

TODAY'S FOCUS: COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Builder finds good fit with church expansions



DWIGHT ADAMS / The Star

ADDING MORE SPACE: C.F. Jones Group is building a nearly 13,000-square-foot addition that will almost double the size of New Brunswick Church of Christ in Lebanon. The addition will house a gym, multipurpose facility and office space.

By Dwight Adams

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Many churches in Central Indiana are busy building family life centers to compete with larger churches and increase their congregations. And someone has to build those facilities.

C.F. Jones Group of Lebanon is helping fill that need. Since 1981, C.F. Jones has built a strong foundation in Indiana and the Midwest with projects including veterinary hospitals, medical buildings, fitness centers, automobile dealerships, restaurants and retail.

But faith-based development projects are an increasing part of its business. Two or three such projects every year now provide at least one-quarter of annual revenues, said President Fred Jones. Since 2006, C.F. Jones has been involved in 42 construction projects, of which 10 involved work for churches or other religious organizations.

The company is building a nearly 13,000-square-foot addition — including a gym, multipurpose facility and office space — that will nearly double the size of New Brunswick Church of Christ in Lebanon.

C.F. Jones has done similar work at other area churches, including Lebanon Christian Church, Fall Creek Wesleyan Church in Fishers and Advent Lutheran Church in Zionsville. And it restored the receiving area of residence for the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of

MAJOR PROJECTS

Here are a few construction projects recently completed or being built by C.F. Jones Group.

◆ **Requet Square** — a \$4.5 million, 6.2-acre development being built at 8249 Pean Road in Indianapolis. Includes 57,000-square-foot Lifestyle Family Fitness facility.

◆ **Circle City Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Hospital**, a \$1.7 million, 14,500-square-foot veterinary practice at 9650 Mayflower Park Drive in Carmel.

◆ **Stoops Park & GMC**, a \$2.78 million, 33,000-square-foot auto dealership in Plainfield.

◆ **B.L. Anderson**, a 25,500-square-foot office/distribution facility in Lafayette.

◆ **Boone County A-H Fair** grounds pavilion. A \$2.5 million, 14,000-square-foot multipurpose structure in Lebanon.

◆ **Witham Hospital Medical Office Building**, a 6,000-square-foot medical facility with paramedic and ambulance support in James town.

Source: C.F. Jones Group

Lafayette.

"This has helped us serve our community," said Jason Sell, youth minister at Lebanon Christian, about C.F. Jones' work, completed in 2006. The project added 19,000 square feet, including a gym, preschool/nursery, classrooms, coffee bar and student center.

"We see a lot of people come into

our church and join our church because of what we're able to offer now compared to the past," Sell said.

C.F. Jones has watched its revenues grow about 20 percent in recent years and now employs 15 full-time laborers, superintendents and office staff, Jones said.

The housing slump hasn't hurt the company, Jones added, even though it has made it a little more competitive as residential builders take on more commercial work.

Another strong business area for the company, besides faith-based work, is the animal-sciences sector.

Darren Peterson, principal of Peterson Architecture, has worked with C.F. Jones on several projects in the animal-sciences industry, including the 14,500-square-foot Circle City Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Hospital in Carmel, which recently was honored with an award from Associated Builders and Contractors.

Though Peterson said architects and builders sometimes clash when problems arise on a work site, he was always able to work with C.F. Jones' employees to clear any such hurdles.

"Circle City was a very complicated project, because it is one of the most technologically advanced veterinary hospitals in the state," he said.

"Their (C.F. Jones') strong suit is communication and problem resolution. They're always thinking ahead."

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