

***Church Receives
New Pastor And
Sanctuary, Also***

By MICHELLE JONES
Tribune Staff Writer

BRANDON — Sunday the members of Kings Avenue Baptist Church are scheduled to dedicate their new \$250,000 sanctuary and install a new pastor.

The Rev. Charles M. Richard Jr. is coming to the south Brandon church at 2602 Kings Ave. from the First Baptist Church of Luiz, where he was the associate pastor and the minister of youth and education.

"I am looking forward to what God is going to do through this church in this community," said the blue-eyed, blond-haired Richard.

Prior to becoming a church in 1978 the congregation was a mission of Tampa's Bayshore Baptist Church.

Until recently the congregation met in a unique round sanctuary that holds 150 people. The new, rectangular-shaped building will hold 350 people.

"We will use the old building for a fellowship hall," said the 33-year-old Richard.

Richard said the people of his church put in over 1,000 hours of work on the church grounds.

"They laid sod, painted the old buildings, put in an irrigation system and all the shrubbery and did general cleaning up work," he said. "They are a hard working group of people."

Richard was born and raised in Orlando, where he attended Edgewater High School.

He attended the University of Miami on a football scholarship and majored in religion and "football."

After a hitch in the Army, Richard attended seminary at the Dallas Theological Seminary where he earned a master's degree in theology.

Before entering the seminary Richard worked for a while at Disney World on the Jungle Cruise.

"I was so enthusiastic I lost my voice," he said. "I sure hope I don't lose it in the pulpit."

Richard said it was an organization in college, the Campus Crusade For Christ, that helped him decide to dedicate his life to full-time service to the Lord.

"I am one of the few people in the world who receives compensation for doing what I love to do," he said. "I come to church, study the Bible and share Jesus Christ with people because I want to."

On Sunday, Richard is scheduled to be installed at 11 a.m. by the interim pastor, the Rev. Steve Cloud. Afterwards, there will be dinner on the grounds and a gospel sing and dedication service at 2 p.m.

Dr. William Moyle of the Tampa Bay Baptist Association and Dr. Fred Boehmer, the association's newly elected moderator will take part in the dedication.

Special music will be provided by the Clearwater Christian College Choir.

"I want this church to be scripturally founded and loving within itself and loving to those around us," he said. "I'd like to see us strive for the Agape, the completely unselfish love of God, toward one another and the community."

Richard says he also wants to have Christ-centered programs and opportunities to meet the needs of specific groups.

"I want people to come here and feel wanted and feel the love of God," he said.

Richard, his wife Sharran and two children, Cassie Marie, 4, and Chaz, 14 months, are planning to move to Brandon soon.

T
C

Construction to begin soon on church center

The center, which will be built in stages, will provide additional space for Sunday school classrooms, a larger kitchen, a library and an activity room.

By **CAROL NEEF**
Tribune Staff Writer

BRANDON — Construction of a large, two-story multipurpose building for Kings Avenue Baptist Church is expected to begin within two weeks.

Ground breaking ceremonies for the building were held Sunday.

The building will be named the Cheever Family Life Center in honor of the late James Cheever, a deacon of the church, an architect and chairman of the church's long-range planning committee.

According to the **Rev. Charles M. Richard**, pastor of Kings Avenue Baptist Church, the congregation has pledged more than \$900,000 to be paid over a three-year period.

The shell of the 29,000-square-foot center will be constructed first.

"Then, depending upon need," **Richard** said, "we will build Sunday school rooms or an interim auditorium that can be used for worship services, recreation or fellowship. We have \$154,000 which was donated since April 1986."

Kings Avenue Baptist Church has

approximately 750 members. Attendance at Sunday worship service averages 500.

Richard said, "It's pretty cramped. With the new center we will be able to hold just one worship service for all the church. The beauty of the concept of a multipurpose auditorium is we could hold worship services in it in the **a.m.**, have a concert that night and take the chairs down and play volleyball or basketball."

Target date for completion of the entire center is 1990, **Richard** said.

Among the facilities the additional space will provide are: more Sunday school classrooms, a larger interim sanctuary, larger kitchen, a gymnasium, church library and activity room for classes such as ceramics.

General contractor for the project is Fasco Inc. of Tampa.

Dayne Piercefield of Lutz is chairman of the long-range building committee, Haven Kicklighter is chairwoman of the building committee and Dave Scott is chairman of "Walk by Faith," the fund-raising committee.