



Graphic by Jim Payne

Solar salvation

United Methodist Church turns on to sun's power

By KENT KULBY
Of the Emerald

David Albright, a United Methodist minister from Springfield, presented final plans in a press conference Thursday for expansion and solar heating of his church at 332 N. 58th St. in Springfield.

The church will be the first solar-heated public building in Springfield and is the largest structure to use an active air system for solar heating, according to Al Paz, the architect who designed the plans.

Paz explained that heat from solar panels is blown into a rock storage tank: Fans blow the hot air through pipes to various places in the building. The rocks are able to retain the heat from two to four days, he said.

"The air system is preferable to the water system because water may freeze, and it requires more piping mechanisms than air," Paz said.

The total estimated cost is \$125,000, of which \$98,000 has been secured. The funding has come from donations, contributions of foundations and corporations volunteering services.

Albright has been working on the project for more than a year.

"The biggest problem has been convincing (potential contributors) that solar energy is feasible," Albright said.

Paz has spent eight months gathering government and university solar heating research information and drawing up the final blueprints for the projects.

"We've heard nothing but positive, encouraging comments from community citizens," Albright said.

Ground-breaking will begin this weekend, and construction is planned for mid-May. Western Solar Inc., will supply the solar heating equipment.

The present United Methodist Church is "filled to capacity with church and community activities like kindergarten, mentally retarded and Lane Community College programs," said Don Johnson, contractor/coordinator of the project.

The state will monitor the building and its effectiveness to help formulate future state energy policies.

"It is one of the finest projects we've seen," said Al Kipnut, solar specialist of the Energy Department.

Gov. Bob Straub salutes the project as "a commendable step forward."

Bribe?

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she says. "Let's get 'em early while we can still help."

While "all teachers are important," McFarland feels it is "those first ones" which deserve the most attention, since it is in the first grades that fundamentals are learned.

"We've been putting our emphasis on the wrong thing," she says, referring to state requirements for more education in secondary school teachers than elementary teachers. She suggests a fifth year of education for elementary grade school teachers, or "some education after you've been teaching."

Adequate textbooks are another area McFarland is concerned about. She says often texts are not actually at the reading level the publishers claim. And some math books used for teaching, say, fourth grade math, will be written at an eighth grade level.

These are the "wrong tools,"

says McFarland, and "are not helpful in the educational arena."

These three Ts — testing, teaching and textbooks — are the basis of McFarland's campaign. If elected, she would like to establish workshops to help local districts effectively implement policies in these areas. She says she would try and be a strong leader, but at the same time would have respect for local autonomy.

McFarland believes the State Basic School Support budget should be raised 50 percent. She feels this money need not come from higher taxes, but from juggling other budget areas.

It may take a re-ordering of priorities to get the money, says McFarland, but, she feels it's a justified rearrangement.

"Let's be concerned about education for a change," says McFarland, since public education "gives people skills with which they can live the rest of their lives."

March to protest ruling

A march protesting the recent court ruling that allows herbicide spraying in national forests begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at Main Street and "I" Avenue in Cottage Grove. The march is sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

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