

# CORYELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Redemption Prayer Garden Plan – Overview



The Coryell Community Church in Gatesville, Texas is growing and is planning several new and very interesting projects. The Church has grown from 19 members in 2001 to over 500+ in attendance today. In fact, they are starting two services to accommodate the community need. Obviously, Coryell Community is larger than just Gatesville. Pastors Walter and Pat Davidson have lead the Community Church from the beginning.

In October of 2001 they began having services in the band hall of the Intermediate School. They had 19 in attendance. Over time they have changed locations a few times, and in 2002 they raised enough money to buy the Levita Road property where the new Church is today.

The Church history is an interesting story. For Walter his ministering has been about the young people. He says they are the future. While preaching in Alaska, Walter would make visits home and in a casual conversation with friends he discovered that in Coryell County less than 15 percent of people under 40 years old attend church. With that knowledge Walter knew he had to change that statistic for people.

In truth the secret to Walter and Pat's success is they have removed most of the traditional barriers that hinder people from attending church. There is no collection plate, they do not require new members to stand and be recognized, and they do not insist that the attendees be church members. There is never any "pressure" to attend or participate. They have created a friendly, loving, and caring congregation that is obvious to any observer.



The Coryell Community Church's current capital investment value is approximately \$4.5m and the Church continues to be totally debt free [from the beginning].

Current Church development plans include:

**The Redemption Prayer Garden** [garden concept described below]

A connection road, formal and informal prayer gardens, and amphitheater

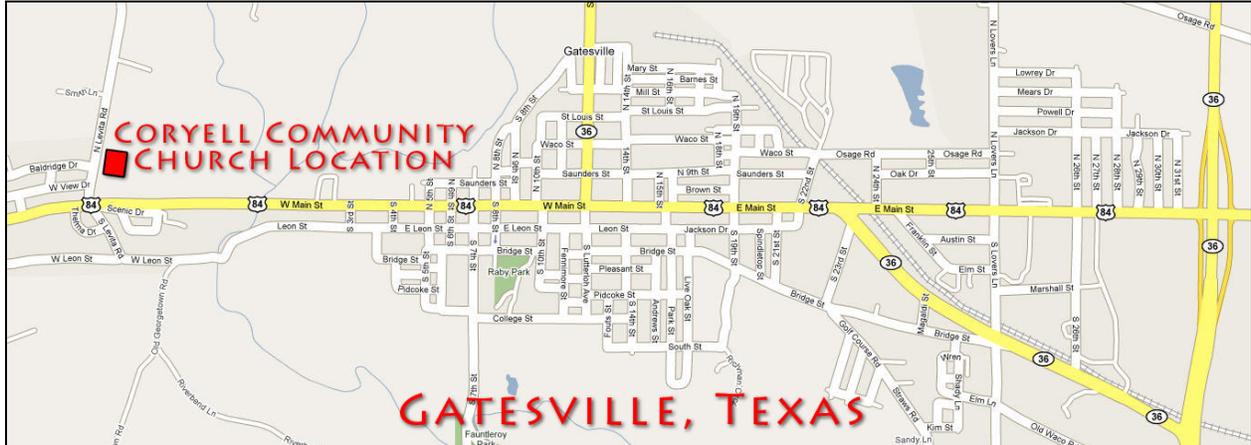
**The Youth Activity Center** [building and parking]

A large two story building with furnishing and parking

**The new 1200 seat Church Sanctuary** [building and parking]

Larger capacity building for Sunday Worship Services

**Location** – The Coryell Community Church physical address is 115 North Levita Road, Gatesville, Texas 76528. Coryell Community Church is located in Coryell County on State Highway 84, approximately 35 miles due west of Waco, Texas and the I-35 corridor.

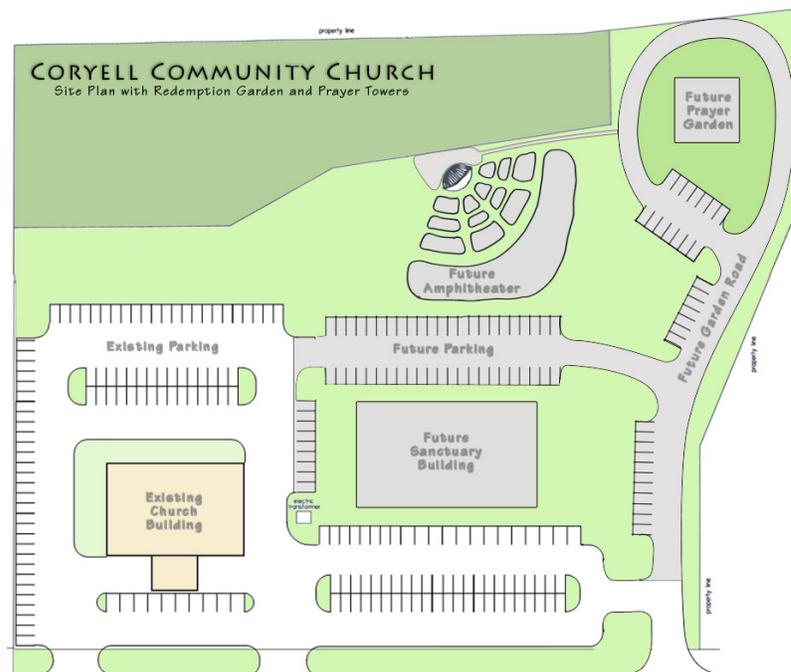


**Panoramic image** - the Church property has a commanding view of the city of Gatesville and the historic Coryell County Court house.



**The Existing Church** building is currently segregated into many uses. The worship space is the largest followed by areas for children of all ages including childcare. The building also houses the administration offices and has a very large kitchen and several areas for eating.

**The New Site Plan** - the Church members want to create a more garden like environment surrounding the existing building, allow more parking, and create a new Prayer Garden at the southeastern corner of the property. The Prayer Garden will be a focal point for the Church. The plan is to create three very large crosses symbolizing the resurrection of Jesus Christ that will be visible from a great distance. Below the crosses will be a large formal garden [where weddings and baptisms can occur] surrounded by a more informal garden for reflection and meditation.



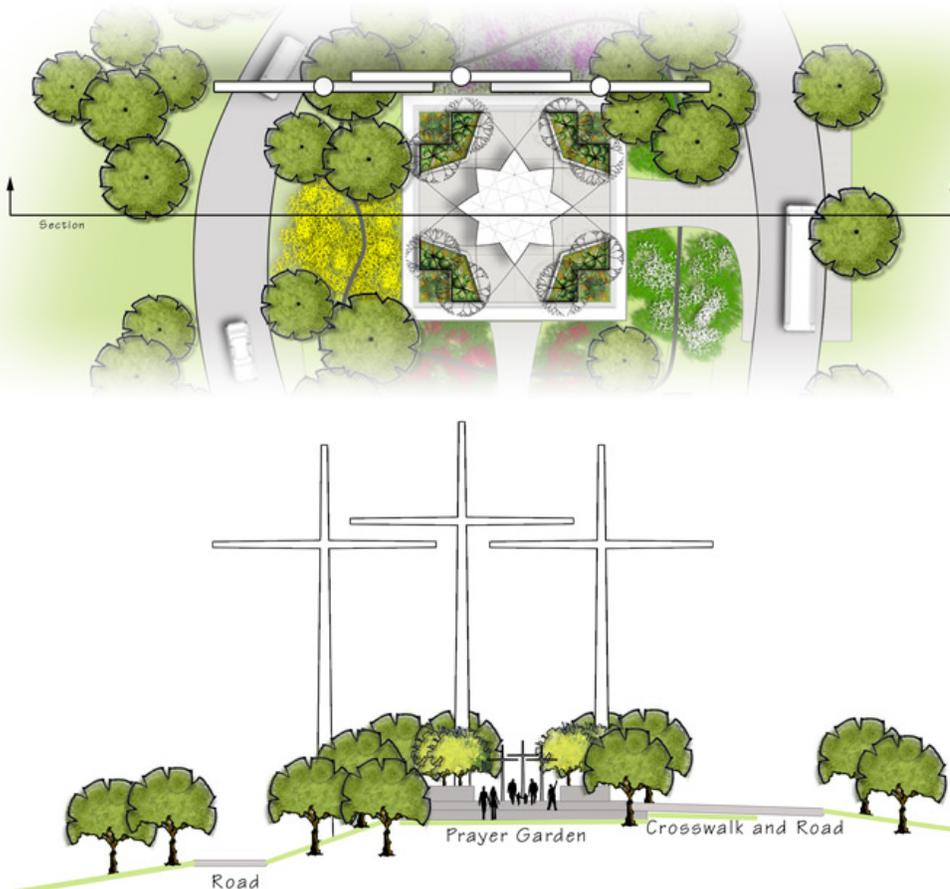
The entire property will be considered a garden and will have a variety of different areas for members and visitors alike. The most formal area will be the Prayer Garden but by contrast there will also be very informal paths along the steep bluffs to the east.

**A Concept Plan** has been created that describes the need for a new private road that connects the Prayer Garden with Levita Road. The plan also provides extended parking for the Future Sanctuary and a large capacity amphitheater. The new Garden Road is large enough to accommodate the anticipated groups of people that will come to visit by private vehicle and large busses.

**The Prominent Features** of the Prayer Garden are the three large crosses that tower over the formal and informal garden. The drawing below pictures a plan view and has a section line that locates the elevation view of the two gardens, the road and crosswalk, and of course, the crosses.

## CORYELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Prayer Garden and Cross Towers - Section Details



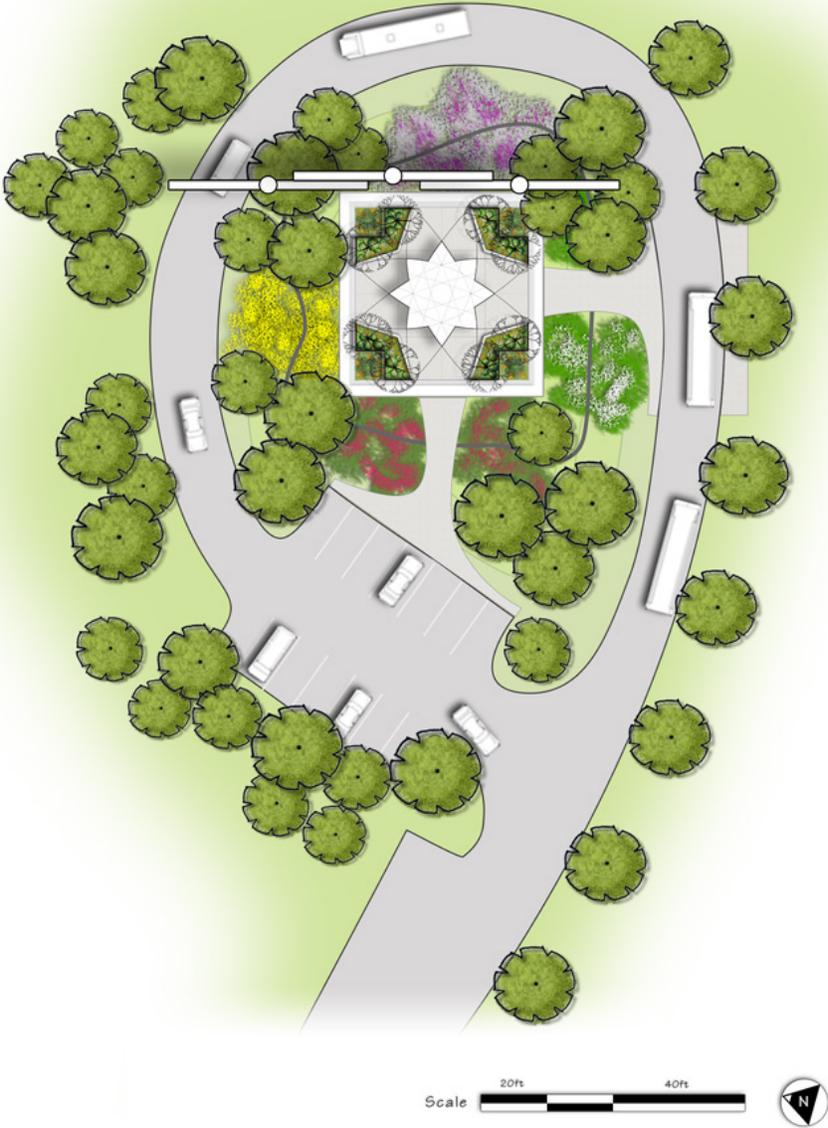
**The Prayer Garden** (center of image) features the crosswalk and Garden Road (right) at the same level as the Prayer Garden which allows people of all age's and abilities easy access to the garden from the vehicle drop off and crosswalk.

**The Prayer Garden Sketch** plan [below] demonstrates the vehicle circulation plan, the pedestrian walk from the road to the formal garden [rectangle] and the informal garden and walking paths surrounding the formal garden.

**The Eight Point Star Canopy** in the center of the formal garden represents the Christian symbol of redemption. It will provide shade and some protection from the elements but also allow the visitor to have an outdoor garden experience.

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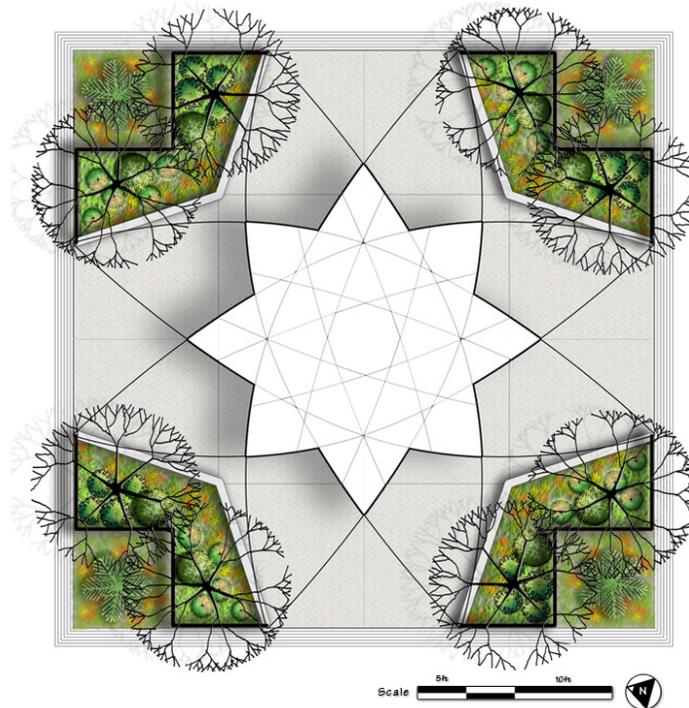
*Redemption Garden and Cross Towers - Sketch Plan*



**Parking for Automobiles** is provided in close proximity to the Prayer Garden, but the busses will drop off passengers in the walkway and park at the most northern end of the Church property.

**The Detailed Garden Plan with Eight Point Canopy** - The simple winged walls [in each of the four corners] creates a feeling of privacy for visitors without blocking air movement or the views of the courthouse and the city. The garden planting features interesting plant composition, seasonal interest by fragrance, and will allow additional annual color to be added as needed.

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*Redemption Garden Plan - With Canopy*



**A “study” model of the formal garden** [with the 8 point star “canopy” removed for clarity]. The three crosses shown below are replicas of the large crosses [above the garden]. The replica crosses are movable and can be relocated anywhere within the garden for photographic opportunity.



**Funding** is needed to complete the detailed design for the road, the landscape, and amphitheater final design and construction. As a community we continue to help Walter and Pat by searching for a few significant benefactors to assist them in creating:

- 1) **The Redemption Prayer Garden** [garden concept described above]
  - a. Connecting Road from the Garden to Levita Road
  - b. Formal Garden with enclosed detailed garden and star canopy
  - c. Three large crosses symbolizing the resurrection of Christ.
  - d. Informal garden surrounding the Formal Garden with walking paths
  - e. Amphitheater with stage and informal seating
  - f. Night lighting for the complex
  
- 2) **The Youth Activity Center** [building and parking]
  - a. Located on the property North of the existing Church building.
  - b. Facilities for 350 children 8-18 years.
  - c. Indoor athletic facilities with locker rooms and showers.
  - d. Flexible spaces for music, meetings, and community uses
  - e. Full service kitchen facilities
  - f. Outdoor informal dining areas
  - g. Parking for vehicles and busses.
  
- 3) **The New 1200 Seat Church Sanctuary** [building and parking]
  - a. Flexible seating for 1200+
  - b. Full featured music and multimedia capability
  - c. Administration and meeting areas
  - d. Outdoor areas for meetings
  - e. Parking in proximity and extended parking to the North.

I would like to invite you to my restaurant [Andy's in Gatesville] for a meal and a tour of our church facilities to discuss our future expansion plans.

Regards,

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**Andy Lella**

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