

*Loving Waynesville...  
from one generation to another*

**Our History**

When you walk through the doors of First United Methodist Church, it is easy to feel that you are walking in the footsteps of the faithful men and women who built this church at the corner of Haywood and Academy. We are who we are, in large part, because of their devotion and faith. But, our roots go even deeper to a time before we even had a church building. The beginnings of this congregation date back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when Bishop Francis Asbury preached to a small gathering in present-day Clyde. Though these people had no church building other than a home, they heard the call of the gospel and responded in faith. The spark ignited that day led to the building of the first Methodist church in Waynesville.

The story of FUMC's history includes many buildings. There are sanctuaries that became too small and had to be rebuilt time and again to make room for a growing congregation. Eventually, the church built an education building where people could gather in small groups around prayer and study. When a fire destroyed the sanctuary, FUMC responded in two remarkable ways by building a new and modern sanctuary, and by creating a new worship center in the gymnasium that continues to house a vibrant and growing contemporary worship service.

Through it all, this church has stood as a beacon of love to the town of Waynesville – so much so that this church, like its pioneering founders, has never been defined by its buildings, but its ministries. As a growing church in a growing town with growing needs, the time has come for us to follow in the footsteps of previous generations and set our eyes on a dream – a God-sized dream – to love Waynesville into the future.

**Mission and Vision**

In a world that seems to constantly insist that we learn how to make it on our own, First United Methodist Church of Waynesville stands to say that we are better together. Our mission statement makes this clear: *We are called to be the living body of Christ: Welcoming ALL, Growing in faith, Engaging the world.*

Our church makes a bold *welcome* that is extended to everyone with no exception. We envision a campus designed to help us make this welcome clear to each and every person who visits our church.

At FUMC, we understand that *faith* is a journey. From our Child Development Center to Sunday School to Music Makers and classroom studies for Adults, we practice a holistic approach to faith development that is honest and intentional. We envision a new CDC/Education Building where children, youth and adults can participate in the amazing journey of faith for decades to come.

Finally, we feel called, not to wait for the world to come us, but for us to go into the world. Through community partnerships and programs, church/town-wide events, and weekly worship services our church is always *engaging* with our neighbors. We envision a multi-purpose space

that can meet our needs and the community's needs and will allow us to better utilize our gymnasium for community recreation and performance.

### **The Plan**

In 2013, a team was commissioned to examine facility usage and function at FUMC and properties owned by the church. This group made recommendations to the Leadership Team which spurred the creation of a Masterplan Team. This group was charged to create a vision and plan for church facilities and properties to meet the growing needs of the church and community. The Masterplan Team was eventually given the task of hiring an architectural firm to help access needs and to guide us in shaping some possible solutions. Working with Clark Nexsen in Asheville, the Masterplan team has developed the following three goals for renovation and/or new space at FUMC.

- Welcome/Gathering Space (11,290 sqft / \$5,393,199)
  - Whether you are coming to church for a contemporary or traditional worship service, a concert, a class, a meal, or just passing through, you will naturally come through this space. In this bright and open place, people will be able to meet new friends who may attend other worship services, have a cup of coffee, walk through a church-wide mission fair, gather information on all the church's ministries, enjoy a post-concert reception, and a multitude of other community-building opportunities.
- Multi-Purpose Center (12,000 sqft / \$5,249,734)
  - The Christian Growth Center/gymnasium has filled this role for the past 30 years, but many of our church's events and the Awakening Service have outgrown this area. Furthermore, with this space being used for more than sixty community events each year, we are very often unable to use the gym for recreation. This new 700-person multi-purpose center will create room for growth in the Awakening Service, allow us to expand our community events and partnerships, and give us back our gym as a recreational space for the church and community.
- Child Development Center & Education Building (35,045 sqft / \$16,327,796)
  - One of the greatest needs in Waynesville today, and for the foreseeable future, is high quality, affordable child care. This new childcare center will serve the community for years to come in many vital ways, and will create new spaces for our children's ministry. Furthermore, by building a new Education Building, we will be able to create more space for small group ministries, and expanded opportunities for adults.

### **The Next Step**

We recently hosted four listening sessions with the congregation (some 340 people attended these) and are excited by the spirit and energy of these meetings. To help guide us in this project, Hewett Consulting LLC, a national stewardship firm specializing in capital campaigns, will be partnering with the staff, the Leadership Team, and others to determine the overall feasibility of this project. Our goal is to do the entire project at one time, raising as much money as we can in a capital funds campaign project and borrowing the rest.

We really are better together. This was true 200 years ago when Frances Asbury first preached in this valley. This is true today. May it continue to be so from one generation to another.