

Is your
facility
meeting the
requirements
of your
ministry goals?



A constructive walk-thru
of your facility can help
you in your evaluation.

Pastor,

How important is your church building and facilities to your ministry?

Is your facility meeting the requirements of your ministry goals?

We are offering to perform a constructive walk-thru of your building as a service to your church to help enhance the effectiveness of your building, making it more conducive to growth. We are offering to perform this service at your convenience. This offer has no strings attached. We are not selling anything; we are not obligating you to anything. The Lord has given us this ministry to *“help churches do their job”*. Reimbursing traveling expenses would be appreciated.

WHY A CONSTRUCTIVE WALK-THRU IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR BUILDING MINISTRY

- It helps to identify potential safety issues.
- It helps to identify issues affecting the appearance of your facility.
- It could identify structural or infrastructure problems.
- It provides a sympathetic consultation to help you explore the ministry potentials of your building.

BENEFITS FOR YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY

There is an old saying that states, *“It takes someone different to see sharply that which has been blurred by familiarity.”*

Increasingly Americans are concerned about safety, i.e. safety in the products they use, safety in the cars they drive, and safety in the places that they go. Identifying and correcting the safety issues that you may have enhances the usability of your building. Your familiarity with your building may have blurred your recognition of the hazards present within your facility.

In churches we often stop seeing the worn carpets, cracked walls, clutter, etc. We just step over or ignore them. But a first time visitor sees all of it. In this day of visuals and externals, visitors will often decide in one visit whether they will continue to attend your church.

We are all familiar with the adage, *“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”* Identifying and repairing potential problems before they occur as opposed to delaying until there is a failure can save valuable resources.

There may be structural and infrastructure items that are developing so slowly that no one is recognizing them.

As pastor you have plans and dreams for your ministries. We can offer sympathetic consultation regarding your facility and building needs which will help you implement your plans. Our walk-thru can help you identify existing facility potentials that you may not realize are already there.

PROCESS OF A CONSTRUCTIVE WALK-THRU

The process of a constructive walk-thru involves attention to but not limited to the following items:

- overall appearance (exterior and interior) of the facility
- property maintenance
- building maintenance (exterior and interior)
- safety issues
- structural condition of the facility; this includes components from the foundation to the roof

- infrastructure condition, this includes heating and cooling, electrical service and wiring, etc.
- accessibility issues for elderly and handicapped
- observation of current usages

We will provide a written report to your church. The report will list by category the results of our findings and recommendations. The report will be in a tabulated form so that it might be used as a "punch list" so that you can address each item. In addition we can arrange to meet with you and your leadership to discuss our findings.

OUR MINISTRY

We are offering our ministry to your church because we have seen an increasing need for what the Lord has called us to do. In these times of intensified building codes and zoning laws, the litigious attitude of our society and the current emphasis on externals, we find that our churches are faced with these issues and are uncertain as to who to turn to for sympathetic assistance.

We have been assisting fundamental, Bible believing, Baptist churches with their building/facility needs

since 1978. We have conducted these constructive walk-thrus in churches in several states. In addition we have helped churches with solutions to their problems by providing designs for complete new facilities, renovations, upgrades and accessibility issues. John is a licensed professional engineer.

We desire to see the fundamental churches of this fellowship and other like minded churches prosper for the Lord. We are offering to you what the Lord has given to us. (1Peter 4:10) We are *helping churches to their job.*

We are a ministry of Fellowship Baptist Church of Dalton, PA [Rev. Larry Walter, Pastor 570-563-2400] which is a member church of the PARBC.

CONTACT US

Fellowship Baptist Church Building
Consulting Ministries
c/o John Scondras
P.O. Box 281
Dalton, PA 18414-0281
Phone 570.563.2695
Fax 570.563.1097
Email: greek@epix.net

References furnished upon request.

Purpose and Scope of the Constructive Church facility Walk-Through

Purpose:

The purpose of the constructive walk-through is to provide a sympathetic, independent and candid evaluation of the facility with regards to:

- General appearance, maintenance and housekeeping as it might appear to the community that the church is trying to reach out to
- Life safety issues as they might affect the church people and visitors as they occupy the building
- Accessibility as it might affect the handicapped, particularly the mobility impaired, and the elderly of the church
- Obvious structural or infrastructural defects or potential problems which may heretofore been ignored or gone unnoticed
- Provide any insight or advice regarding the compatibility of the facility and the Ministry goals of the church

The method of evaluation is that of a visual walk-through by John and Susan Scondras of Fellowship Baptist Church Building Consulting Ministries and it entails items that they viewed or sought to view as they affect the above-mentioned purpose. The basis of the evaluation is:

- Their knowledge of current building codes
- Good practice and appearance
- Common sense evaluation of the facility
- Their own viewpoint as Biblically conservative Baptist Christians

Scope:

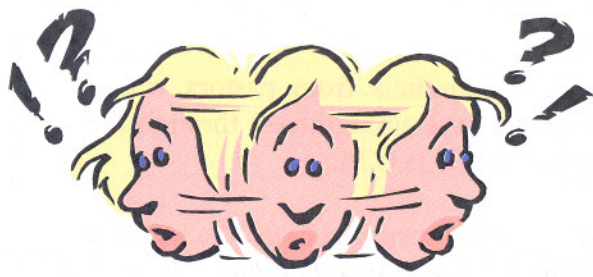
This report is limited to the actual church facility including the property, parking lots, drives, the church building including the auditorium, Sunday school rooms, toilet rooms, nursery, fellowship hall, closets, boiler room and utility areas.

The report can include comments and suggestions on pre-existing conditions and comments and advice on the church's strategic ministry plans as it pertains to the facility. The report can be helpful to the church particularly regarding plans for the upgrading of the facility, remodeling for ease and convenience and accessibility and for planning for needed or future expansions.

This report does not include evaluations on the following items:

- Child abuse prevention
- Building security, other than the obvious
- Energy management, other than the obvious
- Comments on internal operations, activities, order of worship, music, etc.
- Audiovisual systems equipment and acoustics

A record report in a "punch list" type of format is issued to the church following the walk through. The "punch list" format allows the church to address each issue.

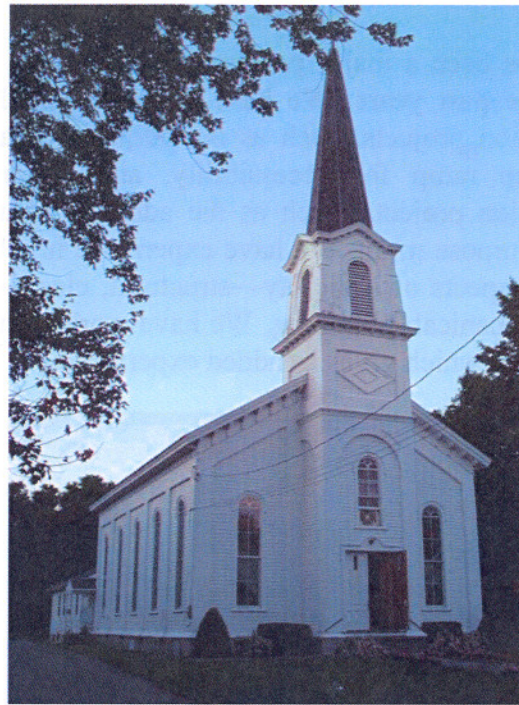


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH OUR FACILITY???

Fellowship Baptist Church Building Consulting Ministries

a ministry of
Fellowship Baptist Church
PO Box 526
Dalton, PA 18414
(570) 563-2400

John and Susan Scondras
PO Box 281
Dalton, PA 18414
(570) 563-2695



Berean Baptist Church, Guilderland Center, NY

The ministry of the church building is constantly changing to enhance the ministry needs of the advancing Baptist church. Pastors need someone who can come along side them to advise them concerning their facilities. They need someone who is knowledgeable as well as sympathetic to their cause. They need someone who understands the functioning of the Baptist church. The church doesn't need just a building. It needs a building which will assist the church in meeting the ministry goals which they have established.

We have been assisting small Baptist churches with their facility needs since 1978. We have ministered to over 50 churches, providing for them the assistance they needed with their facilities.



Mainland Baptist Church, Galloway, NJ

The leadership of the church may desire to have someone perform a constructive "walk-thru" of their facilities. The function of a "walk-thru" is to make a visual observation of the facility and to analyze how the church utilizes their facility. Recommendations can be made for improvements as well as for better utilization of the existing facility. We have ministered to several churches by doing a walk-through for them to assess their facility.



Jersey Shore Baptist Church, Galloway, NJ



Draper Baptist Church, Wellsboro, PA

In order to meet the facility needs of the church, renovations to an existing building may be required. Baptist churches need someone who can evaluate their facilities and provide a workable and economical solution to the problem they are facing.

This has been a major portion of our ministry over the past years. We have designed small renovation projects, such as the addition of a handicap ramp for accessibility, and major renovation projects, such as the addition of a multi-purpose room. We have experience in all of the aspects of a facility—structural, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, We have worked in the trades which gives us added experience.



Grace Baptist Church, Whitehall, PA

The facility needs of the church may be met by the construction of an entirely new building. We have the experience and expertise to assist the church in choosing a building site and in preparing a master plan. We can design a building which will meet their immediate needs as well as take into consideration their future needs. It is very important that future developments be considered when making plans for current needs.



Wilton Baptist Church, Wilton, NY

Here are testimonials from pastors whose own ministry was strengthened through the ministry of F.B.C.B.C.M.:

"Their services were invaluable to us as a church in need of a new building. He gave us insightful perspectives and an affordable design that was attainable."

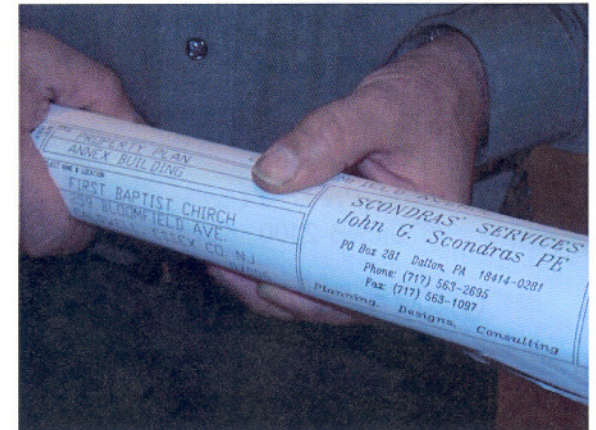
Pastor Todd A. Falk,
Wilton Baptist Church
Wilton, NY

"They saved us thousands of dollars"

Pastor David Bulka
First Baptist Church
Caldwell, NJ

"We appreciate the assistance provided for making our rest rooms handicap accessible."

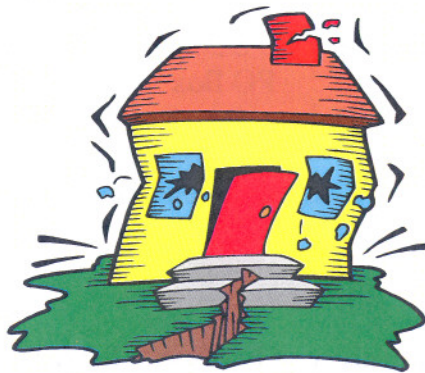
Pastor Larry King
First Baptist Church
Eden, NY





“What do we do about our building problem?”

a guideline to church facility improvement



“Can you help us deal with our church building problem?” This is a question we are often asked. We have prepared this brochure to assist you in identifying a plan to arrive at a solution to your building problem. We encourage you to start planning early. Don't wait until you have reached a crisis point.

STEP #1

PLANNING — to arrive at a logical solution to your problem, you need to know where you are going. Develop prayerful answers to the applicable questions:



- 1. What ministries and activities do you want to accomplish, particularly as it involves the building facility?
- 2. To what level of activity does the church see these ministries maturing?
- 3. To what size would the church anticipate these ministries to grow?
- 4. What people/age groups is the church seeking to target?
- 5. What ministries would the church like to establish in the future?
- 6. What message does the church want their building (facility) to convey to the community?
- 7. How much is the church willing to invest monetarily, including how much is already on hand in a building fund?
- 8. What specific facility items need to be addressed, i.e. pre-existing problems?



STEP #2

DEFINE THE NEED —our experience shows that that needs of church facilities fall into one of three general categories:

- Cumbersome facilities:** traffic flow problems (people and/or cars) ; mobility problem for elderly; handicap inaccessibility; etc.
- Inadequate facilities:** not enough rooms; meeting rooms are too small; restroom facilities not adequate; no facilities for large group activities; etc.
- Unsound facilities:** water problems; utility problems; structural problems with walls or foundation; infrastructure problems such as heating, lighting, floors, etc.

It is often recommended that a qualified third party be invited to your facility to perform a “walk-thru” evaluation to help you identify the need. A wise person commented, “Sometimes it takes someone different to see sharply that which has become blurred by familiarity.”

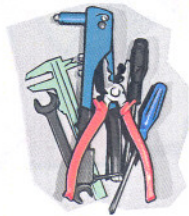


STEP#3

INFORMATION GATHERING —

gathering some or all the information described below helps put perspective on the solution. The information gathered is also important for those who may be assisting you.

- 1. Obtain a floor plan of the church building(s). This floor plan could be a good sketch, a scale drawing or an architectural drawing.
- 2. Obtain a property plan on which is located all buildings, all utilities and other items including roadways, driveways, easements, property line, etc. Check the church's archives and/or local zoning office to see if a Master Property Plan has been filed for future development.
- 3. Obtain a copy of the local zoning ordinance and building codes. These ordinances will provide the church with information concerning any facility regulations that need to be considered when designing a solution to the building needs.
- 4. Evaluate your "in-house" capabilities.
 - a. You already have the resources (time, talent, etc.) to deal with the situation.
 - b. You can start the solution but will need to bring in outside help along the way.
 - c. You do not have the resources "in-house" to deal with the problem; therefore outside assistance is required.



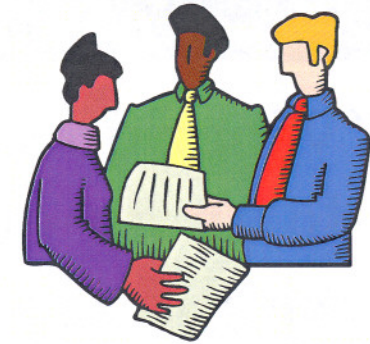
Often times it is necessary and prudent to enlist the aid of outside professionals (contractors, architects, engineers, etc.) as jurisdictional building and zoning codes will probably need to be considered. Be sure to evaluate the outside professional for credentials, track record, and references, as well as sympathy with and knowledge of your particular work. Fees may be considered but are of secondary importance. We strongly recommend that you consider professional planning help if the solution to your problem appears to involve:

- 1. moving walls/exits
- 2. revising infrastructure or utilities
- 3. making accessibility modifications
- 4. expansions
- 5. property acquisitions

After you have met with your professional, and depending upon the apparent scale of the project, you should assemble a committee of interested people that are willing to take an active part in the solution and who are prepared to make sacrificial commitments.



While your plans are being developed, keep the church informed. Encourage their input. Continue to develop the building fund. Promote the change as an opportunity to more effectively minister the goals of the church. Pray for the Lord's blessing and prospering.



FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDING CONSULTING MINISTRIES*

PLANNING YOUR FACILITY ENHANCING YOUR MINISTRIES

JOHN AND SUSAN SCONDRAS
PO Box 281
Dalton, PA 18414-0281
(570) 563-2695
E-mail: greek@epix.net

*A ministry of Fellowship Baptist Church
Dalton, PA