

APRIL 2020 VOL. 21 NO. 2



CHURCHES: A PLACE TO WORSHIP, A PLACE TO GATHER, A PLACE TO SERVE

Many of us recall the days when local churches were a Sunday and Wednesday only affair. Some youth groups met occasionally on Friday nights or Saturday for fun and games. That dynamic has largely changed in the past 50 years and now are operating seven days a week with a multitude of activities.

Religious based schools, child-care centers, food pantries, fitness centers, senior adult activities, and other mission related work call for a vastly different need in building structure and design. For many years, this segment of business has represented 5-10% of our overall sales.

The work of our church-related business ranges from a 170,000 square foot new facility in Louisiana to a single boiler replacement in Metro Jackson. We offer full design/build capabilities and can assist in the early phases of budgeting and design to find the best fit for the need.

A sampling of church projects in recent months...

- Changeout of six air handlers removing and replacing outdated equipment
- Removal of old water-cooled air handlers and replacing with VRF systems
- Chiller replacement with an upgraded more efficient unit
- Energy management system upgrade
- Construction of a new church campus
- Construction of a new student building
- Construction of a chapel and connected wedding venue as part of a larger facility

Churches have unique needs generally working with a volunteer steering committee as they develop strategies of facility growth and upgrades. As non-profits, they are limited by contributions and want to make the wisest use of dollars. We are positioned to guide committees and church staff to stretch their buying dollars.

IN THIS ISSUE

Feature Story: Churches: A Place to Worship, A Place to Gather...

01

Featured Projects: Baptist Hospital, Bogalusa Post Office...

02

HVAC Services: Gearing up for Summer

02

The Safety Corner: Less is More 03

Employee Spotlight: Michael Figuero

03

My View, By Rick White: The Fundamentals of Business 03

Postponed: Metro Annual Open House & Fish Fry

04

Happy Easter! Yes, He is Alive!

04

BAPTIST HEALTH SYSTEMS



We are essentially complete with a mammoth air handler swap in this Jackson medical facility. This 62,500 cfm custom air handler had to be lowered via a crane down a shaft for reassembly and connections. Metro's work included setting up temporary air to supply the hospital, installing the air handler, electrical, and controls. We were the prime contractor working direct for Baptist.

MADISONVILLE ELEMENTARY



This elementary school is part of the St. Tammany Parish School District with more than 1,000 students attending grades K-2. The district boasts 100% certified teachers in this school with superior ratings among public schools. Voelkel McWilliams is the GC for this project adding more than 50,000 square feet of new classroom space and a new gymnasium. Our scope of work includes a VRF system for the whole facility. This school will be ready for occupancy by the spring semester, 2021.

BOGALUSA POST OFFICE



The old post office in Bogalusa is receiving all new mechanical equipment as part of a building renovation. This facility is Colonial Revival architecture built in 1930 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Our work includes changing all air handlers, cooling tower, chiller, boiler and energy management. Acadiane Renovations is the general contractor for this project set for completion in April.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE ALUMNI HALL



As Mississippi's oldest and largest private university in the state, MC was proud to receive the award of #1 private college in the state from the Wall Street Journal. Founded in 1826, the campus continues to grow and renovate space to accommodate more than 5,000 students. Copeland and Johns is the GC for renovations on Alumni Hall. Metro's scope includes plumbing improvements, changing out the AHUs, adding a 110-ton chiller, and related piping and duct. This improved space will include Chick-Fila and Einstein Brothers Bagels. Work is scheduled for completion by late summer.

HVAC: GEARING UP FOR SUMMER!

Metro Building Services crews are already experiencing the first days of summer as temps have soared into the mid 80s. Many preventive maintenance agreements have a spring/fall cycle for check-ups to assure minimum downtime as the 90-100 degree temps hit. Now is the perfect time to add planned maintenance to your facility. A plan today may prevent an emergency three months from now. Call our service line at **601-398-2475** to arrange for rapid response.



SAFETY CORNER: LESS IS MORF

In the volatile insurance market, less claims mean \$\$ in the bank. Our company received our latest experience mod rating for workers compensation. We have achieved the lowest (best) rate in the history of our organization.

Decreases in the number and frequency of claims does not happen without major efforts of everyone involved in field operations. Congratulations to our leadership in this terrific milestone. Each and every day our goal is to push safety as a mindset, not a weekly check the box exercise.

Metro expends thousands of dollars annually in PPE, training, safety coaching, and on-site inspections. Every hour and amount spent is worth it to spare or prevent an injury. We want every team member to go home safe every day. One unsafe condition or incident can jeopardize our ability to show up the next day.

Our safety motto remains - SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!



BY: RICK WHITE

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

MY VIEW: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF BUSINESS

Unless you were stranded on a desert island for some time, we are all aware and quite weary of hearing the term Coronavirus (COVID-19). Much of America has been affected in ways that would have been beyond our comprehension just a few months ago. The pain felt among the travel industry, restaurants, education, and healthcare is staggering. From a human perspective, I do not want to seem insensitive to those who are personally affected by the virus. It is my hope and belief that Covid will be a distant bad memory in the months and years to come and life will return to normal.

The question today is "Have any Business Fundamentals Changed?" For the Metro group, the short answer is NO! We were fortunate to complete 2019 with a successful year managing almost 150 construction projects and thousands of service calls. The new year began with a healthy backlog and 75 jobs in progress or ready to start.

We are a quarter deep into 2020 and this is business as usual. Yes, a few jobs are temporarily shut down. Travel, other than driving, is discouraged. Meetings have taken a new shape with outdoor settings, fewer numbers, or plenty of safe space for the group.

Where do we go from here? Short term intentions are to keep our personnel working as much as possible and for as long as we can. Design work, service work, and construction will ramp back up as the crisis comes to an end. The Metro management team met in late February with lofty goals of a busy 2020. These goals may be tempered a tad bit with the sudden freeze of activity.

We are hopeful. We are positive. All the segments of our business are primed to take off with the return of normal business. Our sales team, project managers, and management staff are ready for the frenetic pace of a Mississippi/Louisiana summertime. **Goodbye, COVID-19 and let's roll!**



2019 PROJECT STATISTICS: METRO COMPANIES

- **33** Projects > **EDUCATION**
- 23 Projects > HEALTHCARE
- 19 Projects > OFFICE BUILDINGS
- 19 Projects > RETAIL/ENTERTAINMENT
- 19 Projects > GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
- 12 Projects > INDUSTRIAL PLANTS
- **08** Projects> **CHURCHES**

Metro's Plumbing Service and Metro Building Services responded to **thousands** of service calls!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL FIGUERO



MICHAEL FIGUERO

Michael joined Metro Building Services as an HVAC technician five years ago. He is a native of Jackson and a graduate of Hillcrest Academy. He received his technical certification from Hinds Community College HVAC Training. Michael has been in the trade for twelve years and is a valuable asset to our service team.

He also enjoys hunting, fishing, 4-wheeler riding and spending time with his girlfriend, Callie and her children Maddox and Madison.



Post Office Box 368 1385 Industrial Drive Bolton, Mississippi 39041 metromechanical.net • 601.866.9050

POSTPONED: ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE & FISH FRY



Due to recommendations by our state and federal officials, we are electing to postpone our Annual Open House & Fish Fry. This is our largest Company event each year and is hosted only as a big "Thank You" to our customers and others who support us.

As the current crisis subsides, we will determine a new date and will send invitations and other media releases to announce this. We are disappointed with the delay but want to do our part in maintaining health safety for all those involved in this event.



T. BAKER SMITH

Prairieville, Louisiana with Lincoln Builders

BOWMAR AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Vicksburg, Mississippi with Paul Jackson & Son Contractors

MADISON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Madison, Mississippi Metro as Prime Contractor

BAPTIST HEALTH SYSTEMS

Jackson, Mississippi Metro as Prime Contractor



CELEBRATE THE EASTER SEASON. YES, HE IS ALIVE!

Because He (Jesus) was teaching his disciples, He said to them, the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.

Mark 9:31