

ARISE & BUILD

W I N T E R 2 0 0 8

N E W S L E T T E R

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY BARNES DESIGN GROUP, ARCHITECTS

"Barnes Design Group directly addressed the major issues and concerns that were uppermost in the minds of our members and you allayed all of their fears." Reverend Robert Miller, Episcopal Church of the Advent



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Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Psalms 68:19) 08-17-2004
AND THIS IS WHERE WE KEEP THE BAGGAGE
THAT PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN OVER TO GOD

PASTOR'S CORNER

"New Life Providence Church has appreciated the expertise that Barnes Design Group has provided in their design of our new sanctuary as well as during the remodeling of our preexisting facility. Your availability was essential as you helped us solve various issues with contractors, codes and the city of Virginia Beach.

On every level you demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and always operated on sound Biblical business and personal principles. Your attention to detail was exemplary and your efforts to answer all of our communications were a blessing that enabled us to avoid costly mistakes."

Mr. Wayne Buechler
Pastor of Church Development
New Life Providence Church

PERSEVERE UNDER PRESSURE

Building your church is never easy. In fact, building a building for a church is even more challenging.

Most pastors have spiritual gifts which probably align with preaching and teaching. However, the complexities of building design and building construction are things which most pastors do not excel in. Simply put, building a new church building is never easy. Therefore, I have decided to address in our quarterly newsletters the challenges pastors face in the building process.

Major areas that tend to be the greatest challenges throughout the process are:

1. Delays and difficulties in the process.
2. Planning and municipality approvals.
3. Church budgets and construction costs.
4. Maintaining unity in the process.

There are often delays and difficulties throughout the process. But isn't this true in all of life? Often there is a time lapse before any dream becomes a reality. In design and construction, these delays might be caused by land acquisition, closings, bank approvals, city approvals or

the construction process. In fact, the entire building delivery system is full of delays and difficulties. God often uses waiting periods and delays to teach us to trust Him.

Difficulties also seem to arise throughout the process. These can be difficulties in your capital campaign, in your building committee, in the design process or in the building permit process. We often see two common types of difficulties regarding church building projects: circumstances along the way and critics. But do not worry, it is all part of God's plan and He promises that he will always be with us.

Paul tells us in Hebrews 10 that, "We need to persevere." Perseverance under pressure is part of the biblical maturing process. The best decision a pastor can make in dealing with challenges is the selection of a church architect that has already "run the race." Find an architect that specializes in church design and one that is willing to link arms with you during the process. Persevere with joy in your heart knowing that God is always there and always provides a way.

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised."

Hebrews 10:35



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VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23452

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A SPIRITUAL INSIGHT OF BUILDING DIFFICULTIES

AUTHOR: MICHAEL D. BARNES, A.I.A., FOUNDER/CEO OF BARNES DESIGN GROUP, P.C., ARCHITECTS/PLANNERS

There are several phases that a church goes through within a building campaign. Understanding the process will help you overcome discouragement when problems arise.

The first phase begins when God gives you the dream. Paul tells us in Ephesians 3:20 that, "God is able to do far more than we would ever ask or even dream of." Once God gives you a dream, you decide to do something about it. For every ten dreamers there is one decision maker. You make a decision to go forward and you hire an architect.

However, the next two phases are delay and difficulty. God says in Habakkuk 2:3, "These things I plan won't happen right away. Surely, slowly, steadily the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair for these things will surely come to pass." Remember that God works through delays.

But God also works through difficulties. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 6-7, "At the present,

you may be temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials. This is no accident - it happens to prove your faith which is infinitely more valuable than gold."

You may even hit a dead end. Your situation may even deteriorate from difficult to impossible. Congratulations... you are on the edge of a miracle. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, "At that time we were completely overwhelmed...in fact, we told ourselves that was the end. Yet we now believe we had this sense of impending disaster so that we might learn to trust- not ourselves- but in God who can raise the dead."



The final phase is deliverance. God provides supernatural miracles by turning crucifixions into resurrections. Psalms 27:13 says, "I expect the Lord to deliver me once again so I will see his goodness to me." If you understand and cooperate with what God is doing in your life, even through difficulties and delays, you will develop great strength. It is like stretching a muscle to make it stronger.