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11-15-1973

### Nov. 15, 1973 -The Shelby Daily Star- Church Building

The Shelby Daily Star

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**SANCTUARY READY** — After a year and one-half of construction, the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Shelby is ready for regular Sunday services. The seating capacity of the rectangular sanctuary has been enlarged from 900 to 1,325. (Staff Photo by George Doggett)

## Remodeled Sanctuary Ready For Services

The sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Shelby is ready for regular Sunday services, after a year and a half of building and a million and a half dollars, said J. A. West, chairman of the church's planning and building committee.

West said that the cost to build the activities building for the church and to remodel three other church buildings, was "undoubtedly underestimated. "The committee is satisfied with the result. The church now has fine new facilities. The job we intended to do has been done well."

That job, he explained, began three years ago when the

church authorized the committee to look into ways to enlarge the sanctuary and create a youth activities facility.

"We found out that the grand church we were so proud of had termite-damaged floors and an electronic system likely to cause fires. . . We discovered we had more on our hands than we bargained for."

The committee, after months of study, decided on a final plan for the church. And a year and a half ago, work commenced.

The rectangular sanctuary was extended over Arey St. and a balcony was added. The extension enlarged the seating capacity of the sanctuary from

900 to about 1325 people, he explained.

The old education building, constructed in the early 1900's was gutted and remodeled. The newer educational building, constructed in 1954, was air-conditioned.

Also, a new youth activities building was constructed. It included kitchen facilities and a gymnasium which could be converted into a dining hall, "because we Baptists feed a lot," he said.

West noted that although the bulk of construction was now completed "there is still small work to be completed in the weeks ahead."