

# EMS Case Study *Savannah Christian Church, Georgia*



## ***Savannah Christian Church Controls HVAC Equipment Seamlessly with Events2HVAC***

### Tasks As Light As Air

At Savannah Christian Church in Savannah, Ga., employees and church members schedule their own space requirements using Event Management Systems (EMS), and although they don't know it, they're automatically turning on the air when they make their room reservations. Through an integration with EMS software, Events2HVAC is automatically controlling their HVAC systems so that air is cooled only when rooms are in use. The church is saving energy and labor, and the automation has freed the facility manager to focus on other responsibilities.

"When we have our big events, our weekend services, our mid-week services, we just go on and verify that everything turned out like it needed to be," said Sean Moyer, facilities manager at Savannah Christian Church. "We don't have to really do anything; it works seamlessly."

Events2HVAC is a software product that acts as a bridge between EMS and various building automation systems. It is cross-platform and can communicate with HVAC equipment, door access controls and lighting controls from a variety of manufacturers.

"If you use EMS, it's a no-brainer to have this program," Moyer said.

Moyer currently has the church's main building and one additional building integrated with Events2HVAC and EMS for automatic scheduling and control of HVAC equipment. The system is handling 38 rooms, including 28 air handling units and 142,000 square feet of space.

### From Labor Intense to Auto Pilot

With EMS software already in place, Savannah Christian found it easy to add the flexible Events2HVAC.

"We have a good HVAC system and don't need to change things out." Moyer explained. "So I was trying to find a way that we wouldn't have to redesign our whole system to make it more energy efficient."

## Fast Facts

- **10,940** bookings in EMS last year
- **38** integrated rooms
- **142,000** square feet
- **60** booking system users

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Previously, employees at the church scheduled HVAC equipment manually. They created schedules for each of the air handlers in four-hour blocks of time. Then they looked over the event schedules for each room and scheduled the units to be on for a block of time if an event was taking place during that block. This was done to strike a balance between saving energy and the labor-intensive process of manually switching HVAC equipment on or off at the room level for each event.

“This [integration] took the middle man out, and it takes out that human error factor that we would occasionally have. And it’s real easy for us to say, ‘You need to reserve the room. Otherwise the air is not on.’”

Fully automating the process with Events2HVAC maximizes the energy savings and minimizes the labor required.

**“What this does is help us capitalize on being efficient with our resources and being efficient with the money that we have to spend.”**

“Since we already have employees and members use EMS for scheduling purposes, it’s kind of killing two birds with one stone,” Moyer explained.

## The Automated, Peaceful Life

Moyer said that getting the software set up and running at the church was not difficult at all. After the system was running for a while, one of the two buildings experienced a power failure. Because Moyer set up Events2HVAC to e-mail him when scheduled equipment does not turn on, he knew about the problem immediately.

“It’s just nice to have that peace of mind, knowing it’s going to work. And if it doesn’t work, I’m going to get an e-mail saying, ‘Hey, this didn’t come on like it was supposed to,’” Moyer said. “It really does help to keep me proactive in events instead of reactive.”

Savannah Christian Church is renovating four older buildings in the Savannah area. Moyer hopes to integrate as many of them as possible with Events2HVAC as money becomes available to update older HVAC equipment.

“We work with mechanical engineers. We’re working with one now on a couple different projects, and explaining to him how our system works by reserving these rooms,” Moyer said, adding that the engineer is very impressed, just like the church staff.

For more information about Events2HVAC, please visit [www.events2hvac.com](http://www.events2hvac.com).

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