



TPC Architects, Inc.

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TPC Architects, Inc.
Newsletter

Architectural Billings Rise



After slipping to 46.9 in September, the national Architectural Billings Index jumped to 49.4 in October. The inquiries score also rose, from 54.3 to 57.3. A bellwether for construction activity, the indices are produced by the AIA based on firm surveys.

"An increase in the billings index is always an encouraging sign," said AIA Chief Economist Kermit Baker in a prepared statement. "We're seeing some regions and some construction sectors move into positive territory." He cautions, however, that there continues to be "volatility in the marketplace."

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A THANKFUL PERSPECTIVE

For many years I've touted the benefits of wise planning. I've watched churches large and small plan, invest, step out in faith, overcome challenges, and touch their communities. I've been amazed at what God has done! Many times, when walking away from a planning commission or city council meeting I have recognized that God is the one who granted the approval and made a way for His church.

I've thought about Proverbs 16:9 in this context. The verse says, "*The mind of man plans his way but the Lord directs his steps*" (NASB). Many years ago a pastor pointed out to me that that little word "but" in the middle of this verse literally means "in spite of". I like that. So, consider this paraphrase of the verse, "In spite of my best plans, even my godly plans, the Lord directs my steps". It brings me to this statement: "We should never be more than one step away from an about face as the Lord leads us". After all, "*Who has known the mind of the Lord that he should instruct Him...*" (1 Cor. 2:16).

The "Great Recession" has indeed brought challenges to church development. But it has not and should not stop us from making godly plans. Although this newsletter may not be the venue to give specifics, I've seen God do some wonderful things in building His church in spite of the economy and the obstacles. He has used astute men and women with an eye on vacant real estate. He has opened up sources of capital through some very unusual circumstances. He has touched the hearts of many to give sacrificially. He has taken the plans of His church and made a way, in His time, to gain agency approvals and implement these plans.

In some cases plans are frustrated or delayed. I could tell you a story of one such delay, seemingly fatal, during which time a local ordinance was unexpectedly revised, relieving this particular church of many development dollars and essentially making it possible for them to build. "The Lord directs his steps."

Regardless of your church's circumstances it is always good to keep the planning process alive. I encourage you to thank the Lord for exactly where He has you today, and determine to believe in His ability to provide for your church, His church tomorrow. After all, "*To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever, Amen!*" (Eph. 3:21).

Good Roots

Consider our nation's roots. Our forefathers understood who to thank, and had a

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godly perspective for the most part. I share the following "Thanksgiving Proclamation" from 1623 as an encouragement to all of us.

Thanksgiving Proclamation, November 29, 1623



To all ye Pilgrims,

In as much as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and in as much as he has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience;

Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 19th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Plymouth Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all his blessings.

- William Bradford, Ye Governor of Ye Colony

Happy Thanksgiving!

I encourage you to contact me personally with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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