The Franconia Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania required the Chicago Metallic Corporation's 640 Drywall System to be “bent” by a metal fabricator to create the church's vaulted 14,000-square-foot ceiling. (The 640 Suspended Drywall Furring System is a direct-hung, double web, general purpose system that offers versatility for acoustical systems.)

“Kevin Landis of Clayton H. Landis Co. was instrumental in rolling the metal,” said Dave Benner, president of Benner & White, the Harleysville, Pa., contracting company that was responsible for the drywall portion of the job. Landis bent the metal by braking the main runners for Benner & White to making the radius.

Needless to say, in addition to needing to allocate extra funds for scaffolds, a little extra help was required for this detailed job. “The new church's ceiling peaked at 40 feet,” Benner said, “and a full dance floor, 20 feet off the ground, was built over the church floor so that workers could reach the high points.”

The drywall details include a mezzanine area in all
corners of the ceiling, partitions that went up to the ceiling. Also, plans for a balcony for future expansion had to be considered. A popcorn spray was chosen as the acoustic finish.

It took eight weeks to complete the drywall portion of the job, with three or four men erecting the grid, four to six hanging the drywall, and four working on the finish, Benner said.

Benner also gives credit to Ray Mininger of Harold Mininger and Sons, Inc., of Telford, Pa., the general contractor who brought all the trades together for the job.

Benner & White is a merit shop with more than 150 employees, and has been in business since 1978. About today’s drywall business Benner says, “In today’s market, where things are really tough, it's nice to be able to give a fair price. There is a lot of competitive bidding and the select group of contractors we work with may cost more, but the quality shows in the final product.”

—All photos courtesy of Benner & White Construction Inc.