

The Engineered

Spring/2006

# ADVANTAGE

PUBLISHED BY ATLAS PIERS OF ATLANTA, INCORPORATED

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Dear Friends:

How we handle change tells a lot about us. Do we look at it with fear or do we try to embrace it as adventure? Although change is part of growth, it's not always easy to accept.

During the latter part of 2005 and into early 2006, Atlas Piers of Atlanta experienced changes, both in personnel and in our product offerings. We've expanded our repertoire to include products from A.B. Chance, a division of Hubbell Power Systems, Inc. Our premier product line has always been Atlas Piering Systems and we are happy to report that we are still the number one distributor of Atlas products in the nation. (And if the good Lord wills, we plan to continue to be the major Atlas distributor in the U.S. in the future.) However, we are learning the advantages of the A. B. Chance products and are fully certified and trained for their installation. The beauty of it is that a broader spectrum of products gives us the ability to offer foundation support alternatives to a larger range of clients. In this issue of *The Advantage*, we have a special feature about Helical Pulldown® Micropiles from A.B. Chance, one of the products we used in the renovation of First Baptist Church of Atlanta's Worship Center.

Change in our personnel includes both addition and subtraction. In the front office, our receptionist, Kim Clevenger, has found an opportunity to begin her career as a school teacher. We congratulate her and we will miss her. Kelly, our office manager, and her husband Vance Kelly, are probably experiencing the most profound change, with the birth of their new baby girl, Allison (or Alli for short). The new mother is working part-time to give her attention to her new child. Once again, congratulations are in order. Moving forward, we are adding personnel. Cathy Robison will be coming on board to manage the front office full-time and we are pleased to have her join us. We are also pleased to announce the newest addition to our crew, our third foreman, Matthew Roy. He will be working with Butch Kirk and Merritt Anthon, our other foremen. (To put faces with the names, take a look at the photos on page three.) Even though there's so much good news, once again, there's change.

I believe it's easier to accept change if you have faith that God has your best interest at heart. I also believe that a positive attitude, combined with preparation and diligent work - in short, offering your very best - helps to ensure that transitions and new ventures go smoothly. That's a big part of the main story this issue, where all parties came together offering their highest service, to renovate the interior of the Worship Center at First Baptist Church of Atlanta. Not only was this particular job, a challenge due to a restricted timeframe, but it was a marvelous work of synergy between all the various firms involved. At press time, I'm happy to report, the Worship Center has reopened so the church congregation can be together once again.

We encourage you to e-mail us with any news you have regarding changes in your operations that you wish to share. Also, we are always looking for people to feature in our accolades section to spread good news about those helping others. You can send news to me, [wayne@atlaspiers.com](mailto:wayne@atlaspiers.com) or to [ron@atlaspiers.com](mailto:ron@atlaspiers.com).

As always, we enjoy hearing from you and want to get to know you better. Give us a call or e-mail us to join the many Atlanta contractors, architects and engineering firms who host Atlas Piers of Atlanta's Lunch & Learn gatherings. Check out the details on the adjacent page and contact us today! We hope to see you soon.

Warmest regards,

Wayne Farris  
Owner/Founder, Atlas Piers of Atlanta, Inc.





# The Engineered ADVANTAGE

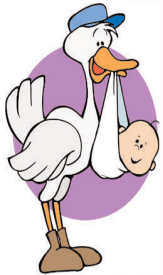
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and requests to [Ron@AtlasPiers.com](mailto:Ron@AtlasPiers.com)

### Photo captions:

*Top Left: The Atlas Piers of Atlanta Foremen: Butch Kirk, Merritt Anthon Matthew Roy,  
Top Right: Cathy Robison, New Front Office Manager  
Bottom: Staff Holiday Photo*



## Welcome Allison Elaine Kelly (Alli)

*New Baby Daughter of Kelly & Vance Kelly  
Born: December 17, 2005 Time: 4 p.m.  
Weight 7 lbs. 10 oz. Height 19.5 inches  
Eyes: Blue Hair: Strawberry Blonde*



## Get The Total Package!

### Complimentary Lunch, Free Tech Reference Manual & Continuing Education

You will join a list of your distinguished peers (no pun intended), when you host a Lunch & Learn by Atlas Piers of Atlanta, Inc. At your invitation, we come to your office with a complimentary lunch and make a brief educational presentation about our foundation support products and services. Not only do you dine for free, but we give each firm a valuable, technical reference manual for their library. Best of all, for architects and engineers, this presentation qualifies for continuing education credit!

Contact [Cathy@atlaspiers.com](mailto:Cathy@atlaspiers.com) or call 770.740.0400 to schedule your event today!



### Front cover photo

### The First Baptist Church of Atlanta Renovation Team

*Front Row: (left to right)  
Jeffrey Hutcheson, Project Manager, Project Builders, Inc.; David Arnold, President, Arnold – Spiess Architects, Inc.; Wayne Farris, President, Atlas Piers of Atlanta, Inc.; Steve Scruggs, Superintendent, Project Builders, Inc.  
Back Row: (left to right)  
Chad Costello, Vice President, Atlas Piers of Atlanta, Inc.; Larry Walker, Vice President, Project Builders, Inc.; Robert Schipper, In Touch Ministries, Asst. Pastor of First Baptist Church Atlanta; Nebil Sedki, President, Sedki & Russ Engineers; Bob Bennett, Director of Facilities, First Baptist Church Atlanta*

# Modern Renovation of First Baptist Church of Atlanta Worship Center





**T**oday's modern theatres spend large sums of money to design the perfect viewing experience. Seating is plush and ergonomic. It is carefully arranged on sloped or multi-tiered platforms that prevent a viewer in front, from obstructing the view of another in a row behind. There's surround sound, state-of-the-art acoustic appointments and marvelous 3-D presentations. Further advancements in technology in the physical setting, combined with those in the creative process, such as improvements in special effects, profoundly influence our sight and senses.

So many of us marvel at the new technology, yet the high stimulation has become the norm. Rapid innovations continue to ensure that what is built today will be obsolete before you can say tomorrow! It is a race, whose finish line, continues to move.

While the entertainment industry receives critical acclaim for its progress, educators and theologians are often criticized for the use of the same techniques. Their goals: to impart knowledge, share wisdom, teach morals and spread the gospel, are more worthy and important than mere entertainment.

### **THE CHALLENGE OF KEEPING UP-TO-DATE**

The intimidating cost of state-of-the-art design and construction is also challenging many educational and religious organizations. How far do you go to stay current, in touch

and compete? An additional challenge for these institutions is that many are bringing in new lighting, sound and visual projection systems into older facilities, or marginally renovated facilities. Often, the physical environment doesn't work in tandem with new technology.

All things considered, ease of access and comfort for viewers is critical in gaining and retaining attention span. And our attention is needed to absorb, learn and participate, whether for entertainment, education or worship.

Progressive educators and church leaders believe in using intelligent methods devised by man, with his God-given brain, to bring their message to more people. New approaches for reaching greater numbers with an enhanced presentation should be perfectly acceptable, in fact, congratulated as pursuing excellence.

### **THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE**

In the pursuit of excellence for reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ, the leaders of In Touch Ministries and First Baptist Church of Atlanta (FBA) embarked on a major renovation of the church worship center in late October of 2005. Located at 4400 North Peachtree Road, in Atlanta, the current FBA facility is the fifth location for the church founded in 1848, and currently under the leadership of world renowned Senior Pastor, Dr. Charles Stanley.

The entire FBA facility was originally a distribution center owned by Avon and an initial

renovation was accomplished when the building was purchased in 1990. In 1995, the main worship center was renovated and in 1998, it was remodeled again as the ministry began to televise Dr. Stanley's sermons. As of 2005, not only was the worship center technology sorely in need of updating, but there remained inherent challenges in the physical layout that had not been addressed in previous reconstruction. The worship center had columns in the front center of the seating area. The position of the columns and the location of the audio-visual and sound boards virtually cut the congregation of three thousand persons into two parts. The front part could see and participate but the back part was hindered by obstacles blocking their view.

### **THE CONSERVATIVE APPROACH**

According to Robert Schipper, assistant to Dr. Stanley, who has been recently promoted to Assistant Pastor, "We looked at new construction versus renovation. We could have added about 1,000 seats for close to \$55 million with new construction. We, however, chose to renovate and update the existing facility, adding about 200 seats, for approximately \$15 million."

FBA, whose membership helps serve and fund the worldwide ministries of Dr. Stanley and In Touch Ministries, chose the more conservative method.



### OPENING THE LINE OF SIGHT

"It was Dr. Stanley's wish to maintain a feeling of intimacy in the FBA Worship Center. He wanted to be able to look into the eyes of his church members when he spoke with them," said Schipper.

"We didn't want there to be any hindrances to the congregation coming together in worship. Our plan of removing the columns and relocating the sound board, not only would open the line of sight to the podium, but make it possible for congregation members to see each other and be drawn into a corporate worship experience," Schipper added.

Improved, high-tech multimedia production equipment including high definition television cameras (HDTV), elaborate lighting and sound systems were also part of the specifications. Additionally, the new design incorporated an orchestra pit, dressing rooms, as well as a sloped floor with new congregational seating. Meanwhile, a careful selection of interior decor featuring inviting burgundy, blue and crème colors and deep, rich wood paneling would enhance the traditional warmth of the church home.

### A DISTINGUISHED, DETERMINED TEAM

The building team, spearheaded by Schipper as owner's representative for In Touch Ministries and Bennett, managing for FBA facilities, would consist of thoughtfully chosen, highly-respected construction industry leaders in Atlanta. Among others, these would include Larry Walker, of Project Builders, Inc. as general contractor with staff members, Jeffrey Hutcheson as Project Manager and Steve Scruggs as Superintendent; David Arnold of Arnold & Spiess Architects as lead architectural designer; Nebil Sedki of Sedki & Russ for structural engineering and Wayne Farris and Chad Costello of Atlas Piers of Atlanta for critical foundation shoring. The team would seek to renovate the facility, of approximately 60,000 square feet, to eliminate any and all obstacles from the worship experience. The scheduled improvements, both in physical design and in the incorporation of more advanced presentation technology, would hopefully serve to encourage a higher level of attention and participation. All this would be undertaken in a "break-neck"

timeframe, as the congregation would have to be displaced into smaller rooms reached by video-feed, during construction.

### TRANSFERRING THE HEAVY LOAD IN RECORD TIME

"The team's objective was to not only substantially renovate the interior of the worship center, but we were challenged to do the job while keeping it open for services for as long as possible. A great deal of planning and pre-construction work ensured that FBA only had to close the worship center for eleven weeks," stated Architect David Arnold.

According Arnold, the new design, sans the central load-bearing columns, would not only call for redistribution of the structural load, but would increase the load on the current foundation significantly. The plan would require substantial shoring and underpinning of the current foundation and the addition of newer, higher-capacity, load bearing columns beside those currently standing along the side aisles of the interior of the sanctuary.

"In a procedure set up the structural engineers, we jacked up the existing roof and

"We wanted the worship center to be open, as far as the line of sight, while still retaining intimacy," said Bennett, who has been with FBA for 25 years.

Bob Bennett, FBA's Director of Facilities

“It was time to bring the FBA Worship Center up to today’s 21st century standards and that’s what we did in record time thanks to the entire distinguished renovation team and the outstanding job of project management by Jeffrey Hutcheson of Project Builders.”

Robert Schipper, Assistant to Dr. Charles Stanley, Assistant Pastor, FBA

applied the load on the new truss system and reinforced foundation. One evening at about midnight, with most participating company principals still on-site, we torched the first of the central support columns to cut it. As predicted, the top part of the cut column slowly moved upward and the load was safely redistributed via the expanded truss system to the new columns along the outer edges of the interior of the worship center and to the shored-up foundation. Although the structure moved less than a quarter of an inch and the process was extremely slow, it was very exciting and a special time for all of us involved in the renovation,” stated Arnold.

Nebil Sedki of Sedki & Russ, the structural engineering firm, heartily agreed, “The most difficult aspect of the structural work was the removal of the three columns. Two columns were picking up a roof truss spanning 90’ feet, and the other column was picking up the low roof, high roof and a mechanical mezzanine. The total load on the third column was 325,000 pounds.

The other criterion that had to be met was that when the columns were removed, the existing roof would not experience any deflection. The design and the construction methods used achieved all of the goals.”

“Another big part of the reconstruction was the foundation shoring. We needed the best and we hired the best including Atlas Piers of Atlanta,” added Larry Walker, Vice President of Project Builders, Inc., the general contractor for the job.



“In addition to removing the three major load bearing columns that were impeding the congregation’s view of the podium, we enlarged three sides of the staging platform from 45 to 90 feet - doubling the space in these areas.”

“One small surprise we faced was a trunk line that we found running right through the orchestra pit area. Although we had to pull off the shoring job for a short time, the other subcontractors relocated it very efficiently,” stated Wayne Farris, President and Owner of Atlas Piers of Atlanta, Inc.

#### **INCORPORATING HELICAL PULLDOWN® MICROPILE TECHNOLOGY**

“To eliminate any water problems in the future, we water-proofed initially and that went very well. We also used a new product, the HELICAL PULL-DOWN® Micropile manufactured by A.B. Chance, under the orchestra pit and under the new interior load bearing columns. The HELICAL PULL-DOWN® Micropile is a system for constructing a grout col-

umn around the shaft of a standard Helical Pier Foundation Systems pile. We were pleased with the performance of the HELICAL PULL-DOWN® Micropiles, which are one of a broader spectrum of product offerings we have with our new affiliation with A.B. Chance, a division of Hubbell Power Systems,” explained Farris. (See feature on the new product in this issue for more specific information.)

“We also used three rows of soil nails combined with shotcrete, rebar and wire mesh to tie back the sides of the orchestra pit and stage for further reinforcement,” stated Farris.

“I believe the most incredible part of the FBA renovation job was the synergy of the firms involved in the process. Everyone had such a positive attitude and was dedicated to seeing their finest work accomplished in the challenging timeframe. We brought in three crews and worked around the clock, but everyone else was giving it their highest effort too. It was simply a blessing to be part of such a positive endeavor,” added Farris.

#### **NO COMPROMISES**

“It’s a whole, new world and we don’t ever want anything to compromise communication of the gospel,” concluded Schipper.

That whole new world awaited the thrilled and appreciative FBA congregation when they were able to enter their newly renovated center and worship together on January 8, 2006 – an incredible, short 11 weeks after renovation work began.

# Midnight Torching In Church Draws A Crowd

It was a momentous occasion for the First Baptist Church of Atlanta's (FBA) renovation team when the central support columns were torched inside the worship center. Cutting and removing the central columns was necessary to improve the line of sight in the worship center. Because the renovation had to be

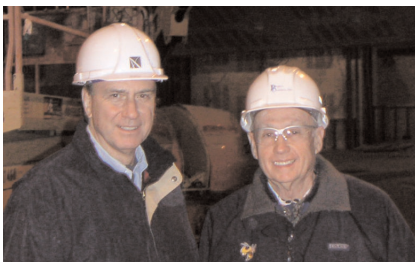
accomplished as quickly as possible to allow the displaced congregation to worship together again in the sanctuary, crews worked overtime during much of the project. The key leadership was on site one evening at midnight to experience the excitement when the first of the support columns was torched in order

to cut through it and remove it. As predicted by the contractor, the architect and the structural engineer, the top part of the column lifted a quarter of an inch and the load was transferred to a reengineered truss system and via new foundation support installed by Atlas Piers of Atlanta, Inc.



*Above: Torching one of the central support columns to open the view inside FBA Worship Center.*

*Right: The cut column no longer helps support the structure and now the load of the FBA Worship Center is securely resting on the new engineered foundation support system.*



*Above: Wayne Farris, President of Atlas Piers of Atlanta, Inc. and others wait expectantly for center support column to be cut.*

*Photo Caption: (Left to right) Architect Dave Arnold and Contractor, Larry Walker, Vice President of Project Builders, Inc., are pleased with the results.*





# A. B. Chance Helical Pulldown<sup>®</sup> Micropile Technology In Renovation of FBA Worship Center

With its new affiliation with A.B. Chance, a division of Hubbell Power Systems, Atlas Piers of Atlanta, broadens its product offerings. One of the newer products, selected by Wayne Farris to be used in the renovation of the FBA Worship Center, was the helical pulldown<sup>®</sup> micropile by A.B. Chance. The helical pulldown<sup>®</sup> micropile technology can be used for both new construction and underpinning in areas of limited access. Its application was perfect for this major reconstruction job. After waterproofing, Atlas Piers of Atlanta used the helical pulldown<sup>®</sup> micropiles to strengthen the foundation under most of the newer support columns in the main sanctuary, and in the orchestra pit area.

The beauty of this new technology is that it offers the strength of a pier in combination with grout reinforcement. It is an ingenious system which allows for the efficient construction of a solid grout foundation column with a standard helical pier as its interior spine. The helical pier serves as the digging system and is the anchor for the finished grout column.

According to the manufacturers, the installation process begins "when a screw anchor is placed into the soil by applying torque to the shaft. The hel-

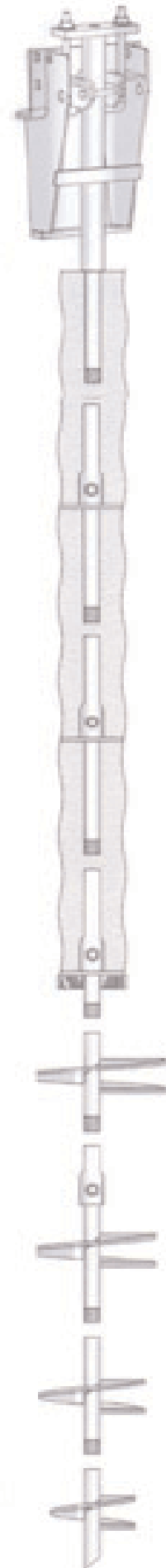
ical shape of the bearing plates creates a tremendous pulling force that keeps the anchor advancing downward into the soil. After the lead section with the helical plates penetrates the soil, a lead displacement plate and extension are bolted onto the shaft. Resuming torque on the assembled shaft advances the helical plates and pulls the displacement plate downward, forcing soil outward to create a cylindrical void around the shaft. From a reservoir at the surface, a flowable grout immediately fills this void, surrounding and encapsulating the shaft. Additional extensions and displacement plates are added until the helical bearing plates reach competent load-bearing soil. This displacement pile system does not require removing spoils from the site."

#### Benefits of this system include:

- Resistance to buckling in weak surface soils
- Stiffer pile (deflects less at a particular load)
- Additional corrosion protection in aggressive soils

The helical pulldown<sup>®</sup> micropiles can be installed with a hydraulic torque motor mounted on most readily available equipment in limited space. This allows for a deep foundation support solution for high capacity loads without a major staging area.

*"It is an ingenious system which allows for the efficient construction of a solid grout foundation column with a standard helical pier as its interior spine."*



# In Pursuit of Excellence - The Distinguished FBA Renovation Team

*Atlas Piers of Atlanta, Inc. congratulates our fellow members of the renovation team involved in remodeling the First Baptist of Atlanta Worship Center for their professionalism, dedication and willingness to work beyond expectations. We had a positive and rewarding experience in working with these fine individuals and outstanding companies on this job. Not only would we highly recommend them to others in the industry but we eagerly look forward to participating with them on other jobs in the future.*

## LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



**Robert J. (Bob) Schipper,**  
Executive Assistant to Dr. Charles Stanley & Assistant Pastor, First Baptist Church of Atlanta, Inc.

Robert J. Schipper serves as the Executive Assistant to Dr. Charles Stanley and is the new Assistant Pastor of First Baptist Church Atlanta, Georgia. He previously worked at In Touch Ministries for six years as the Executive Assistant to Dr. Stanley, Chaplain of the Ministry, and Vice President of Operations. He is still very involved with the ministry. He is the owner's representative responsible for the current building renovations at First Baptist Atlanta and In Touch. Prior to his assignment at In Touch and First Baptist Atlanta, Mr. Schipper worked for Project Builders, Inc. as a Project Manager. In this capacity, he was responsible for managing the 1998 renovation of First Baptist Church Atlanta.



**Bob Bennett, Director of Facilities,**  
First Baptist Church Atlanta

Not only is Bob Bennett a retired military veteran with 34 years of honorable service to our country, but he has dedicated 25 years of his life to managing the facilities for FBA. The former naval aviator, who flew countless missions during the Vietnam Conflict, is calm and collected as he tells of managing all buildings, equipment, even set up and turn around of all meeting rooms each week for the various ministries of FBA. Mr. Bennett has been involved in all four renovations of this fifth church location and current FBA facility. Mr. Bennett also serves as the Treasurer of the National Association of Church Facilities Managers.

### First Baptist Church Atlanta

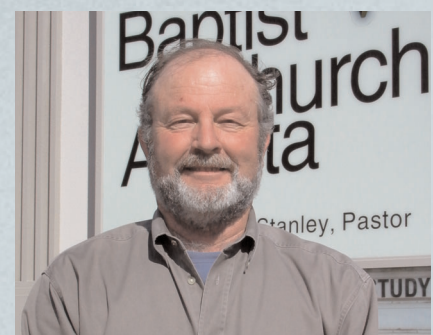
First Baptist of Atlanta is one of the leading Southern Baptist congregations in the area. Founded in 1848, the church has flourished as a pillar of the community under the leadership of Senior Pastor, Dr. Charles F. Stanley, noted teacher, writer and evangelist. ([www.fba.org](http://www.fba.org))



**M. Lawrence (Larry) Walker, Vice President,**  
Project Builders, Inc., Contractor

A graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management, Mr. Walker entered commercial construction after serving in the United States Navy aboard an aircraft carrier. He has managed numerous projects including retail, industrial, churches and other ministry-related buildings. He is a member of the Associated General Contractors of America, the Stone Mountain Rotary Club and the First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

**Project Builders, Inc.**, is emerging as a leader in commercial construction with national clients such as CVS/pharmacy, Salomon Smith Barney and Wachovia, to name a few. Licensed in seven states, the family-owned company boasts over 100 years experience in commercial building: new construction, renovations, remodeling and maintenance. The company served as contractor in 1998 for FBA's initial renovation of its Worship Center. ([www.project-builders.com](http://www.project-builders.com))





**David L. Arnold, AIA, President, Arnold & Spiess, Architects, Inc.**

Registered as an architect in nine states, Mr. Arnold is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and the Executive Forum of Mercer University. He serves on the National AIA Committees for Health Care and Risk Management and the Georgia AIA Energy Handbook Committee. He is the recipient of professional awards including the Amoco Medical Interior Award for McDonald Urology Clinic and the AIA Certificate of Recognition for Architecture in Atlanta. He has been a guest speaker for the Sports Medicine Foundation and the Society of Office Based Surgery and a guest critic at the University of Georgia's School of Interior Design. His work has been published in Southern Homes Magazine, Engineering News Record and in various medical publications. Before partnering with Mr. Edwin J. Spiess in 1980, Mr. Arnold managed accounts for The Coca-Cola Company, Coca-Cola USA, Arrow Shirt Company, McDonald's Corporation, Fulton Federal Savings & Loan and Georgia State University for another architectural firm. Mr. Arnold holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Kentucky and is an Elder at Peachtree Christian Church.

**Arnold & Spiess Architects, Inc.**, has been creating spaces for education, worship, commerce and government functions since June of 1980. ([www.arnold-spiess-architects.com](http://www.arnold-spiess-architects.com))



**Nebil B. Sedki, President, Sedki & Russ Engineers, Inc.**

Nebil B. Sedki, President of Sedki & Russ Engineers, Inc., has been a structural engineer in Atlanta for forty-two years. Mr. Sedki and his team of engineers are experienced in every aspect of structural engineering and in every building material. The skyline of Atlanta is dotted with their work. Engineering projects include a 23-story UN Mission in New York City, to an elaborate mosque in Nigeria, to consulting on imploding projects, i.e., an old roller coaster in a Bert Reynolds film and old high rise buildings. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Georgia Power Company and A.T. & T. are among Sedki & Russ clients. A native of Baghdad, Iraq, he received his graduate degree from the Georgia Tech. His professional organizations include: The American Society of Civil Engineers, The American Concrete Institute, The Institute of Prestressed Concrete, The Institute of Post-Tensioned Concrete, The Consulting Engineers Council, The Southern Building Code Congress International, and The Masonry Society.

**Sedki & Russ Engineers, Inc.**, has won awards for the design of: GA Tech 8th St. Apartments, Northwinds 500 Office Building, GA Tech Materials Research Facility, Northwinds 600 Office Building, Simmons Headquarters, Post Riverside Headquarters, Hickory Hollow Mall, Northside Hospital Women's Center, GA Botanical Garden Visitor's Center, Northside Hospital Pedestrian Connector, Windward 300 Office Building, The University of Georgia (UGA) Hull St. Parking Deck and UGA Coliseum Parking Deck. ([www.sedkiruss.com](http://www.sedkiruss.com))

**FBA RENOVATION TEAM ROSTER**

- Owners: In Touch Ministries and First Baptist Atlanta
  - Bob Schipper, Owner's Representative
  - Bob Bennett, Owner's Representative
- Contractor: Project Builders, Inc.
  - M. Lawrence (Larry) Walker, Vice President
  - Jeffrey Hutcheson, Project Manager
  - Steve Scruggs, Superintendent
  - Lee Skinner, Asst. Project Manager
  - Wayne Hunter, Superintendent
  - George Allen, Asst. Superintendent
  - Lori Mann, Project Coordinator
- Architects: Arnold-Spiess Architects, Inc.
  - David Arnold, President
  - Mike Albertson, Registered Architect
  - Mike Newton, Registered Architect
- Structural Engineering: Sedki & Russ Engineers
  - Nebil B. Sedki, P.E.
- Scheduling: Ellen C. Thornton, CCS
- Safety Consultant: Affinity Service Group
  - Brian Wood
- Security
  - First Baptist Atlanta
- Testing: Sailors Engineering
  - Jim Sailors
- Shoring: Atlas Piers of Atlanta, Inc.
  - Wayne Farris, President
  - Chad Costello, Vice President
- Concrete Installation
  - Dan Sanders, On Site Services, Inc.
  - Bill Lee and Dave Bradbury, Precision Concrete
- Concrete Supplier: LaFarge, Justin Womack
- Rebar Supplier: SMI, David Koester
- Masonry: Pyramid Masonry, Keith Duncan
- Steel & Handrails: Porter Steel, Inc.
  - Scott Bailey
- Steel & Erection Pop: Steel, Inc., Skip Burdette
  - Robert McElwaney
- Steel Erection: Williams Enterprises, Blake Crump
- Roofing: Townsend Roofing, Ronnie Townsend
- Doors/Frames/Hardware: Hardware Specialties: Jack Barne
- Glass: TL George Glass, Terry George
- Drywall/Metal/Panels: MSI, Jay Scott
- Carpet/VCT: Spectra Contract Flooring
  - Julie Johnson
- Ceramic Tile: Doyle Dickerson Company
  - Greg Dickerson
- Plumbing Accessories/Partitions:
  - Mason-Hall & Company, Barry Redmond
- HVAC/Plumbing: John Payne Company
  - Allen Thompson
- Fire Protection: Gainesville Fire Protection
  - Phillip
- Electrical: Georgia Specialty Construction
  - Mike Melton
- Fire Alarm/Security: CSI, Charlie Strickland

*We encourage you to contribute to ATLAS ACCOLADES, this section of The Engineered ADVANTAGE, which is distributed to the construction industry in Atlanta. Simply e-mail your good news entitled "In Box for Atlas Accolades" to: [Kelly@AtlasPiers.com](mailto:Kelly@AtlasPiers.com). Nominations for the Accolade Award are welcome.*

# In Touch In A High Tech World



It is becoming painfully apparent, that with all the rapid advances in technology and its proposed closure on drawing the world together, we have actually become one of so many numbers of anonymous people craving a personal touch, yearning for something that makes sense and gives meaning to our lives. Look at the success of pastor/author Rick Warren's runaway best-seller, ***The Purpose Driven Life***, which has sold more than ten million copies, making it one of the best-selling Christian books ever. The book is a common sense guide of scriptural truths to enable the reader to discover the answer to life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?"

Long before so many churches sponsored Forty Days of Purpose programs to help people discover their purpose and ultimately the truth of why we are here, First Baptist Church of Atlanta (FBA) was centered on bringing a message of hope and purpose to people starving for good news.

In the late 1960's, a dynamic young pastor, Charles Stanley, was hired to lead the FBA fellowship. With Stanley's leadership, the church grew and a ministry was founded to reach out to others, not only

locally, but as technology improved, to other parts of the country and eventually to other parts of the world.

Over the years, the FBA congregation poured the bulk of its financial support into evangelism to send Dr. Charles Stanley's messages of good news across the globe via In Touch Ministries. Their support has enabled Dr. Stanley to grow a worldwide ministry that is now broadcast in 93 languages via radio or television into most every country in the world.

According to Robert (Bob) Schipper, Dr. Stanley's executive assistant and the new Assistant Pastor at FBA, the organization intends to always be on the cutting edge with technology in order to communicate its message of hope.

"Our records show that nearly 3,000 people download Dr. Stanley's teaching from our website to their ipods every day," explained Schipper.

"The Lord has given man the intelligence to create technology in order to communicate more effectively. We will use the best technology within our reach to ensure the gospel message is 'crystal clear' – here in our church home and from here to reach the world."

There are no massive marble statues, ornate stained glass windows or towering cathedral spires to mark the building that houses FBA. The facility, though large, is an appropriate size to house the church congregation of three-thousand and its many ministries. In perspective, the recent FBA Worship Center renovation was a conservative undertaking for a giving congregation that has delayed improving its church home in order to be more in touch with others in need. We at Atlas Piers of Atlanta are moved by the sacrifice and dedication of Dr. Stanley, Robert Schipper and their staff at FBA and In Touch Ministries. We are proud to have been a part of improving their worship center.



**Dr. Charles Stanley, Senior Pastor, FBA founder, In Touch Ministries**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN REACHING OTHERS IN NEED OF HOPE, VISIT [WWW.FBA.ORG](http://WWW.FBA.ORG) AND CLICK ON THE LINK TO IN TOUCH MINISTRIES.