

Dear Friends of St. Michael,

#10

The Student Ministries Hall

A StoryThe invitation came in the mail personally addressed in “kid print” to Bobby. His friends had talked about how awesome Sunday mornings were at The Way Station, but he had never been. This Sunday his parents said they would take him. During the drive in the car, Bobby’s mind began to race. “How will I know where to go? What if I can’t find Jimmy? How will I find my parents when it is over?” The Peterson’s were also a little concerned. What were they going to do for the hour that Bobby was there? They didn’t know anyone except Jimmy’s parents through community soccer games.

As they drove into St. Michael, they were surprised to find a parking space in the front for visitors. An older man and what looked like his grandson were standing in the parking lot saying, “good morning”. The gentleman approached them, introduced himself as Tom, welcomed them with a smile, and asked if he could help them find anything. Bobby was surprised when Bill, the little boy with a nametag, popped up to ask if he was going to The Way Station. He offered to show them where to go.

Making their way into the entrance (*Rotunda*), Bill directed them to another woman, Beth, who greeted them, asked if they were meeting anyone today, and then explained how the system worked. Beth had the Peterson’s fill out some basic information, took Bobby’s picture taken with a digital camera and then gave him a nametag. While they were getting registered, Bobby noticed other kids picking up nametags with their pictures on them, scanning the barcode, and walking through a set of doors.

Just then Jimmy came bounding through those doors with a smile on his face. “I’m so glad you came to The Way Station today. My dad said he would show you where the adult Bible study is in the fellowship hall just down there,” he pointed down a hallway toward his dad who was talking with some other members.

Once Jimmy introduced his dad to the Bobby’s parents, he said, “We’ll see you at 10:30 when you come to pick us up. Let’s go, Bobby. You got to check out this cool building we are constructing with coins!” With a quick grab of the wrist they were off on their adventure.

Before he got to through the doors, Bobby noticed the fun music playing. As he walked in he couldn’t believe what he was seeing. He had seen the Disney movie “Jumangi” and thought he had stepped onto the set. He was walking into a jungle with tree trunks for walls and branches and leaves for a ceiling. Birds and other animals were spread out throughout the room and a waterfall flowed from the corner. He realized the music came from a music video up on the huge screen camouflaged into the stage set. After he had taken in this new habitat, he saw there were kids about kindergarten age, some that were about nine like he was, and some that were just a year or two older. They were either talking with their friends on bean bags in a corner, making cool cards for older people from church, creating an awesome craft with some of the adults who they called “Shepherds,” or building a monstrous creation with Coinstruction. They joined in the Coinstruction project and met Mike, Jimmy’s Shepherd.

Before he knew it, Bobby saw a whole group of adults come running onto the platform in the front of the room. Four of them went to the area for the band and began playing really upbeat music. Three adults with headset microphones (like the ones the rock stars wear) welcomed the kids. The lead singer, Greg, introduced the first song by reminding the kids that some day they were going to go to God’s “Big House.” “Don’t worry about the words,” Jimmy whispered, “they’ll come up on the screen behind the

singers.” Just then the lights dimmed and the screen colorfully displayed the words to the song. “This is such an awesome song!” Jimmy shouted. “Be ready to catch the football on the refrain.”

When the next screen came up reading “Bobby Peterson”, Bobby was shocked. They were welcoming him especially. They had a grab bag with gifts just for visitors. Then they sang a fun song to all the people who were listed as having birthdays that week.

After the songs finished, they settled down on the floor and began listening to Sara. Just then, a toucan puppet popped out of a tree hole nearby and began talking with her. Bobby leaned over to Jimmy, “I never even realized the hole was there! What other surprises are there?” Jimmy smiled, “See that cave over there? Just seems like part of the jungle decoration, huh? Well, you never know who is going to pop out of that thing. One week it was King David and another week it was Lazarus after being dead for 4 days. Boy, did it smell in this room that day!” When they turned their attention back to the leader, they realized the toucan and Sara were watching a watching an illusionist change an egg into a baby chick. Sara explained, “Today as we travel back to the first century AD, watch for that same look of surprise on the faces of the Bible characters that was just on your face.”

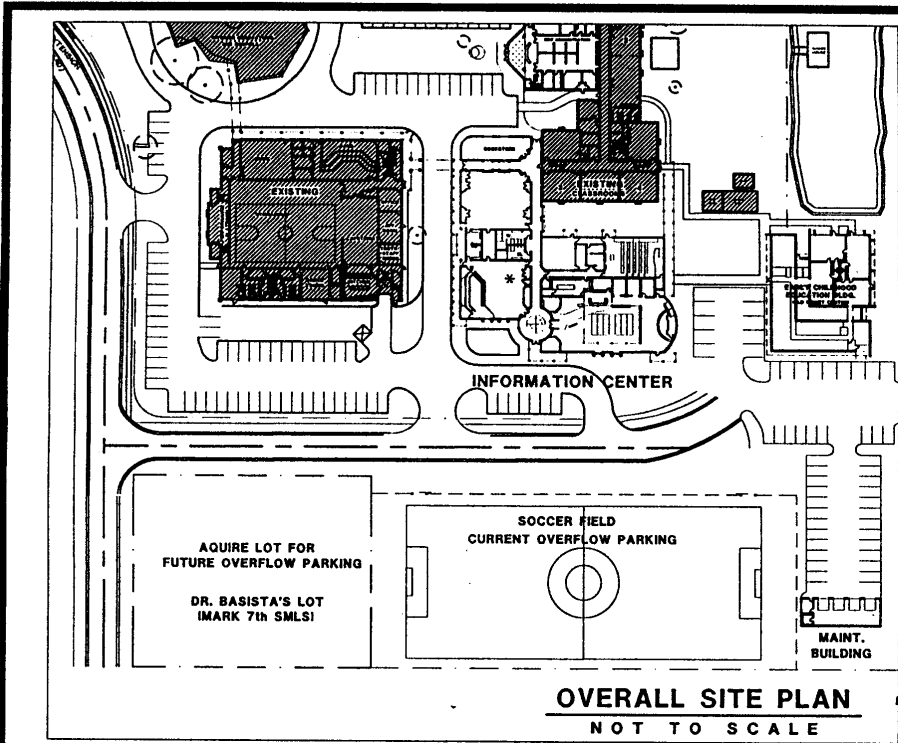
With that they traveled back in time: the lights changed and created a swirling image on the front of the room as music propelled them into another place. A video popped up on the large screen showing them highlights of the last few days in Ancient Israel including a scene of three crosses. The image stopped and paused on the scene of a beautiful garden. Two guards, fully dressed in Roman armor, came out on stage and started to shake. A loud noise of an earthquake filled the room. Just then, the stone rolled open and a blinding light came shining out. Everything got really quiet. Two women dressed in costumes from that time came from around the corner and approach the cave. They were wondering how they were going to move the stone so that they could dress the body of Jesus. When they looked up to see the stone rolled away, an angel came out of the tomb shining (black lights had made his gown glow). He said, “Don’t be scared! Why do you look for someone living among dead people? Jesus isn’t here. He is alive.” They continued to tell the Easter story, and Sara explaining that Jesus surprised everyone by coming back. “He died for our sins and then rose so that we will be able to live with God in His ‘Big House’ forever.”

After reviewing some facts of the Bible story, Sara dismissed them to their shepherd groups scattered on bed sheets around the room. Jimmy and Bobby met up with Mike and the other six third grade boys to talk about the times they have been surprised by what God has done. When they went into prayer time, they were excited to hear that God had surprised them by answering another one of the boy’s prayers in a very unusual way. They made a list of thanksgivings and concerns and then prayed for those. Passing out a family newsletter that explained what they had done that week, Mike got the boys started working on a crossword puzzle with words from that day’s lesson.

Before he knew it, Bobby’s parents were there to pick him up. The whole group told him how glad they were to have him and invited him back next week. Bobby handed in his nametag and was told that next week he would have one with his picture on it.

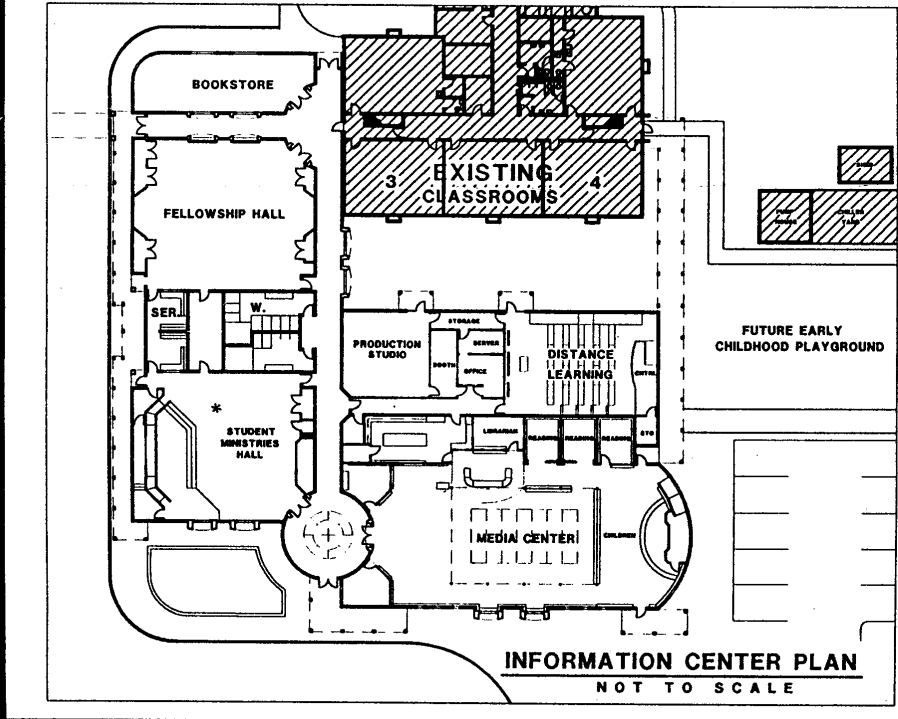
As he walked back to the car, Bobby’s mom smiled, “Did you have a good time?” “Oh Mom,” his eyes beaming, “It was so cool. We got to be part of the earthquake at Jesus resurrection. The angel even glowed!” His dad chuckled, “It sounds like it was a lot of fun.” As they climbed into the car, Bobby couldn’t help but say, “Dad, it was the best. Can we come back next week?”

Thanks to Ms. Lori Lanning for those thoughts and the vision for the Student Ministries Hall!



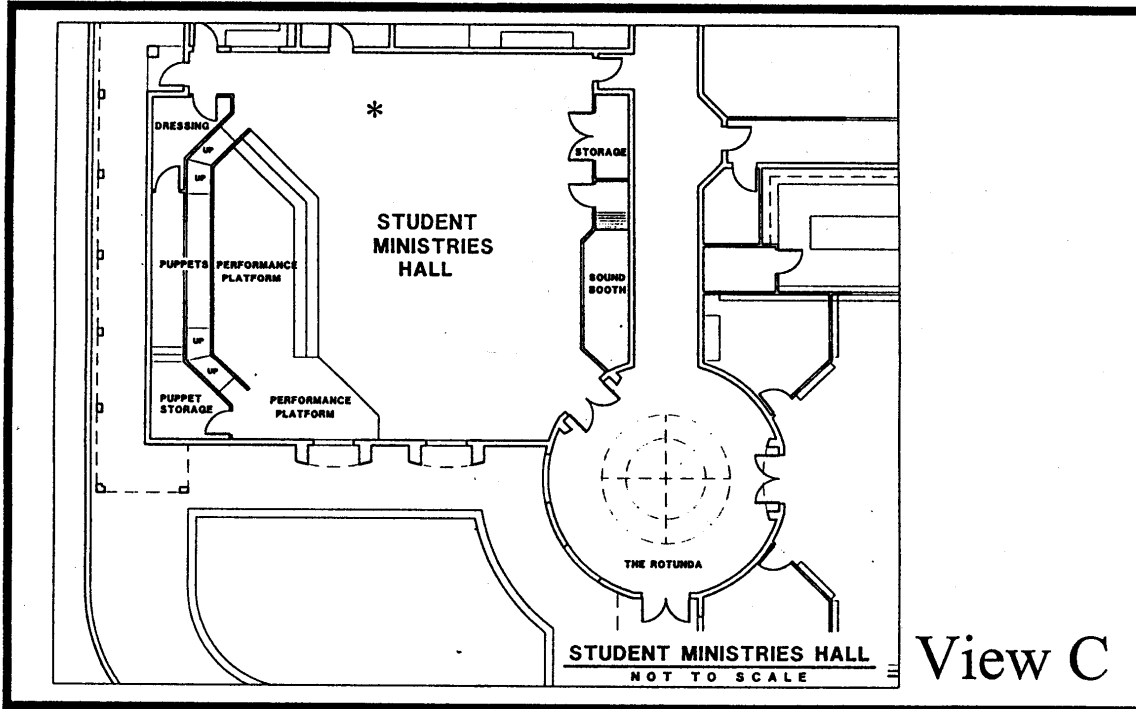
OVERALL SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

View A



INFORMATION CENTER PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

View B



The Room:

- ☺ A transformed room decorated as a jungle
- ☺ Fully furnished with necessary technology
- ☺ Elevated Sound Booth
- ☺ Sound Board
- ☺ Computer Controlling all Projection
- ☺ VCR
- ☺ CD/Tape Player
- ☺ Lighting Controls
- ☺ Lighting
- ☺ Projection from the ceiling
- ☺ Projection screen camouflaged into the back wall
- ☺ Speakers
- ☺ Microphone jacks throughout
- ☺ Adequate Storage Space
- ☺ Additional Sound Equipment
- ☺ Hanging Costumes
- ☺ Props
- ☺ Games
- ☺ Arts and Crafts Supplies

- ☺ Puppets
- ☺ Snacks, Cups, and Additional supplies
- ☺ Multipurpose platform
- ☺ Space for a 5 person band
- ☺ Drama performance area
- ☺ Puppet stage built into stage area

Room Use:

- ☺ The Way Station (Kindergarten – Fifth Grade)
- ☺ Midweek Youth nights (Sixth – Twelfth Grade)
- ☺ Confirmation Presentations
- ☺ Contemporary Christian Music Concerts
- ☺ Ensemble Practices
- ☺ Meeting room
- ☺ Single Class Productions
- ☺ Music Recitals
- ☺ Class Guest Speakers
- ☺ Preschool Chapel
- ☺ School Assemblies
- ☺ Fine Arts Strings Instruction

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