

# Spiritually Wired

## MAINE CHURCH UPGRADES AV FOR THE FUTURE ON A BUDGET



Above: The new Living Stone Baptist Church required an upgrade to its AV system, adding two 60-inch flat-panel displays mounted in front of the room facing the congregation, as well as a third 60-inch confidence monitor mounted in the rear facing the pulpit.

Right: John DeGange (right), of DeGange Sound Solutions, was hired to outfit the new AV system for the Living Stone Baptist Church in Standish, ME. He's shown here with the church's pastor, Joey Marshall (left).

**L**ocated in Standish, ME, about 40 minutes west of Portland, The Living Stone Community Baptist Church, even with a congregation of about 800, is considered to be above average. Still, being "large by comparison" doesn't necessarily translate into large budgets. So when Pastor Joey Marshall was building a new 10,000-square-foot church that would serve the Living Stone congregation for many years to come, he turned to a trusted source to install an AV system: John DeGange, of DeGange Sound Solutions.

DeGange, a 23-year industry veteran, started his own installation business in 2011 after the closing of the Daddy's Junky Music Store. "I had been the manager of their commercial installation division, so it seemed a logical move to open my own AV/lighting installation business," DeGange said. "Working with house of worship and education customers that had always been the bread and butter of our business, and working for myself would allow me to continue to serve those markets."

DeGange had a history with Pastor Joey. "This was the third church installation which I'd worked on with the pastor," DeGange said. "We had been expanding the system for each enlargement of the church since the beginning, so there was already a level of understanding and trust. He called me early in the new building's planning process to talk about his short-term needs and future goals and develop a plan."

The vision, according to Pastor Joey, was "a facility that would meet our needs not only today, but 50 years from now," he said. This meant incorporating technology into all areas of the new building, including the multipurpose space, the preschool, and the children and youth ministry rooms. It meant, according to Pastor Joey, "making sure we were wired not only spiritually, but physically as well, by employing the



latest technologies to help us meet our goals."

The church's immediate needs dealt with outfitting the 3,600-square-foot sanctuary. Much of the audio system was being carried over from the previous location, including an Allen & Heath analog soundboard and QSC audio system. They would also have to add additional QSC speakers to the mix.

The video system would be new, with two 60-inch LG flat-panel displays hung with Peerless-AV mounts in front of the room facing the congregation, as well as a third 60-inch confidence monitor mounted in the rear facing the pulpit. The three video displays would be served by the church's two existing laptop computers, which presented two challenges: connecting the computers' VGA outputs to the displays' HDMI inputs, and how to control the content being supplied to each.

DeGange saw these as the installation's major technical challenges, and to meet them, he chose a family of products from Atлона: the

AT-HD500 converter/scaler for converting the VGA signals to HDMI, eight AT-HDRX-IR receivers, and an AT-HDCAT-8 AV switch with two HDMI inputs, eight HDBaseT outputs, and one HDMI output.

The HDCAT offered several advantages. First, it would not only provide a cost-effective solution for handling the immediate need of distributing the signals from multiple sources to multiple destinations, but the additional, unused outputs would provide future distribution to the multipurpose space, preschool, and the ministry rooms that were already being pre-wired for later inclusion. But just as importantly, the HDCAT's use of HDBaseT

stage of the project, so we could maximize our investments through a 'no loss of equipment' strategy as the system expanded," DeGange said.

In the world of worship, success is often a matter of signs and faith. Asked how the church's system has performed so far, DeGange said, "I haven't heard a peep from the pastor since installation. And if I don't hear from him until the next phase of the project, that will be the best sign of all."



The Living Stone Baptist Church uses an Allen & Heath ZED 24 sound board to control its audio system.

technology would support the long cable runs they would need and still deliver superb image quality.

All three displays in the sanctuary were outfitted with the Atlona IR receivers, and according to DeGange, the plan is to use the additional receivers as more TVs are added. There are 10 other drop locations available in various rooms in the church, so video and audio can be dropped in very easily as circumstances allow.

DeGange also noted that he and the pastor have already developed a long-term plan for the HDCAT to be replaced at some later date for a matrix to support more sources being added to the system, while still using the current AT-HDCAT-8 for locations that would all have the same content. "All of this was determined in the planning



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