



blueprint

connecting a generation
of students to Jesus



fbsm

FAITH BIBLE STUDENT MINISTRY

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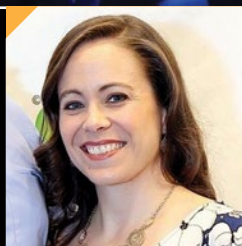


fbsm

FAITH BIBLE STUDENT MINISTRY



"The heart of the FBSM leadership for these students is something I've never encountered. I love their willingness to connect with and minister to each student. I've watched God truly transform this ministry over the last 5 to 6 years. The impact it had made is evident in the lives of our students. My husband and I both have had a blast getting to be around FBSM!"



Emily Amos
FBSM Parent

blueprint

connecting a generation
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FAITH BIBLE STUDENT MINISTRY

OUR VISION

At Faith Bible Church, we build generations of Jesus followers who take grace to our world. Faith Bible Student Ministry (FBSM) is one of those crucial generations. Junior and senior high students do not have to wait to make an impact on their world. They do not have to graduate to have a voice, to be used by God. They can do it now. Jesus is the way.

ENCOUNTER. KNOW. TRUST. LIVE.

JESUS

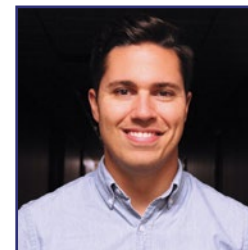
THIS IS WHAT FBSM IS ALL ABOUT.

FBSM creates an environment for students in 7th through 12th grade to encounter, get to know, trust and give their lives to Jesus. This is what we're passionate about, and it is what we expect to see; lives changed and shaped by the grace of God.

Student Ministry here is not about programs, a slick meeting space, activities or crazy amounts of fun (although we will have all of these). It's about junior and high school students walking into the reality of who Jesus is and never turning back. Whether it is two of us learning how to

live out to truth of Scripture together, six of us praying around a coffee table or way too many of us crammed into a giant inflatable bubble for a shaving cream fight, we are building a community that follows passionately after Jesus. We know that we can't change hearts. We can't create faith in a student. We can't force authentic worship. All we can do is be obedient to God in leading students in truth and create an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to move. So that's what we do.

We really do



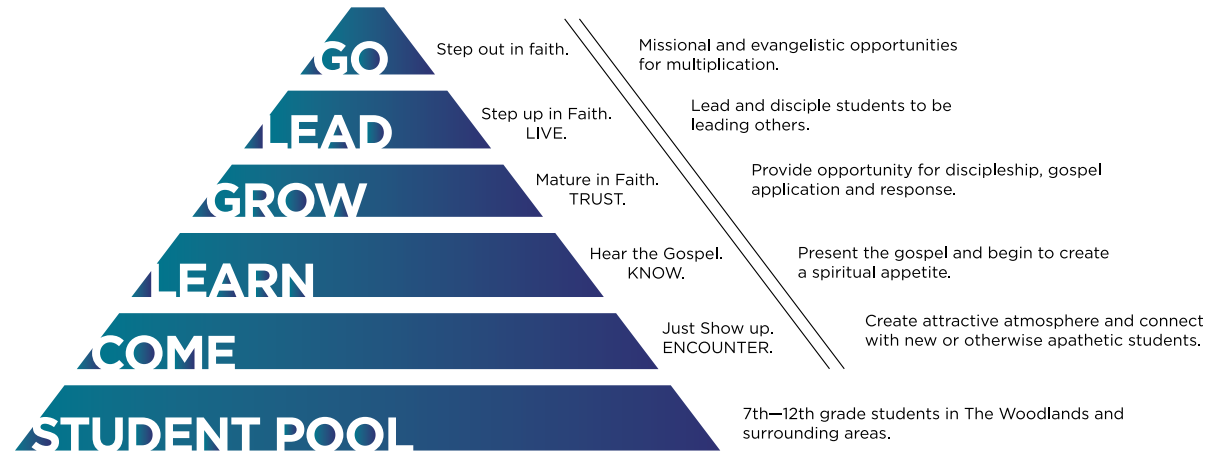
want every student at FBSM to encounter, get to know, put their faith in, and give their lives to Jesus. This vision directs everything we say, everything we do and everything we put our energy into. We will never take our eyes off of what is eternal for the sake of what is temporary. We will always champion our parents, encourage our students, and (graciously) push them towards Jesus. We'd love for you to be a part of what is going on around here.

Tom Gwaltney | *Student Pastor*



Over the years, our ministry name has changed from The Cutting Edge to Pursuit Student Ministries to FBSM.

OUR PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

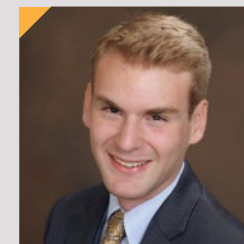


Student Ministry must be thoughtful and strategic. This is how we do it: we leverage ministry programs, fun events and discipleship opportunities at varying levels of engagement to move students in a strategic direction. We offer small group discipleship, large group worship, challenging missions, opportunities to serve, opportunities to lead and opportunities to just have fun. The programs we design and execute will change. They must change because student culture is constantly changing. But the gospel will never change. It is the gospel and example of Jesus Christ that calls us to keep a balanced philosophy that attracts disengaged and apathetic students while encouraging and challenging those with great passion and devotion. This is not an easy task. Our strategy: to lead as many students as possible up the pyramid above into deeper levels of commitment, service and leadership.

Our ministry is not defined by programming. The gospel will always define us.



FBSM has their own worship band, and five of the nine members are current students; two are graduated students and two are young adults at our church.



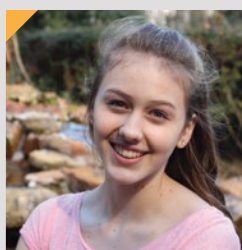
Jason Wolfe
12th grader

"I love coming to church and grouping myself with friends that all have a common interest: our pursuit of Christ. FBSM has reached out to me in times where I lost my path in Christ; they gave me opportunities to seek God and find my path again. I can certainly say that FBSM has shaped the man I am becoming now, and will continue to do so. The staff and volunteer's guidance and teachings keeps peeling off new layers of insight from the Bible, giving me something new to take in every week. I am thankful that God has let this ministry touch my life and what I learned here will be kept in my heart forever."



Our students lead an after-school program every Monday that we call **MissionMonday**. At **MissionMonday**, a group of high school students go to a government subsidized apartment complex here in the Woodlands and they help with homework, build relationships, and share the gospel of Jesus every week.

DYK?



Sophia Unruh
9th grader

"FBSM is a highlight in my week. I enjoy everything from Bible study groups, to participating in local kids ministries, to fellowship with friends, and, especially, worshipping God! The atmosphere at any FBSM event is always fun, positive, and welcoming. I have made so many new friends through FBSM and have become closer to old ones. FBSM is wonderful, and I am so blessed to be a part of it!"

Two crucial truths come crashing together in the lives of junior high and high school students. First, they are not the church of tomorrow, but in every sense they are the church of today. Second, they are trying to push through one of the most confusing and precarious stages of their lives. These truths hang in air that is foggy with rapidly changing expectations, the



vise grip of technology, expanding temptations and a culture that is dissolving morally and relationally.

Make no mistake about it, intentional pursuit of students with the

truth of God's grace and a constant invitation to spiritual growth and depth in Christ Jesus is critical. I would submit, it is more important than you ever thought it was.

After I put my trust in Jesus as a nineteen year-old college student, I immediately began serving high school and junior high students. That has continued for over 20 years, not because it is an easy or playful ministry, but because there is so much at stake. We are losing our students to addictions, meaningless philosophies and a culture that promises everything and delivers nothing. What we desperately need is a fresh and vital move of God, a renewed commitment to prayer for our students and a redoubled effort to pursue, love, disciple and persevere with students through the great transitions of their lives.

Scot Pollok | *Lead Pastor*

"students are not the church of tomorrow, but in every sense, the church of today"

THE STUDENTS OF OUR CITY

Public and private schools in the immediate vicinity of our physical church location include over 22,000 students. That number is our best attempt at creating a real-life assessment of our student pool, or the number of students we draw from in our area. The reality is we draw from many thousands more. There are multiple schools not included in this number, as well as an expansive home-school network not reflected.

According to research published by the National Study of Youth and Religion, 64% of American teenagers call themselves mainline Protestant or Roman Catholic and at least identify with a church. Of that 64%, only 8% identify as “highly devoted” to their faith.¹ The other 92% of that cohort range in devotion from regular religious involvement to completely disengaged or even antagonistic toward the gospel. If we apply that statistic to our city, it would mean that only 1,100 students are walking in close fellowship with Jesus. This could mean that close to twenty thousand students are in need of faith in Jesus or liberating gospel truths. Some of those students have a church home or perhaps a church they are associated with,

but many of those students do not attend anywhere on any sort of regular basis.

At FBSM, we have an incredible opportunity to reach and influence students in our city who, at this stage of their lives, are just starting to ask big questions like, “Is there really a God?” “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?”

In the world of student ministry, we get to have a front-row seat for the beautiful collision of puberty, theology, and dodgeball.

74% of youth pastors say teen busyness is the main obstacle to ministry, but only 11% of parents think their child is way too busy. (Barna, State of YM)²

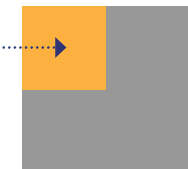


ANXIETY by the numbers

6.3 million

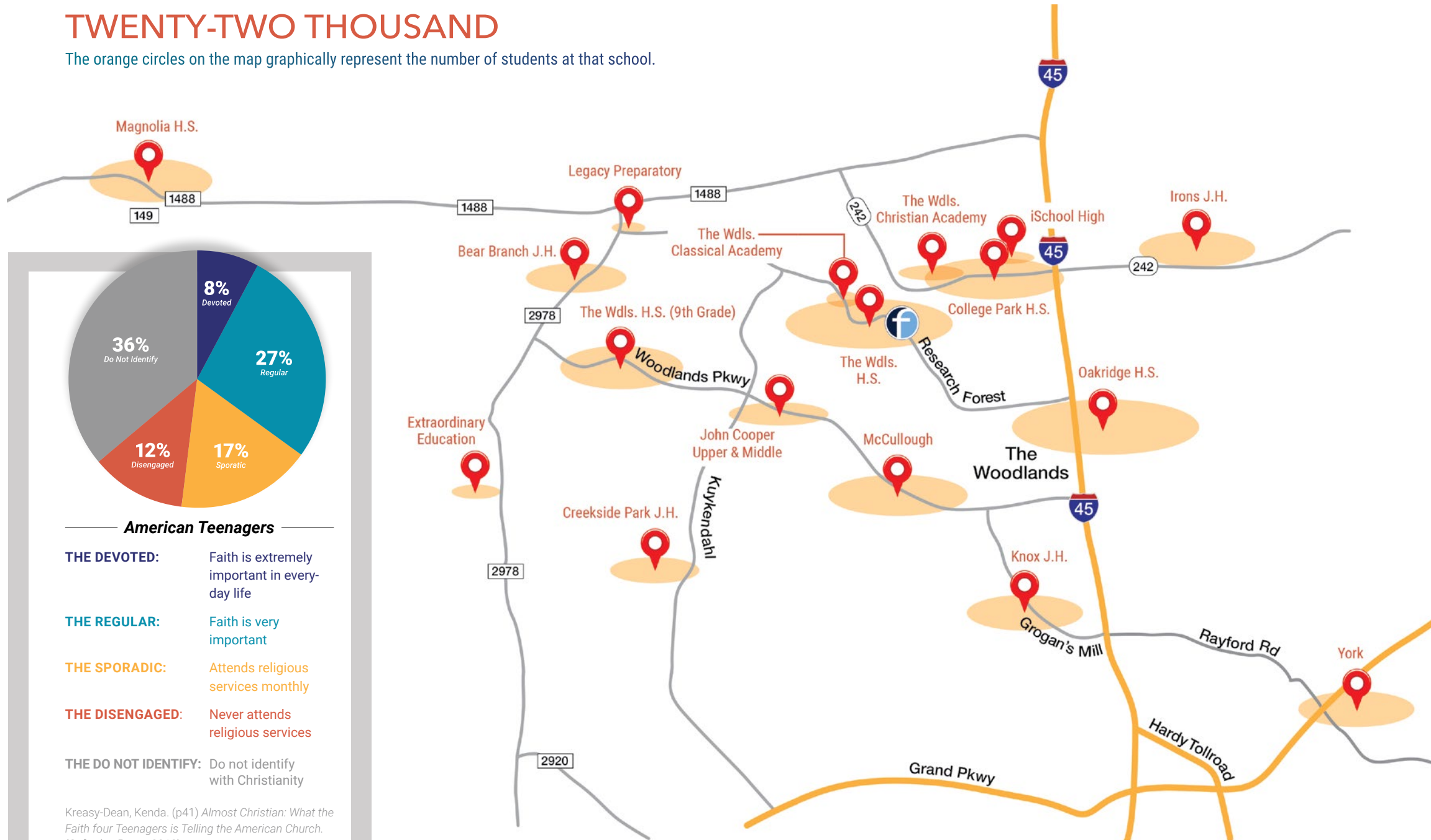
Teens ages 13 to 18 who have had an **anxiety disorder**. That number represents 25% of the population in that age group in 2015.

TIME Magazine, Nov. 2016. *The Kids Are Not All Right* by Susanna Schrobsdorff.



TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND

The orange circles on the map graphically represent the number of students at that school.



Kreasy-Dean, Kenda. (p41) *Almost Christian: What the Faith four Teenagers is Telling the American Church.* (Oxford u. Press, 2010)



FBSM pulls students from 28 different schools around our city and surrounding areas. (Not all schools represented in map)

21,652+



OUR CHALLENGE

Research shows students today face a very different world and culture than just 10 years ago. The current generation of students are simultaneously busier and lonelier than ever before. “Despite the space-age awesomeness of digital tools and the wonderful benefits of social media, Americans are twice as likely today as a decade ago to say they are lonely. And teens are increasingly native to this trend: hyper-connected, yet isolated” (*Barna Research Group*). Barna also called this an “era defined by achievement.” The research group cited “most teens expect to land their dream job by age 25, and 1 in 4 believes they will be famous in the next 10 years.”² It’s not difficult to imagine the anxiety these values create.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for those ages 15 to 19 years old (*Population Reference Bureau*).⁴ According to the Montgomery County Forensics Services, suicide deaths have risen from 46 in 2011 to 134 in 2015. With the recent spike in teen suicides in our city, we, more than ever, are desperate to speak truth and life into a generation that seems more lost than ever.

This collision of causes and effects has created a confusing puzzle for many parents in our city. While we never intend to replace the role of parents as shepherds and faith-influencers, we are called to equip both parents and students to meet these new challenges with faith, hope and the resurrection power found in Jesus Christ. We are guiding students

into the upside down economy of Jesus, where love and grace cannot be earned but are given freely.

Light, freedom and healing are only found in Jesus. Our challenge is to meet students inside their loneliness, depression, anxiety, failure, successes, sin and self-awareness. Within this bewildering struggle is an argument that this generation of students is among the most in need of light, freedom and healing.

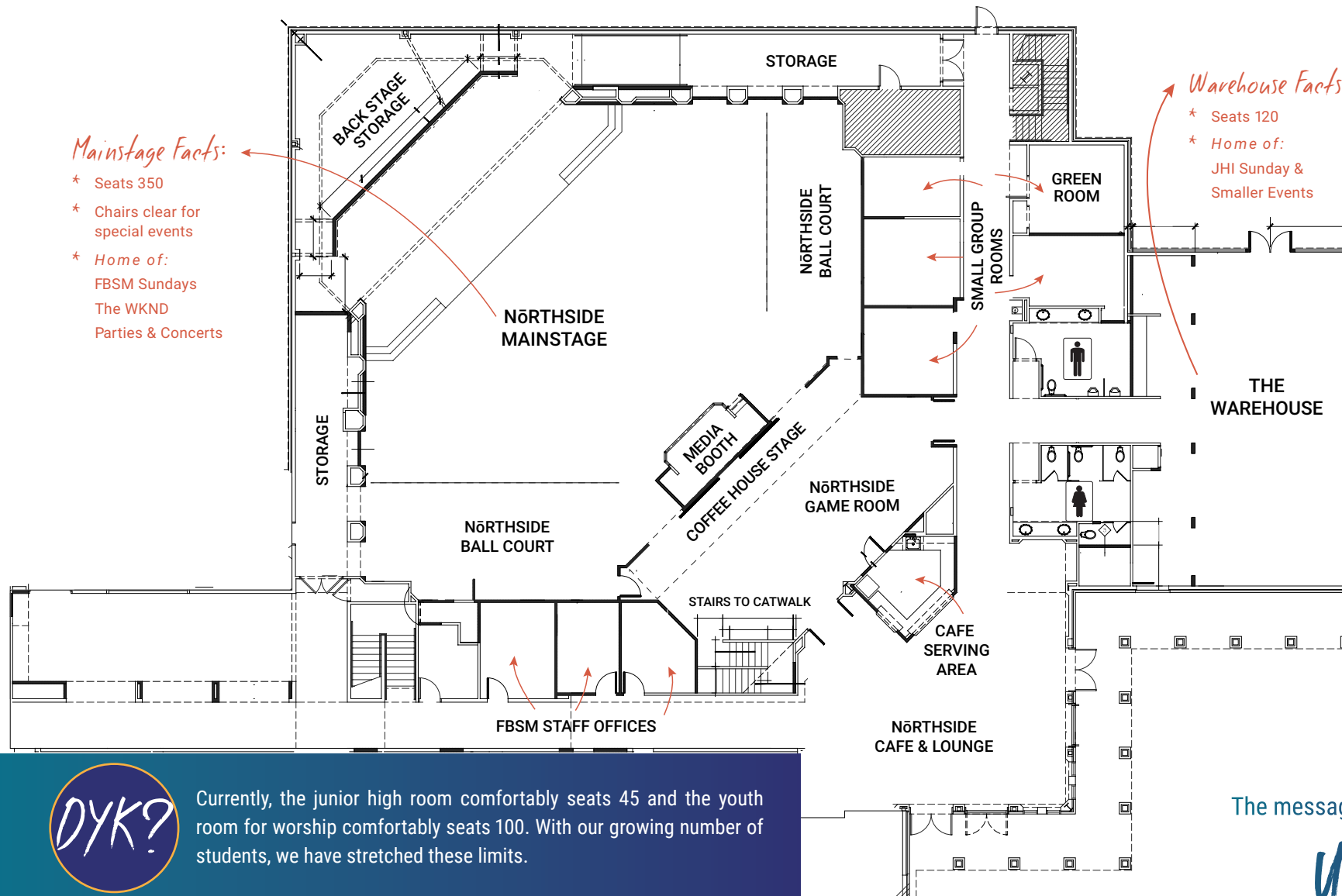
OUR FUTURE

Our future holds more of the same philosophy, commitment and calling we have described. It also holds something brand new. We will keep engaging students. We will still create environments for the Holy Spirit to move. We will continue to place a high value on relationships and meeting students where they are. **And we will always point them to Jesus.** God has also been growing our ministry, as well as our influence around the city. Because of this, we have outgrown our current space. The current renovation project is therefore much more than *pretty* square footage. It will be a platform for vital ministry to thousands of students and families.



Sydney Paffie
6th grader

“I’m not a part of FBSM yet, but I can’t wait to be next year. When I see my older sister and brothers go to youth activities, I always wish I could go too. They seem to have so much fun with their friends when they go hang out, go to HYPE Night, The WKND, Fall Retreat, and other fun events.”



Currently, the junior high room comfortably seats 45 and the youth room for worship comfortably seats 100. With our growing number of students, we have stretched these limits.

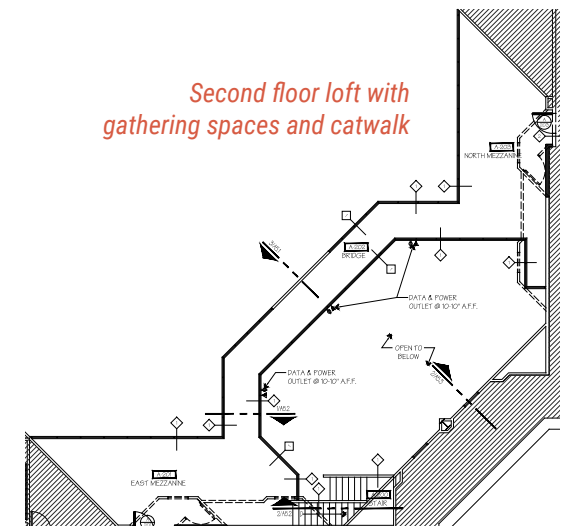
This brand new space, called NōRTHSIDE (because of its location on the north side of the Faith Bible campus) will be a world-class facility just for students. It will speak their language. It will provide and create ministry opportunity. It will invite students in, not just to a building, but to a family and to a Kingdom.

The message to students:

*You
Belong Here*

Reggie Joiner, the founder and CEO of Orange, whose purpose is to “influence those who influence the next generation,” said, “If you want to get serious about influencing the hearts of students, you have to think about creating an actual, visible, consistent place where they know they belong.”³ Our goal for NōRTHSIDE is that every element conveys the message, “**You belong here.**” We have worked for over a year to dream up a unique student space that is not only strategic and functional, but conducive to an encounter with the Living God.

Second floor loft with gathering spaces and catwalk



NORTHSIDE RENDERINGS *(subject to change)*

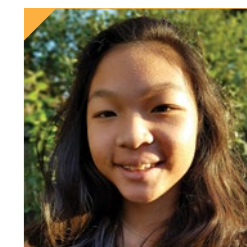


NORTHSIDE
cafe & lounge

View from
the stage

NORTHSIDE
game room

In preparation for the renovation, we studied a variety of student ministry spaces and unique facilities. Our design incorporates layers of space that are both inviting to a timid student yet engaging to a leader. The minimal, industrial look we will incorporate is versatile and maximizes usefulness. The new space will allow for growth, comfort and excitement for many years to come.



Sammy Lo
8th grader

"I love the community I have at FBSM. I especially like small group because we are to go more in-depth. I am always looking forward to going to church and seeing my friends."



Our family has been at Faith for 23 years. It is truly our church home. We have raised our three kids here and for years this was their “home away from home.” As they moved through the children’s and youth ministry at

Faith Bible, I served as a Sunday school teacher and small group leader. It has been an exciting privilege to see the Student Ministry grow over the years.

We have a good problem now and an excellent solution. Our good problem is that our Student Ministry has grown so much they have outgrown the current space and need more room. I remember walking into the new youth space in 1998 and thinking it was tight then. Fast forward 19 years to a continually growing youth program where a new space to worship, fellowship and learn about Jesus is a necessity.

The former sanctuary space is waiting to be used and with some updates and modifications—it is an excellent solution. As an elder, I see that we are in a good place financially to move forward with the renovation project. Our Student Ministry leaders have worked tirelessly and sacrificially to build relationships with the students. Through these relationships, they are helping our students understand how to receive and give grace. We don’t want this growth restricted by facility limitations. Let’s join to provide a great space for them!

Kirk Murray | *Elder*



Matt Garcia
FBSM Volunteer

“What makes this vital part of our church family special to me is that grace is preached and lived out before students’ lives. Even as the name of our ministry changed from The Cutting Edge to Pursuit Student Ministries to FBSM, this focus on grace has been constant. Grace is so important to all of us, but especially to a junior high or high school student. After all, where else does a student experience grace in this culture?”



FBSM has been leading a trip to the **Dominican Republic** every summer for the last 17 years, and will be opening their third project this summer.



Dominican
Republic
short-term trip
summer '16



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

This project concerns a critical part of our church family, therefore it involves the whole family. Our parents and students are in need. The students of our city are in crisis.

JESUS IS THE ANSWER.

What can you do? First, give thanks for the students, parents, volunteers and student ministry staff in our church family. God has richly blessed us. As we have seen, these students are not the church of tomorrow, but the church of today. As such, they are already growing, leading, giving and going on mission. They are developing the spiritual depth, commitment and faith that will one day see them in offices, pulpits, mission assignments and positions of influence and service all around the world. Do not forget to pray for our students and the students of our city.

Secondly, we need your financial partnership. As you seek God's blueprint for your involvement, remember that whether you have a student or not, this project involves our whole family. We need you. Start with sincere prayer. Ask God how He wants you to partner. Then simply be obedient. Trust Him and follow.

You can be a financial partner in several ways. You can give above and beyond your regular giving through your PushPay app by directing your funds to "Renovation-2017." You can do this on a one-time basis, or multiple times for however long you designate. Your partnership in this project is completely between you and God. You can also send a check to the church office or place one in the boxes

by the doors of our worship center. Designate the check in the same way, "Renovation-2017." Other options for giving, including gifts in kind or stock giving can be arranged with Patty Hardaway, our Financial Manager.

However you give, know that your partnership in this project will have an expansive impact that is incredibly difficult to measure. Together, through prayer and partnership, we will be able to reach more students with the Gospel and grace of Jesus, train more students in spiritual growth, connect more students to service, send more students on mission and retain more students as leaders in the church.

Choose to be a partner.

Together, we can do this.

BY THE NUMBERS

Estimated student renovation cost:

\$1,350,000

Funds already given and allocated:

\$450,000

Estimated cost of potential office renovation:

(NOTE: Leadership has not yet decided to move forward with this stage)

\$850,000

FAQ'S

How long has the Student Renovation idea been developing?

Originally, when Faith Bible purchased our current plot of land in 1998, the Elders foresaw a three stage building effort that we recently finished with the new worship center. Since completion of that plan, renovation of the student area has been a priority and topic of near constant discussion and prayer.

Why do we need to renovate the student area at all?

Right now, 7th through 12th grade students gather in the gym before entering into our current youth room for worship. The room can comfortably seat only 100 people. They then split up between junior and senior high for teaching. The junior high room also comfortably holds about 45 people. Our growth has stretched these limits consistently. Besides this, students have only one other dedicated room for small groups and one small conference/meeting room. One full-time student staff member offices in a converted closet. We simply need more space to grow and flourish.

Besides renovation, were there any other options considered?

Yes, besides moving walls or adding square footage, every workable option to maximize space without compromising ministry has been implemented and reviewed over almost 20 years of Student Ministry on this campus. Renovation of the old worship center, once replaced, has been part of the plan for growth and space.

Exactly when did the Elders decide to move forward?

The Elders and Pastors have been monitoring the growth and space limitations for many years. The final vote to move ahead with the Student Ministry renovation was unanimously taken after many months of planning and discussion in early November, 2016.

Are the student renovation and office renovation separate?

Yes. The Elders have voted to only go ahead with the Student Ministry phase of renovation. The Office renovation is separate and will be decided upon if and when the Elders feel that adequate funding is available.

How much will each phase cost?

The Student Ministry renovation, including audio/visual, furniture and fixtures is estimated at \$1.3M. The office phase, if undergone, is estimated at \$900K. Because these are renovations and not new construction, higher costs are a real possibility. This will require much prayer and careful management.

What is involved in the possible office renovation?

This phase will include the remainder of the first floor of the original phase of our campus, including some work in the kitchen, gym and old student room.

Why do we need to renovate our offices?

The current number of available offices is well below the number of our current staff. We foresee strategic staff growth in the coming years, Lord willing. We also would like to provide adequate space for counseling offices, a prayer room and an expanded conference room—all of which we desperately need.

I've heard we already have some money saved. Where did that come from?

Yes, that is true. We already have \$450,000 saved toward the student renovation. This has been saved from several sources: underspending expenses on the 2015-16 budget, generous giving over our proposed budget in 2015-16 and the sale of one of our golf carts.

How will we pay for the rest?

We need you. We are asking all of our church family, but especially those connected to Student Ministry in the present or near future, to consider sacrificial giving above and beyond regular giving. The Elders and Pastors feel God's movement ahead, but with a wise and patient desire to include as many of our church family as possible. Beyond giving, we have an opportunity to borrow some money from the same lender that helped us with the new worship center build, and under the same great circumstances, details and relationship. Ideally, we do not want to borrow a dime, but we would be willing to borrow a reasonable amount as God directs. Our high value of living debt-free is not at risk in these decisions. We want to be debt-free as soon as is reasonable. However, we deem the needs of Student Ministry to be greater.

FAQ'S

How can I be a financial partner?

Giving to this project is as simple as regular giving to the church. You can use your PushPay app and select "Renovation-2017" as a giving category, or you can write a check with "Renovation-2017" in the subject line for designation, mail it to the church office or place in one of the boxes by the doors of our worship center. Other methods of giving, including stocks or gifts in kind, can be arranged with our Financial Manager, Patty Hardaway.

When will we know if we will do the office renovation?

The decision to move forward with the office renovation will be made near the end of the student renovation and depend on giving to this effort and total financials through the Spring of 2017.

Who has been involved in the design of the new student area?

The plans began with Student Ministry staff, Executive Pastor, Lead Pastor and architects. The circle was quickly widened to include other pastors, staff, elders and representatives from our church family.

How many seats are available in the big room?

The largest room is now called Northside (as it is on the north side of the original phase of the campus—the former worship center). At maximum capacity, it will be able to hold around 350 people. This is intentional, as in Student Ministry, this is near the largest single room desirable for this type of ministry.

What are the other important specifics of the design?

In addition to the large room, there will also be a large Junior High room, several small group rooms, new Student Ministry offices, a cafe, a lounge, a game room and several other unique places for students to gather. The finished project will be minimalistic with an industrial feel, perfect for students and parents.

Will these new areas and rooms be used for other events and ministries?

Yes. Only the rarest rooms on our campus are single-use rooms. That means that almost all areas are used for multiple events and by multiple users. The new student area will also be available for limited use by others.

When will the project begin?

We hope to begin the Student Ministry area in early March.

When it is projected to be complete?

We hope to occupy the renovated student space in late August.

What will Student Ministry do during construction?

Student Ministry will continue to meet on Sundays but the location will obviously change. Small groups and other events and functions will also continue to happen. Please stay in touch with the very latest Student Ministry news by connecting with the FBSM LINK (*weekly email*) and the student staff directly. More info on those, and everything else we do is always available at: faithbibleonline.org/fbsm

Sources:

- ¹ Kreasy-Dean, Kenda. *Almost Christian: What the Faith four Teenagers is Telling the American Church*. (Oxford u. Press, 2010)
- ² Barna Research Group. *The State of Youth Ministry: How Churches Reach Today's Teens and What Parents Think About It*. (Barna Group, 2016)
- ³ Joiner, Reggie. Ivy, Kristen. Campbell, Elle. *Creating a Lead Small Culture: Make Your Church a Place where Kids Belong*. (Orange Press, 2014)
- ⁴ Population Reference Bureau. *Suicide Replaces Homicide as Second-Leading Cause of Death Among U.S. Teenagers*. (VanOrman, Jarosz, June 2016)