

that ultimately will be mirror-imaged to a 3,200-seat facility. E. T. Gresham is currently completing construction on Faith Alive Ministries as well as on the third phase (\$14,000,000 construction cost) of Calvary Revival Church for Bishop Courtney Mc-Bath.

Most recently, BDG completed the design and construction drawings on a new facility for Grove Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia. BDG believes in partnering on projects whereby they can connect early with a contractor and count the cost from an early stage. On Grove Baptist Church, BDG partnered with S. B. Ballard on a project that seats 3,200 worshipers and includes classrooms, administration, youth spaces and cafes centered around lobbies. The anticipated cost approaches \$40,000,000.00. "Without the expertise of Steve Ballard and the entire team of S. B. Ballard, we could have never completed the project within the early budget expectations", Barnes added.

Barnes is also the author of several books including his recent ground breaking book titled, *ARISE AND BUILD*, Mastering the Realities of Church Building. BDG also provides "Arise and Build" Conferences throughout the East Coast based on this book. The book is full of spiritual insights, time-tested guidelines and wise directives resulting in a powerful manifesto on church design.

For more information on BDG and a deeper insight into the vision and passion that are foundational to this church design firm, go to www.BarnesDesignGroup.com.



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From the top:

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Oak Grove United Methodist Church

Grove Baptist Church - Interior

Grove Baptist Church

COMMERCIAL *Building*™ EDGE MAGAZINE The Local Voice in Building



*"It's more than our job,
 it's our mission!"*

From left to right:

- Bart McElfresh
- Jimmy Clemmer
- Michael Barnes
- Everette Jones



Barnes Design Group, P. C., Architects

"It is more than our job, it is our mission!"

Such is the motto of Barnes Design Group, P.C. Architects/Planners, a group of architects bound together by a common purpose. Barnes Design Group (BDG) is a unique architectural firm with a distinctive niche in the marketplace...church master planning, church architectural design and vision casting services. Though the firm continues to design restaurants, shopping centers, office complexes, and other commercial projects, the majority of their design work is church related.

BDG is often referred to as "The Church Architects" of Tidewater and Virginia. In fact, over the last ten years in a four state sweep, including Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and West Virginia, BDG continues to be the number one church architectural firm both in the number of church commissions awarded per year as well as in the volume of church construction dollars.

BDG is an inimitable firm that is comprised of a number of architects, each with their own unique talents and giftings, each feeling called to BDG to apply their talent to serve the church world. The firm is composed of professionals that specialize in areas such as church design, liturgical consulting, marketing, architectural visualization using computer 3d renderings and construction drawings. While inspiration and design direction can be said to come from many sources, including experience and formal education, the design professionals at BDG always quickly credit divine revelation and guidance from God for design inspiration. It is this very "God-centered" focus that separates Barnes Design Group from the typical firm.

Next year, they celebrate 30 years of church design experience with over 400 church commissions and 1,300 other design commissions. They have a combined 150 years of church experience and have provided design services on a variety of church

projects including:

- Small worship facilities (200-600 seats)
- Large worship facilities (1,000 – 3,500 seats)
- Christian schools
- Multi purpose buildings and family life centers, including gymnasiums
- Christian education complexes
- Complete church master planning

Currently BDG has several church projects on the boards ranging from 1,000 seat facilities to several facilities that will seat over 3,000 worshipers. A recently completed design included a 3,200-seat worship space with over 400,000 total square feet for a fast growing

church on a location of nearly 100 acres.

As architects and church master planners, they believe that vision is important. An Old Testament scripture states, "Without a vision, the people perish." Vision and passion are important aspects of this firm. Understanding the vision of the client and aligning all of the creative forces of the de-



Calvary Revival Church - Interior



Calvary Revival Church



Kempsville Presbyterian Church



Faith Alive Ministries



Grace Bible Church



Montclair Church of God



Kempsville Presbyterian Church - Aerial



Faith Alive Ministries - Interior Lobby

sign professional to transform that vision into reality is the essence of BDG.

"It is of the utmost importance for us to understand the client's vision and this process is called the Vision Quest. If we can understand the vision in a pastor's heart, then we can capture that vision and design a facility that aligns with His every dream and aspiration. By utilizing 3d computer modeling and some very special animation software, we can provide production movies in order to cast that vision to the church. Each parishioner can embrace the dream as they drive up to the facility, get out of their car and walk through the entire complex. This is the most critical and valuable service we provide and I call this the 'Vision Casting'", says Michael Barnes, Founder and CEO of Barnes Design Group.

Barnes continues, "It is exciting to see how this firm has grown. It began as a small idea in my mind and spirit to specialize in church architecture and accept this as a ministry to assist churches of all sizes. Through proper design and planning, we can help the church 'maximize their own ministry' and we can create sanctuary spaces that assist in that spiritual experience we call 'worship' as mankind reaches out to the Creator of all. Our average church size is over 1,000 seats. Many churches on the board currently seat 3,000 to 4,000 and many churches are now requiring specialty architectural designs, such as performing art centers, to accommodate worship. A few years back, we completed a design on a worship facility in Madras, India that seated 50,000 worshipers in one sitting. I am humbled to see how God has blessed us."

BDG recently completed the design and construction drawings for Faith Alive Ministries in Deep Creek, Virginia. This is Barnes' own church. It is a unique contemporary 1,600-seat sanctuary



Kempsville Presbyterian Church