



Stock Market Game report

Leaders, trends — 8E

SOUTH JERSEY'S NEWSPAPER



FIRST & 10

COURIER-POST WEEKLY REPORT ON THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Eagles set for Dallas; 49ers fall — 1D

Sunny
HIGH
Mid 50s
LOW
Mid 40s



Complete forecast — 2A

COURIER-POST

SINCE 1875

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1995

35 CENTS

Salvation for the sin palace: Church dedicated

By MICHELE ROSEN
Courier-Post Staff

CAMDEN — They tore down the bar and put up a pulpit.

With an ear-splitting cheer, more than 100 members of Gatekeeper Ministries International witnessed the final transformation of a former go-go bar into a house of worship Sunday.

"We didn't come here to be quiet," said the Rev. James Treadwell, founder and senior minister of the nondenominational church. "If the prostitutes can walk up and down and make themselves known, the church of Jesus Christ can certainly make itself known."

A New York Realtor donated the French Quarter go-go bar and the long-closed Wilson Motel next door on Admiral Wilson Boulevard to the church in June.

For the last few months, volunteers have been tearing down the two bars, the dance floor and the poles the strip-tease dancers used to slither against,

■ New use: The French Quarter go-go bar and the long-closed Wilson Motel next door on Admiral Wilson Boulevard were donated to the Camden church.

and replacing the brown carpet and black ceiling with white and rose carpet, ceiling tile and paint.

The building, sandwiched between a gas station and a used car

lot, was wrapped in a deep blue ribbon Sunday. After a victory march to the church, congregants danced and sang outside in the bright and chilly morning.

Dressed in their Sunday best, they watched a performance by the church's costumed precision drill team.

The team members shook their bright gold pompons and waved their flags, a trumpet player accompanied taped music, and the crowd clapped their hands and cheered.

At 11 a.m., the church's founder and senior minister, the Rev. James Treadwell and his wife, Deacon Deana Treadwell, stepped

under the blue ribbon, and faced the crowd. As they cut through the ribbon, everybody — from preschooler to grandparent — screamed and jumped up and down with excitement.

Streaming into the new sanctuary, congregants and visitors were greeted by the smell of fresh paint. Once inside, the crowd celebrated their faith and their new church with an hour of song

Please see DEDICATE, Page 6A

Church gets a new home

Continued from Page 1A

and speeches by church members thanking the congregation for the help they have received.

John Zawojski, 22, told the crowd the church helped him leave behind his drug-riddled past.

"Here I received the love and caring and concern I needed to keep me from going back" to the streets, he said.

Pamela Atkins, 35, thanked the church for teaching her honesty and helping her escape from 15 years of alcoholism.

"I didn't like myself, so therefore I didn't care about anyone else," she said. With the church's help, she said she has become a better mother to her 9-year-old son.

City council president James Mathis welcomed the church to Admiral Wilson Boulevard.



By Brian Porco, Courier-Post

Celebration: The J.D.T. Singers perform at dedication ceremonies for Gatekeeper Ministries International's new home.

"As we look at our city and talk about how we restore it, we know the two most important elements are our church and our children," he said.

In addition to the sanctuary, Treadwell said he plans to renovate the motel rooms to house a Christian school, seminary, counseling services and other pro-

grams previously held in the church's rented quarters on Broadway in South Camden.

He said he hopes the church can offer hope to those who haunt the boulevard's seamier sites.

"I think people need a positive message — someone who's going to love them how they are and believe there's a second chance."