



Reflecting on the One-Year Anniversary of the Worship Center

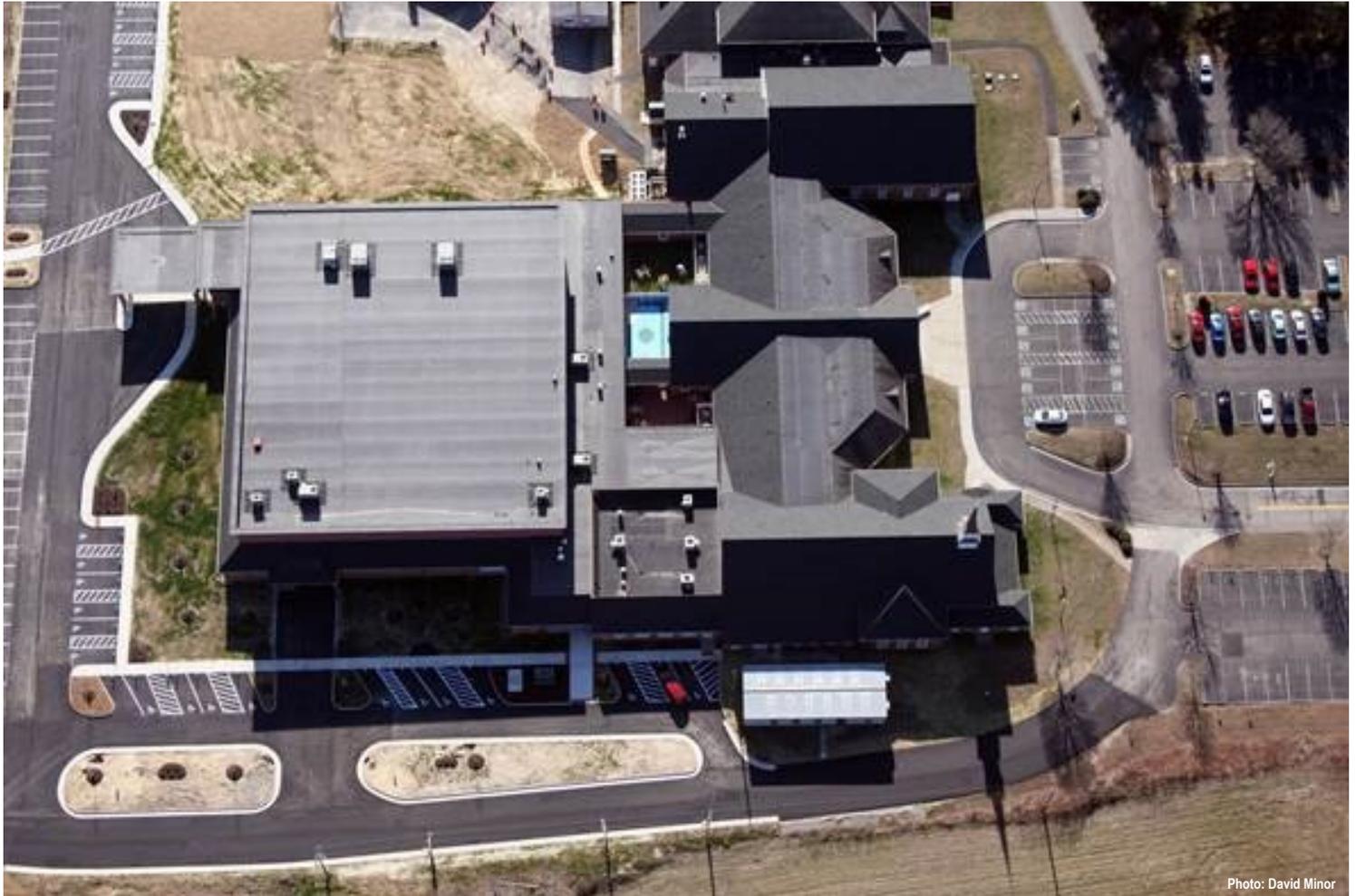


Photo: David Minor

It's Amazing!

By Rick Raines

As I sat at tonight's "A Quiet Winter's Night" concert, I couldn't help but be amazed. It was only one year ago that this same concert was the first formal event held in our brand-new Worship Center. One year later ...

I can't help but be amazed.

After several years of planning, developing, preparing, and fundraising, what started as a God-driven dream several years prior, finally came to fruition when on Sunday, December 18, 2016, the Worship Center opened for its first worship

service. After more than 14 years of setting up chairs in the gymnasium, we now had a permanent place – with fixed seating! – for our contemporary services to call home. But worship services only scratch the surface of all that has gone in that space since then.

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It's Amazing!

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In the last year, thousands of Fairmounters and their neighbors have streamed through our doors to enjoy some of the region's finest theatrical presentations. We have hosted "Fiddler on the Roof", "Steel Magnolias", and "God Bless Us, Every One". We have hosted special speakers like Olympic champion, David Boudia, and radio personality, JJ Jasper. We even had the VCU Peppas in the house pumping up the volume during a VCU Rams basketball simulcast! The Worship Center has hosted movies, concerts, and hundreds of very energetic young



Photo: Nick Polivka
Gavin Polivka enjoying the VCU Peppas in the Worship Center during a Grand Opening event.

people for the Virginia Preteen Convention. Of course, no one will ever forget the honor of hosting thousands from across our community for the funeral service of my friend and Hanover firefighter, Henri Moore. I'd say that the space has been well-used by our Lord and His people, wouldn't you?

Oh, and did I mention that the lobby alone has hosted dozens of receptions and meals? That the reconfigured nursery has given more room for more babies to be loved on and to hear more about Jesus? That our new music suite is a state-of-the-art venue for rehearsals? That our new classrooms have hosted hundreds of students for a myriad of instructional opportunities?

But of course, it all comes back to worship. Our two Worship Center services have seen an influx of many new individuals and families to the Fairmount family. The warm (can you smell coffee?) and welcoming environment of our lobby just lends itself to warm and welcoming worship.



The Worship Center is a perfect place to hold the opening and closing programs during VBS.

That all leads to the most exciting reality of all ... the dozens of men and women, boys and girls who have been baptized into Christ in our beautiful cross-adorned baptistery. This focal point of our Worship Center will serve Christ's body well for decades to come.

What a year it has been. I invite you to join me in taking a moment and giving thanks to God for what has been an exciting year 1. I CANNOT wait to see what God is going to do in year 2! It will be amazing. ■

How did we ever manage without it?!

By Chris Santasiere

The fifteen months of construction felt more like fifteen years and the twelve months since we moved into the new Worship Center has felt more like twelve days. What a fast year this has been! I never imagined how much and in how many ways we would use the lobby area of the new Worship Center. The lobby is very spacious and has become a gathering area on Sunday mornings. The coffee center has been an especially welcome addition. People from all four of our morning worship services stop by the coffee center for a quick cup of coffee and spend a few minutes catching up with friends. The conversations and fellowship are exactly what I had envisioned and hoped for with our new lobby. The lobby has been utilized as a multi-purpose room of sorts. The very first Grand Opening event in January - an evening with Olympic medalist David Boudia - set the precedent for usage of the lobby. We held a meet and greet and book signing that night. Subsequently, we have held funeral dinners, the Beast Feast, the Men's Salad Supper, Vacation Bible School, and parts of the Fall Festival in the new lobby. Having had this new space for the past year, I cannot imagine how we ever managed without it. ■



Photo: Ray Alexander
The lobby is a beautiful place for family photos, especially at Christmas. (The Alexander, Drake, and Smither families.)

It's Hard to Remember What It Was Like Before!

By Tracy Thomas

As Worship Minister, one of the biggest changes for me in our wonderful new Worship Center has been in the area of technology. When I think back to our first service one year ago on December 18, what I remember most are the emotions of the day – it was SO exciting, and it was SO stressful! I remember on that very first day we weren't sure whether the sound was going to work properly, right up until moments before the service began! I still consider it a miracle that we got through that first month of new services without people having any clue of the technical difficulties we were experiencing. Even as I write this, we are still in the final stages of resolving some lighting issues.

The thing people probably notice the most that is different in the new space is the use of IMAG (Image Magnification), which gives the audience "up close and personal" views of the Praise Team, speakers, soloists, and ministers. Another thing noticeable to everyone is the ability to use colored lights, creating a visually pleasing and interesting backdrop for our services.

One thing that many people probably do not realize is that the majority of the Praise Team use "in-ear monitors." This cuts down on the volume onstage, which produces a much clearer and better sound out in the audience. We can even use apps on our smartphones that connect to the sound board, and we can control on our phones exactly what we are hearing in our ears – it's wonderful!

Another thing most people probably do not realize is that above the stage on the right, there is a production booth. There are usually 3-4 people up in that booth during a service. The controls for the cameras are up there, as well as the computer that controls the lyrics for worship songs and sermon notes.

Did you know that for our production of "God Bless Us, Every One" there was an entire choir across the hall in the Music Suite singing? You heard them, but you couldn't see them! The choir and I watched the show on the big TV in the Music Suite, and with the app on my phone, I was able to control just how much of the music track or each



GBUEO Backstage Choir

individual cast member we heard. All of this was planned for way back in the very beginning of the design process for the new building.

Though the learning curve for the new technology has been steep, what a blessing it has been to us. It's hard to remember what it was like before! ■

Are you aware that you can gift appreciated stock to help with Fairmount's Christmas Campaign?

Giftng appreciated stock is one of the most effective means of tax savings available. If you donate stock that has increased in value since you bought it more than a year ago – and if you itemize deductions -- you can take a charitable deduction for the stock's fair market value on the day you give it away. You'll also avoid capital-gains taxes on the increase in value over time, which you would have to pay if you sold the stock and gifted the cash proceeds to Fairmount.

Please look at the tax savings of donating securities versus a cash gift. The chart below assumes you wish to donate shares of stock worth \$10,000 that you purchased for \$2,000 several years ago.

	Donate appreciated securities outright	Donate \$10,000 cash	Sell securities & donate cash
Charitable deduction	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Ordinart income tax savings (assumes 35% rate)	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
Capital gains tax paid (assumes 15% tax rate on \$8,000 gain)	\$1,200 saved	N/A	\$1,200 paid
Net tax savings	\$4,700	\$3,500	\$2,300

If you're interested in gifting appreciated stock, please contact the church office at 804.559.8070 and we will provide additional information to help you expedite this valuable option in helping to fulfill our Christmas campaign goal.

Thank you,
Brandon Woodard





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The
FORECASTER
best viewed online @
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OUR CHURCH - December 17, 2017

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
4:00pm ~ Worship Center
Speaker: Chris Santasiere



Baby Recognition
Sunday, Jan. 21st
for all children born in 2017

Baby Pictures Needed! Please submit a current photo of your 2017 baby to cbranch@fairmountchristian.org along with baby's full name, birthdate, service you will attend, and names of any grandparents or great-grandparents to be recognized by January 15th. Photos can also be brought to the church office to be scanned (and returned). *Please provide a photo and information even if you know you can't attend on January 21st so that your child can be included in the keepsake publication.*

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

8:15 Traditional Worship: 159
Children's Worship: 3
9:30 Cont. Worship: 556
Children's Worship: 57
11:00 Traditional Worship: 180
Children's Worship: 120
11:15 Modern Worship: 243

Total: 1,318

Bible School: 644

Budget Requirements: \$44,862

Budget Receipts: \$47,938

Next Forecaster: January 10, 2018

Sermon Series
Concludes This Sunday!



FAIRMOUNT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM
Rick Raines - Senior Minister
Chris Santasiere - Associate Minister
Mike Langley - Associate Minister
Tracy Thomas - Worship/Music Minister
Josh Smith - Interim Youth Minister
Ashley Sears - Children's Director
Amber Grubbs - Early Childhood Director
Brandon Woodard - Church Executive