

Occupancy - At Last!

By: Jim Bland

As some of you may not know, my assignment as chairman of the Design/Construction Team was due to the untimely loss of Charlie Horner, who was the shepherd for this project and numerous others at Fairmount. Charlie was that member who was always there when something needed to be done. He had a significant background in construction at Phillip Morris and also was the project manager for Memorial Regional Medical Center. After I retired in 2012, Charlie asked me to join the Design/Construction Team, which I gladly did. During the 2014-15 year while he was winding up all of the infrastructure needs in preparation for the new worship center project, Charlie told me on at least two occasions, "If something happens to me, I want you to lead the team", however, I never really gave it any serious consideration.

Then the unthinkable happened. Four days after our congregation voted to approve applying for a loan to secure funding for the construction, Charlie suffered an untimely accident at his river home that took his life the following week. And while I cannot talk to Charlie now, I do believe he is looking down and is pleased with the legacy that he planned and left to a grateful church congregation.

In December we moved into the New Worship Center. I think it's appropriate that this be one of the last construction progress articles for the Forecaster. The paving has begun so we can use the main door. Hopefully the parking lot lights will be installed the first week in January. So as our reporting of construction progress draws to a close, I really want this article to focus on the entire Fairmount Team that has worked tirelessly to bring this project into reality.

Let me begin with the Design/Construction Team. Doug Currier I suspect is the team member with the longest tenure. Doug was the team leader when Fairmount moved to Creighton Road and constructed our church building in its current location. Doug handled all of the design and construction issues then and was a valuable asset in advising the current team in the NWC project.

Jack Raybourne was recruited by Charlie and was on the team when I came aboard. Jack was instrumental in much of the site preparation, demolition, removal and re-installation of the awning at Room 132, removal of Trailer No. 2 (remember that one) and reconstruction of the ramp to trailer No. 3. Jack has been the institutional memory for any number of details that happened before I came upon the scene. And, of course, Jack built the "old rugged cross" that hangs in the commons area today.

David Beazley was also on the team when I joined. David's background in firefighting was invaluable when we realized we needed to flesh out and redefine the proposed fire alarm system. When we discovered that we needed to look deeper into the fire alarm and notification system David was the obvious team member to sort this out and lead the team into an informed decision about this critical "life safety" element.

Jef Powell was the team member that likely worked with Charlie more than any other. Jef's knowledge of the existing electrical,

mechanical, security and fire systems was invaluable to Charlie in moving forward with a final design allowing us to bid the project when we did. Jef has been my "right hand" in numerous instances when I needed his counsel regarding new systems that would tie-into existing system such as fire, security and HVAC; and not-so-trivial issues, such as FOBS and door locking systems.

Art Sitterson was recruited in September of 2015. Art's years in system maintenance at NABISCO and his knowledge and experience with building systems led me to ask him to be a member of our team. Art can pull out an iPhone and find any web site before you can say, "New Worship Center". He was all over questions that we had and always came up with answers. Art was the key to final resolution of the nursery courtyard. Charlie, Doug, Jack, David and I talked about this issue for literally weeks and ruled out several options that would not work. Art came up with a recommendation to pour concrete and place the tiles that would allow positive drainage without any mold or mildew and were designed specifically for playgrounds. His nickname should be "Quickdraw".

David Minor came onto the team in September 2015 as well. David brought engineering knowledge to the team and many practical skills and capabilities. When we needed a water line or an electrical line marked to avoid a problem, we called David and he was there; didn't make any difference if it was Saturday or a weekday. David's piloting skills resulted in the numerous aerial photographs that you saw in the Forecaster and bulletin board during the course of the project. David has one more to get...the final! Anyone for a photo flight?

Scott Courtney was recruited onto the team after the project was begun. I found out that Scott was a Civil Engineer and worked for Resource International. He was a project engineer for numerous projects in Hanover County. With those credentials, I knew he would be invaluable in working with Hanover County officials in the permitting and planning areas; and that was correct. Scott enjoys great respect at the County and that paid off in this project. Aside from Scott being very involved in the site work design, it is my opinion that it was Scott's "third paragraph" in my e-mail to the County that led to our gaining occupancy in the NWC when we did. In that paragraph, Scott enumerated all of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) facilities and lighted parking that Fairmount currently has, and that we meet all requirements without the additional parking currently under construction. I asked Scott, "Did you go out and actually count those spaces?" He laughed and said, "Google Earth"! I said, "You Da Man!"

The Finishes Committee made up of Tommy Norwood, Julie Boshier and Susan Winters met throughout the design and

Inside This Edition:

Worship Center Update	Pages 1-3
Worship Center Opening Events	Page 3
New Members	Page 4
Our Church	Page 4
January 2017 Calendar	Insert

Feature: Worship Center Update

construction phases to select paint colors, fabrics, fabric colors, furniture and finishes in the new worship center. Without a doubt, our worship center has such a great appearance. So many people have commented how wonderful it looks; so tasteful and yet exciting I trust you have noticed the furniture they have purchased and placed in strategic locations that give a "finished look" to the center.

Then there are other members of Fairmount, some of whom, on the one hand, have been compensated for their services, but who nonetheless, have assisted and performed critical path functions in completing this, the largest construction project in Fairmount's history.

John Land was very instrumental in early project demolition and performed several construction tasks during the project year. John performed the site work in the courtyards and placed the finish surfaces in the nursery and "astro-turf" courtyards. He laid much of the drainage pipes that addressed the major roof drains to the new building. This should insure runoff water doesn't disrupt the site during late winter and spring months and also keeps the area free of standing water. John installed all of the landscaping stock and lastly installed the roof drains adjacent to the sanctuary. This system will reduce, and possibly eliminate, standing water along the north side access road next to trailer No. 1 - a tremendous improvement.

Ronald and Troy Houston, as many know, were selected by Charlie to be the electrical firm to install all of the electrical systems in the NWC that of course feed everything that we do every day. Ronald also was Charlie's initial "go to" for security and fire and so Ronald was in some instances the only one with institutional knowledge on certain critical issues when the project began. Ronald, Jef and I spent quite a few hours together and on the phone sorting out certain things during the past year.

Ed Muller's company (Ed Muller Construction) is our second "prime" contractor and with one glance, you can see that he and his men have taken care to ensure a quality product. Our site design with 26 ADA spaces demands that grades are critical and must be precise in order that water does not stand or "bird bath" in parking spaces and freeze in the winter. Ed's crews have been great to work with and have worked diligently to get these areas right so that our site drainage is effective and we have a pavement that will last for years to come with little maintenance.

Donald and Debra Houston, with Chris Santisiere, were the driving forces behind the fund raising, planning and implementation of the Memorial Garden. Debra, while on staff, was the contact for the memorial brick sales and after she retired, she and Donald solicited proposals from firms to construct the garden itself. They arranged for the purchase of the tables and benches in honor of Bill Bosher and Charlie Horner and coordinated their placement; no small task.

And of course the issue of furniture came up as we were to re-purpose a nursery, and also build a coffee station and a welcome center for the new worship center. Needless to say, we solicited the services of the best cabinet maker in the business, Sonny Stevens. Sonny took on these projects with an enthusiasm like I have never seen before. Once he knew what Taylor and Parrish's color schemes were for the casework in the commons, he was off and

running. While I know he was concerned about meeting the deadline of opening Sunday, he made it with time to spare and it looks better than "store-bought"! Sonny matched everything perfectly and no one could have performed this task any better!

Mark and Becky Baldwin, as you likely know by now, donated an "industrial strength" coffee maker that is located in the kitchen to Room 132 and if my memory is correct, will make 36 gallons. In the event you haven't noticed the past two Sundays, Mark and Becky have given new meaning to "coffee station". If you were a regular coffee drinker when it was in in the hallway by the kitchen, you just got a new lease on life! We got powdered creamer then, we have real creamers now...WOW!

Bob Massey; What can I say here? I have spent more time with Bob Massey during the past year than Deanie has! Needless to say, Bob and I had to wrestle with the legal issues, a loan, the contracts, the change orders, bank inspections, bank draws, contract payments, and all of the administrative demands of a project of this size. His counsel was invaluable to one who has only been at Fairmount nine years. Without Bob, I would have hit many brick walls and just had to lay there. Bob was always able to fill in the blanks, give me an answer or provide me with good advice to make an informed decision.

Barry Will, Tracy Thomas, Kenny Holley and Nick Polivka as you well know have spent enormous hours both in design and implementation of the audio-visual systems and the stage lighting. These elements of course are critical to presentation and if these are not done right, we have missed the whole point of this project. The A-V is still in need of some attention but you would never know this as our Sunday services come off just as if everything is perfect.

Veronica Brewster - the pay officer. Veronica keeps all of the accounting records and while I kept much of Charlie's spreadsheets as he crafted them, there were any number of questions about payments, and other issues associated with accounts. Without Veronica I would have been lost from day-one.

Morgan McMullin is the best organizer that I know! Without Morgan, neither Bob nor I would have been able to find anything we did back two months ago. If it was paper work, she remembered it; if an e-mail, she found it; if it was a contract or change order, she produced it. Behind every good project manager, there is a great administrator!

Carolyn Holmes took care of me the entire year while at church. She took notes, mailed packages, put my poorly typed letters on letterhead and sent them off to the County. Another tireless worker for our Lord who, behind the scenes, takes care of business in a very professional manner. My parting comment to her each day, "Carolyn, I believe I have done all of the damage I can do for one day".

Thanks to the Wednesday morning Forecaster Volunteers who allowed me to harass them constantly. But I did have one "Ione Hokie" to support me; thank you Joe Thomas! Oh, and then there was Marshall's weekly e-mail suggestions and questions...I tried to answer them all.

As you know without me telling you, our Pastors were so supportive of me, the team, the staff and everyone! I attended most staff meetings and so I really got to see just how a great team

functions. We are so blessed to have our ministers and support staff! They were the conduit through which information flowed to the Body and certainly offered wise spiritual and practical counsel at every turn.

Our Elders have encouraged us all and supported all of the decisions regarding financing and construction. They endured my boring presentations and asked probing questions regarding the construction progress and phasing. They were so supportive of this work.

There were all of you who on Sunday morning would come up to me and say, "Jim, I am praying for you". I also know that many more than these were praying for me, the team, the staff and the entire project! This update is considerably longer than the rest. That is because it is intended to demonstrate to Fairmount Christian Church that because of a legacy left by giants no longer in our midst, the UNITY of this fellowship, the leadership of many individuals, and the prayers of His people, Our Lord has been able to accomplish

amazing things through us in ministry.

Last but not least, my wife Jane, who watched me go off most every morning for the past three months and has always been encouraging and supportive. We both have spoken of the first time Charlie Horner came around to our Bible study classes several years ago to brief us on the plans. We both teared up as we listened and as the Holy Spirit convicted us then and there that this was the right path for Fairmount. Ever since, she has become of the biggest fans one of this project and now calls the Worship Center her "Happy Place".

Please continue to pray for all those who will enter into His New Worship Center!

The Battle is still His, and we are still His warriors! ■



**START THE NEW YEAR
IN A
NEW HOME**

Join us when we open our new Worship Center January 8th

You're invited to join us for the Grand Opening of our brand new Worship Center. Lots of cool, new things like 900 theater-style seats, state-of-the-art audio and video systems, a soaring foyer, and a modern worship experience - but with the Bible still at the heart of each service.

SPECIAL GRAND OPENING EVENTS:

- Friday, January 6: Olympic Gold medalist David Boudia will speak. Kids Fest in the FLC. Starts @ 7pm
- **Sunday, January 8: GRAND OPENING!** Services: 9:30am and our new, modern service @ 11:15am
- Friday, January 13: Family Movie Night featuring *The Peanuts Movie* @ 7pm
- Saturday, January 14: VCU Basketball away game Watch Party. Special appearance by "The VCU Peppas" and food trucks too! Fun starts @ 1pm

Call or visit online for more info: 559-8070 or fairmountchristian.org.



FAIRMOUNT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

6502 Creighton Road
(just off I-295)
804-559-8070
fairmountchristian.org



NONPROFIT
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RICHMOND, VA
PERMIT #1479

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 788
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111
PHONE: (804) 559-8070
FAX: (804) 559-8072
EMAIL:
INFO@FAIRMOUNTCHRISTIAN.ORG

The mission of Fairmount Christian Church:

To develop followers of Jesus who:

Love God,
Love People and
Introduce the world
to Christ



The Forecaster is
best viewed online @
fairmountchristian.org

Our Church: December 18 & 25, 2016

Welcome to our Newest Member...

Colby Fox was baptized on December 18th. Rebecca Beazley, and Audrey Ellenberger, Ryan Holley were baptized on December 25th. Debbie Ganzert transferred her membership on December 25th.

Attendance & Giving

8:15 Traditional Worship: 126 / 178
Children's Worship: 5 / 3
9:30 Contemporary Worship: 568 / 417
Children's Worship: 49 / 27
11:00 Traditional Worship: 165 / 116
Modern Worship: 275 / 223
Children's Worship: 83 / 45

Total: 1,271 / 1,009

Bible School: 628 / 357

Budget Requirements: \$41,653

Budget Receipts:

December 18: \$41,669

December 25: \$43,014



Your Church Staff:

Rick Raines - Senior Minister
Chris Santasiere - Associate Minister
Mike Langley - Associate Minister
Tracy Thomas - Worship/Music Minister
Kevin Tucker - Associate Worship Minister
Josh Smith - Interim Youth Minister
Ashley Sears - Children's Director
Rose Williams - Early Childhood Director
Bob Massey - Business Administrator
Veronica Brewster - Office Manager
Jef Powell - Facilities & Grounds Manager
Barry Will - Technology Director
Chris Branch - Administrative Assistant
Sherri Fadool - Adult Ministries Assistant
Carolyn Holmes - Administrative Assistant
Lauren McCormick - Administrative Assistant
Morgan McMullin - Administrative Assistant
Krista Barnes - Youth Min. Administrative Assistant
Crystal Griffin - Children's Administrative Assistant
Amber Grubbs - Children's Administrative Assistant
Kasey Ogden - Children's Administrative Assistant



Manna Sunday January 1st

Bring your donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries to the front entrance on the first Sunday of each month and help us reach our goal of donating 1 ton of food to the MCEF Food Pantry. Please cross out the UPC code on donated items. Thank you!