

A FUTURE FOR BOILING SPRINGS

For over 250 years our church has faced a number of challenges: wars, division, and diverse catastrophes. Each of these brought its own unique set of hurdles, and through much prayer and untold sacrifice, the church responded each and every time. The types of issues we face today are different, but the scale of opportunity is something that continues to amaze us. Boiling Springs and the surrounding community are changing rapidly. How do we minister to the thousands of souls moving into, and through, our community and reach them for Christ? How should we respond?

As we consider these questions and begin to visualize our plans for the future, it's always good to look back and see how far we've come and how we became the church we are today. As we take a step into our church's past, one thing is clear: with guidance from the Holy Spirit and by the grace of God, we faced challenges and changes head on. As a result, our church and the Kingdom of God grew. We may have a different challenge ahead of us now, but we are the same church we have always been—a church willing to do whatever it takes to reach the lost.

“

GOD IS AT WORK AROUND YOU. WATCH TO SEE WHERE GOD IS WORKING AND JOIN HIM IN HIS WORK.”

— HENRY BLACKABY

OUR CHANGING PAST

In 1772, our church was first organized as the “Lawson’s Fork Branch” of Fairforest Baptist Church out of Union County, SC. Our original meeting house was close to Lawson’s Fork Creek, not far from what we know today as the Valley Falls area. Our challenges began early when the start of the Revolutionary War disrupted life in America, including the work of The American Church. Although we have no church records for the war period, the building was likely destroyed by the British or Tories as conflict continued through the 1780s.

In 1792, the surviving members reorganized our church as Boiling Springs Baptist Church. The meeting location was near where our gym and cemetery are today, before Hames Road divided the property. After this change, the membership grew to about 40, and in 1810 a log building was built near the current cemetery.

Around 1830, our church had been without a pastor for several years. As a result, they came under the

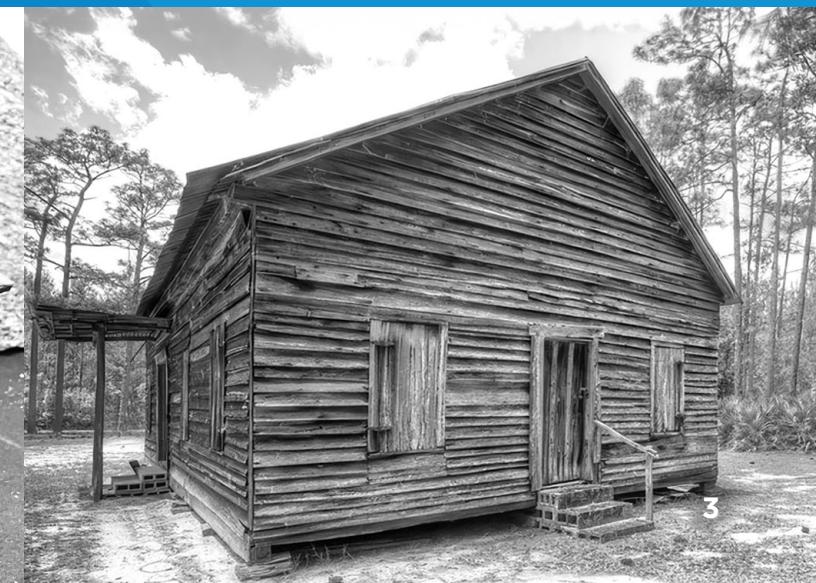
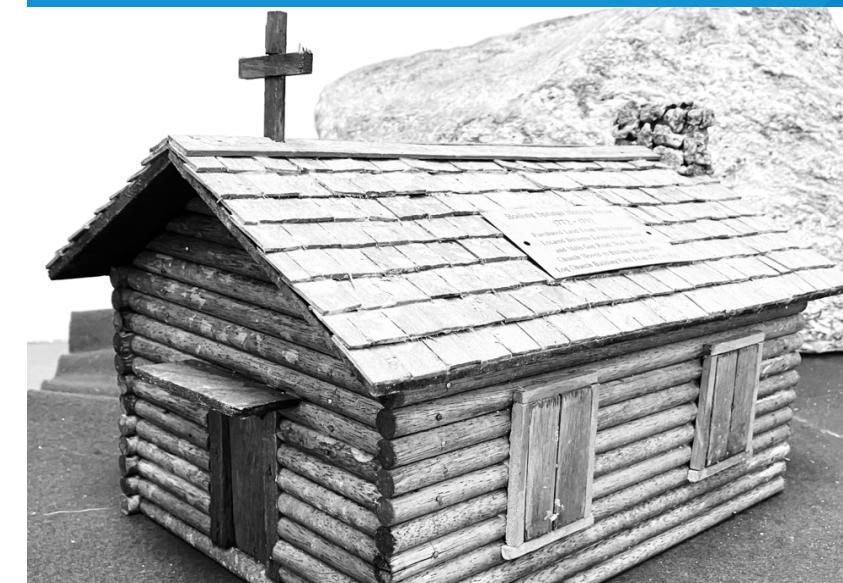
| This model, built by Wallace Henderson, depicts how the early log churches of 1772 and the 1800s may have appeared.

influence of a “Free Will” preacher who eventually excluded those who would not follow him.

The church was divided, some members staying and some meeting nearby as Little Bethel Baptist. Thankfully, this disruption and dissension did not destroy our church. In 1838, with God’s guidance and sound leadership the Little Bethel members returned to the property and we continued to move forward.

Two years later, we reorganized again as Boiling Springs Baptist Church. By 1841 the 30-year-old log meeting house was torn down and a frame structure was built in its place. This fresh start for our church began with only 11 members, but with a new building erected, we grew to 76 members by 1862. We were now facing another war that would divide our country in ways we could never imagine. Survival during the Civil War was difficult, but records show that our focus remained on the mission and our faith in Christ.

| An example of a surviving frame church from the 1840s. Our original 1840 structure was likely similar.



By 1872 our membership grew to over 200. A new worship space was needed, so in 1874 the 34-year-old frame church was torn down and replaced with a new building constructed on the same site in the middle of what is now the cemetery. By 1936 our church had grown to 700 members. We were once again in need of new space for our growing congregation, so we voted to build a new house of worship.



I The white church, built in 1874 and located in what is now the cemetery, served the congregation until 1941.

Excavation for the new worship space we would later call "The Old Sanctuary" began February 1, 1938. The first service in this space was held on January 11, 1942. Seven years later, a new addition was constructed onto the back of the Sanctuary for much needed office and Sunday School space.

Just over a decade later, God began calling us into something new, so in 1959 property was purchased to begin a mission of our church. This mission, called "Crossroads Mission" grew into what is today Northbrook Baptist Church. That same year, the old Fellowship Hall was built. Over the next few years we began to see a need to better minister to the children and families in our church and community. In 1965

the current "D Wing" building, which was connected to the 1941 Sanctuary, was completed. This facility was specifically designed to focus on Preschool and Children's Ministry. It also provided space for the start of a church kindergarten school program to serve the families of Boiling Springs.



I The church building prior to 1977 construction.

God was working in an incredible way in our church, and within only 30 years we recognized that the worship space was quickly becoming inadequate for our growing congregation, so in 1972 we established a building fund for a new sanctuary. Plans progressed, the land was acquired, and construction on our beautiful new worship space began in 1977. The first Sunday in what is our current sanctuary was Easter of 1979. The following year, a Family Life Center and tennis courts were constructed. The FLC later became what is now our gymnasium. A few years later in 1984, the "E Wing" space under the sanctuary was finished to add additional classrooms.



I Current Sanctuary completed in 1979.



I Phase 1 of the Master Plan: Atrium, Children's spaces, and Fellowship Hall



I The Student Center, completed in 2013

By the mid-1990s it was clear that our preschool and children's space was not only aging but undersized for the number of families we were serving, so a vision was presented to our church that we expand again. The vision proposed that we construct a larger, modern Fellowship Hall to serve as a multipurpose space that could accommodate the numerous programs that were constantly growing. Efforts proceeded to acquire the remaining contiguous properties within the triangle created by Highway 9, Old Furnace Rd., and Hames Rd. By 1999, a master plan had been developed and approved, so we began construction.

In the summer of 2003 Phase 1 of our master plan was completed. This included the Atrium, the Preschool & Children's areas, the Fellowship Hall, service and utilities areas, more parking and considerable infrastructure to upgrade and connect utilities. By 2008 we realized there was a need for a new, more contemporary style worship service in Boiling Springs. What was known as the Fellowship Hall became the Auditorium and "The Spring Service" began meeting. This service began to grow, and would later become our 11 o' clock service.

During this time, our Student Ministry was meeting in the Old Sanctuary, but by 2011 it was becoming unusable as a Student Center. In a desire to better minister to the growing population of Boiling Springs students, it was time to enter Phase 2 of our master

plan and replace the Old Sanctuary with a brand new facility. In 2013, what is now our current Student Center was completed. The project also included renovations to the gym and Sanctuary, as well as upgrades to the Auditorium to improve its use as a worship space.

The completion of Phase 2 of our master plan leads us to what we now recognize as Boiling Springs First Baptist Church, but our work didn't stop there. We continued to expand our church beyond Highway 9. In 2022 our church accepted ownership of two other churches, one of which has become our Peach Valley campus in Spartanburg. They began by holding services in their Fellowship Hall with a small group of congregants, but the space became too small as their attendance was rapidly increasing. In 2025, the Peach Valley Sanctuary remodel was completed, and what was once a small, diminishing congregation grew into a thriving campus of new families in only 2 years.

For over 250 years the people of Boiling Springs have found home, family, and purpose at Boiling Springs First Baptist Church, but our work is not done!

OUR CHANGING PRESENT

Our church is standing in the center of what has become one of the fastest growing areas in the country. God clearly had a plan when he started our church in a small grove of trees over two centuries ago. Across the years He has guided, nurtured and blessed our predecessors in order to prepare us for our mission today. No doubt

He has clearly placed us here for such a time as this.

As in the past, our challenges today are God-sized. Many of our ministries are out of space. We are out of room for adding new Sunday Family Groups and many of the existing groups are cramped, with little room to add new members. Our Kid's Ministry is thriving as well. They will soon outgrow their large meeting room, and will eventually outgrow their space altogether. Both of our worship spaces are near capacity on many Sundays, allowing little room for the growth we are seeing and the future growth we are expecting. Along with that, our Sanctuary is over 46 years old, and although we have renovated and updated several times, systems are showing their age.

God is bringing new people through our doors and changing lives each week. We are responsible for stewarding the ministry of His Kingdom well as we continue to serve the people of our church and the community of Boiling Springs. We are positioned in the middle of a rapidly growing mission field that is ready to be harvested!



OUR CHANGING FUTURE

THE MASTER PLAN

Nearly 30 years ago our leadership recognized the need to develop a strategy in order to fulfill the vision that would carry us into the 21st Century. With counsel from the South Carolina Baptist Association and after consulting with our architects, we determined that a master plan was needed to help prioritize the needs and lay out a sequence for future developments. The plan served us well for almost 20 years, helping us stay on track through each phase of that plan. Today, as we again deal with the accelerating growth in Boiling Springs, we find ourselves in need of a new and expanded space for our church.

About five years ago, our former pastor Dr. Hank Williams formed a Vision Team to study the needs of the church and develop a vision for the future of our growing church. With assistance from the architects at LS3P, and after much prayer and consideration, the team created a new master plan. Pastor Hank shared a glimpse of this with the congregation before he retired in 2024, encouraging us to continue to move forward in the ministry to which God has called us. Although we do not have a Senior Pastor at this time, there are things we can begin doing now that will move us forward in the vision God has given us, and we would like to share more of this plan with you, the members of Boiling Springs First Baptist Church.

At BSFBC, we have the unique advantage of being perfectly located on Highway 9 in the center of the community, putting us in a position of visibility and accessibility. This is not by chance, but by God's providence. At the same time, we recognize that we are land locked due to rapid development

on Highway 9, so we do not have the option of expanding outward. Our available real estate may be our most precious resource. Long term, we must preserve space wherever possible and consider building up instead of out.

The new master plan is divided into three phases. Phase 1 includes eliminating our remaining debt and renovating a section of the current Children's Wing to better accommodate the growing number of children we minister to each week. This phase will also include developing a funding base for subsequent phases of design work and construction. Phase 2 is a plan to replace the 1965 D-Wing with a new and much larger Education Building. This will hopefully be a three or four story facility that will provide more appropriate space for adult Family Groups and classes along with a new, expanded space for our Children's Ministry. The third and final phase will be to replace our current sanctuary with a new worship space where both of our current services and any future additional services will meet. It also includes a new, larger lobby that will have access to the new Education Building, our Student Center, and the remaining portions of the building.

We have not yet developed any floor plans, detailed drawings, or blueprints of phases 2 and 3, but we do have a very high-level concept of the future facility. We know that changes like this come with many questions and concerns. While all of the details have not yet been finalized, we hope to answer as much as we can at this time, and we will provide opportunities to discuss these plans further before we proceed.



Existing Campus



Proposed Campus



Artist's rendering of a potential new building as seen from Highway 9. Design not final. Steeple placement will be included in a final design rendering.

CHILDREN'S SPACE

One of our most immediate needs is a more spacious large group room on the second floor of the Children's Wing. This space is used for BSFBC Kids on Sundays and for many children's events throughout the year. On many Sundays, the current room is full, making it difficult to bring in additional children. Several nearby rooms in the main hall are currently unused, and by removing a few

non-loadbearing walls, we can create a much larger, more welcoming space within the existing footprint. We plan to complete the demolition work ourselves with an experienced volunteer team some of whom have already volunteered their labor. The project will still leave several classrooms available for future growth.

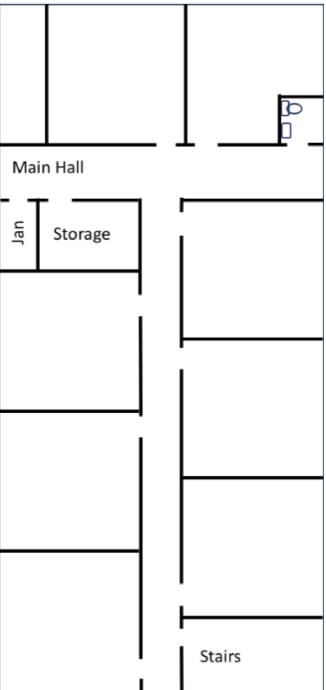
Another major limitation is the single, one-person restroom off the hallway, which often causes long lines. This project would add two new restrooms, helping alleviate the waiting time for restroom use.

The total cost is estimated at around \$300,000, depending on final finishes. Our goal is to begin construction in 2026, as we believe this project will bring immediate benefits to our children's ministry.

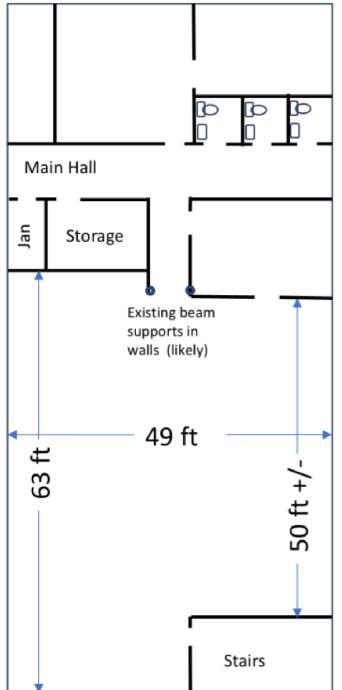


Rendering of a potential design for the new large kid's room

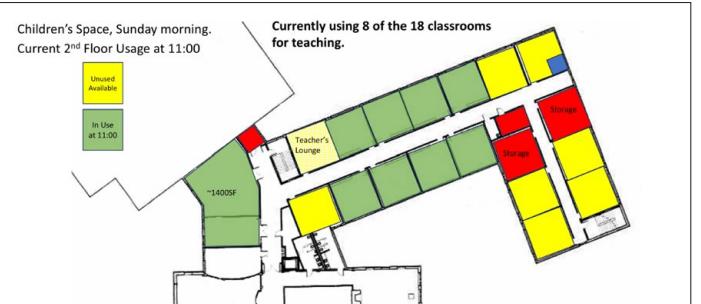
Second Floor Children's Wing Existing



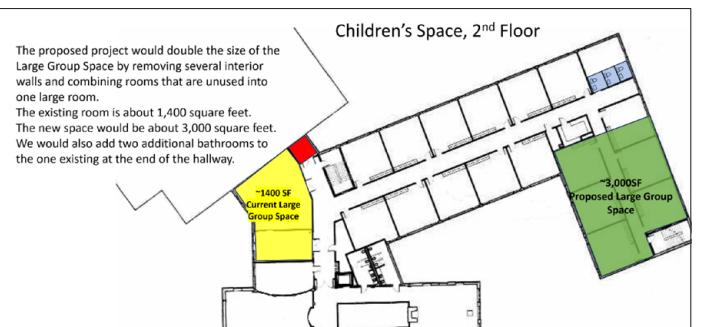
Proposed



Existing and proposed floor plans for the Children's Wing remodel. Plans add two restrooms similar to existing, remove the drop ceiling, keep existing fan coils, and maintain stair access for the emergency exit.



Existing floor plan of upstairs Children's Wing



Proposed floor plan of upstairs Children's Wing

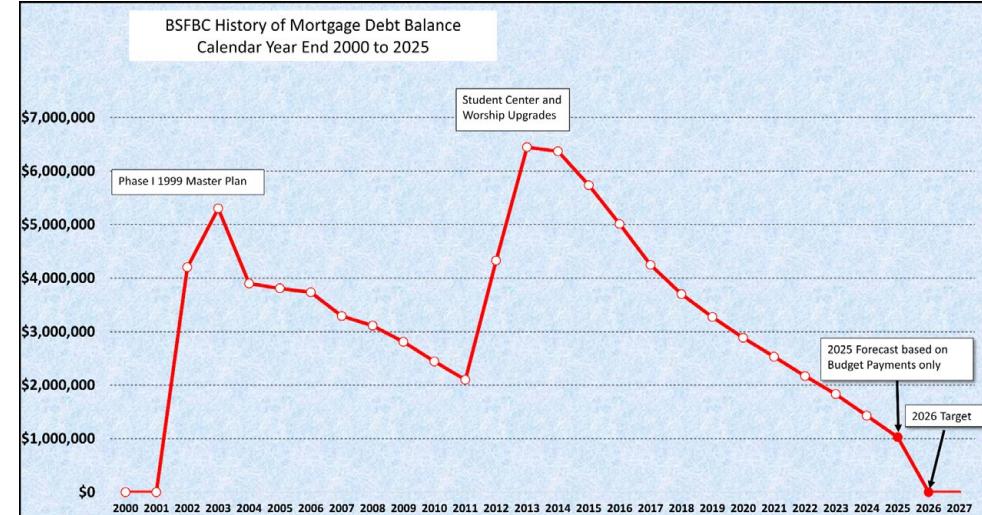
THE DEBT

God has blessed our church in many ways over the years. The 1999 Master Plan led us to complete several major projects that have returned many benefits, most importantly the thousands of children and students that have been introduced to Jesus through the ministries held in these facilities. The addition of the Fellowship Hall that now serves as the Auditorium allowed us to introduce our contemporary service, giving us the opportunity to minister to even more families. Only God knows how many people have come to know Christ as He continues to use these facilities and our people to build His Kingdom.

The church did incur some mortgage debt as a result of these projects. We have included a graph to show the history of this debt. Thanks to your faithfulness in giving, you can see that a significant portion of it has been paid. One important thing we can do today that will help clear the way for future projects is to retire the remaining debt. This is why we have included it as part of the first phase of our master plan. Regardless of the coming priorities, the debt should be retired to give us a clean start. We project that by the end of 2025 the balance will be at or below the \$1 million mark. We believe that with God's help, completely eliminating this debt in 2026 is an achievable goal.

FUNDING

Thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of those who were here before us, Boiling Springs First Baptist Church has become a beacon of hope in our community. The vision that God has set before us is big, but we know that God is faithful to supply all of our needs.



In January 2026, part of our annual three weeks of prayer and fasting will focus on the needs we have presented to you. As we come together to seek the Lord as a church, we hope that each family will seek the Lord personally for guidance on how to help fund this vision. The immediate financial needs are to eliminate the remaining mortgage debt and fund the much-needed Children's Wing renovation. Then, we will begin building a financial reserve for funding future design work as we move forward with the master plan.

For over 250 years, whether through miraculous provision or the generosity of His people, God has never failed to meet the needs of our church. We are excited to see what He has in store for us next!

REFERENCES

- Green, Mary Collins, Boiling Springs Baptist Church: Where the Saints Have Trod, 1959
- Willis, D.W., Unpublished History of Boiling Springs Church, 1887
- Henderson, Evelyn, Unpublished Personal Writings and Notes
- Goodwin, Roger, Unpublished Personal Notes

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Why do we need a Master Plan?

The Master Plan is a document that depicts a long-range design for our church. It shows the current state and a future state, taking into account our ministries, our assets, and current limitations. With the Master Plan in place, we are better able to make sure that we are prepared and able to follow God's call for future building projects. We want to be as flexible as possible while being good stewards of the resources God has given us.

Where do we start? What do we do first?

At this point, any major construction project is likely several years away. Currently, it appears that the Education Building would be needed first in order to preserve worship space and make temporary relocations possible. However, future changes could influence the priorities.

What happens to the steeple when we build a new sanctuary?

The repair and painting of the steeple has reminded all of us at BSFBC of the beautiful nature of this structure. It has also become apparent that the steeple is an important part of the Boiling Springs community, and we recognize that Highway 9 would not be the same without it. Although we do not have a final design rendering, the steeple will be included in a meaningful capacity.

Should we wait for a new Senior Pastor to begin?

When our new pastor arrives, he will be involved in leading any future project work. In the meantime, we can be as prepared as we possibly can be for the next phase of our future by eliminating our remaining debt and assessing all of our needs.

When will we get additional information?

We will be hosting a church-wide Q & A session on December 14th. At that meeting we will be able to provide any additional information and answer questions. Since the details of future construction projects have not yet been finalized, there may be some questions we are unable to answer at this time. We'll provide consistent communication throughout the entire process.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 14, 2025

Master Plan Q & A Session,
3-5 PM in Auditorium

January 11-31, 2026

Church-wide
Fasting and Prayer

February 1, 2026

Debt Reduction Offering

