



Beers & Hoffman, Ltd.
Shonk, Schwear & Assoc.

ARCHITECTURE

INFORM

TRANSFORMING VISION INTO REALITY

SPRING 2009



Photograph by Andy Mishock, State College, PA

A CHURCH DEEP IN HISTORY, LOOKS TO THE FUTURE...

State College, PA was marked only by the crossing of two country roads when *St. Paul's United Methodist Church* voted in 1888 to relocate from its one room wooden structure in Centre Furnace to its present location on College Avenue and McAllister Street, in the then growing college community. Since then, this historic stone church has become a vital part of the community creating opportunities for worship, study and service.

Beers & Hoffman began assisting St. Paul's in the mid 1980's when founding partner, Bob Beers was commissioned to renovate the interior of the church. The renovations included a new administrative suite, interior finishes, lighting, and a sound system.

A devastating fire destroyed the sanctuary building in 1987 leaving only the exterior stone walls. A large pile of smoldering stacks of wood, church pews, and plaster was all that was left of the beautiful church that Bob Beers had personally grown so close to and helped to renovate only a few years earlier.

The congregation voted to rebuild on the same site. Structural investigations revealed the exterior stone walls would not support the new roof system. A new steel frame was constructed inside the interior while keeping the remaining stone walls. The sanctuary took on a new look by relocating and arranging the chancel area 90 degrees. An enhanced, more functional

2008



Excellence in Construction
Merit Award

(cont'd page 2)

FEATUREProject

CHURCH HISTORY (cont'd)

balcony was added, and the pews were made by a church member who operated a manufactured furniture mill.

This new facility served the church well; but, by the late 1990's, the church recognized that both the Wesley Student Center (attached to the church sanctuary building) and the Christian Education Center (a separate facility across the alley behind the church) had aging mechanical systems and accessibility issues. St. Paul's once again commissioned Beers & Hoffman, this time to conduct a master planning study to explore options for the entire church campus. The church decided to address the most critical programming needs first - the children and youth ministries - by upgrading and expanding the Christian Education Center on McAllister Street.

On April 20, 2008, St. Paul's dedicated and consecrated the Christian Education Center. The exterior of this 50's style, yellow brick and tile building was transformed to architecturally compliment the adjacent historical stone church with pointed arches and gables. The new materials, colors, and details now provide a visual connection of the campus buildings.

The former open roof deck and the added higher roof structure gave way to a large, much needed versatile space on the upper floor. Classrooms were renovated into more flexible spaces for both pre-school and Sunday School use; improved accessibility to the main entrance was gained, a new elevator and accessible restrooms were added, improved security, a sprinkler system, and the entire mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems were upgraded.

Teaming for three years from pre-design through construction was Poole Anderson Construction, also of State College. This successful project was awarded a 2008 "Excellence in Construction Merit Award" from the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the Associated Builders & Contractors.



Christian Education Center - After



Before

This Beers & Hoffman project, completed in August 2004, won

4 AWARDS

The WFX Solomon Awards, presented by Church Production Magazine and Worship Facilities Magazine, invited churches across the nation to submit for recognition of excellence in facilities design, operation, use, and A/V production.



Bright Side Baptist Church & Opportunities Center

- **Most Innovative Church Facility**
- **Best Church Design, New Construction Project**
- **Best Special Project**
- **Best Overall Building Project**



"What sets Beers & Hoffman apart from other excellent design teams is their strength in communication... to a committee of church members who were limited in their understanding of construction. Scott Shonk and Bob Beers, as the project leads, made it clear through their actions that they were personally committed to making our renovation succeed..."

*- Keith Duclos,
St. Paul's United Methodist Church*

PLAN NOW FOR THE FUTURE...

While the current economy is clearly a concern for everyone, many clients are taking time now to assess their actual needs through the *Feasibility Study and Master Planning Process*. These tools will provide them with the information they need to make an informed decision when the timing is right.

From churches to life-care facilities to schools, our clients have seen the distinct benefits of master planning and facility studies. The process begins with a thorough study of the existing facility (when applicable) and all of the requested programming requirements and wishes from the congregation and community. This baseline data provides a schematic design and an initial estimate of the proposed square foot area(s) required to obtain approximate costs and develop an overall budget.

The master planning component next prioritizes the needs and identifies possible phasing options that distribute costs as needed and minimizes disruption to the facilities daily operations. Schematic design in either of these phases also becomes a useful tool to commence fund raising.

In fact, in a recent article from Jeff Knauer of Kirby-Smith Associates, a fundraising consultant assisting churches for over 70 years, the question is posed whether "To Build or Not To Build?" Mr. Knauer suggests that when considering "the cost of an entire project in the face of a struggling economy... addressing at least SOME of your need(s) will bring encouragement to members and keep momentum moving in a positive direction."

Addressing all needs and wishes may not be financially feasible at this time for some, but master planning is a smart, economical way to start the process.

"The future is always beginning now." ~ Mark Strand, Poet



A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Kenya, Great Britain, and Philadelphia... a world of difference, but all in common for Davies Orinda, the newest member of the Beers & Hoffman team. Davies' across the world journey began in East Africa. Born in Kenya he moved to England at the age of 13 to complete his high school education. Upon graduation, he traveled to the United States where he pursued his passion for architecture at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

This well-spoken, unassuming man graduated from Drexel's seven year Professional Degree program and began working full time for the architectural firm where he interned during his college years. With 10 years of experience, including healthcare and pharmaceutical projects, Davies acquired a wide range of expertise.

Most recently he passed the PA architectural board exams and earned his architectural registration in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And, not one to let the grass grow under his feet, he is now in the process of obtaining LEED accreditation.

Davies and his wife Lisa live in Exton and are expecting their first child this summer. They are hoping to relocate to Lancaster before "labor" day arrives!

In his free time Davies volunteers at Good Works, a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to repairing homes and restoring hope for low income homeowners in Chester County. He's also an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan!

Davies will "go the extra mile" to assist our clients in making their dreams and goals a reality!



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at this year's
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IN The Works



BLENDING IN... WITH HISTORIC CORNWALL COMMUNITY

The Borough of Cornwall, Lebanon County, the largest borough geographically in the continental United States and home to the historic Cornwall Iron Furnace Museum, is planning to build a new 3,000 sq.ft. municipal building. This facility will be home to the borough's administrative offices as well as their maintenance garage. The building's exterior façade has been designed to complement Cornwall's historic aesthetic architecture. Construction is set to begin later this year with the goal of occupying the building in 2010.

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