

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

August 2010

Vol. 12 No. 7

Candidate Counterman

The Calvary Baptist Church, Burlington, IA, had officially called Pastor Counterman to be a candidate in their search for a senior pastor. On July 9, he and his family left to spend 10 days there. During that time, he preached in the July 11 morning service and then fielded questions in the evening service. Throughout the next week time was given to meet families, survey the area, observe the ministry and much more. Then, on Sunday, July 18, he taught Sunday School, preached the morning message and preached in the evening service. Following that evening's service the church held a meeting and called for the vote to extend the call to him to be their pastor. The vote was 70 (yes) / 3 (no) and he has accepted the call and will become their pastor sometime in August. May God direct in the adjustments and transitions in the Counterman family, the Calvary Baptist Church and the Heritage Baptist Church.

Vacation Bible School

During the week of July 12-16, sixty-three children, grades 1 – 6, attended our annual Vacation Bible School. The foyer, auditorium, stairwell and Fellowship Hall areas were adequately decorated according to the theme, "Seaquest: Diving for God's Treasure". Pastor Counterman had done much work in planning and preparation. While he was away in Iowa, every worker pitched in to help the whole week run quite smoothly. Throughout the program God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ was clearly presented. Thanks be to God that four children who had trusted Christ as Savior and that several others received the assurance of their salvation! Comments were made by some of the visiting families expressing their appreciation for our Bible-based and Christ-centered program. On Sunday morning, July 18, was the closing awards program which was well attended (152) Praise God for a blessed week of Bible School!

Summer Camp

During the week of July 26-30 five Junior Highers attended a summer camp at Camp Calvary. This was a blessed opportunity for them to focus upon God's Word, interact with fellow believers, and further develop their walks with Christ. Though it was hot throughout the week, they all had a very good time there. Thanks be to God for a safe and encouraging week for these young people!

Heritage Singers

On Saturday, July 24, the Maranatha Baptist Bible College ministry team, "Heritage Singers," took part in a combined teen and young adults activity. Pastor Counterman hosted the activity providing all with food, fun, and fellowship. On Sunday during the Sunday School hour the "Heritage Singers" presented a sacred music concert. Included in this concert were some personal testimonies and a Bible devotional from Mr. Keith Lewis from Hosea 2 encouraging the congregation to consider God's faithfulness amidst His people's unfaithfulness. In the morning service the students provided a number of musical selections prior to the sermon. They all certainly were a blessing to the church body.

Quarterly Meeting

Though the annual church meeting was held on June 27, the fourth quarter meeting and prayer service took place on July 18. It was a short meeting that primarily provided the congregation with a financial update. Jim Stephens presented the fourth quarter financial statement, detailing the year end total giving and spending. Time was also given to inform the congregation of Pastor Counterman's candidating status and then to pray for him, his family, the Calvary Baptist Church, and our own church. It was, as usual, a sweet time of seeking God's wisdom and leading for what lies ahead.

More Storage?

Having occupied the new building for just over a year now, the thought of adding a storage shed has been explored. Seeking a permit from the township revealed that presently there is nothing in the zoning ordinances allowing commercial buildings to have such a shed. However, the township is seeking to add an ordinance to allow us (and others) this option. By the end of August the board should approve this measure.

Helping Our Missionaries

Once again the We Kids consignment shop donated some children's clothing to our missionaries who have young children. Several ladies took the opportunity to sort through these clothes, package them, and then mail them to our missionary families. This has truly been a wonderful ministry over the years and a welcomed blessing to those on the receiving end.

Visitors

Over the course of the month, there were a number of first-time visitors attending the church services. Lakeisha and her two children attended the morning service on July 18 and have attended each week since. Barbara attended on the 18th as well and realized that she knew some of our church folk. Christine and her granddaughter attended in the evening on July 18 and then attended the following Sunday's morning service. The Liger family, vacationing in the area, attended the morning service, July 25. We do thank God for each one who has attended the services.

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts, and discipleship;
- 2) Follow up of children/parents from VBS; and
- 3) Transition involving the Countermands.

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

July 2010

Vol. 12 No. 6

Prayer Service

On Wednesday, June 2, the congregation spent time praying for the summer ministries. The entire service, which was divided into three separate “seasons of prayer,” was devoted to praying together. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to knit our hearts together in a sweet hour of prayer.

The Lord’s Supper

David Fish preached a message from Isaiah 53 in the evening service of June 6. He then led the congregation in observing the Lord’s Supper. The whole service was a blessed reminder of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ to provide a most wonderful salvation! Praise be to God for the privilege to know Christ and to focus upon His sacrifice throughout the service.

Ordained

On Saturday afternoon, June 19, an ordination council comprised of 11 men of God were convened to examine both Pastors Troutman and Counterman. After a four hour question and answer period, the council made the recommendation to the church to ordain both pastors. Shortly thereafter, a 3:00 pm church service was held to recognize this special occasion. During the service the congregation heartily approved the council’s recommendation for ordination.

Missionary Zell

During the Sunday School hour on June 20, the congregation heard missionary Matt Zell and his wife, Ellen, share their burden for the Lenca Indians, an unreached people group of about 100,000 living in the mountains of western Honduras. The Zells plan to share the gospel while providing practical helps. Their ultimate goal is to evangelize, disciple and establish a church while helping take care of some very pressing personal and communal needs.

Celebrating Life

After a mild stroke and short stay in the hospital, Alice Berner went home to be with the Lord Thursday morning, June 10. To celebrate her life and remember her faithfulness to her Lord, a special service was held on Saturday, June 26. The auditorium was quite full as family and friends paid tribute to this dear saint. What a testimony of godliness she was to so many.

Annual Meeting

In the evening service June 27, the church held the annual general meeting. The first item on the agenda was reviewing and accepting the annual report. Also included in the meeting was the election of Sam Maldonado as deacon, Jim Stephens as treasurer, and Barbara Haines as church clerk for the new fiscal year. The church also approved the proposed budget and approved the funding of the pastor’s annual trip to visit one of our missionaries. The meeting was completed in less than an hour. The remainder of the service time was spent in prayer. Praise be to God for the good discussion and sweet spirit of unity throughout the entire meeting.

The WILDS

Pastor Counterman lead a group of teens from the church for a week of camp at the WILDS in New Hampshire. The group left the church parking lot Monday morning, June 28 and will return Saturday morning, July 3. Praise the Lord for a safe arrival.

VBS Preparation

Much planning, praying and inviting has been done for the approaching Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 12-16. Time has been set aside to distribute invitations in the community on June 29, July 1, 6, and 8. May the Lord truly bless this ministry of reaching more souls for Christ.

Sharing the Good News

What a joy to share Christ with the lost around us! The church building continues to be an attraction to many people, including salesmen and other people from the community. This month alone, time has been given to share the gospel (in part or whole) with James, Clem, and a few others. As tracts have been received, brochures reviewed, and conversations engaged may the Lord use His Word “to open their eyes, turning them from the darkness to the light.”

Called to Candidate

Calvary Baptist Church, Burlington, IA, has extended a call to Pastor Counterman to be a candidate in their search for a pastor. He and Bonnie had made an initial visit June 11-14 after which the pulpit committee officially called him as a candidate. He and his family will be away from July 10-19 in consideration of this offer. May the Lord guide and direct each one involved in this important decision so that His will is clearly discerned.

Building Fund

Praise be to God for the generous giving to the building fund. It has been nearly a year since the congregation moved into the new building- and the giving to the building fund remains quite strong. During the month of June \$6,670.60 was contributed bringing the total for the year to \$46,496.91. This giving is over and above the tithes and missions’ giving! What a blessing this is as more furnishings and equipment have been purchased to complete the whole building project. We certainly rejoice in all that God has done!

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Building Completion; and
- 3) Vacation Bible School (July 12-16).

Heritage Baptist Church

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June 2010

Vol. 12 No. 5

Men's Workday

The annual men's' work day and breakfast took place Saturday morning, May 8. Several men gathered together at 7:30 for a continental breakfast. Afterwards, John Zengel shared a brief devotional from the Scriptures. The men then took time to pray together before the work began. Much of the work took place outside, cleaning flower beds, pulling weeds, trimming the grass, and power washing the front of the building. A rain shower cut into some of the work day, but much was accomplished so that around noon the men packed up and headed home. Thanks be to God for each man who gave of his time and efforts in this day!

Graduation Congratulations

Joel Troutman was the lone senior graduating from High School. A service commemorating this event in his life was held at the church on Saturday, May 15. A reception was held in the fellowship hall following his graduation ceremony.

TRUTH TRACKERS

The TRUTH TRACKERS ministry closed out the year on Wednesday, May 19. The next Wednesday, May 26, featured the annual TRUTH TRACKERS' fair. Though it was a warm day, the shaded area of the lower parking area provided some relief. Leaders helped set up and monitor the different game areas. This allowed children and their parents to enjoy the games and win candy prizes. Then, in the morning service on May 30, the closing program and awards' presentation took place. Pastor Counterman gave a brief explanation of the ministry while showing a short slide show of the TRUTH TRACKERS in action. After the slide show, the children sang a few songs and recited memory verses. The program closed with Pastor Counterman presenting year-end awards, the highest award being presented to Danielle Willey. Praise be to God for a blessed year in this ministry!

Mother's Day

The Mother's Day service was a rich blessing because many family members attended with their mothers. This included several unsaved husbands, sons, daughters, and grandchildren. Praise the Lord for the gospel being clearly presented and heard by each one. Though there was no indication that any of these family members received Christ as Savior, the seed of the gospel was planted. A great Mother's Day gift for any of these ladies would be the salvation of their loved ones! May God continue to work in these hearts.

Community Clean Up

On Friday, May 21, about 50 people from the congregation helped at the Flemington Borough Beautification Day. At 6:00 pm teams were assigned the duty of cleaning up the sidewalks and curbs along Main Street, some parking lots behind Main Street and several side street sidewalks, curbsides, and parking lots. At the close of the evening the teams met by the borough garage for some pizza and soda. Thank the Lord for good weather and for another good opportunity for the church people to give back to the community.

Outreach Sunday

On the church calendar, the fifth Sunday of a month continues to be an "Outreach Sunday," an opportunity to invite unsaved and/or unchurched people to attend services with them. On May 30, nearly 150 were in attendance for this day, including some first-time visitors. The morning service was then followed by a picnic-type luncheon, which included grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. (Thank the Lord for the three grillmeisters, Jack Adams, Paul Haines, and Joel Troutman, who grilled the meats.) Following the lunch the congregation gathered in the auditorium for an "old-fashioned" singspiration and testimony service. It truly was a blessed day in the Lord.

Teacher's Seminar

Eleven of our Sunday School teachers and Junior Church workers attended an on-site teacher's seminar. The seminar began at 9:30 am with a general session entitled, "Getting Ready to Teach Successfully." The choice of two workshops, "Goals and Purposes for Sunday School" or "Teaching Scripture Memorization", was then given to the group. Another general session, "The Tools of Successful Teaching" followed. After a break for lunch, the final general session, "Preparing a Successful Lesson", was given. Concluding the day was a short time for questions and answers.

Getting There

More of the "match money" given to the building program was used to install the kitchen countertop, dishwasher, and sink. So, all that remains for the kitchen is the installation of the door and drawer handles. It was a blessing to use the kitchen fully during the outreach luncheon.

New Members

In the morning service on May 2, Scott Davis shared his testimony of salvation with the congregation and was then baptized. He was then accepted into the membership of the church. That evening, Brooke Michalak also gave her testimony of salvation and was baptized. She also was accepted into the membership of the church. The following Sunday morning, May 9, Michelle McCauley shared her salvation and baptism testimony with the congregation. She also was received into the membership of the church. Praise be to God for the addition of these believers to the Heritage Baptist Church family.

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Building Completion; and
- 3) Vacation Bible School (July 12-16).

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May 2010

Vol. 12 No. 4

Lady Lights Night

Another year of Lady Lights concluded on Friday, April 2. Bonnie Counterman led the Bible Study time with the last lesson in the series, "Walking by Faith." It truly was a blessed series for the ladies in attendance, one that aimed at helping each one of them to keep growing in and living by faith in God.

Easter Sunday

Praise God we serve a risen Savior and have the privilege of remembering the real reason for Easter Sunday. This year there was an 8:30 am early service in which a slide show leading from the cross to the resurrection proclaimed the gospel message. A light continental breakfast followed this service. During the morning service music combined with the sermon presented the significance of Easter. The program was entitled, "His Robes for Mine" and clearly presented the gospel message of salvation. The Lord's Supper provided a fitting conclusion to the entire day's focus upon the resurrected Savior.

Funeral Service

Fany Casto's mother, Elvia, had been diagnosed with an incurable case of cancer. Elvia lived in Honduras and after much prayer and processing of paperwork, she was brought to the United States for an experimental treatment program. Early Wednesday morning, April 7, she had passed away. Funeral arrangements were made and the church was used for the service on Friday, April 9. Many Hispanic and English speaking people were in attendance. Most of the service was done in Spanish, but the message preached by Pastor Vincent Maldonado was translated in English. What a blessed service it was, a real tribute to Elvia's life in Christ and her influence upon others. Afterward, at least one person stated he had accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Another service was held in Elvia's home country a week later.

Blast Activity

On Saturday, April 17, the entire church took part in a TRUTH TRACKERS' Blast Activity. The front of the auditorium was set up for a giant game of Bible Pictionary. Three teams were formed to compete against each other. Members of each team took turns drawing a particular Bible object with the other members having to guess what was being drawn. This provided for some interesting and humorous responses. A short break was taken to enjoy some refreshments and a Bible devotional from Pastor Counterman. The game then resumed with more drawing and guessing. It was a pleasant time together.

Third Quarter Meeting

On Sunday evening, April 18, was the church's quarterly meeting and prayer service. Jim Stephens (treasurer) provided the financial report. An update was also given regarding the projects to be completed with the funds received through the match period (January – March). During the meeting the church also removed four inactive members, approved the calling of an ordination council to examine Pastors Troutman and Counterman on Saturday, June 19, and approved having Kristi Troutman do her summer internship here at the church. Thanks be unto God for a good and orderly meeting.

Kitchen Cabinets

Part of the "match money" (previously referenced) given to the building program was used to purchase kitchen cabinets. These cabinets were custom made and ready for installation on Tuesday, April 27. Three men volunteered their time and efforts to install the cabinets that day. We thank the Lord for Vince, Sam and Ron who gave of themselves in this work. What a welcomed addition to the ministry this is and will be. Next is the placement of the countertop – something that will take about three weeks to accomplish.

Enduring Together

Over the past few months, several individuals and families within the church body have faced various and sundry trials and tribulations. In such situations it has been a blessing to hear from them how God has given grace to endure or has opened doors of opportunity to witness. Praise be to God as well for the response of the others within the body to pray for, help out, and encourage their fellow believers. It is truly a joy to be part of the family of God.

Visitors

It has been a blessing to again have visitors to the services throughout the month. An even bigger blessing is having several of these visitors return and become regular attenders. Another blessing is to hear the church people testifying of opportunities to share the good news of salvation with friends, co-workers, neighbors and others.

Going Solar

With the church building's roof position and pitch providing for optimal exposure to the sun, there is great potential to go solar. Three companies have viewed the building, taken measurements and provided proposals to install a solar system to generate all of the church's electricity. Each company has taken a strong interest in the project. The proposals have been reviewed and an investor is very interested in helping make this project a reality. The benefit would be realized immediately with the church receiving virtually "free" electricity. This would be a great cost savings to the church each budget year.

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Building Completion; and
- 3) Vacation Bible School (July 12-16).

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April 2010

Vol. 12 No. 3

New Member

Since Fernando was saved a few years ago, his mother, Carolina, has attended services frequently. Recently she started to attend more regularly and sought to be baptized. In late January when baptism was explained to her, she came to understand the need to be born again and was saved. On several occasions her baptism had been scheduled and then postponed due to sickness or other circumstances. Finally, on Sunday, March 14, she gave her testimony of salvation, was baptized and was voted into the membership of the church.

Missions' Conference

This year's annual missions' conference was held Sunday, March 21, through Wednesday, March 24. The conference theme was "A Missions Minded Ministry" and a Grace Giving goal of \$33,600.00 (\$2,800.00 / month) was set for supporting missionaries in the new fiscal year.

The conference began Sunday morning with Dr. Sam Slobodian (*Baptist International Evangelistic Ministries*) presenting his ministry to Ukraine and surrounding countries during the Sunday School hour. In the morning service Dr. Slobodian preached a message from Genesis 22 dealing with sacrificial giving. He also provided special music by playing his trumpet. In the evening service Dr. Slobodian again played his trumpet and then preached a message from the book of Jonah emphasizing that God's missionary work is not limited. What a blessed start to the conference!

On Monday afternoon the church body and missionary families gathered at 5:30 for a catered dinner meal provided in large part through our local Shoprite. What a wonderful time for fellowship this was. After cleaning up a bit the evening service began. Jim Bosse (*Jehovah Jireh Foundation*) shared a video testimonial about his ministry. Missionary Nathan Frizzell then preached a message on the motivation of missions from II Kings 6,7. Jonathan and Jeannie Rice ministered to

the children in Junior Church during the preaching. After the service, the church people spent time around the displays conversing and interacting with the different missionaries.

On Tuesday, prior to the service, time was spent praying for missions, the missionaries and the conference. In the 7:00 pm service, Jonathan Rice shared his ministry to the people in and around Asia. Pastor Counterman preached a message from Isaiah 6 about being missions minded. Nathan and Karen Frizzell ministered to the children in Junior Church. Praise God for a second night of ministry, fellowship and worship!

The conference concluded Wednesday with another time of prayer before the evening service. In the service Missionary Nathan Frizzell presented his ministry to the people of Capetown, South Africa. Jonathan Rice preached a message from Acts 28 on advancing the gospel. Pastor Counterman ministered in Junior Church. What a blessed finish to the entire conference!

Missions' Updates

Thank the Lord for technology. Actually, it certainly is a blessing when it works like it is supposed to. Over the last few weeks it has been good to have several of our missionaries provide a real time update through Skype or other internet programs. The congregation, especially those newer to the body, has enjoyed both "hearing and seeing" our missionaries. It truly does add another way to remain a "Missions Minded Ministry."

Matching Gift

The match period from January 1 – March 31 resulted in a total of \$9,231.70 contributed to the building fund. Though the goal of \$20,000.00 was not reached, nevertheless, a check in the amount of \$20,000.00 was given to the church on that March 31. Praise be to God for the generosity of the church people and the matching fund contributor.

It's a Girl!

On Thursday, March 25, at 1:38 am Katie Lavigne delivered baby Emme Katherine. She weighed 8 pounds 2 1/2 ounces and measured 21 inches. Both mom and baby were discharged that Saturday morning and are doing fine.

Surgery, finally!

Dee Sheppard has been experiencing abdominal pain since late December. Having visited numerous doctors and specialists, there were no answers, but her pain subsided. Finally, on March 29 a surgery was performed to locate the problem, probably an entrapped nerve. Thankfully, Dee is doing much better.

Visitors and Witnessing

The church people continue to testify of opportunities to share Christ with the lost. What a blessing and answer to prayer. Also, again this month we have seen a host of first time visitors to services. These include Adam's family (a group of 13 in all) who made the trip from upstate New York to surprise him for his birthday on March 7. On March 14 a family of five who are searching for a solid church came for the first time. They have been looking for about two years and having seen the building constructed decided to attend. They have attended each Sunday since. Arlene's twin daughters and family attended March 21. Included in this group was a friend, Sandy.

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Building completion and
- 3) Spring ministries

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

March 2010

Vol. 12 No. 2

Moms 'N' Mentors

The Moms 'N' Mentors Bible Study began their spring semester on Tuesday morning, February 2. The theme of their study is "Caution: Children under Construction" with a focus upon training children to become Christlike servants of God.

Appreciation Banquet

Saturday, February 20, was set aside for our annual Ladies' Appreciation Banquet. This year it was held at Razberry's Banquet and Convention center. People arrived at 6:00 pm for a time of fellowship and hors d'oeuvres. Before dinner was served Jeff and Tracy Kilcup led a short interactive game. What an interesting time this was! The buffet dinner, which was quite delicious, followed this game. With the dinner finishing another game was played that led right into Pastor Troutman's expression of thanks and gratitude for what the ladies mean to the church and do in the ministry. Pastor Paul Stevenson then gave a devotional, exhorting our ladies to continue to serve the Lord with joy and gladness. At the close of the evening each lady was presented with a token of appreciation. It certainly was a good evening in the Lord.

The End Times

On Monday evenings the Maldonados and Castros offer a Bible study to those in the Hispanic community. Pastor Troutman was invited to attend on February 22 to provide a description and explanation of the end time events. So, with a one page handout and an eight foot long chart illustrating the sequence of events to take place in the end times, a Scriptural account was given. After an hour long presentation, time was given to help answer some good questions and to clarify some common misunderstandings. The whole evening concluded with a time of refreshments and further discussion about this important and fascinating doctrine.

"Saved By Grace"

Adam has been attending church for quite some time. His fiancé has recently been attending regularly with him. Having come from an orthodox background and now hearing the plain presentation of the gospel, Irena had some questions. On Thursday, February 18, she once more heard and read the gospel message of salvation. Her questions being answered and her heart being opened, she turned from the darkness to the light and trusted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. What a blessing to rejoice with her! Also, after the Sunday morning service, February 28, sisters Maddie and Megan wanted to learn more about salvation in Christ. With mom right by their side, they both listened attentively to the gospel. Having understood their need for Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, they both trusted Him for the gift of everlasting life. Praise be to God for their names being written in the Lamb's book of life!

Bring Them In!

A continued prayer request here is for God to give each one "courage, confidence and compassion" in sharing Christ. A companion request is for God's leading our paths across those seeking salvation, those looking for a church home, and those believers needing to be faithful in a church. God has surely answered those requests many times over as the church people testify of opportunities to share the gospel with the lost and as visitors attend the services. (The new church building helps in this whole process.) Once again, several first-time visitors have attended the services. Some continue to attend while others do not. May God use us keep making disciples of Christ.

Matching Gift

Last month was mentioned the matching offer made to help the church complete some unfinished items from the building program. From January 1 – March 31, all

contributions to the building fund (up to \$20,000.00) will be matched dollar-for-dollar. To date the amount contributed is \$5,317.70. Thanks be to God for such gracious giving!

Let It Snow!

It has been quite a snowy month here with areas receiving record amounts of total accumulation. Through it all there was only one canceled service, Wednesday, February 10. An added blessing was the safety in driving God provided His people throughout the whole month!

One Big Family

A host of individuals in the church family have recently been encountering trials of various and sundry sorts. Whether related to health, automobiles, employment, or relationships many of the church people have found themselves needing to bear under such pressures. On numerous occasions the church body has responded in true Biblical love, offering much needed prayer support, providing meals, giving rides, watching each other's children, giving financially, etc. This church has certainly been putting their faith into practice, showing each other - as well as those around them - the blessing of being a part of the family of God.

Missions' Conference

Preparations are being made for the approaching annual missions' conference scheduled for March 21 – March 24. The theme for the conference is "A Missions Minded Ministry" with a goal of \$2,800.00 per month set for the body to support missions.

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Building project / dollar-for-dollar match and
- 3) Missions' Conference

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

February 2010

Vol. 12 No. 1

Men's Breakfast

The second Saturday of each month is set aside for the men to get together for a breakfast. Having this event in the fellowship hall has been a welcomed blessing since the number of men in attendance has grown significantly. This month (January 9) Paul Haines provided the breakfast meal, Jim Martin shared his testimony of salvation and Jack Adams gave a Bible devotional. The morning concluding with the men forming three groups for prayer time.

Quarterly Meeting

The second quarter church meeting was held during the evening service of January 17. Since the only major item on the meeting agenda was the reviewing and approving of the financial report, much time could be spent praying together. What a good opportunity for the church body to praise, thank and seek God.

Teens' Ministry

On Saturday afternoon, January 23, six teens provided a dinner to help fund their summer trip to the WILDS camp. Once again Joe and Terry Rekowski gave their time and efforts to prepare the pasta and meatball dinner. The teens did a fine job setting up the dining area, serving each table, cleaning up and then working together to get the fellowship hall ready for church services the next day.

Saved by Grace

Having heard the gospel message of salvation during the church services and from individual witnesses, both Carolina and Guillarmena came to realize that they needed to be saved. Answering questions about baptism helped Carolina see that she needed first to be born again. A personal visit by a few of our ladies was instrumental in Guillarmena more fully understanding the message of salvation. Thank God for tender hearts to the gospel.

Outreach Sunday

Our fifth Sunday outreach, January 31, provided the church body another opportunity to bring to church services the unchurched and the unsaved they know. Thank God for some invited guests who attended! After the morning service, the fellowship hall filled up as nearly all stayed for the sandwich, sides and snack luncheon. Once more some extra tables had to be set up to accommodate the large number. When the lunch was finished all helped clean up and put tables away. Then, Pastor Counterman and Jeff Kilcup led an afternoon singspiration and testimony service with the theme, "God's Glorious Grace." What a good day in the Lord it was!

Another Match

There have been times in the past when a matching offer has been made to help the church with a particular project. This time, to help complete some unfinished items from the building program, a dollar-for-dollar match of all contributions to the building fund (up to \$20,000.00) has been made. The time period to reach this goal is January 1 – March 31. This is a real blessing as we seek to complete some much needed projects around the building, particularly the kitchen. To date the amount contributed is \$1,782.00

Senior Center Service

The service on the third Sunday of the month at the Herman Kapp Senior Residences continues to be a real blessing. David Fish leads and coordinates this ministry. Usually there are ten seniors in attendance, including several regulars along with some visitors. The service includes singing together, a testimony from one of church people, and the preaching of the Scriptures. It has been good to hear several of our men present the Scriptures to these dear people. They all certainly enjoy our time with them and the interaction we have with them.

More Visitors

The new church building and invitations extended by our church families have been helpful in seeing more first-time visitors attend the church services. Jim and Eileen's grandson attended with them on January 3. Charmaine and her two children attended January 10. She is very interested in the ministry and has been attending regularly since. Tim and his three children attended January 24. During our outreach Sunday, January 31, Bob and his family visited the services. Also, several from the community have called the church office to ask about the church ministry and inquiries have been made through the contact link on our web site. Thanks be unto God for these who have come and for those coming again. May God continue to use us to evangelize the lost and edify the saints!

Building Projects

It has been good to maintain contact with those who have been involved in the construction of the new church building. There continues to be good witnessing opportunities to these individuals. What a joy to see some of them attend various services and ministries of the church. We do pray for God to use this building to bring more souls to Christ.

Looking Ahead...

Our annual missions conference is scheduled for March 21-24. The theme is "A Missions Minded Ministry" and the goal for supporting missions in the new fiscal year is \$2,800.00 per month.

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Building project / dollar-for-dollar match and
- 3) Spring ministries.

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

January 2010

Vol. 11 No. 12

Lady Lights

On Friday evening, December 4, the ladies enjoyed a Christmas tea and cookie exchange. The fellowship hall was arranged in small group settings to allow the ladies opportunity to fellowship over a cup of tea. Later in the evening Tracy Kilcup gave a Bible devotional encouraging the ladies to continue to walk by faith. As the evening concluded the cookies were divided and recipes were distributed among those participating in the exchange.

Teen Ministry

On Saturday, December 5, Pastor Counterman and several teens attended the annual LIT (Leaders in Training) conference at Anchor Baptist Church, Maryland. Their day included hearing preaching and teaching on godly character, personal choices and developing leadership. What another blessed opportunity for these young people to learn more about growing into faithful servants of Christ.

Hispanic Christmas Program

As in the two previous years, the Castros and Maldonados organized a children's Christmas program for the Spanish community. Much preparation and practice was invested into the program which was presented Friday evening, December 18. Beginning with the creation account and ending with the nativity the children presented God's plan of redemption. Several Power Point slides and congregational songs helped emphasize the gospel message. Pastor Troutman concluded the program with a Bible devotional presenting the greatest gift to ever be offered and to be freely received – everlasting life in Jesus Christ.

“O Come, Emmanuel”

The church's Christmas Program, “O Come, Emmanuel” was scheduled to be presented Sunday morning, December 20.

However, a snowstorm altered that plan. It was decided to present the program in that evening service and then again in the morning service, January 3. This presentation of well-loved Christmas carols combined with Scriptural narratives was a blessed reminder why Jesus Christ came to earth - He came to die, that we might live. At the close of each presentation Pastor Troutman provided a summarization of the gospel and then gave an invitation to accept Christ as Savior.

Christmas Caroling

The church had two opportunities to sing Christmas carols in the community. On Wednesday, December 16, on a rather chilly evening, the church people stood in front of the local WalMart and sang the songs declaring Christ's birth. Plans were made to do some more caroling on Sunday evening, December 20. The aforementioned snowstorm moved that to Sunday evening, December 27. Pastor Counterman led a group to Independence Manor for a time of caroling and Pastor Troutman led a group to the Herman Kapp Senior Center to carol. Both groups then gathered back at the church for hot beverages, snacks and fellowship. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to share the incarnation of Christ in song with others.

Christmas Eve

The theme of the Thursday evening Christmas Eve service was “*Christmas: Where Did It Really Begin?*” Projected onto the screen were portions of Scripture prophesying and describing Christ's birth, pictures relating to those prophecies and familiar carols relating to those passages. A brief explanation was provided to help understand the prophecies in light of the coming of Christ.

New Year's Eve

On Thursday evening, December 31, the congregation gathered in the fellowship hall for a New Year's Eve dinner and service.

Everyone contributed to the pot luck supper which began around 6:30 pm. As usual, it was quite delicious. After dessert Jack Adams led the group in singing Christmas carols and sharing testimonies of how God has worked in hearts and lives throughout the past year. For those who wanted to stay later, the Christian film, *Facing the Giants*, was shown in the auditorium. Thank the Lord for the good evening it was.

Visitors

During the month there were a host of first time visitors to the services. Paul and Barbara's neighbors attended the Sunday evening Christmas program. Tom's friend from California visited the services while here in New Jersey. A man from Frenchtown stopped in to see what we were like. He aome again two weeks later. Elizabeth has attended on two occasions as well. Several inquiries about the church were made via phone calls to the office. May the Lord help us all to “bring them in.” Even more so, may we all be used to lead the unbelievers to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ!

Building Update

The first Christmas in the new building provided an opportunity for the people to help decorate the platform with poinsettias. Many donated the flowers in memory of beloved family and friends. They all looked so beautiful. Regarding matters still being finalized with the baptistery and heating, the holidays put things on hold somewhat. In the month, \$1,345.00 was added to the “**Bricks, Blocks and Beams**” building fund. Praise God for all that has been done.

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Follow up of visitors to services;
- 3) Finalizing the church building project; and
- 4) Missions' Conference (March 21-24).

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

December 2009

Vol. 11 No. 11

Breakfast and Workday

An all church breakfast and workday was held on Saturday, November 7. John Zengel coordinated the breakfast which started at 8:00 and featured egg sandwiches, bacon, sausage, bagels, doughnuts, coffee cake and fruit. Sam Maldonado then provided a brief devotional on "offering our sacrifice of praise." Joe Rekowski then assigned work duties which included washing windows, cleaning nursery toys, weed whacking overgrowth, buffing the basement floor and vacuuming the auditorium. What a great morning it was for all in attendance.

New Members

Florence Fleming is a recent widow who has been faithfully attending services for well over a year. She has been thoroughly enjoying the ministry and when she learned that she was not going to be moving from the area, she decided to join the church. On Sunday, November 8, she shared with the congregation her testimony of salvation and baptism. She was then voted into the membership of the church. The following Sunday, Tamara Sanford, shared her salvation testimony with the church body, was baptized and then voted into the church membership. When her job brought her to this area a few years ago, she started to attend church here. For some time she has known that God wanted her to be baptized and become part of the church family, so she decided to submit to His leading. Praise be to God for his working in these ladies' lives.

Senior Service

The church continues to conduct a short afternoon service at the Herman Kapp Senior Residences on the third Sunday of each month. Now that one of our members is a resident at this facility, those participating in the service enjoy a time of fellowship and lunch prior to the 2:00 service. Thank the Lord for Dee's hospitality! On November 15, Pastor Troutman began the service by leading

several hymns. David Fish then asked for the residents to share testimonies of thanksgiving. He then preached a short message on being thankful for all things at all times.

Believer's Baptism

We continue to rejoice in the spiritual growth of those in our Hispanic group. On Sunday, November 22, with Sam Maldonado translating, Wilmer Carcamo and Yadira Castro gave their salvation testimonies before being immersed in the waters of baptism. What a blessing, especially since Wilmer has come to know the Lord as Savior just five months ago!

Thanksgiving Eve Service

On November 25, in place of the regularly scheduled Wednesday ministries there was a special Thanksgiving Eve service. The hour-long service featured congregational singing of thanksgiving hymns, the reading of several Thanksgiving proclamations, a time for children to give thanks to God, and "popcorn" testimonies of praise by the adults. This provided a good opportunity to reflect upon the meaning of the Thanksgiving holiday. What a great way to prepare for the next day's observance of Thanksgiving with friends and family.

Outreach Sunday

The fifth Sunday outreach, November 29, was another opportunity for the church body to invite the unchurched and unsaved to attend church services with them. Thank the Lord for several first time visitors. Nearly all stayed for the simple lunch that followed the morning service. As a matter-of-fact, extra tables were set up to accommodate the whole group. After lunch and all helping to clean up, Pastor Counterman and Jeff Kilcup led an afternoon singspiration and testimony service. The theme of the service was "The Sacrifice of Praise." Praise be to God for the wonderful day in the Lord!

Contacts and Visitors

Since holding our first service in the new building there have been visitors to every morning service since. This month there were a total of 27 first time visitors, which included 10 from out of town. Half of those "in town" visitors have returned again. One young lady (temporarily here in the area under special circumstances) saw our church building and decided to attend. During the invitation given after the morning sermon, she sought help and counsel. That afternoon she trusted Christ as her personal Savior. As she returns to her home area, we seek to help her find a church in which she can become grounded in the faith.

Building Program

It is hard to believe that it is now five months since the first service was held in this new church building. What a blessing it has been! There are some matters still being finalized with the baptistery and heating, but overall it has been a good situation. In the month, \$1,598.00 was added to the "Bricks, Blocks and Beams" building fund. Praise God for all that has been done.

Christmas Preparations

Plans and preparations are being made for several Christmas ministries. Christmas caroling will be done in front of the new Walmart on Wednesday, December 16, and at two indoor facilities, Sunday evening, December 20. The Christmas Cantata, "O Come, Emmanuel," will be presented Sunday morning, December 20.

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Follow up of visitors to services;
- 3) Finalizing the church building project; and
- 4) Christmas ministries.

Merry Christmas!

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

November 2009

Vol. 11 No. 10

It's a Boy!

Congratulations to the Jim McCallum family. Myounghee delivered her third son, Russell, on Friday, October 9, at 5:59 pm. He weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces and measured 21 inches. Incidentally, he was born the day after her birthday – what a joyous present!

Saved by Grace

Diego has been attending church regularly with his older teen-age brother, Eddie. (Eddie has been saved for about a year now.) Diego enjoys Junior Church and TRUTH TRACKERS and has been learning more and more from the Scriptures of his need for salvation in Jesus Christ. On Sunday afternoon, October 11, he placed his faith and trust in Jesus Christ for eternal life! Along that line, Eddie and Diego's older brother Ricky has been attending church nearly every week, hearing the gospel and asking questions about spiritual matters. Their mother has also been attending periodically. May God continue to do a work in the lives of these boys and in this entire family.

Fall Church Activity

Plans were made for a fall TRUTH TRACKERS' Blast Activity to be held on Saturday afternoon, October 17. Pastor Counterman arranged for the entire church to visit a corn maze and then to go on hay rides. The purpose for such an activity was to provide the children an opportunity to help bring their friends to salvation in Christ through inviting them to this church activity, to show Christ to them, to introduce them to gospel message of salvation. It also provided both children and adults an occasion to enjoy a time of fellowship and enjoyment together. However, a soaking rain the latter part of the week made the entire venue too muddy and sloppy. Hence, much to the dismay of many it had to be cancelled.

Prayer Conference

The weekend of October 23-26 featured the church's sixth annual Prayer Conference. The theme was, "**HIS PRAYER, OUR PATTERN**," which focused upon the Lord's prayer recorded in Matthew 6. The conference schedule presented the church body opportunity to pray together and to hear sermons about praying. So, before each of the services a café time was provided for people to fellowship and to pray together. The prayer requests each time coincided with the message preached in the following service. On Friday, praying focused upon to topic of the message to be preached by Pastor Steve Hathaway, "Addressing God with Adoration" (Matthew 6:9). Saturday's schedule included a simple supper followed by prayer time. Our praying focused upon to topic of the message to be preached by Pastor Rob Vigil, "Approaching God in Submission" (Matthew 6:10). On Sunday, the church body used the Sunday School hour to again spend time in prayer, this time focusing upon God's daily provision. Pastor Troutman's sermon in the morning service was entitled, "Acknowledging God for Provision" (Matthew 6:11). In the evening service, Pastor Troutman's message was "Asking God for Protection" (Matthew 6:12-14). A snack fellowship and prayer time after the Sunday evening service brought the conference to a close.

Believer's Baptism

What a blessing it is to see steady growth in the lives of God's people, particularly those in our Hispanic group. Concluding the Saturday service of the prayer conference, three Hispanic believers were baptized. Norma Velasco and Tito and Ada Chavez gave there salvation testimonies before being immersed in obedience to their Lord. What a great way to end the service since the theme of the message was "Approaching the Lord in Submission."

Contacts and Visitors

Once more, a host of first-time visitors have attended church services, mainly Sunday morning. Rick and Linda brought their friend, Sally. A couple from the neighborhood stopped in after seeing much activity around the building. A gentleman who spoke Polish and very little English paid a visit to Sunday School. To help us communicate with him, a young lady fluent in five languages was able to help out. (No, this is not our version of a tongues' ministry ☺.) Several from the Hispanic community have attended services for the first time as well. Not only are we grateful for every visitor who attends, all who hear the good news of salvation, but we also praise God for the opportunity to demonstrate Christian hospitality to these visitors. The church body has been a joy to watch as they welcome and help these new comers.

Building Program

Last year at this time, the building project was about two months old. The "water quality filter" and the "detention basin" were completed and the walls of the lower level of the building were installed. It has now been four months since the first service was held in the completed building. What a difference a year makes! Also, the first of October marked the beginning of making payments on the mortgage. The interest rate is a very generous 5.22% - for which we praise and thank God! In the month, \$1,396.00 was added to the "**Bricks, Blocks and Beams**" building fund. Praise God for all that has been done in this effort.

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Follow up of visitors to services;
- 3) Finalizing the church building project; and
- 4) Thanksgiving and Christmas ministries.

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

October 2009

Vol. 11 No. 9

Faithful Servants

What a joy it is to have a church blessed with so many faithful and willing servants of God! While Pastor Troutman and his family were away on vacation, five of the men fill the pulpit in his absence. These included: Pastor Counterman, Abel Castro, David Fish, Jeff Kilcup and Joe Rekowski. A host of other church members stepped in to play the piano, teach Jr. Church and serve in the nursery in Dawn's absence.

TRUTH TRACKERS

One of the fall ministries, TRUTH TRACKERS (for children ages 3 through grade 6), began its new year on Wednesday, September 9. On that first evening Pastor Counterman led an open house for the whole church body, explaining the ministry and giving details about what will be taking place throughout this new year. All the supplies and books were provided that evening so when the children came the following week, they were well prepared for the memory time, the main emphasis of this ministry. Thanks be to God for the good start to this year of TRUTH TRACKERS.

Midweek Series

On Wednesday as TRUTH TRACKERS takes place in the fellowship hall, the rest of the church body is viewing a DVD series entitled, "Biblical Insights into Child Training" by Reb Bradley. The thrust of these lessons is to provide practical advice from the Scriptures to parents in order to train their children to be godly, responsible individuals. This is much needed for all parents and has indeed been a blessing each week.

Lady Lights Night

On the first Friday of each month the ladies will once again have their Lady Lights Night. With the expectation of larger attendance, the ladies will meet at the church instead of one another's homes.

On Friday, September 11, Bonnie Counterman led their first get together and showed the first lesson in the series, "Walking by Faith: Lessons Learned in the Dark." It was a blessed night of spiritual encouragement and fellowship for all in attendance, especially for some of the ladies new to the church ministry.

Men's Breakfast

Another fall ministry that started was the monthly men's breakfast and prayer time On Saturday, September 12, at 7:30 in the morning several men gathered at the church for a continental breakfast. John Zengel gave a devotional and led the prayer time. Around 9:30 all pitched in to help clean up. What a good start to this monthly ministry.

New Members

John and Judy Peters and their two children have been attending church services for the past few months. They have really enjoyed the ministry and have found the church to be just what they need. On Sunday morning, September 27, John and Judy gave their testimonies of salvation and baptism and were then voted into the membership. Praise God for their addition to the church body.

Moving On

Times come when people move away from the area and consequently leave the church ministry. Eric White recently moved to Long Beach Island and Barnabas and Anna Jakab relocated to Statsville, North Carolina. They will be missed here.

Certificate of Occupancy

The last document was provided to the township and the final inspections were approved by the inspectors so that we could receive our long awaited Certificate of Occupancy. For several months we have had a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy while all outstanding work was

being completed. Wednesday, September 30, the township issued that most important paper – our CO. Praise the Lord for this accomplishment!

Visitors

Having now been in the new building for three months, we continue to see a host of first time visitors. We have had visitors in every morning service, many in the evening service and some in the Wednesday service. When asking how they learned about the church, the responses continue to be varied, but almost all have to do with the new building in one way or another. It is good to see several of these visitors continue to attend regularly.

Approaching Conference

Plans and preparations are being made for our fifth annual prayer conference, October 23 – 25. The theme of this year's conference is "His Prayer, Our Pattern." The four messages preached will address each section of the well-known Lord's prayer recorded in Matthew 6. The conference will also include several times for the people to pray together.

Building Program

Though we have received our CO, there are some interior items needing completion. These are being handled in order of priority, with the congregation continuing to be generous and patient as these matters are finalized. Regarding finances, thanks be unto God for \$2,426.99 being added to the stockpile through the "Bricks, Blocks and Beams" building fund. We truly rejoice in all that God has done!

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Follow up of visitors to services;
- 3) Finalizing the church building project; and
- 4) Prayer Conference.

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

September 2009

Vol. 11 No. 8

Vacation Bible School

During the week of August 3 – 7, fifty-one children, grades 1 – 6, attended our annual Vacation Bible School. The theme was “*Passport to the Promised Land*” with the auditorium and Sunday School areas decorated with different scenes from the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The preaching and the Bible lessons highlighted different parts of Christ’s ministry. Also, God’s plan of salvation through Jesus Christ was clearly presented. Praise God for four young people who trusted Christ as Savior and for several others who received the assurance of their salvation! Still others shared their desire to be baptized. Throughout the week quite a few of the visiting families expressed their appreciation for our Bible-based and Christ-centered program. On Sunday morning, August 9, the auditorium was quite full for the closing awards program. The 162 in attendance was the highest ever for a morning service! Praise God for a blessed week of Bible School

Summer Camp

During the week of August 3-7 two Junior Highers attended a week of camp at Camp Calvary. Both girls stated that they had a truly blessed week at the camp, remarking particularly about the good preaching. The following week, August 10-14, ten youngsters attended Camp Calvary’s Junior Age Camp. This, too, was a blessed week for these children, some attending camp for the very first time. Praise the Lord for a safe and encouraging week for these young people. What a blessed time in the Lord they had.

Men’s Workday

A group of men gathered together for an impromptu breakfast and workday, Saturday, August 15. After the continental breakfast Joe Rekowski assigned various outdoor duties to complete. This included weed whacking the two detention ponds, trimming trees, cutting down some brush and overgrowth, and weeding the parking lot islands. At around 1:00 pm the work

concluded, nearly everything done that was planned.

Wedding

Of the Hispanics attending the church, Tito and Ada have been coming quite regularly. They are both saved and have lived together for some time and have a grown son. After hearing the teaching and preaching of God’s Word over the course of time they decided that they needed to take the step to get married. After attending pre-marital counseling and having taken measures to separate themselves until they were married, the wedding was performed Saturday, August 22. It is truly a joy to see the Lord working in their lives. What a testimony they are to others who are living together without being married.

Baptismal Service

On Sunday morning, August 30, the church’s first baptism in the new building was done. Concluding a sermon on what the Bible teaches about baptism, Sandy Stephens and Brett Shaw shared their testimonies of salvation and were baptized. They were both accepted into the membership of the church. What a blessed morning it was!

Outreach Sunday

The fifth Sunday outreach, August 30, did not reach the expectations desired, but thank the Lord for invited guests that did attend. Following the baptismal service a light luncheon was served in the church’s fellowship hall. This was the first such lunch conducted in the new building. In contrast to the previous building, the ladies certainly enjoyed serving from the kitchen and the men truly enjoyed not having to carry tables from the upstairs to downstairs. For the first time, all went rather well. When lunch was completed, the group returned to the auditorium for an afternoon singspiration and testimony service. The theme for this service was “The Name of Jesus.” It was a great day in the Lord.

Visitors

Throughout the month the influx of visitors has continued – a total of 33 to be exact. Many have come because they saw that the church was now “open.” Others have come at the invitation of friends. Still others have come because they are looking for a strong, Bible preaching church. Many of these visitors have started to attend regularly, some expressing an interest in becoming members of the church. It is also a joy to see the congregation demonstrate a Christ-like love toward these visitors and warmly welcome them.

Building Update

Some final requirements for obtaining the permanent Certificate of Occupancy were completed during the month. Soil Conservation provided a letter of compliance, the Township Planning Department was provided documentation requested and the Builder finished some outstanding work. At this point there are just some final inspections to be made. There still remains the need to provide for some interior items, which are being listed in order of priority. The church body continues to be generous and patient as we seek to finalize all of these matters. Regarding finances, thanks be unto God for \$2,037.56 being added to the stockpile through the “**Bricks, Blocks and Beams**” building fund. We truly rejoice in all that God has done!

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Follow up of visitors to services;
- 3) Finalizing the church building project; and
- 4) Start of Fall ministries.

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

August 2009

Vol. 11 No. 7

Moving Day

All preparations were made for and much enthusiasm was shown on the moving day that had long been anticipated. However, we were delayed a week due to certain requirements and documentation not being fully complete. Our opening date of July 5 was then moved to July 12. During the week between phone calls were made and documents were received so that we could obtain a "Temporary Certificate of Occupancy." We expected it to be ready by that Wednesday, but we did not get it until Friday afternoon. The move was already in process and thankfully all went smoothly so that by early Saturday afternoon, all was done. Praise the Lord for the many hands who helped in packing, moving, unpacking, etc. God is good!

First Service

On Sunday morning, July 12, the church held her first services in the new building. What a great day in the Lord it was! There were only some minor issues that surfaced along the way, but none that prevented a solid day of worship, praise and ministry. The attendance? In the morning service the total attendance was 161. There was a host of first time visitors and many who had attended the church in the past. Can anyone say "Phase II"?

New Member

Jim Martin had been attending the church since mid May. He had been searching for a new church home, one that would feed him spiritually and one in which he could get involved. It did not take long for him to know that this is where God wanted him to be. He has been faithfully attending each service and expressed his desire to become a member. So, during the first service on July 12, Jim shared his testimony of salvation and baptism with the entire congregation. He was then voted into the membership of the church. Praise be to God.

Saved by Grace

Marie had been hearing the gospel message of salvation from Norma, one of our Hispanic believers. More importantly, she has been seeing Christ being live in her life. This made a tremendous impact upon her, such that when she visited the church service on July 12, she walked forward during the invitation to trust Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. She has been faithfully attending church services since.

Building Dedication

For some time the building dedication has been planned for Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26. On Saturday, the service mainly focused upon showing appreciation for our builders, bankers, volunteers and to present the building to the general community around us. Invitations were sent and personal contacts were made. Just over 100 people attended this special 2:00 pm service. The service included time given to acknowledge the building committee, to appreciate the builders, to show the construction progress, to thank the congregation and most of all, to praise our great God. In the service Pastor Wayne Burggraff (Faith Baptist Church, Lebanon, PA) shared from Scripture the greatness of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful reminder to the congregation having just completed a building project. Praise God we have so great a Savior! Pastor Andy Counterman (Anchor Baptist Church, Millersville, MD) closed the service with a prayer of dedication. Everyone then enjoyed a time of refreshments and fellowship in the downstairs hall. What a blessed service it was!

Sunday's morning service was mainly for the congregation, to put into perspective what our great God has done and what is to be done moving forward. Pastor Troutman preached a message from Ezra 6:15-18 encouraging the congregation to remember what a great God we serve, what a great work He has done, and what a great responsibility He has given the body.

Following the service, the people

celebrated this great accomplishment in the downstairs hall with some cake and beverages. It truly was a special day!

Visitors

It was expected that once the first service was held in the new building that there would be an influx of visitors. That proved true as at least 25 people (that we know for sure) from the community attended one of the services. There were others from out of town and from other churches who also visited. It is a delight to see many of these visitors coming again.

Building Update

Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 7:8, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." How true this is – and, yea, has been throughout this building project! While we do have our Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, work is still being done that is required for our permanent Certificate of Occupancy. Also, there is much more to be done within the building to bring all to our desired completion. This includes fully furnishing both the kitchen and the church office, providing for the coat racks in the coat room, installing a new media projector, and finding / making storage areas (never enough of this). Thankfully, the church body has been generous and patient as we seek to finalize all of these matters. Regarding finances, thanks be unto God for \$1,768.92 being added to the stockpile through the "Bricks, Blocks and Beams" building fund. We truly rejoice in all that God has done!

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Follow up of visitors to services;
- 3) Finalizing the church building project; and
- 4) Vacation Bible School (August 3-7).

Heritage Baptist Church

Herald

July 2009

Vol. 11 No. 6

Missionary Visits

On Sunday, June 7, during the Sunday School hour, the congregation heard missionary Colin Mansker and his wife, Becky, share their burden for the people in Asia. He showed slides of their recent trip to the field and presented goals upon returning in late July. In the morning hour he preach a message from Luke 23 detailing the conversion of the thief on the cross.

Missionary Bruce Tuttle and his wife, Natalie, visited the Sunday morning service, June 21. He provided a visual update of their work taking place in Bila Tserkva, Ukraine. Praise God for young men being trained for the pastoral ministry and the new churches being planted. He also preached a message from II Kings 7 showing how the selfish opportunistic lepers became selfless providers to others.

It's a Girl!

Pastor Simeon and Bonnie Counterman welcomed their baby daughter, Kezia Grace, on Sunday, June 7, at 11:38 am. She weighed 7 pounds 3 1/2 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches. Praise the Lord for this addition to their family and for the answered prayers throughout the pregnancy.

Men's Overnighter

Having a very rainy and soggy week did not allow the men's overnighter to be held. Though there was some sun that Friday, June 19, the forecast for the evening and the morning was not favorable. The result was postponing this annual event until mid July.

The WILDS

On Sunday afternoon, June 21, Pastor Counterman lead a group of teens from the church for a week of camp at the WILDS. They all arrived there safe and sound. During the week several decisions for the Lord Jesus Christ were made and much activity was enjoyed. During the Sunday

morning service, June 28, a slide show of the week's ministry was shown to the congregation. Praise God for this enriching time in their lives!

Annual Meeting

In the evening service June 28, the church held the annual general meeting. The first item on the agenda was reviewing and accepting the annual report. Also included in the meeting was the election of Joe Rekowski as deacon, Jim Stephens as treasurer, and Barbara Haines as church clerk for the new fiscal year. The church also approved the proposed budget and approved the raising of some missionaries' present support levels. The meeting was completed in about 40 minutes with the remainder of the service time spent in prayer. Praise be to God for the good discussion and sweet spirit of unity throughout the entire meeting.

VBS Preparation

Much planning, praying and inviting has been done for the approaching Vacation Bible School, scheduled for July 13-17. Due to the delay in entering the building, the ministry has been postponed to the week of August 3-7. One preliminary meeting was held on June 28 to further outline the program and prepare for the week. May the Lord truly bless this ministry of reaching more souls for Christ.

Visitors

Once again we have been blessed with some first-time visitors to the services. Mark, who professed Christ as Savior on Wednesday, June 10, visited the following Sunday. Lynn, whose husband works for the borough, visited June 14. Derek, a friend of Tamara's, also visited the same Sunday. Several recent visitors have continued to attend, a few indicating their desire to join the church. What a blessing it is to see the Lord work in hearts and lives.

Building Program

Once more, "Thank you" for all your prayers and provision for the building program. It is indeed most appreciated. One of the more recent and quite earnest prayer requests regarding this project has been the approval of our sewer connection application. Early Monday morning, June 8, the DEP had sent an e-mail to our engineer stating that the permit had been signed. However, there were two more revised plans he needed before mailing it. Playing the role of courier Pastor Troutman took the requested plans to Trenton and hand delivered them. The supervisor then provided a copy of the approval letter which immediately was delivered to the engineer, builder, excavator. What a blessing!

A series of final inspections began June 17. While most all passed without any issues, there were some "punch list" items that needed attention. The builder has taken steps to complete this list so that inspections can once again be scheduled. Currently, no more work inside or outside the building needs to be done. The new chairs have arrived. New hymnals are also on site. The first service in the new building is tentatively set for July 5. Remember, a dedication service has been scheduled for Saturday, July 25 (general public, builders, other churches) and Sunday, July 26 (church family). Mark your calendars!! Regarding finances, thanks be unto God for \$4,205.50 being added to the stockpile through the "Bricks, Blocks and Beams" building fund. We truly rejoice in all that God has done!

Please Pray

- 1) Continued outreach ministry, evangelism efforts and discipleship;
- 2) Building Committee / church building project; and
- 3) Vacation Bible School (August 3-7).