

Growing with Faith

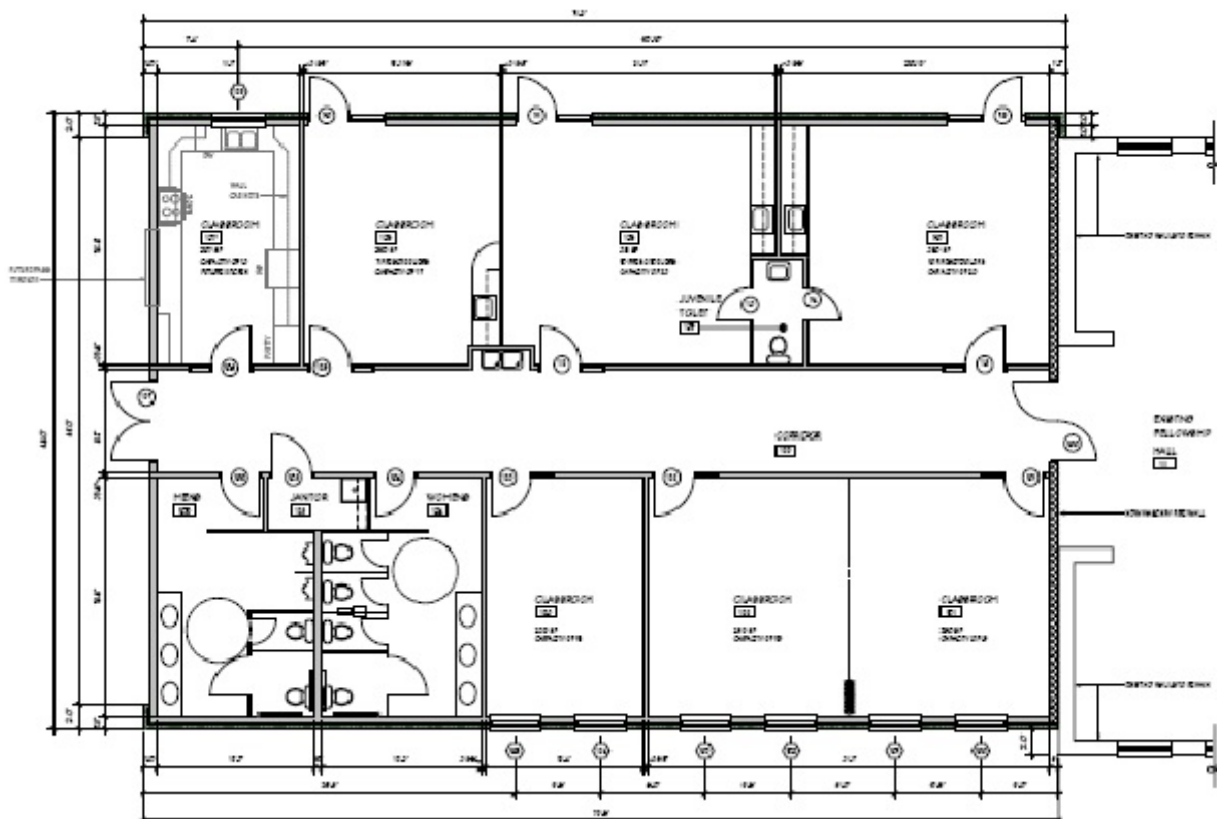
April 2008 Update

On December 9, 2007, the congregation voted to “seek approval from the Town of Blacksburg for a Special Use Permit for a site plan for the future expansion of St. Michael using the Master Site Plan developed by architect, Tom Koontz.”

Update: The church filed the Special Use Permit (SUP) request on January 31, 2008. The Planning Commission voted to approve the SUP on April 1, 2008. The SUP will now go before the Town Council for consideration probably on May 13, 2008.

In addition to seeking a Special Use Permit, the congregation decided to hire Tom Koontz as our architect to develop construction documents for a potential Phase I Classroom Expansion to include seven classrooms and new restrooms.

Update: With input from the Facilities Expansion Task Force, Tom Koontz has begun developing the design for our classroom addition. The current version of the plan has rooms that are appropriate for young children, classrooms that are adaptable for all ages, and one room with a moveable wall which can be used for small luncheons or large meetings. The building also contains new restrooms. A large version of drawing is in the fellowship hall.



During the small group discussions, questions were raised about storage, septic systems and the overall cost project which could not be answered fully in December.

Update: The Task Force has considered storage for tables and chairs and the need to replace the current storage building. The tables and chairs will be stored in the fellowship hall behind expanded cabinets. The current exterior storage will be replaced by a small freestanding building behind the sanctuary next to the future playground.

After consulting with the Montgomery County Health Department, it was determined that we will need to add an additional septic system to handle the new bathrooms. A soil consultant is helping us determine what we need, but we have every indication that the new system will be relatively small and traditional.

We still do not have a final cost estimate, but after interviewing a number of contractors, the Task Force has selected Lionberger Construction to provide pricing for the project. If we decide to proceed with construction, Lionberger will provide us with a guaranteed maximum price which the congregation would vote on as a part of any recommendation to proceed with construction.

It was noted at the December meeting that before any construction could begin, there would need to be additional votes by the congregation.

Update: The progress on the project so far is exciting, but the congregation will need to meet to consider all the information about the design and the overall cost in order to be able to make a final decision concerning construction. Assuming everything continues to progress at the current rate, a congregational meeting to discuss authorizing construction could be held in late May or June. If the congregation votes to proceed with the project, construction could begin this summer and would last four to six months.

The Growing with Faith estimates of giving indicated that giving in support of those three year estimates could begin in March.

Update: A number of people have already begun giving in support of the project and total giving to date exceeds \$25,000. Special offering envelopes are now available if you are interested. Donations can also be made online. If you are interested in gifting stock or property, please talk to Pastor John.