



Facility Stewardship Today

“Improving church health through Facility Stewardship”

www.facilityministry.org

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Spring, 2017

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Have a Seat is the theme for this installment of Facility Stewardship Today—a newsletter about “Improving church health through Facility Stewardship.”

For His Service & Yours,

Hey! You're Sittin' in my Pew!

Hymns or Choruses?
Coffee or no coffee in the sanctuary?
Contemporary or Traditional worship?

All great subjects to stir the pot for an energetic discussion. But my favorite is:

Pews or Chairs? . . .

First of all, why is this subject so emotional? We can point to finances, practicality, and appearance but there's probably a much simpler root cause for the emotionalism.

It's what we're accustomed to. It's about where we regularly sit at church.

In the cartoon,* this man knows he should be welcoming to the visitors, but is overcome by concern to protect his family's turf. And while we might smile, thinking that this kind of event would really never happen, I'm aware of numerous true stories of visitors being gently ushered to other locations. One pastor even shared of an embarrassingly emotional exchange he noticed at the beginning of a service. Needless to say, in most of these examples the visitors never return—that is if they can even be identified.

When dealing with church facilities, there is an emotional progression:

1. What we become accustomed to, we become attached to
2. What we become attached to, we resist changing—even if it means running off visitors.

To help diffuse some of the emotion, maybe we should remember that actually, we are all “visitors” to Christ's Church and only welcomed by grace through faith.

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Verse for Today (vft):

“But as for you, keep your head in all situations. Endure hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:5—NIV 84).

Ministry Encouragement:

“I know perfectly well that, wherever I go and preach, there are many better preachers known and heard than I am; all that I can say about it is that the Lord uses me” (Dwight L. Moody, quoted in David L. Larsen, *The Company of the Preachers*, p. 510).

Link Highlight:

Staalsen Construction:

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