stream of the worship service upstairs. It is a quiet space, should families need to have a moment away from the service.

4. Again, having the visual of a space designated for children is an outward symbol of the importance of children in our church. Families attending pot lucks or other events (even funerals) will feel more welcome and more likely to stay longer if they know their children have a space where they are welcome.
- Quick bathroom updates: fix simple plumbing issues, like handles that need extra instructions to make sure the toilet flushes; add a changing table to the bathroom off the Fellowship Hall.
 - Pew Cushions – This is also a Wishlist item, as we recognize the expense, but updating the pew cushions came up frequently in our surveys.

EASY ACTIONS: Things that will take little time or investment, but will have a big impact:

Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Outside:

- Power wash the church’s exterior
- Repair the screens and repaint the trim on the windows facing 2nd Street
- Fix the broken elevator vent
- Purple doors – touch up the paint, get matching door handles, and do some maintenance to the weather stripping
- Give the main sign facing Kwik Trip a fresh coat of paint and fix broken letters – **we already have a volunteer who will do this once it warms up**
- Sandblast and repaint the railing along the parking lot
- Make the handicap spaces more clearly identifiable – repaint the lines, repair the signs that can be put out.

Parking Lot Entrance:

- Consider adding chairs and a planter to make entrance more welcoming
- At the very least, add signs so people know where to go if they enter from the parking lot, but consider adding pictures or some sort of decoration so it feels more like an official entrance.

Main/Side Entrance:

- Update the welcoming video – **Pastor Tony has already volunteered to work on this**
- Sand and re-stain the coat rack and replace the bars, as they are damaged. **We have already switched out the coat hangers**
- Update décor

Sanctuary:

- Declutter elevator landings on both levels
- Create children’s corner, move busy bags out from elevator landing to the corner. Guests would not know to check in the elevator area for the busy bags. Having the bags in a more visible location is again a visual expression of how important children are to our congregation.

Main Street/Purple Door entry:

- Take the coat rack down to open up the space
- Consider adding a light on a timer to showcase the stained glass above the doors

Fellowship Hall:

- Declutter stairway on the way down from the purple door entry.
- Create children’s corner as quiet space if a break from the service is needed and to have a space for children to eat and play during larger events like the Harvest Home Dinner or pot lucks (see above).

Classrooms:

- Be proud of the work that has already been done – the guests all thought the rooms were great spaces for children.
- Designate a youth room. It is a visual sign that youth are welcome and valued. Guests remarked that we must not have a youth program, since they couldn’t identify a specific place for middle school and high school aged kids.
- Reorganize storage room.

HARD/DREAMS/WISHLIST:

- consider a more cohesive color scheme for the interior walls of the church and utilize more of the artwork the church already has throughout the church.

- Look into updating the pew cushions
- Start a Hospitality Fund for purchases like the baby changing station, parking lot chairs/flower pot, décor for parking lot entry, pew cushions, updating the back cement stairs (this will be needed eventually but isn't urgent).

These tasks can easily be achieved by rolling up our sleeves and remembering that we're giving families a warm and welcoming place to learn about Jesus's teachings. We want them to feel like they are home from the moment that they walk in, until the moment they leave.

Matthew 19:14, "But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

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