

Religion

The Triangle
TRIBUNE

Oberlin Baptist builds new addition for new beginnings



STAFF REPORTS

RALEIGH - Oberlin Baptist Church, one of the Triangle's oldest churches, has something to celebrate and the community is invited.

The church will hold a special dedication of its new 12,000 square-foot sanctuary at 806 Oberlin Road, Nov. 14-16 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. A dedication banquet is Nov. 17 at 7 p.m., with two services on Nov. 18 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The project was led by church deacon and building committee chairman, John Leaston, and constructed by Bobbitt Design Build. The new facility features a 300-seat sanctuary and a classroom wing that will be home to programs for seniors, youth and local residents.

Oberlin Baptist Church has been a strong presence in the Oberlin community, Wake

County and N.C., for over 127 years. The church was first erected in 1880 at its current location. In 1955 a fire devastated the church, but it took less than a year for the congregation to rebuild. A new brick structure was erected in August 1955.

Oberlin Baptist has enjoyed its central location near Cameron Village and Wade Avenue. The tremendous growth in the area in recent years has enabled the church to reach out to the community.

For nearly 70 years, the church bought the surrounding land in hopes of adding on one day. The recent project was made possible by a building fund established in 1955 by members who knew that there would be a need for something more. This fund, combined with recent pledges, tithes and offerings, afforded Oberlin the capital

needed for the new addition.

Leaston, a former purchasing officer for the state of N.C. and current business owner, chaired the building committee for the church addition.

"Overall the sanctuary was outdated, and it was difficult for some of our seniors to access the 1955 building," he said. "Oberlin Baptist wanted

more programs for seniors and more space for our youth. We looked into renovations, but it just wasn't feasible to accomplish what we wanted to do. The only option was to build."

Leaston and his committee selected Bobbitt Design Build because of Bobbitt's experience in church construction.

The sanctuary, lobby and

bathrooms were completed in June, and the interior of Phase Two will be finished by mid-2008. It will include a family life center, kitchen, classrooms, technology center, senior citizen center, library and more.

"I praise God for this opportunity to expand our ability to serve Him," Pastor Robert L. Jones Jr. said.

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Bobbitt Design Build is proud to celebrate and honor Oberlin Baptist Church in dedication of their new addition. It has been a pleasure to work with the church family in building their new facility.

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