

Living Faithfully in Midtown

by Elizabeth Rouse (Minute for Mission, May 21, 2017)

Since day one, the More Idlewild Campaign and Building Project have been about living as faithfully as we can in Midtown Memphis.

I have been involved in this for several years, and I have never been as excited as I am today. The cleanup day yesterday proved to me that the Building Project process is going to do major things for our congregation that have nothing to do with buildings. In two years, on the other side of this, we will be a stronger and closer community.

The Building Project is about updating and modernizing the Jones Building facilities and creating a new main entrance on the west side between the Sanctuary Building and the Jones Building.

You can't see cranes and construction right now — and you won't for a while — but thanks to the staff and 60 of you who spent yesterday here, you can see dumpsters filled, rooms in the sanctuary building cleaned out and organized and plans being made for the closing of the Jones Building this summer.

The Building Committee is working with Steve Berger/brg3s architects and Jamie Linkous/Linkous Construction to marry the scope of the project with our budget. There are five main areas of the building project.

1. **Infrastructure enhancements.** This is the part of the project that we are not going to be able to see but that we cannot go without addressing in a building that was built in 1960. It's sort of like getting an oil change in your car... you might notice that your car drives better and sounds better, but your passengers aren't going to notice. However, it's necessary to keep your car going. These infrastructure enhancements include...
 - *Heating & cooling systems in Jones Building with central plant upgrades*
 - *Fire sprinklers*
 - *New AV and internet connectivity*
 - *New lighting*
 - *Elevator access to all parts of both buildings*
2. **A new Entry on Evergreen** that will connect the Jones Building with the Sanctuary Building and serve as a more welcoming, obvious entrance on the west side where the alley is now. This new three-story foyer will have elevator and stair access to all levels and will include a new entrance to the chapel.
3. **Safe, state-of-the-art early childhood development center** on the first floor of the Jones Building with windows and doors for sidewalk access.
4. **Creating modern/accessible/flexible meeting** and classroom space along with kitchen and dining facilities in Jones Building. This will be primarily on levels two and three.
5. Modern/accessible **restrooms** in Sanctuary Building and Jones Building.

In the coming weeks, you can...

- **Participate in a Service for Wholeness on May 31** as we consider and pray for the transition we are experiencing with this project.
- **Plan to stay after worship on June 11** to participate in another clean-up day. I promise you will see parts of these two massive buildings that you may not even know exist. I bet you'll find some treasures, too.
- **Attend June 18 Sunday School** to hear a presentation by architect Steve Berger about the project plans.
- **Stay up to date on details** through the website, *Chimes, This Week At Idlewild*.
- **Contact any member of the Building Committee** or email us via the church website with questions you may have.
- **Pray for Idlewild**, the Building Committee and this process.

All of these enhancements and, most importantly, this process will enable us to be Christ's witnesses and to live as faithfully as we can in Midtown Memphis.

MORE IDLEWILD BUILDING UPDATES

For regular building updates, go to www.idlewildchurch.org and click More Idlewild at the top. Updates are also printed in newsletters and bulletins, and special notices are being sent throughout the renovation and construction project. If you have a question or comment, click the Questions link on the More Idlewild page.

Building Committee: Kirk Bobo and Steve Valentine, chairs; Chick Hill, Betsy Hood, Albert Johnson, Mark Jones, Lisa Mallory, Charlie McCrary, Josh Poag, Elizabeth Rouse and Joellyn Sullivan, members; Pastor Steve Montgomery, Doris Hurdle, Rebekah Abel Lamar, enni Brooks, and Ginny Moore, staff liaisons.

