

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Emporia's First Baptist Church Dedicates New Youth Center**

On Sunday, April 19, 2009 the First Baptist Church (FBC) of Emporia, VA dedicated its new youth center. The center will provide much needed space for the church youth, as well as the First Baptist Christian Academy, Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (AWANA) Program and the youth of the community in general. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony Mark Yeattes, Chairman of Deacons, and Jeff Robinson, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, had the honor of cutting the ribbon and formally dedicating the center.

According to long-time church member John Thurman, CEO of Personal Care Preferred Group and one of several local business owners who made a donation toward the building project, "The new building is a long-awaited and very much welcomed addition to the church." According to Robinson, "For many years the First Baptist Church conducted youth activities in an un-insulated metal building that was originally constructed as a maintenance shop. The metal roof condensated and leaked badly, plus the building was cold in the winter."

The new building was replaced with a pre-engineered wood framed structure with insulation and heat. The bottom chords of the roof trusses are vaulted to provide more clearance for youth activities such as volleyball and basketball.

FBC pastor G.C. Hughes expressed his gratitude toward the numerous local businesses and individuals who donated time, materials and/or equipment toward the new youth center. They include: Hubert L. Moore, Jr., Moore's Contracting; Gary Edwards, Gerald Allen, Ed Harris and Maurice Hicks, Hicks Welding; Martin Harrell, Jr., Harrell Contracting; Ricky Renner, Allied Concrete; Bill Bistowicz, Emporia Lock and Key; John and Barbara Thurman, Personal Care Preferred Group; and Mark Yeattes.

FBC was formed in the fall of 1999 and is located at 1155 Sussex Drive, Emporia, VA. For more information about the church or any of its affiliated programs or services, call 434-634-0337.

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