

A CALLING FOR CONSTRUCTION

At a young age, Don Tucker had an intrinsic desire to see things built. In his teens, he spent summers working in the construction industry and knew right away that he wanted to become a contractor. So after graduating high school, Tucker majored in Civil Engineering and Business Administration at the University of Kentucky. Throughout college and after graduation, he worked for several construction companies on various projects. But it wouldn't be long before he took his calling for construction to the next level.

In 1976, Tucker founded his first contracting firm which in 1987 became Spectrum Contracting Services, Inc., a diversified construction company that operates across 12 states. The young man from the small town of Roley, Ky. had become a CEO. "I started this business when I was way too young, and somehow it worked," Tucker said. Today the 30-employee firm has completed more than 670 projects. While about 30 percent of those stem from senior living and nursing homes – and another 30 percent from various projects like historical renovations – the remaining portion comes from church construction. Tucker began designing and building churches in the mid '90s and sees it as his true calling. He takes great pleasure in helping to move a church's vision from faith to fruition.

One such institution is Bridgeway Church in Wesley Chapel, Fla. "We found out about the church through a minister at another church project," Tucker said. Initially Bridgeway had asked Spectrum to assist with completing a due diligence report which



involved constructability and ALTA surveys. From there, Spectrum developed a multi-phase master plan for the church's 25-acre site. The firm eventually entered into a contract for phase-one of the project which involved preliminary design, budgeting and planning, and ultimately progressed to phase-two which entailed detailed design and construction.

"It's a fairly youth-oriented church which determined a lot of its functions," Tucker said. The completed 30,000 sq.ft. contemporary-style edifice has seven main components: a worship center, gathering space atrium which spans the width of the building and allows natural lighting to bring the outdoors in, a youth fun center, an area for junior high and high school ages, a secure kids area, and an area for church administration and offices. The facility is also equipped with a kitchen and dining area. Spaces are unified with state-of-the-art sound and video technology. "It's loaded with good audio/video. It's a pretty modern, contemporary church."

Throughout the design/build process, Spectrum and its valued partner Million Architecture PLLC took time to gain a firm grasp on Bridgeway's concept for the new facility to ensure that its vision was realized – as articulated through church liaisons Minister Joel Eason and Richard Caines, chairman

of the building committee. "The church had ideas about what they wanted to accomplish and we tried to translate that into amenities. It's our job to take the church's ministries and build facilities that allow them to better accommodate those ministries at an economical price."

Speaking of economy, Spectrum takes great pride in its ability to build churches at about 40 percent below most going rates. "We have this unusual marriage of the design and construction capabilities which results in those types of savings," said Tucker. Regarding value-added results, he credits the consistent collaborative interaction between Million Architecture which represented the design leg, Pastor Joel Eason and Chairman Richard Caines who represented the owner leg, and Spectrum which represented the design/build portion.

Parishioners at Bridgeway Church are thrilled with their new edifice. "They've gone from a 230 member congregation to about 600 to 700 with projections of 1,000 members by this time next year," Tucker said. "They're a magnificent, giving group of people." The same can be said for Spectrum Contracting and its leader who constantly answers the call for construction.

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