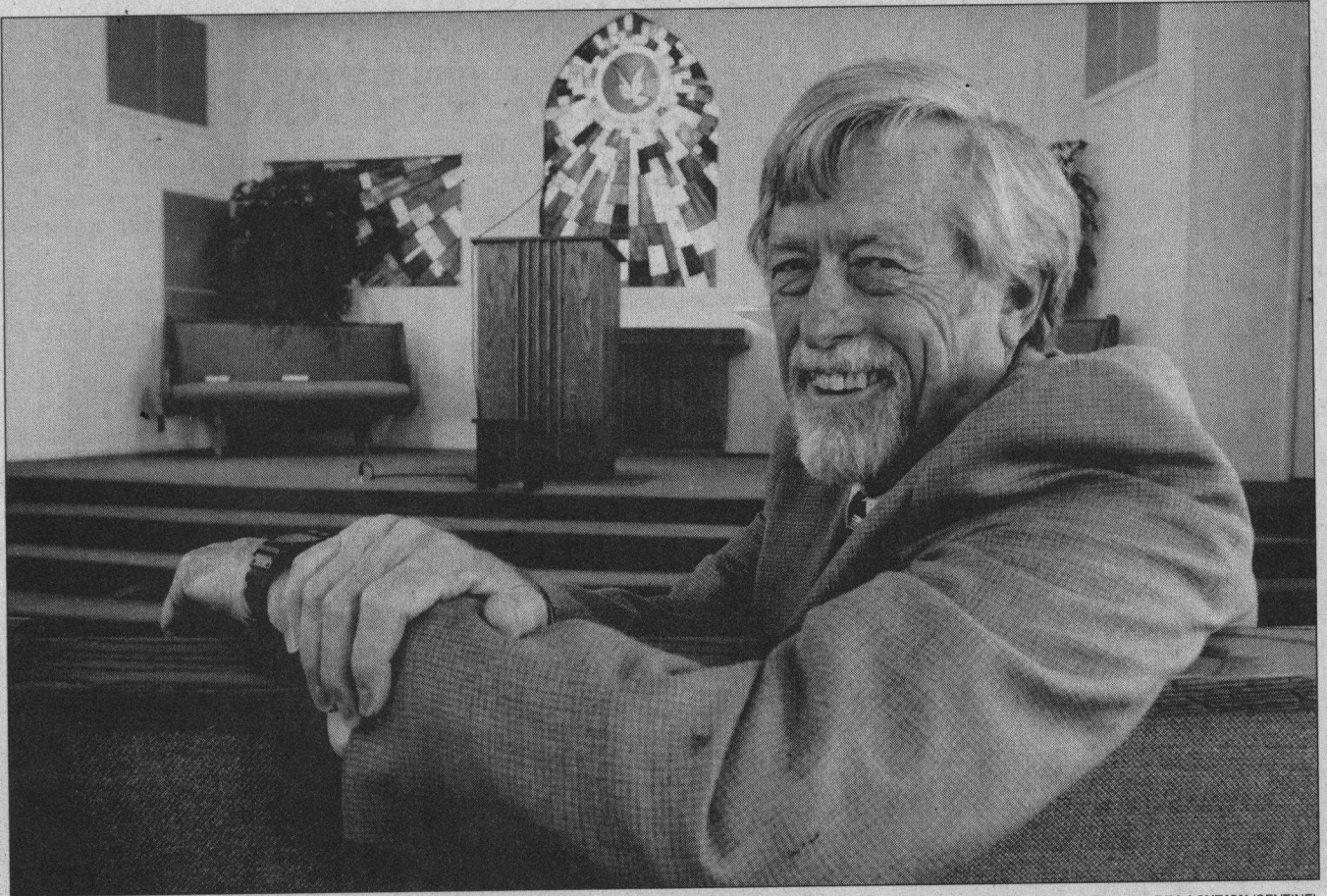


SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Soquel church celebrates 120th anniversary



BILL LOVEJOY/SENTINEL

The Rev. Joe Reynolds sits in the sanctuary of the Soquel Seventh-day Adventist Church, which celebrates its 120th anniversary on Saturday. *Churches - 2000* 7-1-11

COMMUNITY TAKES A LOOK AT HISTORY TO COMMEMORATE THE PRESENT

By **CHELSEA HAWKINS**

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SOQUEL — The Soquel Seventh-day Adventist Church will celebrate its 120th anniversary Saturday.

The church will hold several services throughout the day to mark the milestone, including an afternoon service with guest speaker Ramiro Cano, president of the Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Services throughout the day will feature a harpist and organist as part of the anniversary. Afternoon celebrations will also include a presentation on the church's history, from its beginnings in 1891 with only 15 members to its current incarnation as a bilingual institution.

In January of this year, the Santa Cruz Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church joined

the Soquel Seventh-day Adventist Church after the Santa Cruz congregation was no longer able to continue renting the building where it met.

The Rev. Joe Reynolds, of Soquel Seventh-day Adventist Church, said he hopes that by sharing the church's history, the newly merged congregation will get a sense of the "shared genealogy of the congregation."

"It helps us understand where we came from and the

IF YOU GO

SOQUEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
120TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEN: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Saturday

WHERE: Soquel Bilingual Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2501 Porter St., Soquel.

COST: Free

DETAILS: 475-2215

sacrifices that others made before us," Reynolds said.

The anniversary will not only celebrate the church's history or its recent merger, but it will be a recognition of the community overall. Nancy Stake-Reynolds, wife of Joe Reynolds, said that the anniversary is also a way to acknowledge and celebrate the members of the church, many of whom have been part of the congregation for years.

"It's been part of my fam-

ily," said Bill Roberson, a longtime member of the community. "Especially after my wife passed away four years ago, the church family keeps me going."

Born and raised in the denomination, Roberson joined Soquel Seventh-day Adventist when he moved to the area from Southern California in 1972, and has remained with the community since.

Roberson has become a resource of Soquel Seventh-day Adventist Church's history over the years, serving as a caretaker of the archived photos of the church.

As a member of the congregation, Roberson said he was proud of the perseverance of the church and that locally, there was only one church older than Soquel Seventh-day Adventist — the Congregational Church in Soquel, established in 1868.