

New casual, contemporary church comes to Santa Cruz

Cathedral of Faith offers Sunday services in Pleasure Point

By SHANNA MCCORD

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PLEASURE POINT — A new church opened its doors in Santa Cruz on Easter, one where you might think you accidentally arrived at a rock concert.

A rock concert of Christian music, that is.

Cathedral of Faith, a nondenominational church based in San Jose, is bringing its message of "everyone is

welcome" to Pleasure Point Community Church on 26th Avenue every Sunday.

The church is casual and contemporary in its appearance and its approach to preaching.

On Easter Sunday, the first day of services at the Pleasure Point campus, loud music rang out from the stage set at the front of the small chapel, which was packed with worshippers.

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KEVIN JOHNSON/SENTINEL

Pastor Rommell Corpuz leads the congregation on Easter Sunday during the opening of the Cathedral of Faith in Santa Cruz.

CHURCH

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Musicians in jeans and T-shirts enthusiastically jammed on their drums and bass guitars, singing lyrics of God's plan and purpose for your life.

Cake pops were handed out with a note from Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the Lord is good."

"We believe that in heaven there is every kind of person, every culture," said Wayne Mancari, a pastor with Cathedral of Faith. "This is a church very strong on multiethnicity. We feel it's important to build community."

"You can wear shorts, T-shirts or a tie. Wear whatever you're comfortable with."

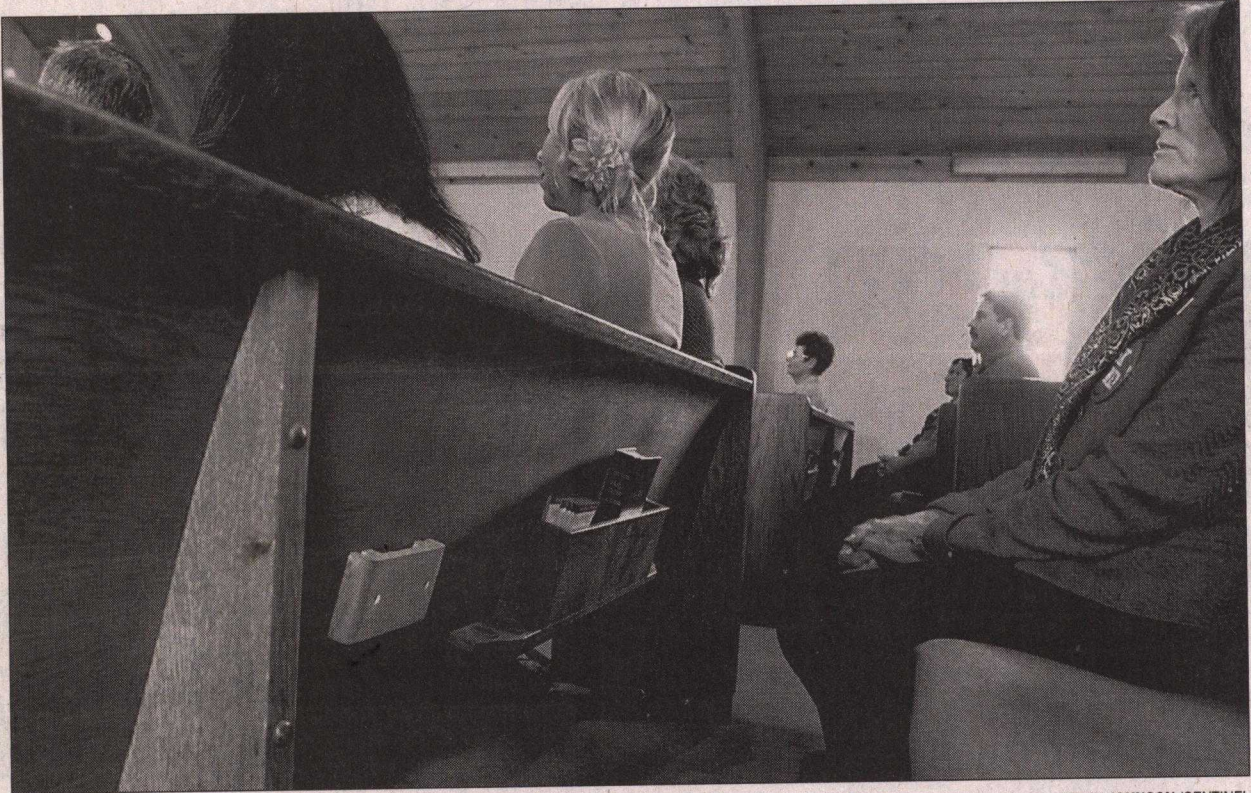
Cathedral of Faith started in San Jose about 30 years ago. Its popular services draw 10,000 worshippers each weekend from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, Mancari said.

In the past few years, the church started branching out and opening campuses in locations such as Morgan Hill, Milpitas and Santa Cruz.

The goal is to establish 20 Cathedral of Faith campuses across the San Francisco Bay Area in coming years, Mancari said.

Church officials want to spread the work they're doing in San Jose to other areas. They are particularly concerned with providing food for the needy.

In San Jose, about 2,500 families are helped each week with food donations



KEVIN JOHNSON/SENTINEL

Churchgoers fill the pews on Easter Sunday during the opening service of the Cathedral of Faith at Pleasure Point Community Church on 26th Avenue in Santa Cruz.

from the church, Mancari said. About 1.2 million pounds of food are handed out weekly, he said.

"We want to see the needs of the community no one else is seeing," he said.

Los Gatos resident Sanra McGhaughey said she was drawn to Cathedral of

Faith three years ago for its "anything is possible" mantra.

She's loyal to the church and called Easter Sunday's opening in Santa Cruz "a history-making day."

"The love and caring people, it's palpable here," McGhaughey said. "You walk in and feel the energy."

Cathedral of Faith will meet at the Pleasure Point location at 10 a.m. every Sunday for a 90-minute service. Pleasure Point Community Church will continue to hold its evening services on Sundays.

For information, visit www.cathedraloffaith.org.