

Religion

Fellowship gets ready to relocate

By Fanny S. Chirinos (Contact)
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CORPUS CHRISTI — Real Life Fellowship has purchased a building in Flour Bluff where it plans to have services until a new church is built on the Southside. The congregation has sold its Staples Street-Holly Road location, which will be converted into retail space and professional and medical offices.

The transaction was announced by **NAI Cravey Real Estate Services**, an agency involved in the sale. The Flour Bluff building, at 1241 Flour Bluff Drive, is a blue-roofed metal building behind Fun Trackers. The building will become a temporary church until a new church is built.

The property has served various uses from a convention center to an indoor flea market, said real estate broker **Matthew Cravey**. He said the property's previous owners hadn't found the perfect use for it until Real Life officials said it would work as a church.

"This was large enough for their needs with more than enough parking space," Cravey said. "Once the new church is built, this will become a satellite church."

The church, formerly known as Gardendale Baptist, also has satellite sites in Portland at NorthShore 8 Cinema and plans to begin transmitting to satellite sites in Calallen and Hartwell, Ga., on Jan. 27, according to Real Life's Web site. Officials with the church did not return several calls this week, and it was unclear how long services would be held at the Flour Bluff location.

Joe Adame, president of Joe Adame and Associates, represented the church in the transaction and said its current 17-acre location was being leased back after it was sold about a month ago to developer Dusty Durrill.

Adame would not disclose the cost of the Flour Bluff building. It is valued at almost \$1.2 million by the Nueces County Appraisal District.

Durrill said he expects the church to lease the building on Staples Street for the next six months.

"After that, I plan to keep the gym, demolish the rest and build a retail area and professional and medical offices," Durrill said.

Durrill would not disclose the purchase price of the property. As a church property, it was exempt from property taxes and therefore is not on the Nueces County Appraisal District rolls.

"Let's put it this way, the church didn't give it away," he said.

Contact Fanny S. Chirinos at 886-3759 or chirinosf@caller.com