



Facility Stewardship Today

"Improving church health through Facility Stewardship"

www.facilityministry.org

Jim Rodgers—Architectural Pastor

Fall, 2015

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Ground Breaking is the theme for this 6th installment of Facility Stewardship Today—a newsletter about “Improving church health through Facility Stewardship.”

For His Service & Yours,

Gus the Groundhog Energizes Campaign



A capital campaign... sigh... Just the thought sometimes makes pastors cringe as people may misinterpret intentions, thinking—“the church just wants my money.”

However, the capital campaign at NorthBridge Church enjoyed plenty of laughs and jovial moments—thanks to Gus!

Gus is the fictional groundhog that “lives” under NorthBridge’s “Future Home” sign on the property. Each Sunday of the public campaign, a new Gus video provided smiles for all ages as Gus adjusted to the future life for his family with a new “tenant” above ground. And those smiles translated into energy for the overall campaign.

Remember This Day!

On July 19, 2015, NorthBridge Church celebrated a groundbreaking for their new church building. After 14 years in rented facilities and numerous starts & stops, the project was finally moving forward. Everyone was bussed to the site! Pastor Mark reminded us about how far the church had come to reach that day and the importance of the new building. He said, “This new facility will not only be a great home for NorthBridge—it will be a greenhouse for growing church-planters and a launching pad for a movement of new missional churches throughout our region.”



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Verse for Today (vft):

The Lord said, “From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the LORD’s temple was laid. Give careful thought: is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. From this day on I will bless you!”

(Haggai 2:18-19—NIV 84).

Ministry Encouragement:

“Besides resulting in new facilities that help the church carry out its mission to the community in a more adequate manner, building programs may provide other fringe benefits” (Robert Anderson, The Effective Pastor: A Practical Guide to the ministry, —page 353).

Link Highlight:

The Building Program for NorthBridge Church is called, Mission 173. From this link you can access overall information about the program—including videos about Gus the Groundhog!

<http://northbridgechurch.org/m173/>

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Remember This Day! (continued)

Since NorthBridge is my family's church home, Pastor Mark allowed me to provide closing comments and benediction. I encouraged people to, "Remember this day:"

1. Remember this day as you reflect on the launch of NorthBridge Church on September 16, 2001—the same week as the 9/11 terrorist attacks.
2. Remember this day as you reflect on the purchase of 20 acres back in 2006—and since then have been working towards this day.
3. Remember this day with your sense of sight—look around and remember what it looks like now.
4. Remember this day with your sense of hearing—the rustling of the grass; the words & songs of this ceremony; the words of the prayers whispered from your heart.
5. Remember this day with your sense of smell—the rain; the bug spray
6. Remember this day with your sense of touch—the rain; the bugs; the heat
7. Remember this day, because Lord willing in the Fall of 2016, we will be having a Dedication Service—close to these same spots we stand now. And on that day, remember this day, and celebrate the God who will have brought us there!!!



Ground Breaking Thoughts

As you consider your ground breaking event, here are a few thoughts:

1. Let the event match your DNA as a church. Some churches gravitate towards golden shovels that are put on display in the future church building/addition. On the other hand, one pastor told me, "We're just not golden shovel people," so they did not have any kind of actual turning over of dirt. Some churches are in between, including some shovel turning by church leaders—but not needing a "golden shovel." If the senior pastor has skills to handle large machinery and it can be coordinated with contractors, I've seen the first "shovel" be the pastor using a backhoe!
2. Make sure you have enough green lights in place to ensure your project is going forward before your ground breaking event. I know one church that staged a service in the space for the future building—but then ran into major problems that put the whole project on hold, and in jeopardy.
3. This is just a symbolic event. It should be close to the start of construction, but does not need to directly match up with the actual dates.

Note: Pictures from NorthBridge groundbreaking by Hannah Rodgers