

## Meeting held over church candle use

The Aptos fire chief, pastor of an Aptos church, and an assistant district attorney met Tuesday in Watsonville to iron out differences over enforcement of the fire code.

Fire Chief Richard Chinn told Rev. John K. Tritenbach of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church and Assistant DA Bob Noonan he would be sending out letters to local churches. The letters will advise church officials about the illegality of using candles in church ceremonies.

Following a candlelight ceremony on Christmas Eve Chinn ordered firemen to cite Rev. Tritenbach for violation of the fire code.

This morning it was decided Chinn would invite all local church officials to a future meeting in which a fire expert from San Francisco will present a slide show on the possible adverse consequences of using candles in church services.

After the meeting, the church officials are to make their own decisions about whether or not to use candles, said Noonan. He said Chinn wishes those who refuse to stop using candles to file a letter with the Aptos fire department.

The assistant DA added no formal charges have been filed against Rev. Tritenbach. "We're trying to obtain compliance through education . . . we're still at the talking stages," Noonan stated.