

Newsletter

Heritage Protestant Reformed Fellowship

Rev. Allen Brummel
3210 S. Fernwood Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
Phone: 605-271-3692
E-mail: heritageprf@sio.midco.net
WEB: www.reformedsiouxfalls.org

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A Growing Mission

Greetings from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We are excited again to report that God's hand has been upon us and continues to prosper the work. Again, this past month has seen God adding to our number, for which we are thankful.

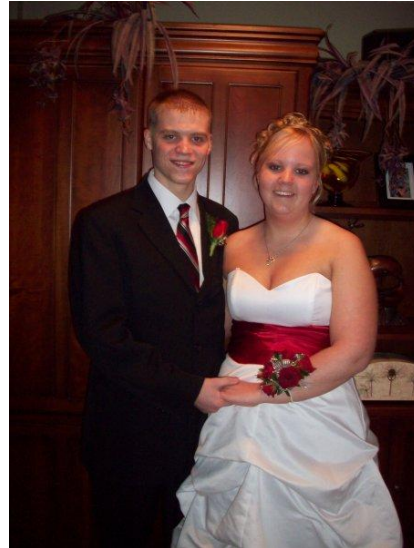
Eric and LeAnne (Kooienga) Westra moved to Sioux Falls in the middle of June along with their son Isaac. Eric works at Sencore Electronics in Sioux Falls and had been commuting from Hull, IA for the past years. LeAnne taught in our Christian schools in Hull and in Doon in the past years. This summer they decided to buy a house and move to



Sioux Falls so he could be closer to his work, and they are in the process of transferring their membership from Calvary PRC to the Fellowship. Eric and LeAnne are also expecting a baby in November, Lord willing. We warmly welcome them to Sioux Falls and are thankful for their

willingness to join with us in seeking to establish a Protestant Reformed Church in Sioux Falls.

We also welcome Kenneth and Amber (Geerdes) Van Den Top to the fellowship. Kenneth is a lifelong member of our Doon congregation. Amber grew up in Rock Rapids with a Lutheran background. Kenneth is attending college in Sioux Falls, seeking a degree in criminal justice. Amber is attending college at SDSU and working toward a



degree in early childhood development. Kenneth and Amber were married on June 26 and made their residence in Sioux Falls.

After receiving instruction from Rev. David Overway, Amber made confession of her faith in

Doon PRC in early June, and they plan to join the Fellowship as they pursue their college degrees.

Organization Consideration

The Edgerton consistory traveled to Sioux Falls and met with the Fellowship at the end of February to discuss the prospect of organization. Rev. Lee presented a power point presentation setting forth the responsibilities that would accompany organization and a possible timeline. Edgerton informed the fellowship that they felt the group was mature enough to organize and that in their estimation God had given men for the offices.

In response to Edgerton's meeting, an informal meeting was held of all the members to gauge their interest. After this meeting, the Steering Committee went to work investigating a possible budget and working through other necessary details. A meeting of the male members was held, at which a motion was entertained to propose organization to the September meeting of Classis West. After a good, brotherly discussion, the motion failed. While there is a desire to be an instituted church of Jesus Christ, the prevailing sentiment was to not rush into organization, but wait a few more months and then consider bringing a request to the March 2010 meeting of Classis West instead.

As missionary I am thankful for the maturity

and carefulness with which the group faced the decision. They understood the implications of organization. There is a willingness to serve in the office, but also a realization of the challenges that they will face as a small congregation. After organization things will not change significantly as to the nature of the work required in the community. For now, God has given us much work, so we continue to labor as a mission.

As of June we rotated Dr. Paul De Jong off the steering committee and replaced him with Kyle Bleyenburgh. We are thankful for the service of Paul as secretary of the committee from the beginning. We are also thankful for Kyle's willingness to serve the mission in this way.

Baptism/Wedding

Once again we were privileged to witness the sacrament of baptism. Kole Bleyenburgh, infant son of Kyle and Kate, was baptized on May 10. We pray God's blessings on Kyle and Kate as they seek to raise Kole in God's fear.

Todd and Karla (Te Slaa) Van Baren were joined in the bond of marriage on May 29. Todd and Karla are making their home in Thornton, IL, so the Fellowship sadly bid farewell to Karla as she transferred her membership to South Holland PRC.

Mission Labors

The Fellowship is planning a lecture on July 31 in commemoration of John Calvin's 500th birthday. The Trinity Reformed Church (RCUS) has agreed to allow us to use their sanctuary for the lecture. We are promoting the lecture throughout Sioux Falls, and I look forward to this opportunity to speak on an aspect of the life and work of John Calvin.

The Steering Committee signed a lease for a booth at the Sioux Empire Fair, which will be held August 11-15 in Sioux Falls. We are preparing a banner for the booth and getting literature ordered and printed so that we can talk with people about our doctrines and practices and distribute literature.

The Steering Committee, with the approval of Edgerton, signed a one-year lease for office space at a visible location on East 26th Street. The desire was to move my study out of the parsonage so that living space is freed up for the missionary family and to give us a more visible presence in town. The extra bedroom will be helpful for our family as we look forward to the birth of our tenth child in September, Lord willing. We took possession and made the move the first of July.

This will require an adjustment for both me and my family as I move to a study outside of the home, but thankfully it is only a couple of miles from home. There is a lot of traffic past the office, so we are giving careful attention to the preparation of a sign that will direct people not only to our office, but also to our website.

Tucson Trip

The DMC again requested that I make a visit to Tucson, so we decided to make a family trip of it and visited the saints at the beginning of June. It was a long trip, which took us through the Colorado Rockies, then down through the Grand Canyon and to Tucson. We enjoyed the wonder of God's creation in the gorgeous and very diverse scenery along the way. It was good for our family to be able to meet and interact with the saints in Tucson.

The group, though small, continues to labor zealously toward the goal of establishing a Protestant Reformed work in Tucson. Currently they are meeting for morning worship making use of our DVDs. At night they gather for a Bible Study through the Heidelberg Catechism. They are using the Bible study as an occasion to invite others to join them. The women also formed a book club and invite other women to join them in the study of various books. Currently they are studying the *Sovereignty of God*, by A. W. Pink. One of the young couples was blessed with a baby boy on June 23. The other young couple is expecting their fourth child in February.

The DMC remains committed to providing pulpit supply for a couple of Sundays every other month. The Tucson fellowship is very appreciative of the visits from our pastors and the sacrifices this requires for their families and congregations. The group earnestly desires a missionary to assist them in establishing a distinctively Reformed church in Tucson. More information regarding the times and places of worship can be found on their website: www.tucsonprotestantreformed.org

Thanks for your continued interest in and prayers for the mission work here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Be sure to contact us if you plan to be in the area or would like to visit.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Al Brummel