

RELIGION

Pastor Strong Leads Drive for New Church
Saturday march to support renovation of Life Change center

Area residents are invited to a march on Saturday, March 30 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. to show and build support for the renovation of the Life Change Christian Center at 106 N. Beech.

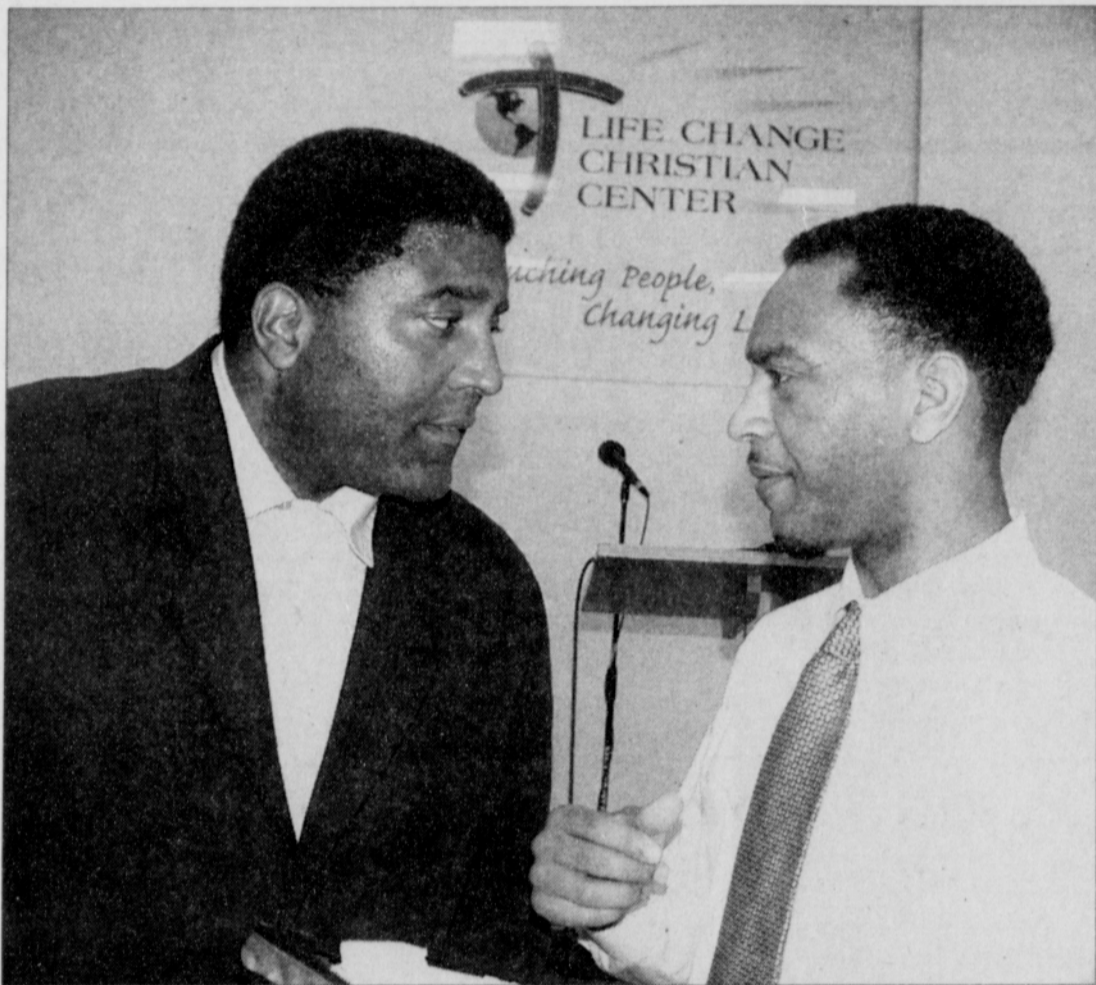
Pastor Mark Strong is leading the church's effort to raise \$1 million to complete the first phase of renovation.

Life Change purchased the Beech Street property, the former Craig's store, after a 1996 arson fire destroyed their former church just a few blocks away.

Completing a remodel of the property will empower the church to further develop a facility that will enhance existing services and bring space for other valuable services that will benefit the community.

Strong said a renovated church site also will greatly effect and enhance the image and esteem of this needy area of inner north and northeast Portland.

The church site is on a parcel of land that was once overrun with drug dealers. Now it is a place to feed and clothe those in need. It also has become a place to help youths find direction and purpose in life, and a place to give hope and support



Life Change Christian Center Pastor Mark Strong (left) meets with Dyon Spencer.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

for people in the community. Strong is asking contributors to partner with Life Change to

make this miracle of renovation a reality. For years this area has been a

problem spot in the community, which formally housed the Craig's store.

Pope Breaks Silence on Abusive Priests

(AP) — Pope John Paul II on Thursday broke his silence on the sex abuse cases rocking the Roman Catholic Church, saying the "grave scandal" was casting a "dark shadow of suspicion" over all priests.

In an annual message to priests worldwide, the pope said "as priests we are personally and profoundly afflicted by the sins of some of our brothers who have betrayed the grace of ordination." He said they had succumbed "to the most grievous forms" of what he called, using the Latin phrase, "mystery of evil."

"Grave scandal is caused, with the result that a dark shadow of suspicion is cast over all the other fine priests who perform their ministry with honesty and integrity and often with heroic self-sacrifice," the pope said.

John Paul said the Church "shows her concern for the victims and strives to respond in truth and justice to each of these painful situations."

It was the first time the pope publicly addressed the issue since widescale accusations of sexual misconduct by priests surfaced in the United States in recent months. The accusations have led to the resignation of one bishop, from Palm Beach, Fla., and tarnished the reputation of Cardinal Ber-

nard Law of Boston for failing to take action against a child-molesting priest.

The problem has worldwide implications for the Church.

In January, the Catholic Church in Ireland agreed to a landmark \$110 million payment to children abused by clergy over decades. More than 20 priests, brothers and nuns have been convicted of molesting children.

Sexual abuse cases involving cover-ups have also been reported in England, France and Australia, among other countries.

John Paul has been described as particularly saddened by sexual harassment allegations leveled against the archbishop of Poznan in the pope's native Poland. Archbishop Juliusz Paetz, who worked with John Paul at the Vatican and was sent by him to Poland in 1982, denied the allegations in a letter read in parishes last Sunday.

For years, the Vatican viewed such reports as attempts to discredit the church or as part of an orchestrated campaign against celibacy.

Ray Flynn, a former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and one-time mayor of Boston, said the pope's message was a strong signal that abuse will not be tolerated.

Former All Saints Priest Accused Again

(AP) — A Portland priest who has admitted to at least seven other cases of child sex abuse is accused in new civil suit.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Multnomah County Circuit Court, names as defendants the

Archdiocese and Roman Catholic Archbishop of Portland, All Saints Parish and All Saints School. The lawsuit claims the Rev. Thomas B. Laughlin continued a pattern of child abuse that was known to the archbishop for years but

that church authorities did not remove him or take other steps to protect parishioners, altar boys or other children.

It seeks compensatory damages of \$2 million.

The alleged abuse took place between 1975 and 1978 when the boy was in grades six through eight and serving as an altar boy.

Laughlin served in Portland, St. Helens, Corvallis and Marylhurst before going to All Saints in northeast Portland in 1973. He left in 1983 and is believed to be living in Albuquerque, N.M.

Laughlin was convicted of two counts of criminal abuse in 1983.

Worship with us at the:
Albina Christian Life Center
Church of God (Cleveland Tennessee)
5522 N. Albina Portland, Oregon 97217
*** 503 283-1635**
Please call for information or counseling.

Worship Opportunities & Services
Sundays
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Morning Worship: 11 AM
Evening Worship: 6 PM
Wednesday
Family Training Hour, 7PM

March 31
Join us for our "Easter Celebration 2002" 11 AM
"He Got Up" Workshop Choir with Minister David Hart 3:30 PM

Sr. Pastor Bishop Samuel M. Irving

Come With Us... We'll Do You Good!

Fellowship Church is having a Resurrection Celebration on Easter Sunday morning that promises to be a transformational event and you're invited!

MARCH 31, 2002
11:00 a.m.

Airport Holiday Inn
Columbia Conference Center
8300 NE Columbia Blvd.
Portland, Oregon

Join Pastors Steven and Aundria Holt for great music, powerful prayer, anointed praise and worship, dynamic speaking, and biblical teaching.

Free Parking and Childcare Provided

Steven & Aundria Holt

For additional information, contact Fellowship Church at 503-249-0347

Augustana Lutheran Church
Easter Sunday, March 31
He is Risen!
Four Festival Services
8:30 am Contemporary piano, guitar, ensemble
11 am Classical organ, trumpet, choirs, bells,
1:30 pm Open Circle flute, sax, drums, piano
6 pm Jazz/Gospel with Marilyn Keller, George Mitchell, Kevin Deitz, Ron Steen
Rev. W.J. Mark Knutson
Rev. Ramona Soto Rank
2710 NE 14th Ave 288-6174

MARANATHA CHURCH
Building Divine Unity in the Community

Proclaim the Glory of God

Maranatha Host:

Don't miss "What Will YOU Do With Christ?" an Easter program that takes place on *Friday, March 29 at 7 p.m.*

please note the corrected date
Saturday, March 30 at 6 p.m.
A "Resurrection Concert," featuring special guest conductor Dorothy Davis, Robin Henderson and the Levitical Praise Chorale from Tacoma, WA.
Come all and enjoy a great time of celebration in the Lord!

All services at:
Maranatha Church
4222 NE 12th Avenue (12th & Skidmore)
503-288-7241

Dr. T. Allen Bethel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Cynthia Brathwaite, Associate Pastor

A Special Note to Clients of Vann & Vann Funeral Directors

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Vann & Vann Funeral Directors recently announced the closing of their funeral home. If you hold a prearranged and prefunded funeral contract with this establishment, Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes will be happy to honor those contracts.

Our diverse professional staff is experienced in the details of reassigning such agreements, and will assist you in any way necessary at our facility.

We are also pleased to announce that the proprietors of Vann & Vann have entrusted our office with records of past funerals they have performed for our community. This information will help us provide an additional degree of convenience to those families who have a need for funeral services in the future.

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