



"We Walk By FAITH, Not by Sight" was the theme of the 25th Anniversary celebration for Beautiful Savior-Sarasota in October.

The anniversary service began with a procession of Beautiful Savior youth carrying historic banners from special events of the past 25 years. The service was led by Senior Pastor Rosseter Leavitt (above right with District President Greg Walton). Walton's sermon encouraged the congregation to look to the future and to share its gifts of time and talents with surrounding communities.

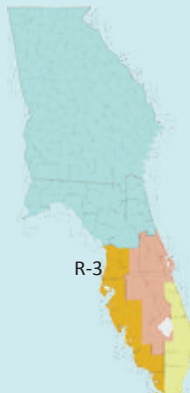
One of the highlights of the service was Beautiful Savior's "dearly beloved" Pastor Emeritus Wayman Still's remembrances of his 21 years as the congregation's shepherd. Also attending and representing the District was Rev. Doug Kallesen, Executive Director of Mission-Outreach.

Beautiful Savior's choir sang We Walk By FAITH and Not By Sight, a song that was especially written for Still's retirement, and the Jubilation Hand Bell Ringers played an intricate arrangement of Beautiful Savior.

An informal reception followed the service. ■

REGION 3 NEWS

Region 3 covers the lower southwestern sector of Florida, with much of its area bordering the Gulf of Mexico. Representing Region 3 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Jim Guelzow, pastor of Messiah-Tampa, FL; Jeff Richards, a member of Hope Lutheran-Bradenton, FL; and Maggie Bowles, a member of Peace-Naples. FL.



Peace-Naples Opens Early Learning Center

Responding to the need for licensed childcare facilities throughout its community, Peace-Naples has opened a childcare facility serving infants through pre-K students.

Peace's new 17,000-square-foot facility was dedicated on November 13, 2011, during a service with Rev. Ron Biel as guest speaker. Cynthia Tillman was installed as the Center's Director on December 11 during a worship service featuring songs from the three- and four-year-old students.

Peace Early Learning Center offers childcare for infants through Pre-K and is also a state licensed Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten provider (VPK). The Center opened on September 6 and by mid-October had an enrollment of 48 students, a number that continues to grow. The facility's 11 classrooms will accommodate more than 150 children.

"We are called by Christ to serve this community," said Peace Pastor Dennis Liebich. "Peace Early Learning Center is that service and that ministry we are committing to." ■



Amigos Center Honored as Ministry of the Year

The Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board of Lee County selected Amigos Center as the Ministry of the Year for 2011.

Rev. Bob Selle, Amigos Center Executive Director/Pastor, was called by the Southwest Florida Circuit to do outreach to the growing Spanish speaking community in 1997.

The goal was to plant new Spanish speaking churches and help established congregations to do effective outreach to Hispanic immigrants.

In 1999, the Amigos Center was founded in order to "be God's hands and feet" by attending to the physical, mental and emotional needs that many immigrant families face. The first center was a store front in Bonita Springs, doing case management.

Soon the outreach branched out to offer legal immigration services.



Rev. Bob Selle accepts the Ministry of the Year award for Amigos Center.

The staff has expanded from three part-time employees at one location to include nine staff members whose efforts span two counties, with offices in Naples, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers and Immokalee. ■