

Newsletter

Heritage Protestant Reformed Fellowship

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Greetings from Sioux Falls, South Dakota! It has been a gorgeous summer here so far. But the time is going so fast we wonder where the summer has gone! We are thankful for this opportunity to keep in touch with our fellow saints and to encourage you to remember the work of missions in your prayers.

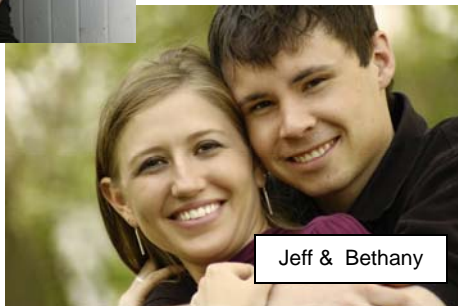
Weddings

More than anything else, the excitement of the past couple of months has been the weddings of three couples and the addition of another new family. Andon & Angie (De Jager) De Boer, Jeff and



Bethany (Van Egdome) Te Slaa, and Brian and Faith (Van Bruggen) Brummel were all joined together in the bond of marriage.

Angie joined the fellowship from a local Christian Reformed Church. Bethany joined the



fellowship from our Doon Protestant Reformed Church. The others were already members.

Another exciting addition to the fellowship is a young married couple- Kyle and Kate (Dykstra) Bleyenburg who joined our fellowship from an area United Reformed



Church. We are very encouraged by the addition of these young couples and the important place they occupy in the life and

witness of the fellowship. With thanksgiving to God the Heritage Protestant Reformed Fellowship now numbers 10 families without the family of our missionary.

Visitors/New Contacts

We continue to have visitors regularly at our worship services both from our area Protestant Reformed congregations and from other churches. One young couple who regularly attends has become engaged and they are planning a wedding at the end of January 2009. One of the young women in the fellowship regularly brings her boyfriend with her to the worship services. I have been meeting with both of the above couples to instruct and refresh them in the doctrines and practices of the Reformed faith. Other local visitors we only see one or two times, but we mail follow-up letters and we try to keep in contact with them to see if we can answer any questions or be of help to them in their spiritual growth.

The Holiday Inn, where we are meeting, sponsors a number of tours that leave from the hotel to various parts of the country. The hotel staff has been directing individuals to our worship services when they ask for a church within walking distance of the hotel. We are thankful for the opportunity to

have these visitors join us in worship and come under the preaching, even though we realize that we may never see them again.

Families from Pierre, SD and Minneapolis, MN continue to work toward the goal of moving to Sioux Falls. The members of the fellowship realize the tremendous commitment required of these families and are humbled by their willingness to relocate for one reason alone- for faithfulness to God and His Word. So easily we take faithfulness to the Bible and faithful preaching for granted. The fellowship is committed not only to assisting them with their moves, but also embracing them warmly and seeking to provide the fellowship necessary to take the place of their family and friends whom they plan to leave behind.

New Meeting Room

We have signed an agreement to begin using a different room in the Holiday Inn that is twice the size of our current room for our worship services starting in the month of September. A member of the steering committee was able to negotiate a modest increase in rent. It was a difficult decision due to the fact that we will lose some of our visibility on the main floor of the hotel and we will lose our convenient outside entrance. But, we will retain our sign in the lobby directing individuals upstairs and we will try to keep a small table near the sign with our literature. One advantage of the larger room is that visitors enter the back of the room which will make it less intimidating to find a seat. Secondly, it will allow for parents to remain in the worship services standing in the back of the room with young children if necessary. There are currently four families with young children whose parents stand in the hallway for part of the service. A baby monitor in the hallway allows them to hear the sermon, but being able to stay standing in the room will be appreciated.

Television Advertising

One of the area television stations invited us to a seminar on advertising. One member of the steering committee attended the presentation with me and we benefited from the analysis. The presenter had a lot of experience in advertising and was able to present many statistics as to the effectiveness of various forms of advertising and the importance of the various forms complimenting one another. We currently make use of a yellow page ad, a website- reformedsiouxfalls.org, and weekly ads in the Argus Leader's religious section.

We have a 30 second advertisement at the end of the Reformed Witness Hour broadcast each Sunday along with 20 radio spots that run from Friday until Sunday each week. Channel 13/abc/KSFY offered a special introductory package that would include 42 commercials per month for one year during prime programming. The commercials are estimated to reach 180,000 people in a 150 mile radius of Sioux Falls.

After careful consideration the steering committee decided to recommend to Edgerton consistory and the DMC that we use a portion of our budgeted advertising funds for that purpose. With the approval of both bodies we are proceeding with the television advertising package. The manager of KSFY sat down with me and a member of the steering committee to help figure out what message we would convey that would identify us and set us apart from the area churches. KSFY's advertising department is working with us to produce attractive ads to be aired on television. While it is daunting to think about going on television with our message, we are very excited for this opportunity. We hope to include reference to the area Protestant Reformed Churches and pray that God will use this to help introduce us to people with whom we would never have the opportunity to interact.

Thanksgiving for Visitors

We have been grateful for the many visitors from our churches who have stopped by this Summer. It is a joy to have others see first hand the blessing of God on the work here in Sioux Falls. Feel free to give us a call or drop us an email if you plan to be in the area. We would love to have to join us for a worship service or stop by to say hello.

We appreciate your continued prayers on behalf of the work here in Sioux Falls particularly and in general for all our mission work.

“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.”
Deuteronomy 7:9

May God bless and keep you.

In Christ's Service,

