

PROGRESS 2008

First Church of the Nazarene — Answering the ‘Why’ Question

Why? It may be the most universal question in our culture today. We all want to know the answer to the “Why?” questions of life. At First Church of the Nazarene, this year has been filled with opportunities to ask the “Why?” question.

It has been two years since the devastating fire of January 21, 2006, took the main worship building of First Church of the Nazarene. If you were to ask many of the people who are First Church of the Nazarene, they would be able to tell you exactly where they were and what they were doing when they received the news that the building was on fire. All told, the devastation from this accidental fire resulted in a loss of a \$ 7 million facility.

Tragedy. Loss. Heartache. Challenge. Proving the resilience of this 90-plus-year-old congregation, within two months they had revamped an entire existing building on their campus to accommodate church services and ministries. This undertaking, completely renovating a gymnasium into a multi-use worship center, took place in a matter of weeks. On a weekly basis, you will find an array of activities taking place in this former gymnasium with a few classrooms. From ministries to young mothers to Bible studies to children’s parties to full-scale Christmas productions and more, the building has been transformed. Proving that First Church of the Nazarene didn’t cease following the fire, the YMCA currently uses this facility for its preschool program four days out of the week.

Obviously, First Church



of the Nazarene had to answer a lot of questions those first couple of months following the fire. The question of whether or not this temporarily renovated facility on the campus would be big enough to accommodate all of the ministries taking place through the church. The question of “where do we go from here?” The question of “where do we build?” The question of “what do we build?”

But perhaps the most important question that First Church has had to ask over the last two years is “Why?” It’s not a question of “why did this happen to us?” or “why would God allow something like this to happen?”

Instead, it is a question that probes issues like:

“Why do we have the church?” “Why do we do what we do as a church?” “Why does First Church of the Nazarene exist?” “Why has God placed First Church of the Nazarene in this community at this time?”

When you realize some of

the questions First Church of the Nazarene has been asking itself over the last two years, it becomes easier to answer some of the more natural questions like:

“Why hasn’t First Church of the Nazarene rebuilt their building?” “Where is First Church of the Nazarene going to rebuild?” “When are they going to rebuild?”

First Church of the Nazarene has taken the not-so-easy-road and instead of asking themselves what they should build, they have asked the much deeper question of why they should build.

That brings us to the here and now. As a result of asking the “Why?” questions, First Church of the Nazarene is now poised to move forward in building a facility that will not only replace what was lost, but will be an asset to the community of Oskaloosa and the surrounding areas. In January of 2008, First Church of the Nazarene launched “Oskaloosa’s Gateway to Hope.” This project will not only

accessibility, adequate parking, future expansion possibilities, and the opportunity to have all activities under one roof.

However, land acquisition is just one part of the puzzle. In 2007, the church worked closely with the McKnight Group, a design/build company out of Grove City, Ohio, to refine the process of designing a building that would not only meet current and future needs of the church, but be an asset to Oskaloosa for community events and usage. First Church of the Nazarene has currently completed Phase 1 of the project, which includes designing the state-of-the-art facility based on usage requirements, and current and future needs. In February of 2008, First Church of the Nazarene signed the Phase 2 contract which puts everything on the drawing board. It is this Phase 2 process which will produce blueprints and architectural drawings. After the Phase 2 process is complete, Phase 3 begins the construction portion of the project.

While land acquisition and building plans are exciting elements, perhaps the most exciting thing that has taken place at First Church of the Nazarene over the last two years is a kind of rediscovery of what church is all about. It doesn’t take long before you realize that First Church of the Nazarene is about people, not buildings. In fact, the driving force

behind the design of their new facility are needs that people in the community have. The new facility is designed to be completely handicap accessible, will have various meeting spaces available, will have opportunities for children’s and teen activities, sporting events, and much more. The facility will truly be a “multi-use” facility, with multiple areas serving different purposes. The goal is that this be a flexible facility, able to meet various needs at any given time, while being suitable for an exciting worship experience every week.

Why is First Church of the Nazarene doing all of this? All for the purpose of being the church that they believe God has called them to be for this community. A church “without walls,” so to speak, where people from every walk of life can be challenged to be everything God made them to be.

First Church of the Nazarene is excited about the opportunities over the next year and are proud to be partnering with the community of Oskaloosa to meet area needs.

First Church of the Nazarene currently meets in their renovated Christian Life Center located at 1215 Third Ave. E. in Oskaloosa. Worship times are 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. For more information, you can contact First Church of the Nazarene via their Web site at www.oskynaz.org or by phone at (641) 673-3417.

E-Z Sales: In business to help the consumer make the best purchase

E-Z Sales Inc. has been a long-time business in Oskaloosa. Mike and Rhonda Foubert purchased the business from EZ Electronics and its proprietor Ron Cox in January 1997.

It was established in 1987 and was formerly located on Highway Avenue, and moved to its current location at 113 N. First St., in 1989. Mike was a former employee of EZ Electronics for eight years prior to becoming owner.

The business serves the community by offering numerous methods for purchasing.

“Whether you would like to buy outright, choose a 90-day plan or rent-to-own, we can

help. We carry Whirlpool appliances, Sony and Toshiba electronics, Acer and Dell computers, as well as a large selection of furniture for the entire home. We have competitive prices, free delivery and installation, as well as service after the sale,” Mike said.

In addition to Mike and Rhonda, they have two full-time employees who have been with them for many years. Jim Lockard is the store manager, and has 17 years of experience. Shaun Spruell has been there for five years. Mike concludes with, “Service before, during and after the sale is our priority. We strive to treat customers the way we want to be treated and look forward to many more years serving Oskaloosa and the surrounding communities.”



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