

jeff's corner

When a church upgrades, expands or begins a new construction project, the audiovisual portion is often overlooked or not given due consideration until late in the process. Unfortunately, that puts everyone in a reactive mode which can seriously impact the efficiency of the installation and cost more money. If the A/V contractor is brought into the picture in the early stages, the less the system is going to cost and the better it is going to look and sound.

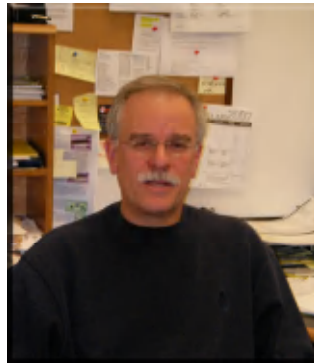
Each House of Worship is unique, and part of what makes them inspirational places to visit also makes them acoustically challenging and deserving of their own audiovisual solution. Your standard cookie-cutter P.A. system is not going to produce the desired result.

It takes time to carefully consider both the acoustical and aesthetic requirements of a worship facility, design and engineer a system, and prudently select the correct components which will meet or exceed the established goals. Interaction needs to begin with the other contractors and trades involved to develop a schedule and coordinate efforts. The electrician and A/V contractor must work together to make sure conduit and power are provided to the proper locations. The General Contractor needs to keep everyone apprised of the construction timeline so the right people can be on site during critical phases and bring the entire job to a smooth and timely conclusion.

If you wait too long before bringing the A/V contractor in on a project, they are then scrambling to design an appropriate system, find wire paths and identify structural mounting points for equipment. They may end up doing retrofit installation if the walls have been closed in, which will end up costing more in time, money and aggravation than if a proactive approach had been taken.

As the old saying goes, "Plan the work, then work the plan." No matter what you are trying to accomplish, the more time you have to plan, the better the result will be. Our industry is no different.

Jeff Miller-operations



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SHARING VOICE AND VISION

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VOICE & VISION

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A Quarterly Newsletter Dedicated to Audio & Video Issues for Houses of Worship in the Mid-Atlantic

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Proactive Planning can get rid of a lot of frustration and save money

AVG Expands

WE WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS TO OUR TEAM

Audio-Video Group is very pleased with our continued growth, which is indicative that the consistent quality of our product is in demand as we continue to meet the needs of our new and existing customers.

Bill Seamans will be stepping into a role of Sales Engineer in our Frederick, MD office and will be responsible for systems design and ensuring that our installations are technically correct and meet the goals set forth by our clients. Bill comes to us with over nineteen years in the industry and has extensive experience dealing with the inherent challenges encountered with Church sound and video. He studied Electrical Engineering at Valparaiso University and has his CTS-D, which is the highest specialized certification attainable from InfoComm International. We are pleased to have Bill on board and know that he will be an asset, not only to our company, but more importantly, to our customers.



Jeremiah Leiter joined us in October and has been fast-tracked to become our newest Project Manager. He has over eleven years relevant experience and has been undergoing extensive training to bring him up to speed with the latest standards and practices of this dynamic industry. Jeremiah will be providing us with that vital link between the client, the install technicians and the support staff to make sure projects flow smoothly and result in a quality finished product. Besides his organizational skills and attention to detail, another one of Jeremiah's strengths is his experience training end-users to operate their sound and video equipment. That is a very valuable attribute from which many of our customers will benefit.

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◀ AVG at Work

Steve terminates the connections on the new soundboard at Smithsburg Valley Baptist Church in Washington County, Maryland



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The Main Sanctuary of Grace Covenant Church features all the components that make a modern worship service a success.

- The QSC Line Array speakers provide even sound distribution throughout the room while the Rear
- Projection Video System ensures an excellent view from any seat in the house.



▲ The Video Console allows complete control of content from a variety of sources including, laptop computer content, a DVD player or remote controlled cameras which can capture live action in the sanctuary.

The video system consists of a main, centrally located rear-projection screen lit by a Sanyo 6500 lumen projector which will display signals from a variety of sources including computer, DVDs or either of two remotely controlled cameras. The cameras not only present the live-action to the big screen, but also record the service which is then pod cast and burned onto DVDs for distribution.

The Edirol video mixer is easy to use and allows seamless transitions from the various sources. This results in a smooth, professional display which augments the service and engages the congregation by providing hymn lyrics and words from the scripture.

Another projector and screen on the rear wall of the sanctuary provides a video monitor for the presenters on stage.

“We learned (together) the value of increased vigilance from a schedule prospective when a project is on a fast track like ours was. The lesson learned was a little stressful but AVGroup responded very professionally and aggressively.”

— Ed Shaw, Associate Pastor

Grace Covenant Church Herndon, Virginia

Formally known as Metro Morning Star and home to many of the Washington Redskins players, this new worship facility encompasses many features that make for a successful contemporary church service.

The state-of-the-art audio system is designed around QSC Line Array speakers which are suspended from the ceiling and provide even, quality sound reinforcement. The basic concept of the modern line array is to create a set of speakers whose spacing and positioning allows the greatest coverage of an area. The lower boxes are directed downward to cover the forward rows of the audience, while the upper boxes can be aimed at the upper or rear seats. The QSC system is excellent for this application because it offers 140 degrees of horizontal dispersion, which means the entire room can be perfectly covered with only two arrays, which makes for a very clean installation.

Shure wireless microphone systems were used to provide the best quality voice reproduction and allow freedom of movement throughout the sanctuary while an Aviom 16 Pro personal monitor system was installed to provide performers with the ability to hear their own mixes without a ton of wire, speakers and gear cluttering up what is supposed to be a worship space.

The audio and video cabling is well concealed including routing through floor boxes to the equipment racks and mixing stations, allowing for adaptability which can facilitate a variety of Church productions. The overall installation is clean, well organized and user friendly.



◀ The main soundboard at Grace Covenant Church features a Yamaha 48 channel digital mixer. The location has exceptional line-of sight placement which allows the engineers to provide a quality mix for the congregation while the worship team members control their own monitor mixes using an Aviom system. See Steve's article below where he explains these very special little gadgets in more detail.

off the rack

What a Personal Monitor System Does

A Monitor Mixing System gives each person on stage independent control over his or her monitor mix and allows them to decide on what sounds they want to hear in their monitor and at what volumes. Each user has their own mixer and controls their own monitor which can be a traditional wedge speaker, a headphone or an in-ear monitor.

For instance, a vocalist can set the volume of their own voice at one level, set the accompanying piano at another and completely eliminate the drums. The interface is very simple to understand, can be used on the fly and programmed presets are available which allow users to recall a particular mix with the push of a button. The mixers themselves are small and can be placed almost anywhere, including the ability to mount on mic stands or equipment such as keyboards or drums.

The Benefits: Besides having happy musicians (we all know they love their toys), the sound quality of the praise team dramatically improves as they hear themselves with more accuracy, play with more confidence and blend with each other better. Earphone monitoring also significantly lowers the sound level on stage and eliminates the need a soundboard operator for practice sessions.

Engineers benefit from these systems as well. By giving participants the ability to dial in their own mixes, they have more time to focus on mixing for the congregation. The use of Cat5 cabling also reduces the quantity of wires required to provide a quality monitor mix.



I hope this brief introduction has been useful. Please call if you would like more information or would like to see a demonstration.

Steve S.

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