

Church's building plans up for review

Aptos parish's proposed chapel is no longer a threat to next-door Calvary Cemetery

By JONDI GUMZ
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APTOS — An Aptos parish planning for the past decade to build a new church may see that dream become reality now that concerns about disturbing the historic cemetery next door have been put to rest.

Next week, the county zoning administrator will review plans to construct a chapel for Resurrection Catholic Church at Soquel Drive and Old Dominion Court.

"We're looking forward to seeing something happen," said parishioner Hugh Voris, who has been raising money for the \$2.9 million project.

So far, \$2.28 million has been pledged. "We have enough to proceed," said Voris.

The 10,900-square-foot chapel, an octagon shape designed by Santa Cruz architect William Bagnall, will seat 450 people.

It faces the meeting hall, with a courtyard in between to "marry the buildings together," said the Rev. Peter Crivello, who hopes to break ground this spring.

Plans call for 234 parking spaces, including 54 new ones and 34 shared with a neighboring medical facility.

George Davis Inc. of Watsonville has been selected as the contractor.

The Resurrection parish consists of

about 650 families, who have been worshipping in a meeting hall built in 1966 as a mission of St. Joseph's Church in Capitola.

"It doesn't look anything like a traditional church, but it's a very warm community," said Voris, who joined the parish 15 years ago.

After having stayed away from church for years, he and his wife Karol attended a service at the suggestion of their son.

To his surprise, Voris found then-pastor Mike Marini "charismatic" and the Catholic ritual "quite an emotional human experience." Soon the couple were members, and active in the building project.

Then, three years ago, plans by the Rev. Ken Laverone to move graves from the Calvary Cemetery to accommodate the new church created an uproar. The county's Historic Resources Commission reminded church officials that the cemetery, dedicated in 1875, was historic.

Crivello, who arrived in the middle of the dispute, quickly came up with an alternative. The church will be located in what is now an empty lot, which means the graves will not be affected.

"Our plan includes great sensitivity to the cemetery," said Crivello, who worked on building projects at St. Patrick's in Watsonville and Holy Cross in Santa Cruz.

Planner Cathy Graves, who is recom-



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Karol and Hugh Voris ascend the stairs outside Resurrection Church. Hugh Voris has been raising money for the \$2.9 million project to build a chapel on the property.

mending approval, said there has been no opposition to the project. She said concerns about drainage and erosion have been addressed, as well as the archaeological issues.

No artifacts came to light during a preliminary inspection, but the county is requiring the parish have an archaeologist

on site during construction.

"It is an old cemetery and not everything is marked," said Graves. "Things happen in 125 years."

The church proposal will go to a hearing before the county zoning administrator after 10 a.m. Friday in the Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz.