

H On the Homefront

Volume I, Number 1, Spring 2009

Welcome!

On The Homefront is a newsletter for the friends and family of University Baptist Church in Clemson, SC. It was born out of need to keep our missionaries and friends updated on all the happenings in Clemson. We hope it will be a blessing to you as you read of the events from this past year—2008.

Nursery Expansion

The New Year began with exciting news! The nursery increased in size by 300%. No, not the physical size, but with the news that Jeff and Rebecca Bate were adopting triplets! Born January 13, the identical boys arrived all weighing about 3 pounds. Chris, Daniel and Nathan are now making their appearance at church (because of their preemie condition, the Bates chose to keep them at home until the flu and cold season passed). Jeff and Rebecca have set up a website to chronicle their adoption experience with the boys. For those of us who cannot get over the miracle of the identical triplets, www.theendlessparty.blogspot.com has become a regularly visited site. The nursery grew again in April, when Joseph and Rachel Singapogu welcomed Kiran David on April 25. David weighed in at 9 pounds and 6 ounces!

Building Committee

January was also a month in which the church family received some disheartening news. The architect, David McAbee, whom the building committee had been working with, had run some tests on the current educational building. Based upon his findings, it was discussed at the church business meeting that the building needed to be torn down before it fell down on us. The building is considered a “pole barn” and it appears that the poles were rotting from the inside out. Because the poles are in direct contact with the soil, the building was considered unsafe. The building committee discussed the building of a new building at the cost of \$1.2 million. There was considerable discussion on the options available to the church. The meeting was adjourned with the feeling of woe.

The April business meeting was quite a surprise after the somber tone of the January meeting. Darren Dawson, chairman of the building committee, presented new findings on the status of the educational building. It seems based on another engineer’s findings that the “poles” of the building can be fixed for approximately \$9,000-\$15,000! Either newly treated lumber or steel “poles” can be attached to the existing ones to steady them. With the structural and cosmetic work, the building could be made usable at a \$60,000 -\$80,000 range. The building committee continued to hash out the details until it was presented to the church in June. On June 8, the church voted on the proposal from the deacons. The proposal read, “The board of deacons of



University Baptist Church proposes that we spend \$1.2 million on the renovation of the current educational building and construction of a new multi-purpose building to be located between the current educational building and Pendleton Road.” Funding for the proposal will come from approximately \$500,000 in the building fund, borrowing \$600,000 and by raising \$100,000 from additional gifts. The proposal passed.

Sad Farewells

January held the farewell service for the Ted Rich family. Ted accepted the call to help Pastor Will Senn begin Cross Impact Campus Ministry chapters in the west. The Riches moved to Colorado in late January. Ted, Julie, Hannah, Timothy, Jonathan and Baby Rich are greatly missed at UBC.

No sooner had the church said good-bye to the Riches, they also said good-bye to the Randy Hockema family. Randy accepted the call to pastor Lena Baptist Church in Lena, Illinois. Jennifer served as our interim secretary until Caleb Davey accepted the position last fall. The farewell was bittersweet. Randy, Jennifer, Courtney, Luke and Chloe are all missed.

Love and Marriage

On February 8, the youth group hosted our Valentine’s Banquet, “An Evening of Southern Charm.” Those who attended were delighted with the young maitre d’ and hostesses seating them at previously assigned tables. The meal began with rolls and a green salad. The main course was served by meat carvers carving pork roast in a mustard sauce with all the trimmings. The meal was complete with homemade cheesecake and coffee. The teens did an excellent job with the entertainment, as well.

Exactly one month later, Sarah Matzko and Nick Gothard were married at UBC. The service was performed by Pastor Dave Hine and Sarah’s brother-in-law. Sarah’s three sisters sang as a part of the ceremony. Nick and Sarah continued to live in the Clemson area until Nick received his Ph. D. this August. They now live in the Dayton, Ohio area.

With the approach of summer, many others “tied the knot.” On May 17, Joshua Miller, son of Dr. John and Valeri Miller, was married to Rebekah Currier in Waverly, Iowa. The reception was held in Allison, Iowa. Josh is the music director at Harvest Baptist Church in Anderson, SC. He will be completing his final year of seminary in May 2009. Bekah will be working wherever she can find work.

June 20 was the day chosen for the marriage of UBC’s office manager. Caleb Davey married Gloria Hamilton at Tri-City Baptist in Kansas City, Missouri. Caleb and Gloria met at Northland Baptist Bible College. Caleb will continue as the office manager. Gloria is an office manager for a local grocery store chain.

On June 27, David Vines, son of Dr. Dwight and Margo Vines, was married to Melissa Ball in Morgan Hill, California. David and Melissa met at BJU. David is assistant principal and teacher in Phoenix, Arizona. Melissa is an accountant and is working in the Phoenix area.

On June 28, Brooks Prince, daughter of Mrs. Nancy Prince was married at Oakwood Baptist Church in Anderson, SC. Brooks married Nic Fuller, whom she met through a parent of a student that Brooks taught. Nic is an engineer in Greenville, SC. Brooks will be teaching special education in Greenville County schools.



Missions Conference 2008

March brought the annual missions conference. It was such a blessing. We had five families represented: Carson Fremont (Far East), Chris Seawright (Cambodia), Leff Benge (Cameroon), Sergio Ramirez (Cross Impact-Gainesville, FL), and Gerard Lim (Asia). The Fremont's are veteran missionaries of more than 30 years. They have served in the Philippines and Hong Kong. They continue to serve 6 to 8 months out of the year in the Far East. Chris and Heidi Seawright are home on their first furlough. It was fun watching Rachel and Isaac adjust to American culture. Little Susanna, however, was not too happy. The church nursery was her least favorite place to be! Leff Benge, current member of UBC, is planning on returning to Cameroon after having spent a short term there last year. He would like to have a ministry of "helps" including minimal medical help. He is just beginning his deputation work. Sergio and Leisha Ramirez are a young couple just beginning their deputation work, as well. They will be working with Marty Basinger and his church to reach students at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Gerard Lim has been supported by UBC for several years. He served with Carl Sebris in the Chinese Ministry while he was in the states to get Bible training. Very few in the church knew anything about him, so UBC and his only other supporting church flew him to the United States. According to the men of the church who heard him speak during Sunday school, he was a real blessing and a challenge to them. He spoke to the entire congregation on Sunday night and showed his slide presentation of his work. He is doing a Cross Impact type ministry with college students in Asia. The mission conference was an action packed Wednesday through Sunday. All of the activities were a real blessing.

Youth Night and Graduate Honor Night

The last Sunday of April drew to a close with a Youth Night Service. The teens participated in all parts of the service except the preaching; that was left to Pastor Dan Smetana! Sarah Campbell and Caleb Gruending gave testimonies regarding their recent trip to China under the auspices of Oakwood Christian School. Stephen Rollins, having just returned from a two week tour of Israel, also, gave a testimony of his adventures. The high school and college graduates were honored during the service. Graduating from high school were Sarah Campbell, Emilyrose Heichel, Ashley Nicholson and Nick Smit. All four plan to attend Bob Jones University this coming fall. Graduating from Clemson with Bachelors degrees were Josh Finn (Mechanical Engineering), Daniel Lowe (Mechanical Engineering), Sarah Vosburgh (History), and Trent Bostic (Chemistry). Graduating from Clemson with graduate degrees are Nick Gothard (Ph.D. in Physics), and Andrew Neptune (Masters of Science in Civil Engineering). David Vines completed his Masters in Educational Leadership from BJU. At the end of the service, the summer missions offering was taken. The funds have been distributed to those participating in summer missions.

Summer Missions

Many people used their summer to minister to others. Bryan Horton ministered with Missionary Athletes International in Brazil and in Chicago. Camp on Wheels (Arizona and Canada) claimed many of those who ministered this past summer. Pastor Hine spoke at the first teen week from June 9-14. Camp on Wheels has affectionately become know as "UBC of the West" because of the number working: Carli Bumgarner, Allison Campbell, Sarah Campbell, John Paul



Clough, Evan Faucette, Josiah Hine, Allan Heney, Jr., Allison Heney, Stephen Rollins, Randall Wilson, Matt and Rachael Wilson. The men of the church took a trip to Marysvale, Utah to help our missionary, Jonathan Edwards with the Eagles Nest ministries. Traveling to Utah were Thomas McGinnis, Barry and Susan Millsaps, Jon Vosburgh, Mark Vosburgh, and Lee and Sarah Walton. Rounding out the summer will be the Teen Mission trip to Rhinelander, WI. Pastor Dan and Carrie Smetana took a group of teens to help Pastor Mark Ring and Faith Baptist Church. After the week of serving, the teens enjoyed a week of camp at Northland Baptist Bible College. The teens included Emily Fields, Ashton Frager, Elliot Heichel, Abby Heney, Josiah Hine, Carl Horton, Stephen Rollins and Victoria Whitwell. Adventuring along as chaperones were Lois Oldenburg and Lily Rollins.

Vacation Bible School: June 23-27

Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs! Everywhere you looked there were dinosaurs. About 50 children enjoyed a week of “digging for God’s truth” as they learned about creation and Noah as “Dino-Detectives.” Puppets, songs, class time, snack/store time, games, and crafts kept about 40 workers busy for the week. It was a special blessing to have the Walter Loescher Family (our missionary family to Cameroon, West Africa) serving with us for the week. Harvest Baptist Church in Rock Hill, SC used the same theme a few weeks before and gave us many decorations, representative of many hours of work. We were able to pass the decorations along to another church once our week was finished. We praise God for giving us new contacts in our community. Many follow-up opportunities were a result of the week.

Summer '08 Continued

Fourth of July was celebrated at the church with a large UBC family picnic and softball game. Each family brought a picnic side dish and the church provided the fried chicken. Jonathan Millsaps organized the softball game for the adults and teens. What a fun way to share the all-American holiday with our church family.

This summer, also, provided many of our missionaries the opportunity to share their works. In early June, the Keiffers from Brazil presented their work. Their desire is to continue the building of the camp ministry they have started. In July, we heard of the works of both the Loescher and Hammond families. The Loeschers continue to minister in Cameroon. They asked specifically for us to pray for their health, safety and to have a compassion for the people. The Loeschers returned to Foubaum, Cameroon on Sept. 9, 2008. The Hammonds continue working with an infant church plant in the Seattle, WA area. They are praying for a few core families to really help this ministry grow. In August, Bud Talbert visited UBC to update us in the work God has called him to do. The Talberts are to be missionaries “on loan” to Meadowlands Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to start Foundation Institute, a pastoral training center. The institute will be teaching Bible college curriculum, church classes and pastoral classes. The institute hopes to open its doors in September '09. The Talberts asked that we pray for students, teachers, their preparation and for resources for the college. At the present time, the Talberts are raising additional support while he (Bud) is finishing his Doctorate of Pastoral Theology.

The summer would not be complete without the soccer league. This year the program took a different path. Chuck Horton, with his many helpers, did a



soccer clinic for children aged 6-12 for one week. While learning the skills to play soccer, the children also learned Bible verses.

Faith Missions

With school starting back in September, the pastor also began a month long campaign concerning Faith Missions. The campaign concluded on the first Sunday of October. The congregation was given the opportunity to pledge towards the current budget and the 2009 budget. Currently, UBC has 12 missionaries in the Faith Missions category. UBC also has 20 budgeted missionaries.

Cross Impact Ministries

The Cross Impact ministry (formerly known as Spurgeon Foundation) continues to grow on the Clemson campus. When Pastor Ted Rich left to go to Denver, Bert Campbell once again took the reins. International Day was deemed a real success this year. Matt Wilson was able to secure the use of a large tent which was used as the “auditorium” during the challenge from God’s Word. Pastor Hine spoke to the gathered crowd. The tent provided the atmosphere which seemed to keep the distractions to a minimum. Clemson University Fire Department provided both a fire truck and an ambulance for the children to enjoy. The carnival type games, as well as snow cones, were enjoyed by all. Lunch was served by Mark and Patty Vosburgh and their helpers. Helen Heney provided leadership for the afternoon yard sale. The soccer tournament, organized by Daniel Lowe, was won by the Chinese team.

The Wednesday night Bible study continues to grow by leaps and bounds. When the fall '08 semester began, the group was meeting in the back room of Chili’s Too on campus. They soon

outgrew the space and are now meeting in the Poole-Shanklin room of the Clemson House. The students have been divided in “power groups” with student leadership for accountability and discipleship. Much growth has been experienced by the group leaders as well as the the students within the groups. John Turner has been serving as intern for the fall semester. He will be returning for the spring semester with his new bride, Ania, to continue serving as intern to the Cross Impact group.

Creation Museum

In late October, a group from the church went to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky (just outside of Cincinnati, Ohio). Sarah Walton did a wonderful job coordinating the trip for the 20 people who trekked through the 70,000 sq. ft. museum. Our missionaries, the Chris Seawright family, had been traveling in Michigan had the opportunity to join us for the day. Ken Ham, president of Answers in Genesis, spoke at noon in their main auditorium. All those who participated seemed eager to do it again.

Friendship Banquet

Also in October, Pastor Marsh Fant presented his concept of a “friendship banquet.” His church in Rock Hill, SC has been doing this for several years with excellent results. The purpose of the banquet was for our church family to invite those who needed to hear the Gospel message. Plans were soon formulated for UBC’s banquet to be held on December 8th at Camp Hope at Clemson’s Outdoor Laboratory. A catered meal was followed by Evangelist Tom Farrell speaking. On the Sunday before the banquet, December 7, Dr. Farrell spoke in the morning service and again in the evening service after the children’s Christmas program. Between Sunday and Monday, thirteen souls were saved! What a blessing! The friendship



banquet will continue as an annual event at UBC.

Educational Building Progress

The Education building has received its facelift! The structural work has been completed. The new stucco finish and new roof have changed the appearance of our campus. Hopefully, these changes will make the building serviceable for many years to come. The building committee now turns its attention to a new building for housing adult Sunday school classes and a large gathering hall for fellowships.

Thanksgiving and Christmas

Along with the plans for the friendship banquet, November and December passed with a blur of activities. The annual Pie and Praise service was held on November 23. On December 7, the children and teens did an excellent job presenting "Through the Eyes of a Child" under the direction of Becky Gruendling and Cheryl Layne. The children's choir, dressed as angels, was directed by Rachael Wilson and accompanied by Carrie Smetana. The Christmas season passed quickly.

Homegoing

On Tuesday, December 30, UBC's charter member, Allen Davis became unresponsive after suffering a brain aneurysm. On Friday, January 2, 2009, Allen passed on to his eternal home. A memorial service was held on January 5. Please pray for Elaine, his widow, and his children Jeff and Julie and their families as they grow through this great loss. Allen is missed greatly. Many of the pictures you see on the church website are a result of his work.

2009

Pastor Dave, Pastor Dan, Caleb Davey and the deacons are looking forward to serving during 2009. The deacons are chaired by Ted Whitwell this year. Serving with him are Robert Frager, Lary Heichel, Dave Moline, Mike Nicholson, Al Robinson, and Lee Walton.

Website

To see pictures of some of the events mentioned in this newsletter, be sure to visit www.ubc-clemson.org.

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