

**T**herefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like

## **A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK.**

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

- Matthew 7: 24-25

In May of 1924 in Montgomery, under a tent on the corner of Lower Wetumpka Road and Pickett Street in the old cedar grove where Park Plaza Shopping Center now stands, Eastern Meadows Church of Christ began meeting.

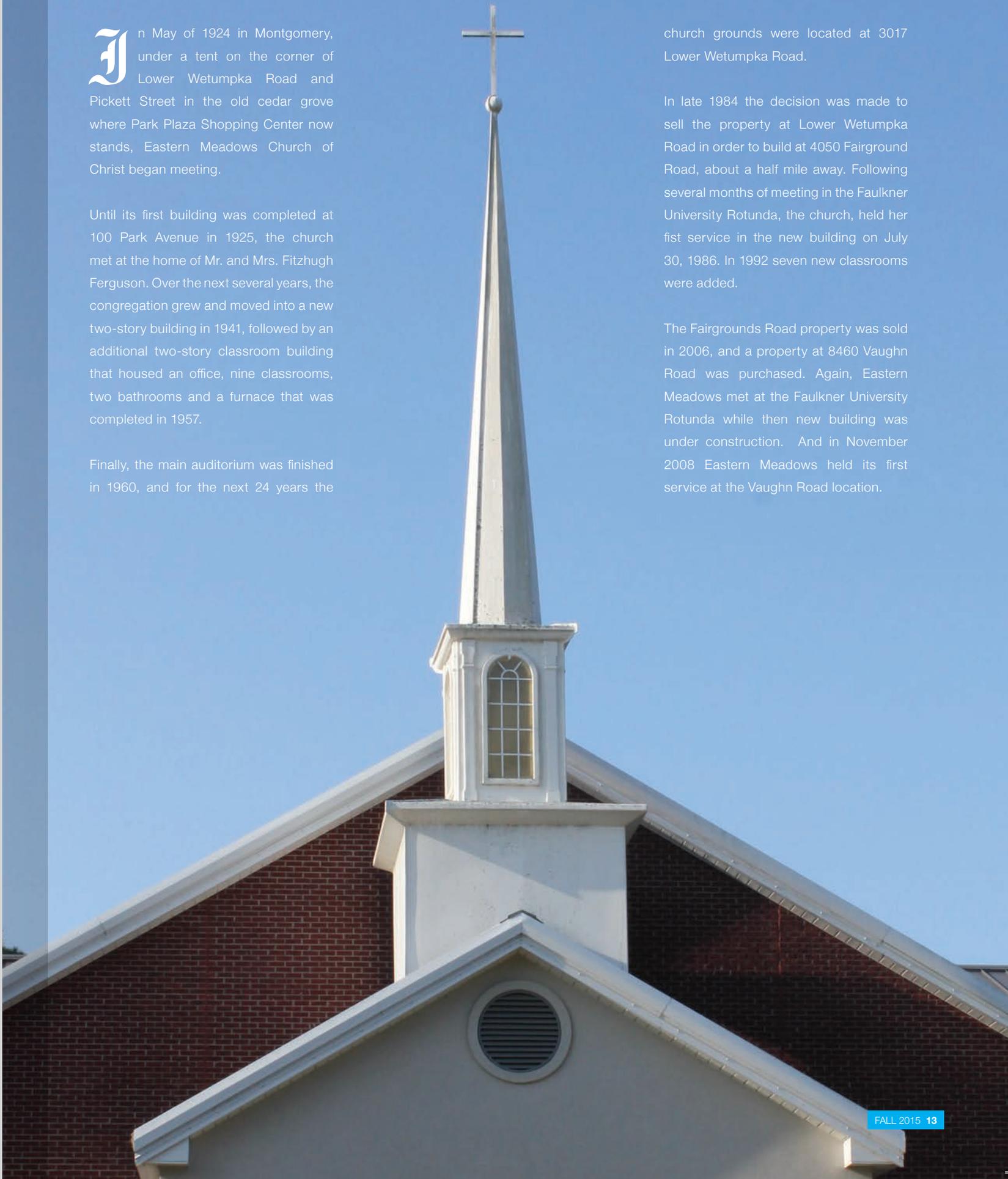
Until its first building was completed at 100 Park Avenue in 1925, the church met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Ferguson. Over the next several years, the congregation grew and moved into a new two-story building in 1941, followed by an additional two-story classroom building that housed an office, nine classrooms, two bathrooms and a furnace that was completed in 1957.

Finally, the main auditorium was finished in 1960, and for the next 24 years the

church grounds were located at 3017 Lower Wetumpka Road.

In late 1984 the decision was made to sell the property at Lower Wetumpka Road in order to build at 4050 Fairground Road, about a half mile away. Following several months of meeting in the Faulkner University Rotunda, the church, held her first service in the new building on July 30, 1986. In 1992 seven new classrooms were added.

The Fairgrounds Road property was sold in 2006, and a property at 8460 Vaughn Road was purchased. Again, Eastern Meadows met at the Faulkner University Rotunda while then new building was under construction. And in November 2008 Eastern Meadows held its first service at the Vaughn Road location.





Just last year, construction began for the new auditorium at the Vaughn Road location with plans to have it completed fall 2015.

“The project took three months to design and twelve months to construct,” says Lance Black, architect, with Black Design Architecture. “We did a phase one building that served as a Sanctuary with classrooms and the phase two building, now under construction, is the church’s permanent Sanctuary. The phase one building is now being converted to a Fellowship Hall with commercial kitchen and still retaining the classrooms.”

The original building was designed to transform over time into the Fellowship Hall. The unique feature of the current building under construction is a large steeple tower that highlights the main entrance. Eventually, when phase 3 is built, there will be three steeples, with the

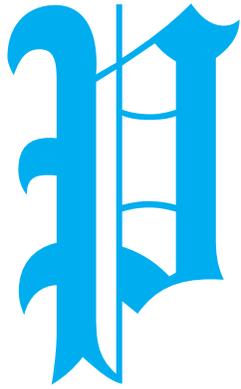
steeple on the original building remaining.

“The design is very heavy, and wanted a solid building with concrete, CMU exterior walls and steel,” says Black. “The design concept of the building was actually created years ago when we designed the first phase building, and we wanted everything to blend together as if it had been built at one time. The overall design incorporates high ceilings and lots of natural light.”

Due to soil conditions, concrete piers for the foundation were used on both the phase one and two buildings.

“Concrete was the only way to go,” says Black. “It performed perfectly.”

The church is scheduled to open in September. **CW**



# PROJECT OVERVIEW OF VAUGHN FOREST CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Project Budget:** \$14,000,000

**Square Feet:** 75,000

**Worship Seating Capacity:** 1,600

**H**uck Jones, formerly of Godwin Jones Architecture & Design in Montgomery was the lead architect for Vaughn Forest Church of Christ, located at 3800 Vaughn Road. The design process took eight months, with construction lasting one year. The church was completed in 2008, with Phase III being the completion of the current and future worship facility. Jones, now with Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, discusses the use of concrete in the design.

## What are some unique features incorporated into the design of the building?

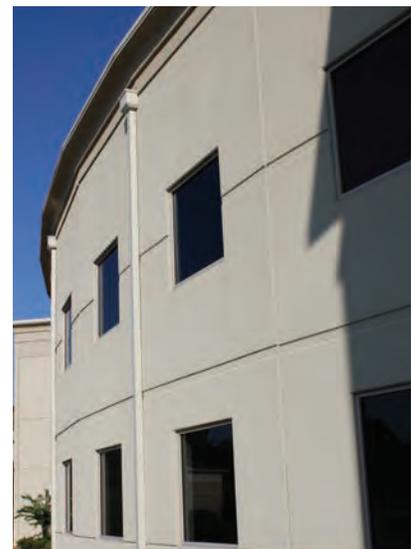
Unique features include an expandable concept. The building seating capacity



can grow outward and upward in concentric rings while using the same stage and stage equipment. There is great expense in the stage and audiovisual and allowing the seating to grow while saving the performance area will be very cost effective over the life of the church.

## How did you go about creating the design for the building?

The design was worked out through much prayer and coordination with the Staff and congregation. Several strategies were explored including stand alone additions, smaller venues





that would have to be repurposed later as new larger venues were built and finally the current plan which allows for uninterrupted expansion.

**Why did you choose to use concrete in certain areas of the building?**

We used concrete tilt-up panels because at the time the building was being designed, this type of system was more cost effective than structural steel and stud wall systems. The schedule was also enhanced by the speed of construction the tilt-up systems afforded.

**What are some components of concrete that make it a good product for this architectural structure?**

Tilt-up construction gave us the ability to create the entire wall system and building envelope as well as the structural support for steel roof joists thus saving the cross-over of several major trades.

**What is your favorite design aspect of the building?**

The large concentric lobby allows for easy flow in and out after events and the use of large windows on the north elevation of the sanctuary fills the room with pleasing natural light and black out shades allow these windows to be mechanically cover when ark conditions are required during performances. **CW**