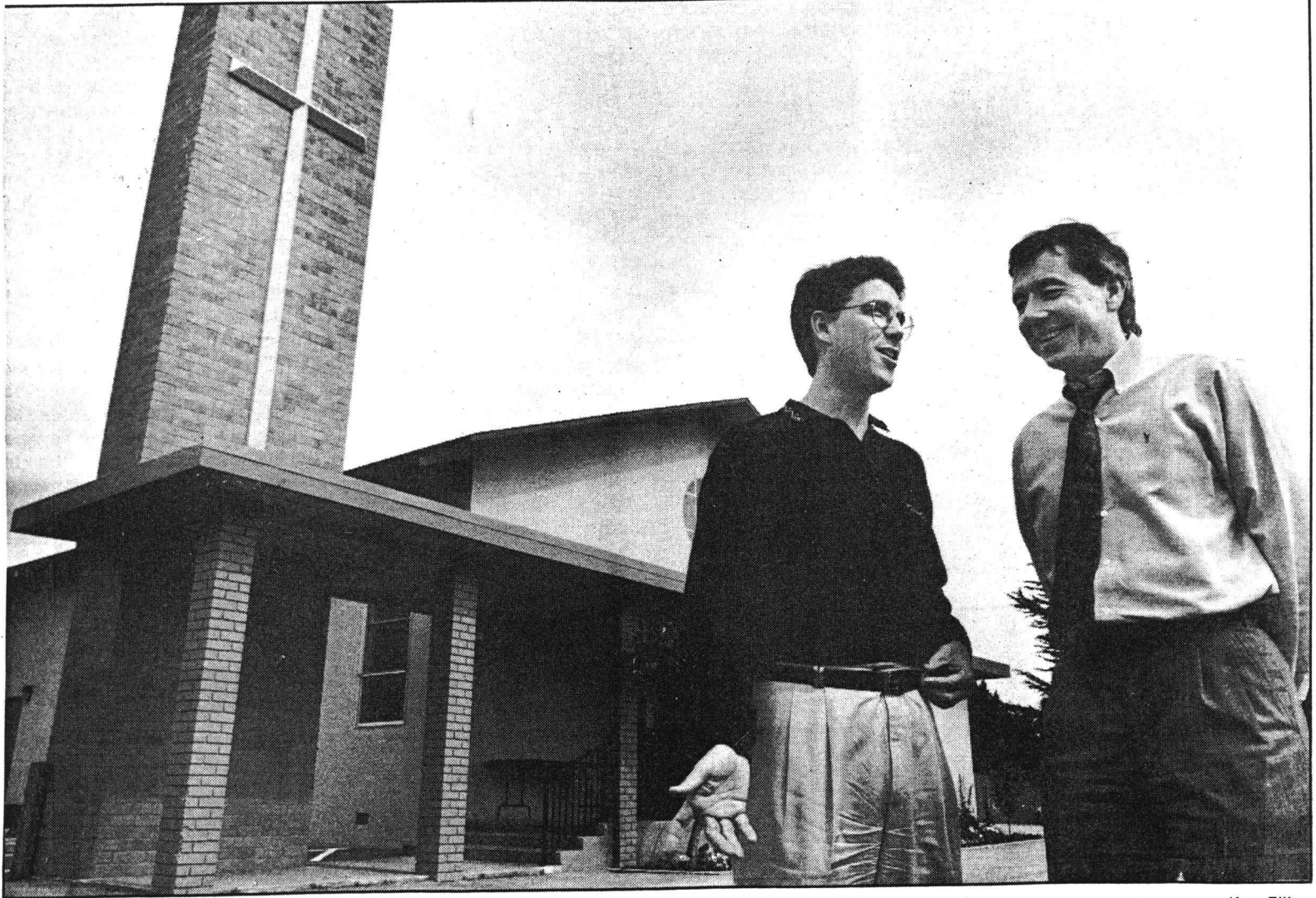


Home for Easter



Kurt Ellison

The Rev. Daniel Brown, left, talks with Dave Mann, who has found the church its new home.

Coastlands church moves into former convent

By LANE WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

After seven years of looking, the Coastlands church has found a home — at least for the next seven years.

The Coastlands, a Foursquare Gospel church formed in Aptos in 1985, has taken out a seven-year lease on the former Poor Clares convent on State Park Drive in Aptos, just off Highway 1.

"We've had volunteers working for the last nine weeks" to prepare the church, said the Rev. Daniel Brown, who conducted the first services in his

living room in 1985.

The first services at the new location were held this week, on Palm Sunday.

"So many people were crying" with happiness because the church finally had a spot of its own, Brown said. The turnout of 945 was up about 150 from the average Sunday attendance.

Brown said about 30 percent of the parishioners are from Watsonville, 40 percent from Midcounty and 30 percent from Santa Cruz.

After quickly outgrowing Brown's living room, the con-

gregation held its services at Cabrillo College for about five years. For the last two years, services were held in the gym of the Seventh Day Adventist School on Seventh Avenue in Santa Cruz.

Four years ago, the Coastlands proposed building a church and day-care center on property near the freeway in La Selva Beach. The plan drew strident opposition from residents of La Selva Beach, and the county Planning Department was also opposed.

The Coastlands eventually withdrew the application before

it went to public hearing.

"We decided there was no sense in fighting everybody," Brown said.

The new church is 30,000 square feet, plus 15 acres of open space that provides ample parking, Brown said. There are no plans for day care, he said.

Poor Clares moved to new quarters on Pleasant Valley Road in Aptos two years ago and sold the State Park Drive parcel to Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital.

The Coastlands name, Brown said, comes from the Bible and refers to "a desirable spot."
