

**ST STEPHEN’S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL
MAIN HIGHWAY PAVILION
POINTS OF CLARIFICATION & PLANNING TIMELINE**

<p>Exploring Retrofitting Alternatives for Soper Hall</p>	<p>Soper Hall was not a church; it was deconsecrated and became a classroom building in 1959. For nearly 50 years, it served many children and families as St. Stephen’s preschool building through 2008.</p> <p>In 2007, discussions began regarding the updating of Soper Hall. Careful considerations were given to the possibility of preservation. As the school literature denotes, the original teaching facilities at St. Stephen’s having served generations of families, did not meet modern standards for the teaching of young children. To assure an optimum learning environment for our students by today’s and expected future standards, these aged facilities required replacement.</p> <p>Throughout the process, our qualified and carefully selected team of experts, led by Architect Jenifer Briley, gave thorough consideration to a variety of retrofitting options for the building. Ultimately, several critical factors contributed to the decision to move forward with the new building, including that the floor of the structure sat over 1 foot 7 inches below the street elevation. Rain water readily flowed into the structure creating substantial mold and mildew build up. Additionally, the building did not meet the standards for Florida Council of Independent School (FCIS) accreditation, or for Florida Kindergarten Council (FKC) accreditation.</p>
<p>The Planning Process</p>	<p>Guided by many members from the school and church leadership teams, the conceptualizing and planning of the Main Highway Pavilion have been underway for more than two years.</p> <p>Community awareness and input were fundamental steps in the planning process. Throughout 2008 and early 2009, the project was widely promoted and discussed throughout the church and school communities. In particular, the design and permitting processes for the project were open and accessible to all. Below are a few points that outline the steps taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In June 2008, St. Stephen’s applied for a Class II permit with the City of Miami. This permit clearly states that the applicant will be notified by the City of Miami Planning Department if the project needs to be reviewed by the Urban Development Review Board or the Historic Preservation Board.

