Sunrise - 1987

Orange

1987 - Constituted
1989 - Admitted to YATES
1975-
1976-
1977-
1978-
1979-
1980-
1981-
1982-
1983-
1984-
1985-
1986-
1987- Constituted
1988- Admitted to YATES under watchcare.
1989- Became Sunrise
1990-
1991-
1992-
1993-
1994-
1995-
1996-
1997-
1998-
1999-
Sunrise - 1987

Orange

1975-
1976-
1977-
1978-
1979-
1980-
1981-
1982-
1983-
1984-
1985-
1986-
1987-
1988-
1989- Admitted after one year of watchcare
1990-
1991-
1992-
1993-
1994-
1995-
1996-
1997-
1998-
1999-
There's real value to retelling the old story again. There's real comfort in hearing things that aren't completely new.

Carl Leth
Pastor of the North Raleigh Church of the Nazarene

"There's real value to retelling the old story again. There's real comfort in hearing things that aren't completely new."

Carl Leth, pastor of the North Raleigh Church of the Nazarene, said his job is to make the Christmas story as vivid as he can. In preparing his sermon this year, he immersed himself in the history and culture surrounding Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

"When you begin to put flesh and blood to the story — explain the fear and anxiety, uncertainty and trust — then it's real and people can connect," he said.

"There's real value to retelling the old story again. There's real comfort in hearing things that aren't completely new."
The struggle to craft the Christmas sermon

Clergy members strive to bring new meaning to the often-told story of the birth of Jesus.

By John Wagner
Staff Writer

Sometimes what’s most familiar is hardest to talk about.

Just ask Richard Lischer, who was sitting in front of a word processor in his Durham home Thursday afternoon, struggling to craft his Christmas sermon.

“It’s a problem, especially for those of us who’ve preached for many years,” said Lischer, a Lutheran minister ordained 23 years ago. He took frequent breaks to stretch and collect his thoughts.

“After all these years, you begin to wonder: What can I say that will be different this year?”

For Lischer, and dozens of clergy members across the Triangle, the week before Christmas is filled with great anticipation and a tinge of anxiety.

The Christmas sermon is an opportunity to tell the well-known story of the birth of Jesus and to share a special message with an often larger and more receptive congregation.

“Christmas brings more people to church, more families together,” said Lischer, who has been a guest preacher at Grace Lutheran Church in Durham.

“That makes it a special time — a time when people’s hearts are open to things they’re usually not.”

And it’s a time when ministers and priests of all Christian denominations must redouble their efforts to make their messages

See Sermons, Page 14A
Anti-condom group meets to share facts, opinions

By CEDRIC RICKS
The Chapel Hill Herald

CHAPEL HILL — Opponents of a condom distribution proposal brought their own array of facts, testimonials and arguments against safe-sex programs before the public at a Tuesday night meeting.

“Our point tonight is to inform you so we can make an intelligent decision about this,” said Rod Chaney, an organizer of the meeting and pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church in Chapel Hill.

“If tonight you will take this package and look through it — if the package does nothing tonight but encourage you to talk to your children, we have succeeded,” Chaney said.

A crowd of about 65 parents and community members gathered in the Phillips Middle School auditorium for a two-hour rap session which included videos, brochures and speeches from area physicians on sex, condoms and disease.

The meeting was sponsored by Citizens For Open Communication, a group that formed in opposition to a proposal from a Chapel Hill-Carrboro district health committee to allow a school nurse or guidance counselor to give condoms and counseling to Chapel Hill High students.

Speakers discussed the rise of sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis and AIDS and the 15 percent failure rate of condoms. The audience also watched a video geared to promote abstinence to teens titled: “Sex, Lies & the Truth.”

It showed giggling teens discussing their first encounters contrasted with the image of an AIDS patient pleading with his audience to abstain from early sex.

Parents who came to Tuesday’s meeting said the current debate over condoms made them want more information. Some said before the meeting started that they weren’t in favor of the district health advisory committee’s plan.

“I have a daughter that is entering high school. She is 14. My belief is this is a parent issue,” said John Devine, a Chapel Hill parent. “The issue of teens having sex is something that parents should be involved in.

“I don’t think the school should have any business promoting any activity I don’t think is proper at that age,” Devine said.

“Chapel Hill is a sophisticated, enlightened community. I think if kids are going to be involved in adult activity they should go to the drug store and buy their own [condoms],” Devine said.

Kathleen Ferry of Hillsborough sends her children to Durham Academy, but said what’s happening in Chapel Hill concerns her. “Things are slower getting up to Hillsborough and my kids may be in high school there. I don’t like the idea of passing out condoms.”

Speakers at the meeting and a physician in the audience made very few direct arguments for abstinence based on please see CONDOMS/2
Condoms

...moral, relying instead on medical literature to support their stands.

"The medical literature, surprisingly, does not leave us in the dark," said Ray Toher, a Durham-Chapel Hill physician who attended the meeting with another physician who addressed the audience.

"What it says is the basic current approach to sex education — a knowledge-driven system that teaches students about their sexuality and couples that with sexuality training — does not work," Toher said.

"Medical literature shows abstinence achieves the best results," he said.

Toher said abstinence should be taught as a value-driven system for it to succeed. He said one study conducted by an Atlanta hospital in the mid-'70s shows that condoms with counseling does not change teen sex habits.

Toher also said while there is no direct correlation that shows condom availability increasing sexual activity, there were trends that may hint at that.
School board votes to allow church to use New Hope for six months

By Patricia Andrews
Staff Writer

Following some discussion Monday night, the Orange County Board of Education voted unanimously to allow Sunrise Baptist Church to have long-term use of the studio and cafeteria at New Hope Elementary School on Sunday mornings.

In a motion made by board Vice Chair Bob Bateman, the board agreed to allow the church to use the school facility for a period of six months which will expire on Aug. 21.

Under school board policy, "The use of facilities by a religious group for instructional and/or religious purposes will be restricted to temporary and emergency uses ..." The superintendent or his designee may approve use, for up to five times within a thirty day period. Requests for greater use of facilities may only be approved by the board of education upon a showing that the group does not seek extended or permanent use of school facilities."

In bringing its request before the board, the church had used the facility three times and had two remaining without seeking the board's approval.

In providing the school board with background on the issue, the church's pastor Rod Chaney explained that from 1989-91, the church had used facilities within the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School System. For the past five months, the church has used Estes Hills Elementary School.

In answering board member Ralph Warren's question concerning the church's plans for a permanent meeting place, Chaney responded that the church owned land. He said the church wanted to use a temporary facility for a year in order to improve their financial condition. He said the congregation did not want to go into debt to build.

In responding to board Vice chair Bob Bateman's about how the church planned to use the cafeteria space at the school, Chaney said this area would be used for Sunday school classroom space.

Considering the church's original request, which called for having use of the school for one year on Sunday, board member Kay Singer said given that the current facility use policy is under review, she did not want the board to be locked into anything.

Chaney said that researching other school systems within the area, Durham and Orange County were found to have almost identical fees, while Chapel Hill-Carrboro was extremely out of line.

Orange County Schools Superintendent Andrew Overstreet said the county schools' facility use fees are based purely on recovery costs of having the building open and used.

In closing the discussion, board member Larry Haverland followed-up on Chaney's earlier comment regarding debt. "If you can build your church without going into debt, come back and tell us. We can apply [your method] to [building new] schools.

In other business, three individuals addressed the board during its public comment period.

Molly Sanford, whose son attends A. L. Stanback Middle School, told the board action needed to be taken to prevent teasing and physical abuse that sixth-graders are subjected to as part of their daily bus ride which includes older students from C. W. Stanford Middle School and Orange High.

She told the board her son had been spit on, teased, kicked in the eye and had even had his rented trumpet destroyed. All of this occurring even though the students sit in assigned seats.

Sanford said when her son's trumpet was destroyed, the bus driver ordered him off the bus before he could collect all of the pieces.

She said no one seems to take responsibility for solving the problems. Sanford suggested that efforts should be made to bus the sixth-graders with the elementary students and shuttle them to Stanback.

Also during the public comment session, Rick Kennedy criticized the board for spending 45 minutes discussing a $75,000 press box project. As a taxpayer, Kennedy said he did not want that much money spent for that purpose.

He suggested the school system spend the money on the schools' libraries or on gym equipment. In addition, he suggested the money could be spent to improve the playground and its equipment at New Hope Elementary where his child attends.

He called the playground unsafe and unusable. "We can't be wasting our money with so many more educational needs," he said.

James Weathers, who is president of District 5 of the N.C. Teacher's Assistants Association, was the third speaker. He asked the board to sponsor him during the upcoming district meeting.

In addition, he asked the board to sponsor some part of the conference.
Building a base with faith and foam

Sunrise Baptist Church uses volunteers, unusual materials to create home for once-wandering flock

By MATT MANSFIELD
chboroherald-sun.com; 919-1043

HILLSBOROUGH — For the past 12 years, Pastor Rod Chaney has wandered like Moses with his devoted congregation through Orange County, conducting services in 10 different venues. He started humbly, holding sermons in Chapel Hill High's cafeteria, his podium a converted trash can.

But now Chaney and the Sunrise Baptist congregation have built their own church, finally setting firm foot on New Hope Church Road and reinforcing their sturdy structure with concrete and Styrofoam?

"I kind of know how Noah felt when we were building this," he said. "People were laughing at us." It seems Chaney, who holds a master's of theology from Dallas Theological Seminary, does not mind them laughing because he'll get to chuckle alongside them with his monthly energy bill in hand.

The church's temperature hoarding capabilities are only surpassed by its ability to say the congregation more than $650,000 during the next few decades.

"That's money that could be used in helping people's lives, rather than paying bills," he said. Not that Chaney dances on stage for funds like a televangelist, mind you. He doesn't even pass the collection plate through the aisles for money; it sits quietly in the back of the church, waiting for any small donation.

Saving money so he can use it for worthy causes is important to Chaney, however. The church is valued at $2 million, but he saved several hundred thousand dollars with donated material and volunteer help. He enlisted the aid of his neighbor Eddie Brown, along with church elder Larry Hackworth, the three of them built the bulk of the church walls with the guidance of an engineer from South Carolina.

"The only time you get to wood in the project is in the ceiling," Hackworth said. "The rest is concrete and steel."

Behind the white stucco façade is where the trio's work hides. They used building blocks of Styrofoam a few feet long to construct the project. In each block, two layers of Styrofoam, each a few inches wide, are separated by two metal braces that snap two horizontal steel rods into place. In turn, those rods hold stationary the vertical steel rods that sit in the middle. Poured and dried concrete fills the empty spaces between the Styrofoam borders, and the team of builders repeated this process countless times to construct a church from the ground up.

"It's like building Lego blocks," Chaney said. "It's a wave of the future. Over in Europe, people build houses to last 400 to 500 years. Unfortunately, America has a much more disposable society."

Whether the method is as easy as Chaney says it is, it's hard to ignore the church's cool temperature. Fans silently whirl from above and an air conditioner may moan in the background, but the energy used pays in comparison with other
structures and costs them three-fourths less than a building constructed with insulation.

But the shining star of the church is the cross gleaming behind the stage.

“There’s no support in [the cross],” said Brown. “It’s just glass.”

The cross stands 20 feet on the wall with no buttresses intersecting the view. The Styrofoam’s and concrete’s lightness allowed Sunrise Baptist to install the cross with no support for the walls, and no joints stripe the glass, making it a unique one-pieded cross.

“Engineers come in here and say, “How did you do that?”’ Chaney said.

When the church opened on July 29, Chaney dazzled parishioners with the cross’ special effect. He asked the churchgoers to look into their neighbors’ eyes, and slowly the congregation exclaimed in hollers of realization that the cross’ reflection gleamed in every person’s pupil.

“From a theological perspective, it says we recognize [each parishioner] as valuable,” Chaney said, who noted his style is more like David Letterman’s or Jay Leno’s than Billy Graham’s.

That attitude, coupled with having not to roam from KinderCare Learning Center to A.L. Stanback Middle School to New Hope Nazarene Church, has expanded the Sunrise Baptist congregation to 65. The church, emphasizing strong biblical teaching for the 21st century, hopes to increase the flock with its dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. Sept. 9.
Local anti-condom group to meet

Parents, other members oppose distribution on school grounds

By JULIA WHITE
The Chapel Hill Herald

CHAPEL HILL — A local group opposed to condom distribution on school grounds plans to hold an informational meeting tonight.

“We want people to know what the condoms will do and what they won’t do,” said Rod Chaney, pastor of Baptist Church and a member of the group that opposes condom distribution.

And while the group strongly opposes the distribution plan, Chaney said the information will be offered fairly.

“The Chapel Hill community should applaud us for what we’re doing,” he said. “It seems like Chapel Hill, being a hotbed of intellectualism, would demand that we have data.”

Specifically, Chaney said, a videotape featuring several professional athletes and actors and a National Institutes of Health slide presentation will discuss with teen-agers condom failure rates and the benefits of abstinence from sex.

Members of the group that opposes condom distribution, Citizens for Open Communication, have invited doctors, school board members and the school governance committee that is handling the condom issue to the meeting, he said.

“Whether you agree or disagree with our position, at least we’ll have accomplished our purpose of getting out a lot of information,” he said.

The meeting is planned for 7 p.m. at the Phillips Middle School auditorium.

The group especially was incensed that Orange County Health Department officials offered instruction and counseling to high school students who requested it Sunday, Felten said.

“I don’t want the students there to become deputy health-care providers,” he said.

please see CONDOM/6
"Let the department of health handle public-health issues. Let the parents worry about the moral philosophy."

But the Orange County Board of Health chairman said that the information was offered to anyone who asked. And though condoms have not been proven 100 percent effective in preventing sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, they could provide some measure of protection.

"My opinion is that abstinence is the only form of safe sex," said Phil Singer, a physician in private practice. "But condoms make it somewhat safer."

And studies show that some teen-agers will have sex whether or not condoms are available.

"I've wrestled with the idea that condoms might give some sort of implicit authority to have sex," Singer said. "But I'm not sure that it's going to encourage it."

Either way, the pastor said, that should be something that parents worry about.

"Abstinence never killed anybody," he said. "AIDS has."
Split board vote okays facility use

By Amy Keating
The News of Orange County

Despite a period of relative harmony, last week the Orange County School Board once again seemed to be experiencing the same sort of infighting that has marked it in the past.

At issue was a request by Sunrise Baptist Church to move its Sunday services from the A.L. Stanback auditorium to New Hope Elementary School. The church also requested an extension on its special use agreement, which is due to expire in September.

The church began leasing school facilities over four years ago while awaiting the completion of their own facility on New Hope Church Rd. in Hillsborough.

Orange County District policy restricts use of school facilities by religious groups to temporary and emergency use, and states “requests for greater use of facilities may only be approved by the Board of Education upon a showing that the group does not seek extended or permanent use of the school facilities.”

The board split down familiar lines when Bob Bateman made a motion to approve both requests, and was supported by David Kolbinsky and Board Chair Larry Haverland.

After heated discussion, Keith Cook made a substitute motion not to approve the request, and to deny further extension requests.

After another period of debate, a third motion was made to approve the request and extend the church’s current contract until Easter.

The third motion passed with Bateman, Kolbinsky, and Haverland in favor, and Cook, Susan Dovenbarger, and Rick Kennedy opposed. Vice-Chair Delores Simpson, while not abstaining, did not vote and as a result, her vote was counted as a yes vote in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

Kolbinsky and some others, both on the board and off, felt that the negative votes were motivated by politics, specifically, Sunrise Church pastor Rod Chaney’s involvement with a conservative political action committee, Concerned Citizens for Orange County. The committee endorsed both Bateman and Kolbinsky during the last school board election.

“This is not the first time the gang of three have gone out to reap revenge,” said Kolbinsky. “To try to just throw them out at the drop of the hat was unconscionable. You’d think the school board would congratulate the church for doing what it said it was going to do.”

Haverland said that he had not expected the vote to provoke a great deal of discussion.

“The very strong, very quick negative reaction by some members took me by surprise,” said Haverland. “This was not an ongoing, eternal request.”

Dovenbarger asserted that while the requests aren’t eternal, the church’s school facility use cannot be categorized as temporary.

“Each year we were told, ‘we’re close, we’re close.’ Policy clearly prohibits this kind of long term use,” said Dovenbarger. “Our roll is to set policy. If our policy isn’t good enough to follow, we need to do something else.”

Haverland argued that the policy allows the board to grant waivers on an individual basis if necessary.

Kennedy, who proposed increasing the fees paid by the church, doesn’t necessarily find fault with the continuing extensions, but wants the church to begin paying the rates dictated by
Church

continued from front

the 1995 revised facility use fee schedule.

"They are still paying what they paid to begin with, and we're picking up the slack for that. The group has the financial wherewithal to build a nice new church on property that couldn't have come cheap," said Kennedy. "It's only fair for this group to pay like everyone else."

Currently, Sunrise Church pays $70 per period of use categorized as four hours or less, in addition to a custodial fee of $15 per hour for four hours per week.

According to Chaney, between January 1, 1994 and May 31, 1998, the church has paid a total of $24,082.25 to lease school facilities, not including $3,000.00 worth of chairs that the church bartered in exchange for rent.

Under the current schedule, the use fee charged would increase by $30 per week.

Chaney took exception to board members who have said the rate the church pays isn't high enough to cover the expense of running the facilities, and that tax money is subsidizing the church.

"Taxpayers are not putting money in the Sunrise Church collection plate," said Chaney. He also expressed doubt that the cost of utilities and other services used by the church could total more than the rate currently being paid.

"At Stanback, we used electricity in two rooms and a few hallways," said Chaney. "We have always tried our best to leave the facility better than we found it."

"If we weren't meeting there, would they really turn off the air conditioning or heat for the weekend?" he continued.

According to Chaney, the congregation has experienced difficulties with air-conditioning that required those attending the service to wear coats.

"My argument is, if they are interested in saving money, they shouldn't be running the air conditioning in February," said Chaney. "We wanted to be good tennants, so we didn't complain."

Chaney agrees with those who believe the vote against allowing the church to switch facilities and extend its special use lease was motivated by a need for retribution.

"They want to zero in on the church because I work there," said Chaney. "My political views are not a part of my sermons; that is not my purpose. I am floored that they would go after the church, and their logic doesn't hold up."

Chaney maintained that his involvement with Concerned Citizens for Orange County is the real issue.

"I felt like I had a social responsibility to raise the issues. I had no idea of the political payback," he said.

One thing board members seem to agree upon is a desire not to allow infighting to affect their efforts to support the students and staff of Orange County Schools.

"I think we can still accomplish our goals, despite these sideshows," said Kennedy. "The antics of the board, fortunately, are not harming the teachers working in the trenches."

Cook shared that assessment.

"When it comes to children, the board is pretty much aligned," he commented.

Kolbinsky was hopeful that this episode would pass, and that the board would stay on track.

"My purpose is not to cast these guys in a bad light," said Kolbinsky. "They honestly seem to do a good job the majority of the time."
Sunrise Baptist Church is a cool place to worship

By MATT MANSFIELD
chh@herald-sun.com; 919-1043

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"That's money that could be used in helping people's lives, rather than paying bills," he said.

Pastor Rod Chaney stands inside the sanctuary of the new Sunrise Baptist Church, New Hope Church Road, Hillsborough. Behind him is a glowing glass cross, which stands 20 feet on the wall.