



Vision & Ministry Areas

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When I interviewed as pastor, I conveyed that if TFN decided 20+ years ago to remain on our corner in Central Topeka rather than move to the suburbs because “God wants a church here,” then, we need to start assessing the needs in our neighborhood and start loving our immediate neighbors. This same focus was in my heart when I led the children’s programming from 2005 into 2009; as much as we were enabled and willing to have God stretch our faith, we did so then, and we have attempted to do so in these last 2 years and 11 months. I have presently challenged the Stewards to begin praying and assessing the resources God has given us, the gifts He has placed within our people, and the call He gives us each day to share His Love and Grace with the world around us. Simply, I have been praying for, preaching toward, leading in, and hopefully exemplifying a revived understanding and practice that greater is He Who is in us than he who is in the world. We are to be on the offensive toward the darkness, standing firmly on the rock of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God because the gates of hell will not prevail as we do so. Certainly, there will be failures and tough battles but those are expected, even necessary to keep us completely reliant upon Jesus.

Along with a dedicated group of long-term, though older, members and leaders, one of our greatest gifts is the location and facility the Lord has provided throughout the 78 years TFN has rested on our corner. In the following pages, pictures of this gift and some explanatory notes are provided to help you learn how we have used these areas in the past, are using them now, and want to move toward using them in the not-too-distant future.

The Sanctuary



As you can see, our sanctuary is traditional. Surprisingly, even one of our elder statesmen recently commented about the value of switching to nice chairs; I do not think there is a deep desire to do so but even our old men still dream dreams!

With our overflow area, we are able to sit 200 comfortably.

The Café



We have this small “café” outside our offices and near our central entrance.

This space has been and is still used for various events, i.e., showers, small group bible studies, mini-fellowships, voting area, meetings, and a place to hang out & visit before, after, and at times, during church. For the last two summers, we used this area as the lunch/snack spot for our Summer FUN-Daze for kids (a small twist on VBS).



We will continue to use this space as we are doing, but only creativity limits its use.

The Infant/Small Toddler Nursery (ground level)



This space is a little small but has been adequate for its purpose through the years. To the right in the picture, there is a picture window that opens to the entry hallway.

The Older Toddler/PreSchool Room #1 (ground level)



This space is adjacent to the infant/small toddler nursery and shares a main entry door with it. There is also a shared bathroom between this room and the secondary preschool room.

Historically, when there have been several infants, this space has been used for all toddlers. Presently, this space is used for the “classroom” for our older toddlers & preschoolers.

The Older Toddler/PreSchool Room #2 (ground level)



This space is adjacent to the Older Toddler/PreSchool Room #1. It shares a bathroom with Room #1. This room has its own entrance.

Historically, this room has served as our preschool room, but as recently as a year ago, it served as our elementary church room. Presently, this space is used for the activity centers room for our older toddlers/preschool troops.

The Elementary Room #1 (lower level)



This space is on our lower level (one of our two basements); I could not get one picture of the entire room.



Historically, this space has been used for an adult classroom and for various children classes & activities.

Presently this space is used for our elementary age children's church. The retired special ed teacher who leads the program has set it up in work/activity stations.

The following page is a pic of the small kitchenette that is in the room and a view from the far side of the room back toward the entrance.

The Elementary Room #1 – View 2 & Kitchen (lower level)



The Teen Room – Multiple Views (Upper Level)



The entry to the teen room finds the pool and foosball tables. Both need work but are functional for the teens we have; they are not pool sharks and they rarely play foosball.

Historically, this entire upper level was used as various classrooms for all ages, namely adults as the church had an additional huge, older home next door where all the youth classes and activities were held. When the church decided to remain on our present corner, they engaged extensive renovations to the children's areas and this upper level, converting it to the teen room.

We continue to use this space for youth night and some adult activities like the Super Bowl Party as it has two large screen TVs in its central room.



Standing at the edge of the pool/foosball room, we have this computer and game station area. It was cutting edge in its day but everything needs to undergo extreme maintenance, repair, and/or replacement, i.e., get flat screen TVs, updated game stations, etc.



At the far door of the computer/game station area, you enter a small area that has been used for various things across the years and presently houses our pop-n-shot which we replaced last year.



Continuing to the right from the pop-n-shot, there is a café/game area that has been used for both as well as for teen Sunday School class. This area is presently sparsely used.

To the left in the picture is a small room with a service window that was originally used as a snack shop.



Standing at the café, this perspective is looking into the central meeting area toward the pool/foosball tables area and main entry to the teen room. For perspective, the TV looks small but it is a 50 to 55" one.

When this space was renovated 20 years ago, it was packed with 20 to 40 teens and used. There is a band/speaking stage to the left and there was a technology cage to the right that has been dismantled through the years to use the equipment elsewhere.



In the last two years, we have continued to use this room for some youth time and I have used it as a special area for our children's Summer FUN-Daze. We have also held a couple of open gym and teen room nights. I envision more of those or even afterschool hours for homework help and hanging out.

This view of the central area of the teen room gives another perspective.

The “Family Life Center” & KidzStation (Ground Level)



Concurrently with the decision to remain on the corner and the teen room renovations, the gym underwent major renovations, namely the KidzStation façade at the far end with the “balcony” sound booth.

Historically and presently, this area serves as our fellowship hall for church meals as well as hosting family gatherings and gatherings for non-church organizations.

Years ago, after this building was erected, the then associate pastor, who was trained in vocal performance, led musical drama productions that attracted hundreds and witnessed to as many.

There has always been sport activities in the gym from volleyball to dodgeball to of course, basketball; the basketball court had been full court but it was changed through the years and is now half-court size.

You will easily note the pickle ball nets and boundary lines. There are 8 to 9 sessions of pickle ball that are played each week. These pickle ball sessions are not a direct ministry of the church other than providing the space.

As well, the Topeka Table Tennis Club plays in this space two times each week. A long-standing member is/has been the president of the club. In fact, the Kansas Sunflower (all-age) Games for table tennis and the Kansas Senior Games have held their table tennis competitions in our gym for numerous years.

Both the pickle ball & table tennis groups are extremely amenable to church ministry needs, knowing that church functions are always primary; they also help set up tables and chairs for special events that follow a particular pickle ball session.

In this space, we have facilitated a Holiday Makers' Market for the last 5 years, and I anticipate doing so again this November. Our Women's Ministries' team has been working hard to transition the market to a more ministry-driven event.

As far as I am concerned, the sky is the limit for vision for use of this space, i.e., presently after-school open gym on days when pickle ball is not occupying the space, mostly Wednesdays, Thursdays until 5-ish, and Saturday after noon. Even more so, I want to reignite KidzStation-type ministries using our stage and village façade.



This stage & façade is more than a façade; it is about 8 feet deep, 2-story, wired for microphones with projectors and screens at both ends of the gym.

When I moved to Topeka in 2004 and started attending TFN, the final touches were being put on this ministry jewel. With me needing work and the member who was trying to lead the charge wanting to shoot for a promotion at his job, the pastor asked me to launch KidzStation and my wife and I lead it for 4 or so years. We used puppets, videos, dress-up dog costume, and the stage in so many ways ...

game show type activities, children musicals, etc., etc., etc. Though not as extensively as when it started, this area was our children's church area until our last children's pastor retired in 2021. I DREAM of having this space used to its full potential for children, teens, families, and the community, even a separate family or younger generation worship service on another night or concurrent with our present worship.

If after reading about TFN God stirs your soul to consider further conversation with Pastor Terry, reach out to him via tfnaz1@gmail.com or send a message to him via our [CONTACT PAGE](#).