



Dedication Day
May 17, 1987

First Baptist Church

Lavonn D. Brown, Th.D., Pastor

Norman, Oklahoma

The Worship of God

Dedication Sunday

May 17, 1987

10:55 a.m.

Children's Story Steve DeVoss, Minister of Youth
(Children 8 years and younger are invited to join Steve on the steps of the platform.)

A Meditation From the Pastor



The church is a living, growing organism. We learn to live with change—even inconvenience. Then, we sit quietly in the newly renovated worship center surrounded by beauty and say, "It was worth it all." We walk through the halls, glance into the rooms, see the Bible study activities in the new educational building and say, "Aren't we glad we made the sacrifice?" We look at the artistic design of the beautifully exposed pipes, listen to the swells of the magnificent music from the new organ and say, "We're glad we had a part in it all."

Now it is time to say "Thank you." The purpose of this Dedication Day and brochure is to give proper recognition and credit for work done. Hundreds of people served on committees, donated countless hours of their time, experienced major inconveniences with patience, and made important decisions. Personally, I am grateful for our competent, dedicated staff, along with capable lay leadership who have together "dreamed dreams and seen visions." Aren't we all proud of the final product?

—Lavonn D. Brown, Pastor

Prelude "Pisgah" Wood
(Dr. Al Travis, Organist)

Hymn 40 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" CORONATION
(sing last stanza in unison)

Invocation Ken Farris, Sanctuary Sub-Committee Chairman

Welcome and Recognitions Glenn Faison, Minister of Education/Administration

Realizing the Dream Ken Farris, Representing all building committees

Hymn 484 "More Love to Thee, O Christ" MORE LOVE TO THEE

A DEDICATION LITANY

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in it and be glad.

People: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.

Pastor: Thank you for leading our people to dream a dream of having additional education space that might be dedicated to our congregation's nurture and growth.

People: We dedicate our educational building so that it might be used for growth in Bible study, missions education, music and discipleship.

Pastor: Thank you, Father, for a facility where Christian education will contribute to our wholeness as a body of believers.

People: To the end that Christian worship may be central in the life of this congregation, we dedicate this renovated sanctuary and new organ to the adoration of God and to the praise of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Pastor: God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

People: **All praise to God on this day of celebration! On this blest day of days, let us thank and magnify the Lord.**

Pastor: O Lord, we honor You, We adore You. We praise Your wondrous name.

People: **Lord, we dedicate this house of worship to You. May the message that is preached, the song that is sung, the prayers that are raised be acceptable in Your sight. And let us love one another in this place.**

Pastor: We dedicate this building and this organ to be a means of proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.

People: **Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

Pastor: We dedicate this place and instrument for use in celebrating the great common ventures of life: births, dedication of lives, baptisms, weddings, graduations, anniversaries, and the memorial services of loved ones.

People: **With sincere gratitude and heart-felt appreciation to all, who by their time, their talent, their treasure, their love and prayers have made this dream a reality, we dedicate this place and instrument of worship.**

Pastor: To the glory of God the Father, immortal, invisible, the only wise God; to the honor of Jesus Christ His Son, who loved us and gave Himself for us; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and empowers us;

ALL: **We dedicate this educational building, this organ and this worship center to the glory of God.**

Prayer of Dedication Dr. Lavonn Brown

Hymn 33. "To God Be The Glory" TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Offertory Prayer..... James Adair, Educational Building Sub-Committee Chairman

Offertory Improvisation on "Amazing Grace" Travis

Scripture Reading Dr. Brown

Anthem. "Song of Celebration" Butler
Sanctuary Choir

Sermon..... "THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHURCH" Dr. Lavonn Brown

Invitation Hymn 353. "Jesus is Lord of All" LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

Announcement Highlights Glenn Faison

Benediction "Song of Celebration" (excerpt) Butler
Sanctuary Choir

Postlude "Free Improvisation" Travis

THANK YOU

Thanks are in order for many people who have made a major contribution to various phases of the work of planning and building. We appreciate their dedication and participation.

The entire membership is to be congratulated and thanked for their FORWARD IN FAITH and budget pledges, their prayers, support, encouragement and their patience.

Thanks are also in order to our professional, administrative, clerical and support staffs for making adjustments in program, changes in the use of facilities, work load and their multiple contributions and assistance to all of the committees.

BUILDING OF A DREAM

Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions...(Joel 2:26)

First Baptist Church, Norman, celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 1989, only two years away. By that time, the city of Norman is projected to have a population of 86,000 people. By the year 2000 Norman's population is expected to exceed 100,000.

First Baptist has through the years pursued a vigorous building program, responding to the challenge of a rapidly growing community. Now, once again, we have been blessed through the opportunity to expand Christ's Kingdom.

ORGAN DEDICATORY CONCERT

First Baptist Church, Norman, Oklahoma

May 17, 1987

3:00 p.m.

Welcome Dr. Lavonn Brown

PROGRAM

Praeludium in E Minor Nicolaus Bruhns
(1665-1697)

Evensong John La Montaine
(b. 1920)

Partita, "Come, Savior of the Gentiles" Hugo Distler
(1908-1942)

Colors of the Organ

The Call of the Quail

Presto Franz Joseph Haydn

In Bethlehem's Lowly Stable

All My Heart This Day Rejoices Helmut Walcha

Wondrous Love Dale Wood

HYMN NO. 383 "How Firm a Foundation" Foundation
(interlude between stanzas 3 and 4, final stanza in unison)

Litanies Jehan Alain
(1911-1940)

Three Hymn Improvisations Albert L. Travis
(b. 1940)

Arise

China

Marion

Benediction Dr. Lavonn Brown



Dr. Al Travis is Associate Professor of Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. Dr. Travis has earned three music degrees: a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, a master's degree from Syracuse University, and a doctorate in musical arts from the University of Michigan. Dr. Travis is one of those teachers who is as much a friend to his students as he is their mentor. He joined the faculty of Southwestern in 1977 after an eight-year position with Dallas Baptist College, Dallas, Texas. During the 1983-84 school year, he took his sabbatical leave to study with Gerre Hancock, Paul Manz (Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago), and Russell Saunders (Eastman School of Music).

Dr. Travis is a member of the American Guild of Organists, Omicron Delta Kappa, Pi Kappa Lambda, the Hymn Society of America, and the Southern Baptist Convention Church Music Conference. He is in great demand as an organ recitalist and clinician throughout the South and Southwest. As a composer, Dr. Travis has been published by Broadman Press. Honors include Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and Outstanding Young Men of America.

He and his wife, Maureda, have two children, Lance Cooper and Allyson Ann. They are members of Broadway Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, where Dr. Travis is organist.

PROJECT HISTORY

July 14, 1982, the Long Range Planning Committee brought a recommendation to the Church. Their recommendation was the result of having studied the recommendations of the 1958, 1974, 1976 and 1977 Long Range Planning Committees combined with their own study of Church needs.

The 1982 recommendation contained the following:

1. That the Church establish a mission.
2. That the organ be replaced.
3. That the sanctuary be renovated.
4. That the Old Auditorium and adjoining educational building be renovated.

The Church, in order to set the recommendation in motion, elected a Building Committee on September 15, 1982.

By Church action on July 13, 1983, the mission project, previously referred to Mission Committee, was underway. The mission became a reality July 21, 1985, when the first service was held at the new Northeast Mission. The Northeast Mission became the twelfth mission established by First Baptist Church. The first mission was Calvary Baptist Church in 1929.

October 13, 1982, the Building Committee recommended to the Church that three sub-committees be elected to work with the Building Committee in the planning and completion of the three remaining projects. The Church voted to approve the recommendation and elected the following sub-committees:

- a. Organ study
- b. Old Auditorium
- c. Sanctuary

A Finance Committee was elected soon thereafter to determine and recommend how the projects could be financed. It was recommended by the Finance Committee that the FORWARD IN FAITH program of Church Finance be implemented to raise the necessary capital.

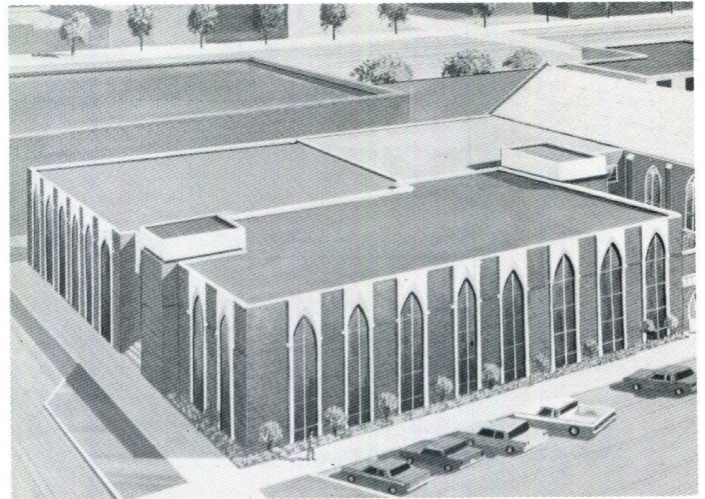
January 11, 1984, the Church voted to retain Cargill Associates, a professional fund raising company, to conduct a campaign. A goal of \$2,500,000 was adopted.

At the conclusion of the campaign \$1,969,313 had been pledged, by the membership, to be paid over a three-year period which ends this month.

It is the hope and prayer of all the Committees that the membership will not end their pledges but will extend them for an indefinite period of time and continue giving a capital gift so that the projects originally undertaken can be completed and our indebtedness reduced.

After much study and deliberation by the Old Auditorium Sub-Committee it was determined that the old church building and the adjoining original educational building could be torn down and a new building erected at less cost than renovating the 64-year-old structure.

This plan was submitted to the Church December 14, 1983. The Church approved the recommendation and authorized Kaighn and Associates to plan and design the proposed new educational building.



Barbour and Short, Inc., of Norman, was awarded the construction contract May 30, 1984. The new educational building was occupied in August of 1985.

February 15, 1984, the Church awarded a contract to Furry Associates for the planning and designing of the renovation of the Sanctuary in accordance with the outline provided by the Sanctuary Sub-Committee.

October 17, 1984, the Building Committee brought a recommendation to the Church from the Organ Study Committee. The recommendation, which was approved, awarded a contract for a new organ to the Moller Company of Hagarstown, Maryland.

After the plans and specifications for the renovation of the Sanctuary were approved by the Sub Committee, invitations to bid were forwarded to prospective contractors. March 14, 1986, the Church accepted the bid submitted by the Wynn Construction Company of Oklahoma City for the renovation of the Sanctuary. Work began June 2, 1986. The first service in the renovated Sanctuary was held December 14, 1986, although the project was not complete.

Near the completion of the total project an anonymous donor made possible the purchase of 125 new Collegiate robes for the Sanctuary Choir.

Because of lack of funds several items originally contained in the renovation master plan had to be set aside. In addition, Phase II of the project had to be completely omitted. This phase called for the renovation of the library, the widening of the main floor west hall and the construction of a lounge in the widened hall area. Also included was a bride's dressing room and a conference room large enough to accommodate 75 persons. The room was to be equipped for video taping of conferences, lectures and meetings and serve as a Sunday School classroom.

Phase II of the renovation project requires our immediate attention and should be assigned a top priority in our long range plans.

All of our committees are to be commended for their outstanding work. Our membership is to be commended for its understanding, support, encouragement and prayers for all four projects.

We can now better serve our community, state, nation and the world because of a caring and loving membership and dedicated committee persons.

Thanks to each and everyone.

EDUCATION BUILDING

In July, 1982, the Long Range Planning Committee recommended to the church that a building committee be elected and that the committee be charged with the responsibility "to determine the cost, design and development of preliminary plans for the purchase of an organ, remodeling the auditorium and renovating the old auditorium building."

A building committee was appointed by the church September, 1982. In subsequent church conferences, four sub-committees were identified to assist in this study. James Adair was elected chairperson of the Old Auditorium Sub-Committee. Others on the committee were Larry Canter, Jim Harp, Harry Hopkins, Don Jimerson, Suzie Martin, Loyce Morain, Dennis Schwabe, and Joe Bob Weaver. Dr. Brown and Glenn Faison were named ex-officio.

More than a year was spent by the committee in intensive study, prayer and counsel. Much consideration and many comparative cost studies were given to the remodeling of the old auditorium building versus new construction. City building codes and zoning requirements were identified and clarified. The City granted several set back and coverage variances. All of these contributing factors led the committee to recommend to the Church that the old auditorium and adjacent education building be demolished and a new education building built. This action was taken October 12, 1983.

December 14, 1983, the Building Committee recommended that the Church enter into a \$2,300,000 building program and that the construction of a new education building be given first priority with construction to begin in the Summer of 1984. Kaighn Associates, Architects, Inc., of Norman were approved as architectural consultants. May 30, 1984, First Baptist entered into a contract management agreement with Barbour and Short Construction Company of Norman for the construction of the new education building. In July construction began. During the construction process, the second story, which was not included initially, was added to the project. The total First Baptist building program was modified to \$2,500,000.

The new education building was completed August, 1985, at a total cost of \$1,565,174.79. The facility consists of approximately 24,000 square feet including spacious halls, closets, storage areas, mechanical rooms, three kitchenettes, seven preschool departments with a preschool reception area and office, four children's departments, a supply and resource room, seventeen adult and university rooms, new restrooms on all three floors including provision for handicapped. Heating and air conditioning is zoned and under computerized energy management control.

With construction of new hallways and the installation of a new north stairway, the old west education building was renovated to meet code. Construction also included a new covered entry through the courtyard, a new southwest entry into the sanctuary, and a new arched facade covering the west education building.

THE SANCTUARY RENOVATION

One of the most difficult considerations in a renovation or construction project is attempting to keep the cost within the allocated funds. The Sanctuary Sub-committee found at the outset that this was a serious problem.

Five architectural firms were interviewed by the committee. Soon after being selected, the company chosen submitted an estimate for the project of \$1,000,000. Since this company did both design and construction work, it was decided to employ a company, who did architectural work only, to design the project and then let bids for the construction.

The presentations made by the five architectural firms were reviewed and the firm of Furry Associates was selected January 19, 1984. Mr. Furry had been the architect for the east educational building and the renovation of Hallock Hall. The formal contract was executed February 17, 1984.

Furry Associates was provided a list of 14 major items to be considered in the renovation and improvements to the sanctuary. An additional item had been added which called for the renovation of the Resource Center, a lounge area in the west hall of the main floor and the construction of a conference room that could be used for a video taping facility, a meeting room and serve as a Sunday School classroom. A bride's dressing room was also to be included.

The architect proceeded with preliminary drawings for the areas involved. When these drawings were approved, the architect advanced to detail drawings and began work on specifications. At this point a preliminary estimate was requested and it was discovered that the committee was once again confronted with a million dollar project.

Furry Associates was advised that the initial estimate was far in excess of budget and that reductions would be necessary. The next four months were spent eliminating items and reducing the estimate. The cost was finally reduced to \$686,807 and was within the budget allocation.



With this figure it appeared that the estimate was close enough to warrant an estimate by a contractor. The architect was requested to complete the final plans and specifications and submit them to a local contractor who had been selected by the committee.

The initial estimate by the contractor was \$1,288,485 which was \$611,648 in excess of the budget. The next three months were spent in conferences with the architect, engineers, consultants and contractor in an effort to make further cost reductions. When it appeared that the project was close to being within the budget, the revised plans and specifications were sent to prospective bidders.

Bids were opened May 13, 1986, and a contract was awarded to the Wynn Construction Company of Oklahoma City. Work began June 2, 1986. The contract with Wynn called for the completion of the base bid, which included all work from the front of the stage to the north wall of the sanctuary, plus five of fourteen alternates. The bid totaled \$700,700.

The major items in the contract were: a new plaster ceiling, new stage and choir loft, new baptistry, new organ chambers, new baptismal robing rooms, new lighting, the stained glass window above the baptistry, painting throughout, supplemental air-conditioning and ceiling woodwork. New carpet was also included.

September 17, 1986, the committee recommended to the Church that two of the remaining nine alternates be added to the project. The Church approved the recommendation in addition to approving the second phase of the organ, pew cushions and balcony seating. The second phase of the organ had previously been cut back because of funding.

The alternates which were added contained demolition work and it was felt that, if funds were available, it would be beneficial to do the work at this time as opposed to coming back a year or so later and doing demolition work. The alternates called for the installation of the arches at the rear of the sanctuary and the renovation of the rear foyer, trim around the stained glass windows and the removal of the surface mounted light fixtures and speakers located beneath the balcony and the installation of new recessed lights and speakers.

Work progressed smoothly and on schedule throughout the project. The contract completion date was prolonged because of the addition of the alternates and numerous change orders required due to unforeseen circumstances. Several cost plus additions were ordered also due to unforeseen problems and needs.

Although the stained glass window, pew cushions, balcony seating and the organ were not in place, services were moved back into the Sanctuary December 14, 1986. Services had been held in Hallock Hall for 28 weeks. The stained glass was installed February 3, 1987. Organ installation began February 23, 1987. The pew cushions were delivered April 10, 1987, and the installation of the balcony seating began April 14, 1987.

The completed renovation of the Sanctuary is beautiful, tasteful, and provides the membership with a pleasant, comfortable and modern setting in which to meditate, sing praises, give thanks and worship our Lord and Savior.



BAPTISTRY STAINED GLASS WINDOW

The beautiful stained glass window behind the baptistry draws the heart and mind of the worshiper toward God. The circle in the center of the glass is called a rose window. The Christmas Rose (Rose of Sharon) and the Fleur-de-lis (Lily of the Valley) depicted in the rose window are used in Christian symbolism as prophetic references to the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

The general concept for the stained glass, with respect to size, shape, tone, finish and texture, was written into the bid specifications by architect, Loyal Furry. The glass was part of the base bid awarded to the Wynn Construction Company who had the responsibility of selecting the company to design and manufacture the stained glass.

The glass was designed by and purchased from Phillippe Studios of Mannford, Oklahoma. The glass is known as a Cathedral glass and was made in Statesville, North Carolina.

The painted design prepared by Phillippe, after approval of the Sanctuary Committee, was enlarged to its full size (10 feet in diameter). As a result of the enlargement, the design became black lines only.

Using the original painted design and the enlargement, each of the 1,550 individual pieces of glass were cut to actual size and painted with the appropriate color of iron oxide paint and then fired. The painting and firing process results in what is referred to as a vignette or shaded finish. The pieces were then assembled a section at a time. The window consists of seven sections. Upon arrival at the Church the seven sections were attached to the steel frame located behind the baptistry.

THE ORGAN

As the one instrument equally expressive of quiet meditation and soaring exaltation, the pipe organ has lent its voice to the devotions of generations. Called the King of instruments, the organ is designed for worthy praise to the King of Kings.

The present Moller Pipe Organ replaces the previous organ which was installed in 1949. That organ's capabilities were greatly limited with some of the components permanently shut off. Some stops were not usable. Many of the worn out parts could not be repaired.

After months of research and study, the Organ Committee proposed that the church install a Moller organ.

This custom-built instrument was designed for our sanctuary and is meeting the special musical needs of this congregation. The total organ (when the third phase is finished) will be 53 ranks.

The present installation consists of 39 ranks with a three-manual console and 27 stops operating. The organ is housed in chambers that were expanded during the renovation of the sanctuary.

The new Moller organ is a magnificent pipe organ that has the needed capacity to lead worship, aid in proclaiming the good news, and serve as a superior solo, recital and accompanying instrument.

The Organ Search Committee included Bill Johnson, Chm., Shirley Glitsch, George McDow, Larry Clark, Jean Zimmer, Jim Hawkins, Claudia Busse, June Gallaher, Hazel Bell and Don Blackley.

This committee submitted its recommendation to the Building Committee, Terry Foor, Chm., on October 5, 1983.

Prior to the present study and organ search some inquiries were made and results were conserved and reported to the present committee. The former committee gathered some information but felt their search and findings were not complete. Therefore, more research and deliberations were made.

The present committee made five field trips to hear installations of both electronic and pipe organs in buildings comparable to our sanctuary.

The group considered not only the aesthetics of sound but also cost of instruments and a Comparative Cost Analysis Projection for the life expectancy of a pipe organ.

Based on the findings of this research and after an adequate time of deliberation the Committee recommended that the church purchase a 53 rank pipe organ from the Moller Company in Hagarstown, Maryland.

The Moller company is one of the oldest and finest organ manufacturers in the world. Most of the organ pieces are hand crafted in its 200,000 square foot factory.

The Moller Company custom designed the organ for First Baptist, Norman. The side panels of the console were built to match the paneling in other areas of the auditorium. The colors were also coordinated with the sanctuary decor.

The instrument is a three manual pipe organ with natural bone keys and ebony wood flats. The Great organ division, mounted in the arches and exposed, is complete. The Swell and Positif divisions are lacking some needed voices. Preparations for these additions have already been made in the console, wiring and organ chambers. They will be added later.

The organ has a solid state Capture Console System with four tracks of memory. The new organ has been prepared for 53 ranks of pipes with 40 stops. Twenty-seven stops with 39 ranks of pipes, 2,316 individual pipes, have been installed. The additional ranks will be purchased as funds are available.

The console standards and measurements are those recommended by the American Guild of Organists. It sits on a moveable dolly.

Three kinds of pipes are included in the organ:

(A) Metal Pipes. Large metal pipes whether open or closed, are made of rolled annealed or electrolytic zinc with inserted lips of soft metal alloy of tin and lead. Shorter length pipes are made of alloys of pure tin and lead in such proportions as required to produce the best quality of tone in each stop. Slide tuners are fitted on all metal pipes.

(B) Wood Pipes. The wood pipes are made of thoroughly seasoned and carefully selected Western pine, or equal. Pipes are glue sized on the inside and finished on the outside with at least two coats of lacquer. Cherry or equivalent hardwood caps and throats are used. Metal toe pipe feet are used on all wood pipes of 4' length and smaller. Regulating gates are used in the feet of all larger wood pipes. All large open wood pipes have slide tuners with adequate means of holding them in place and preventing vibration. Cork or equivalent packing combined with leather fitted stoppers are used in all stopped wood pipes.

(C) Reed Pipes. Reed blocks are very heavily cast of an alloy of tin and lead to support the eschallot and tuning wire. Eschallots are formed from heavy brass sheets or tubes. Reed tongues are of selected spring brass. No leather is used on eschallots of reed pipes.

All pipes are prompt in speech and free of imperfections. The final tone regulation of the organ was accomplished in our building by a competent, trained finisher so that the tonal ensemble is the best for our building and use.

In a letter from Ronald F. Ellis, the President of Moller Inc., dated September 30, 1986: "We are delighted to know that First Baptist Church is proceeding with Plan A of the organ at a cost of \$220,200."

The most exciting communique came from the Moller Company on February 11, 1987: "The new pipe organ will be delivered by our truck arriving at the church at 8:00 a.m., Monday morning, February 23, 1987." And it was—before 8:00.



RECOGNITIONS

FORWARD IN FAITH STEERING COMMITTEE: Joe & Marion Coker, Co-Directors, John & Marilyn Bedwell, Ben & Becky Bourland, Larry & Pat Clark, Judi Freyer, Karroll & Mary Ruth Higgins, Suzie Martin, O. T. & Virginia McCall, Colonel & Dorothy Richardson, Clovis & Joann Weatherford.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Terry Foor, Chm., James Adair, John Bedwell, Larry Canter, Ken Farris, Don Jimerson, Bill Johnson, Suzie Martin, Kay Pirtle, Dorothy Richardson; ex-officio--Glenn Faison, Lavonn Brown.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE: Larry Canter, Chm., James Adair, Loree Ferguson, Dick Lannom, Phil Redwine; ex-officio--Glenn Faison.

ORGAN SUB-COMMITTEE: Bill Johnson, Chm., Claudia Busse, Larry Clark, Shirley Glitsch, Jim Hawkins, George McDow, Jean Zimmer, ex-officio--Hazel Bell, Don Blackley, June Gallaher.

OLD AUDITORIUM/NEW EDUCATIONAL BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE: James Adair, Chm., Larry Canter, Jim Harp, Harry Hopkins, Don Jimerson, Suzie Martin, Loyce Morain, Dennis Schwabe, Joe Bob Weaver; ex-officio--Glenn Faison, Lavonn Brown.

PUBLIC ADDRESS & LIGHTING SUB-COMMITTEE: Don Krause, Chm., Jim Garman, Don Jennings, Carey Krause, Kevin Rogers, Doug Southerland, Phil Warren; ex-officio--Don Blackley.

SANCTUARY RENOVATION SUB-COMMITTEE: Ken Farris, Chm., John Bedwell, Pat Clark, Fred Ferris, Mary Lee Foor, Mary Lee Gossett, Dona Clare Harris, Bill O'Connell, Kay Pirtle; ex-officio--Glenn Faison, Lavonn Brown.

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS:

The Norma Brown Sunday School Class cleaned, dusted and polished the sanctuary wood work and furniture.

Three work groups (106 persons) provided the labor for vacating the sanctuary June 1, 1986, removing the balcony seating October 5, 1986, and moving the supplies and equipment back into the sanctuary December 10, 1986.

ARCHITECTES: Education Building: Kaighn Associates, Inc. William Kaighn. Sanctuary Renovation: Furry Associates, Loyal Furry.

CONTRACTORS: Education Building: Barbour & Short, Inc., Bob Barbour, Joel Barbour, J. D. McElhaney. Sanctuary Renovation: Wynn Construction Co., Inc., Richard Thompson, Bill Thurmond, Carl Landers.

ORGAN: M. P. Moller, Inc., B. L. McCrary.

STAFF: Lavonn D. Brown, Th. D., Pastor; Glenn E. Faison, Minister of Education/Administration; Don Blackley, Minister of Music; Jim Stewart, Minister of Family Life/Recreation; Steve DeVoss, Minister of Youth; Mike Bumgarner, Minister of University Students; Hazel R. Bell, Minister to Singles/Music Associate; Vickie Riggs, FLC Administrative Assistant.

THE CHALLENGE: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

In the Spring of 1984, First Baptist Church launched a FORWARD IN FAITH stewardship emphasis to underwrite the proposed building program of \$2,500,000. Joe and Marion Coker were elected to serve as chairpersons and campaign directors.

The theme "NOT EQUAL GIVING, BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE" challenged members to achieve new experiences in stewardship and spiritual growth. The challenge was for members to do the extraordinary--to give "over and above" sacrificially for 156 weeks. Total commitments were enlisted with members pledging \$1,968,313.26. These commitments were the results of prayerful consideration of the questions, "What does God want me to do?" and "What part should I have in the future building and ministry of First Baptist?"

With only two weeks remaining in the campaign, receipts have now exceeded \$1,501,000.

The total 2.5 million dollar building program has been completed, along with several other essential additions authorized by church actions. The current debt of First Baptist is \$1,043,881.75, including the balance of all building cost and the assimilation of the Webster and Eufaula property notes.

Dr. Brown stated in 1984, "I earnestly believe that we the people of First Baptist Church are ready for the challenge which this program offers. Let us each enter into this great effort prayerfully and enthusiastically." THIS IS STILL THE CHALLENGE FOR 1987.

- * Many have completed the FORWARD IN FAITH pledges. The church is eternally grateful to you and thankful for your faithfulness. It may be that you could continue to give other gifts that would enable the Church to retire the remaining note.
- * Some have not yet been able to complete their total pledge, and probably will not by the end of May. The Church understands. We encourage your continued support and pray that you may be able to fulfill your commitment in due time.
- * Some of you are NEW members of First Baptist or may not have made a commitment previously. You may have already been blessed by the wonderful new facilities. Join with the hundreds who have made these facilities possible through dedicated gifts. Help complete the work which has begun. Begin making sacrificial gifts to the building fund.
- * Your regular support of the church budget also provides more than \$12,500 monthly to the retirement of debt. Be faithful in your budget giving.
- * Make Sunday, May 17, 1987, a special day of thanksgiving for the tremendous blessing the Lord has provided First Baptist Church. Give a generous Thank-offering.

"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Psalm 126:3