

# Eaton community bringing church back to life

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EATON — The faith community of the former Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church in Eaton is pulling together and building a chapel near the site of the former church.

“We’re getting past the negative and hurt feelings and concentrating on the positive and looking to the future,” said Roger Ostrenga, chairman of a six-person steering committee.

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church closed in 1999 when it merged with Our Lady Queen of Peace in Humboldt to become St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

Parishioners found new worship sites at surround-

ing churches, but many continued to meet as the Ss. Cyril & Methodius faith community. The group has been raising money for the past year to build a private chapel on donated property next to the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Cemetery.

The basic structure is up, and the roof will be put on this week.

“Once it is weather-tight, we will continue work on the inside,” Ostrenga said. “The masonry work will be done in spring.”

When plans for the chapel were announced, the group envisioned a building that would house 85 to 90 people.

“It will be a place to come and pray, a place to come and remember,” Ostrenga said.

“When we lost our church, we lost the building, but the faith community stuck together. Even though members have joined surrounding parishes, they still feel a strong commitment to our Ss. Cyril and Methodius community,” Ostrenga said.

There are about 130 people involved in the faith community, he said. About 30 volunteers are doing the physical work, he said.

There is no timetable for the project because “the whole thing is based on contributions, donations and volunteer work,” he said.

The old church property now is the site of the new Eaton Town Hall, which opened early this year.



Greg Peer, center, and Roger Ostrenga, background, of Ostrenga Excavating Inc. unload scaffold frames Wednesday to work on the roof of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Faith Community Chapel in Eaton. B.A. Rupert/Press-Gazette