

Collaborations

BUILDING EQUITY:
Focusing on the Value of Customers



EQUITY BANK'S NEW WATERFRONT BRANCH TAILORED TO SERVE CUSTOMERS

"Equity Bank has a new full-service location in one of Wichita's busiest zip codes. Their new Waterfront location, opened last month at 13th & Webb Road, was designed and built with its client base in mind," according to Greg Kossover, Equity Bancshares EVP & CFO. Simpson Construction Services was construction manager on the new 4,500 sq. ft. bank located just north of Whole Foods.

"Our bank customers are very valuable within their companies and the community," said Kossover. "We wanted that to be reflected when they enter our bank. Working with the team at Simpson, we were able to achieve that goal." The Simpson team, led by Project Manager Chris Baalman and Superintendent Rick Talbott, ran the day-to-day operation and communicated with the client. The design team was led by Stan Shelden and Jon Clotfelter at Shelden Architecture.

The results speak volumes: Classic wainscoting brings a note of tradition. Brick and stone accent walls underscore the strength customers look for in their financial institution. The stone fireplace in the lobby emanates warmth on chilly mornings, and the gourmet coffee machine offers freshly brewed coffee throughout the day.

Equity Bank, Shelden Architecture, and the Simpson team members met weekly or bi-weekly throughout the project to discuss any variables that arose. "Construction is always an imperfect process," said Kossover. "It's how you manage the imperfection that determines the success of the project." Equity Bank Founder & CEO Brad Elliott took an active role through oversight and detail selection.

"Like most things in life, communication is key," said Kossover. "We had fair, open and honest communication with Simpson and Shelden, from contract discussions all the way through to day-to-day project management." Also appreciated was the cooperation received from Waterfront developers Johnny Stevens and Steve Clark, who provided design and use criteria, prompting some give-and-take on the part of all parties.

The new location accommodates customer service, mortgage lending, consumer lending, personal banking, commercial lending and additional meeting space for regional bank staff. The location offers two drive-through lanes and a drive-up ATM for customer convenience. An additional 3,000 square feet of space is reserved for a future tenant. Equity Bank is a full-service community bank headquartered in Wichita, with offices throughout Kansas and Missouri.



A stone fireplace & gourmet coffee welcome customers on chilly mornings.



ENRICHING PARISH LIFE IS ONE GOAL OF RENOVATION AT ST. MICHAEL'S, GIRARD.

A desire for increased fellowship opportunities, along with a milestone anniversary, are the motivation behind the renovation at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Girard, said parishioner Dale Coomes.

"The church is our spiritual community and the bedrock in the foundation of our lives," said Coomes, "We have to be careful in protecting the history while ensuring it continues to serve the needs of our community."

Coomes serves on the building committee at St. Michael's, and together with the parish council, has worked under the leadership of its pastor Fr. Roger Lumbré to approve the renovation concurrent with the parish's 50th anniversary in its current building. The team selected Simpson Construction Services for the project.

"Simpson comes with a very strong recommendation and a track record of having done several churches," said Fr. Lumbré. "We have much confidence in their guidance for the success of the construction." Rodney Claassen is superintendent for the project. Architectural Innovations did the design work.

St. Michael's moved into its current church location in 1964 after outgrowing its original location. Like many 50-year-old structures, the church was beginning to show signs of wear, and upgrades were needed to improve energy efficiencies and preserve the structure. There were also issues with ADA compliance. Beyond the necessary upgrades was the desire to promote more one-on-one fellowship that strengthens parish ties.

"On days when the weather was bad, people would rush to their cars after Mass," said Fr. Lumbré. "People had no time to visit with each other because there's no space to linger in the entrance of the church. This is especially important for funerals and weddings."

The 5,700 sq. ft. renovation will result in the addition of three outdoor canopies, new lighting and floor finishes, replacement of exterior windows, refurbishment of the pews and stained glass windows, and ADA-compliant restrooms. Coomes is particularly excited about the addition of a devotional area to the right of the narthex, a quiet place for prayer and reflection.

Construction began Labor Day 2014 and parishioners hope to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass in the newly renovated church, followed by a 50th anniversary Mass with Wichita Diocese Bishop Carl A. Kemme in early 2015.

St. Michael's serves a congregation of 235 families in Girard and throughout the rural communities, and Coomes says the project is a testament to the parish's stewardship commitment. "We strive to involve all members to be united in one parish family for the salvation of all."

DAVID EDLESTON

ESTIMATOR

Here in the U.S., we don't have many castles. In the United Kingdom where David Edleston comes from, these majestic stone structures still stand as remnants of the Middle Ages when they first came into being. Someone has to landscape them, and that's exactly what David did during school breaks and holidays while working for his father's commercial landscaping business.



David and Kacie Edleston with their kids Henry and Norah.

"Landscaping a castle has a style all its own," said David. The experience inspired him to study Construction Management in college, eventually working for national contractor Wilmott Dixon in the combined roles of project manager and superintendent. He, his wife Kacie and two children moved to the U.S. and settled in Wichita last year where he now brings an artist's eye and an accountant's detail to his role as Estimator at Simpson Construction Services.

David knows that building superior structures begins in the pre-construction phase where you list your hard materials, select your subs and refine the numbers. "There is a great deal of pride taken in our buildings," he said. "I want to be someplace where we build the best that can be built." David feels he has found that place working with the SCS team.

And of course there is a back story to how David got here: Kacie, a native Wichitan, was working with a college student ministry in England seven years ago when they met, went on missions together, started a charity and opened a school for orphans in Zambia. They spent the last seven years in England where David's family resides, and now they're enjoying being with Kacie's family in Wichita.

David and his family are busy exploring Wichita's destinations and getting to know the people. "For somewhere so sprawling and spread out, it's a very tightly knit community and it's good to be a part of that."

Chalklines

A PARTIAL LIST OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Wichita Art Museum
Confluence
Construction Management

USD 375 Circle High School
DLR Group & PKHLS Architecture
Construction Management
<http://circleusd375.simpsonconst.com/>

American AgCredit, Great Bend, Concordia, and Wichita
Design Build

St. Michael's Catholic Church, Girard
Architectural Innovations
Construction Management

Doerksen Eye Clinic
Shelden Architecture
Construction Management

Chinese Garden of Friendship at Botanica
GLMV Architecture
Construction Management
<http://thechinesegarden.simpsonconst.com/>

Northwest High School
Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture

Children's Dental Professionals
Shelden Architecture
Construction Management

St. John's Catholic Church, Clonmel
Howard + Helmer Architecture
Construction Management

To see more projects, visit
www.simpsonconst.com

THE CORNER OFFICE - BOB SIMPSON

BUILDING FOR OUR CLIENT'S CLIENT

It's not often that I have the chance to step out of my current role and back into that of a project manager. St. Michael's Catholic Church in Girard has recently afforded me this rare opportunity. The St. Michael's project impacts both the history and worship of a large rural congregation, and is a highly personal project to myself and my team.

Actually, I feel that's the way it is with all of our projects, and the way it should be. Simpson Construction Services has been fortunate with our building partners: we get to build for the client's client. We build schools, not for the school district, but for the children and the teachers. Health facilities, we build for the patients. Churches, we build for the congregation.

I would like to think this makes a difference in the way my team approaches their jobs every day: knowing exactly who they are building for. Not for me and not for the business that writes us a check every month. Instead, they build for their children, their neighbors, their parents, for themselves and people just like them.

Stepping back into the field and the day-to-day responsibilities of a project helps remind me of this. As the holidays approach, I would like to take a moment to thank our clients for their faith in us to build for their children, neighbors, parents and themselves.



SIMPSON CONSTRUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Happy anniversary to our dedicated employees!

28 years Brad Cragun
19 years Howard Thome
14 years Lorenzo Barboza
14 years Ernesto Rivera
14 years Jorge Salas

14 years Rigoberto Urbina
10 years Connie Ellingson
8 years Earl Pauly Jr.
7 years Felipe Alba
6 years Brian Nottingham
5 years Geronimo Duran
5 years Paul Goates

3 years Seth Maddox
2 years Richard J. Myers
2 years Wayne Galliard
2 years Rebecca Ignowski
1 year David Edleston
1 year Adrian Aleman
1 year Hugo Nungaray

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Visit www.simpsonconst.com
to see projects such as Becker
Hall, Dodge City Community
College's newest Men's
Dormitory, pictured here.