ISSUE
03
October
2009

Journal Of LifeWay
Architecture

# LifeWay Architecture update

## OUR PROMISE:

- We know churches. We understand how they minister, grow, and how they finance projects.
- We provide creative solutions that help you get the most growth out of your construction dollars.
- All designs are custom-designed to fit your unique program, property, and budget needs.
- No one does more or better master planning for all kinds, shapes and sizes of churches all across the U.S.

For over ninety years LifeWay has been helping churches achieve functional and attractive building solutions for their facility needs.

*Lenexa Baptist Church, Lenexa, KS dedicated their new building in April, 2009*

## this issue

When is the time right to build? P.1
Projects Underway P.2
Eye on Design P.3
Mid-south Building Conference P.4

## When is the right time to start a building project?

**A number of factors must be considered before beginning a project. Once it is decided what is needed, the church must determine what resources are available and compare that to what resources are required to achieve the goal. Resources include not only the finances, but also the skills and time to carry out a project.**

**1. The need:** If the facilities the church has available (owned, rented, or borrowed) will no longer meet the need for the programs and ministries they are called to implement, it may be time to build. First, various alternatives should be considered such as multiple use of facilities, video venues, etc.

To determine what buildings it needs, the church must decide what ministries it is called to do. The church may already have a commonly held strong calling, or it may take considerable time and perhaps some outside counsel to clarify these ministry priorities. Once they are clear, it may take a step of assessment to determine if the existing facilities are adequate, or what new facilities are required to achieve them before deciding it is time to begin a building program. A good master plan should be created and followed to assure good stewardship of property and proper sequencing and relationships of the buildings.

**2. The finances:** Finances can be accounted for through three basic channels: cash in hand, projected funds to be gathered in a fund-raising campaign, and funds to be borrowed and repaid at a later date. Consult with a knowledgeable expert to be sure your estimates of these amounts are realistic. Since it may take time to gather financial resources, this must be considered in the timing of your project.

**3. The skills:** Another key resource involves the leadership to move the project forward. You must have the right people available to lead, or the project can be doomed to mediocrity or failure. These leaders will give countless hours in service. If the right leaders are not able to give the project the necessary attention due to lack of conviction or other commitments, the project will lack *(continued on page 3)*

LifeWay | Architecture

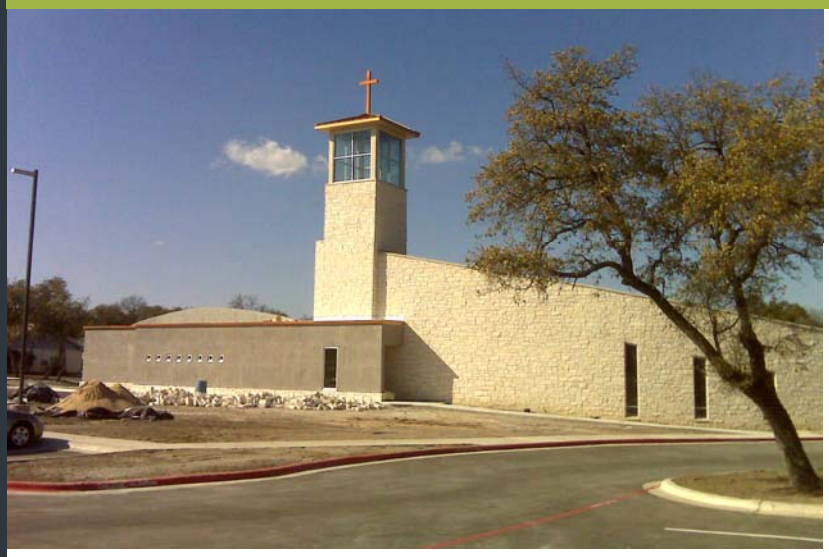
## Projects Currently Under Construction:

Our Architects are working with the following churches that are currently under construction. As we work to enable growth and effective ministry, pray for the following projects we have designed:

- FBC of the Islands, Savannah, GA
- First Baptist Church, Lyons, GA
- First Baptist Church at Weston, FL

And Coming soon...

- First Baptist Church, Eddyville, KY
- Central Baptist Church, Sealy, TX
- Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, TN
- Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, LA



Andice Baptist Church, Florence, TX

# New Architectural Projects Recently Completed

The architects on our staff have provided architectural services in the past months for the following buildings that were recently completed:

- Lenexa Baptist, Lenexa, Kansas - A new 1,200 seat worship center and education addition
- Andice Baptist Church, Florence, Texas - A new worship center, administration, and education expansion

If you are in the vicinity of one of these fine churches, we encourage you to check out their new facility and let us know what you think!

## On the Boards...

**We are at various stages of work, including construction drawings, master plans, or preliminary designs for future projects at:**

**Wauchula Baptist Church, Wauchula, FL**

**Legacy Baptist Church, Dallas, GA**

**University Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX**

**First Baptist Church, Henderson, TX**

**Chisholm Heights Baptist Church, Mustang, OK**

**Cowee Baptist Church, Franklin, NC**

*First Baptist Church of the Islands, Savannah, GA*

Grace Chapel, Franklin, TN

# When is it time? (continued from page one)

direction, movement and the people of the church will sense that and lose their confidence in the wisdom of the project.

**4. The time:** One of the most important aspects to a successful building project is the process of making a case for why the project is needed, building momentum and enthusiasm for the project. Once it gets going, you do not want to stop and put it on hold, losing the positive momentum built up and effectively having to start this process over again. Jesus referred to this as putting your hand to the plow and looking back.

You will need to find a time when this effort can be given the attention it deserves without conflicting with other activities and commitments. Plan key stages of the project, such as the kickoff of a financial campaign, or the presentation of the building plans at a time when the people are available and not preoccupied with vacations, travel, school activities and other potential conflicts that will reduce the effectiveness. There is no perfect time to do a project of this magnitude, but availability must be considered.

**5. Peace with God:** Finally, there is no substitute for the leadership of the Lord. Bathing the project in prayer and preparing yourself and the congregation for a spiritual battle that can surround a project like this is a key to right timing. If there is not a sense of peace, assurance that the Lord is leading the effort, and that the timing is right, God may be telling you to wait. Entering into a building project at the wrong time is like going into battle without a weapon. It can be costly and disastrous. On the other hand, moving with confidence that the Lord is guiding you and has led you to this endeavor is a powerful thing that can help overcome many obstacles.

As with many things in life, the saying "timing is everything" could certainly be said for a building project. Taken on too soon, it will appear that the leadership is pushy and has an agenda the congregation doesn't share. Taken on too late, it could cause the church to miss growth opportunities and perhaps a window of opportunity to build, grow, and reach people.

Waiting for the right time must be balanced with a strong commitment to obedience. If God has made it clear that you need to move, you had better move!  A sense of urgency is important to keep the project from bogging down. All too often churches wait too long and waste opportunities for lack of faith and positive movement. Strive for that perfect balance between moving too fast and too slow as God guides you to the timing of your project.

Blessings,

Gary Nicholson, AIA
Director, LifeWay Architecture

## EYE ON DESIGN

**Current Trends: Adaptive Reuse of Buildings**

There has been increasing talk lately about the conversion of existing buildings for use as a church. There are a number of vacant buildings available by virtue of the economic downturn. Can a warehouse, mall, school, or big box store be converted into a serviceable church building?

The answer may depend more on the church than the building. Some contemporary churches lend themselves to this type of solution for their buildings, while other, more traditional types of churches would not be very satisfied with the results. LifeWay Architecture has been involved with a number of these projects going back as far as the early 90's.

More recently we have seen an increase in interest in this type of facility solution with one difference: Churches are not occupying the entire facility, but they are leasing some space to others, producing a revenue stream that eases the financial burden on the church.

One such church is Summer Grove Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA. In 2006 this church bought a mall that was only about 30% occupied. It continues to lease some of the space to stores, restaurants, and other businesses. They have converted other space to church use, including a major remodeling of the former J.C. Penny's store into a worship center.

Recently, Rolling Hills Community Church in Franklin, TN did the same thing with a warehouse, leasing much of the space to long-term tenants while converting the rest for church use. The result is that the building mortgage is being paid by the tenants and the church space was finished out without borrowing any additional money.

This trend may become more and more common. LifeWay is dedicated to helping your church get the facilities it needs regardless of the model of use (or re-use) you have in mind.

Don't forget to check out our web sites for valuable resources and information to help churches with the planning and building process!

Architecture:
lifeway.com/arch

Stewardship:
Lifeway.com/ca

Coming soon:

# LifeWay's Mid-South Church Building Conference April 15, 2010

*Grace Chapel, Franklin, TN*

Next spring LifeWay will be hosting a conference in Nashville for churches planning to build.

It will be a one day event for churches of all sizes to gather to hear the latest guidance from several experts both in the field of church design and in leading the church through a project. Plan on coming on April 15, 2010 to hear and see how to conduct a successful project from those who have done it time after time.

We will visit area churches to see how design impacts their ministry and how the principles of good leadership and design can both contribute to the success of your project. The cost is $95 per church - this includes up to two people, $40 each additional person. Visit our web site or call 615-251-2466 for more information or to register.

For a consultation or design assistance, contact us at carch@lifeway.com, or call 615-251-2466.

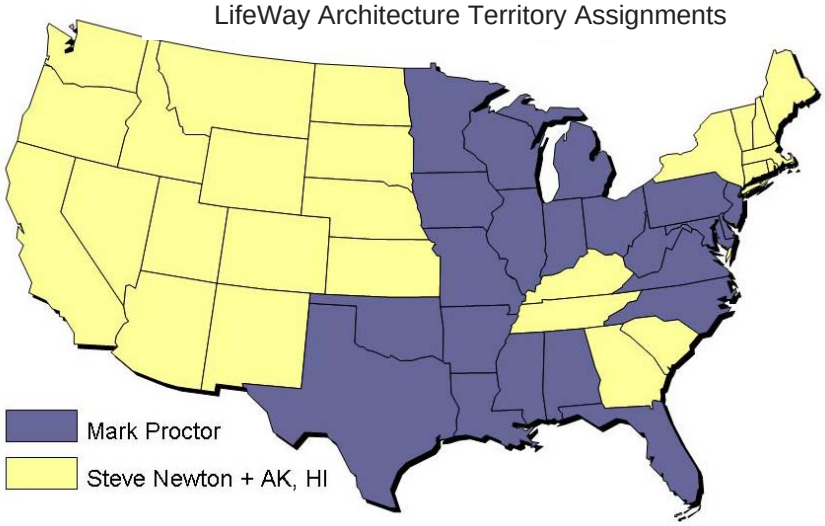
**LA Update** Issue 03 October 09

Whether you are building your first facility, expanding or remodeling, or have another God-given project, this self-directed capital funding program enables your church to meet its special funding need. This all new edition includes step by step instructions, Bible study lessons, and sample communication pieces all on an easy to use CD. Also provided are two DVDs with training led by LifeWay consultants for each of the campaign leadership teams.

Our companion Bridge To Tomorrow New Testament, available separately, includes devotionals for use through out the campaign.

**For more information about this or any of our campaign solutions, or to order, call 800.251.4220 or visit www.lifeway.com/cs.**

LifeWay Architecture Territory Assignments




Our architectural consultants, Steve Newton and Mark Proctor, continue to consult with churches across the country. The above map shows the territories as currently assigned.

Call 615-251-2466 to set up a consultation with one of these talented professionals for your church.