

Groundbreaking signals new start



Positioned in front of Ten Hagen Excavating Inc.'s heavy equipment are McCaslin-Hill's project manager Charles Williams; project superintendent John Merwin; Tom Marshall AIA, James Pratt Architecture; and members of the Warren United Methodist Church.

When an early morning fire swept through Dallas' historic, circa-1930s Warren United Methodist Church on August 16, 2001, its congregants received the news with shock and horror.

"It was a major catastrophe for us," recalled Pastor Perry Crenshaw. "We immediately sought temporary space in which to worship while we recovered from the pain and decided what to do."

Over the next three years, the community of churchgoers and their spiritual leader faced a dilemma – to rebuild or build anew from the ground-up?

With resounding confirmation from the church family, their decision resulted in a commitment to develop a capital funding program. They enthusiastically raised funds for a new church that would rise from the ashes of its beloved, yet dated, predecessor.

On Dec. 13, near the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Malcolm X Dr., a groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of the church's modern era.

Pastor Crenshaw and members from the congregation blessed the earth with their prayers before joining members of the general contracting team from **McCaslin-Hill Construction Inc.**, and the architecture team, **James Pratt Architecture**, for the earth-turning exercise.

The new church will feature a sanctuary, administrative offices and an educational/fellowship wing.

"The general contractor has been patient with us through this process," Pastor Crenshaw added. "As you know, working with churches is often a slower process. We have hundreds of people that are helping our building committee chairperson, Dr. Thalia Matherson, who has provided awesome leadership."

Electrifying turnout at IEC celebration

Spirits were jovial at the festive annual **Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)** Christmas gathering on Dec. 9. The event took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dallas.

A preliminary reception for 125 members and their guests was followed by an elegant, seated dinner buffet.

Once their thirst and appetites were satisfied, the well-dressed couples am-

bled over to the blackjack, craps and roulette tables for a night of enthusiastic casino gaming.

For those otherwise inclined, popular musical rhythms were spun for the light-footed and young at heart.

Toward evening's end, more than a few lucky electrical industry professionals headed home with some very nice door prizes.



Hortensia and Armando Miranda, O.V. Mateiu, Don Greenlee, Virgil Browning, and Gerald Haney, Haney Electric Service



L-R: Mike and Angie Lankford, JMEG Electrical Contractors; and Louise and Andy Moreno, EA Electric



L-R: Lloyd and Linda Moody, Able Electric Service; Kirk Hartman, Metroplex Control Systems; Marsh Hughes, IEC Dallas Chapter; and Darrell Churchman, Metroplex Control Systems



L-R: Jim Ludicke and Jerry Thomas, IEC; Annette Evans and Gary Grimes, INTEx Electric

Challenge Air "Cartridges for Kids"

Associated **Plumbing-Heating-Cooling of Texas (APHCC-Texas)** is stepping up to the plate to help Challenge Air through its great "Cartridges for Kids" program.

Challenge Air is a non-profit Texas-based organization that offers motivational, inspirational and life-changing experiences to physically challenged children and youth through aviation.

"At the invitation of **Sonny Friedman**, a **PHCC North Texas** member who is a big part of Challenge Air's success, I attended a "Fly Day" last year in Addison," said APHCC-Texas Executive Director **Nancy Jones**.

"It was so heart-warming to see these kids' eyes light up as they climbed into an airplane for a flight," she said. "Challenge Air's mission is to inspire children suffering from restricting disabilities to expand their individual perspectives, renew their faith in themselves, and strive to reach for their dreams. It was also fantastic to see the number of volunteers that participate in these events."

The money raised through the "Cartridges for Kids" program is used toward operating costs associated with executing "Fly Days" here and around the country.

"Let's help these kids by sending used cell phones and empty inkjet, laser, fax and copier cartridges to Challenge Air for recycling," Jones said. "One hundred percent of these donated ink cartridges and cell phones will directly benefit the program. Challenge Air is paid up to \$12 per cartridge and up to \$45 per cell phone."

Cartridges/phones may be mailed to: Challenge Air, 8008 Cedar Springs Road, Suite N106 – LB-24, Dallas, TX 75235

Contributors may also e-mail program coordinator Angela Smith at angela@cartridgesforkids.com or call her at 817-320-7333 for more information.

If you'd like to volunteer at a "Fly Days" event, call Byron Laszlo at 214-351-3353; CFK at 800-420-0235 or visit www.challengeair.org for information.

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