



September, 2023

A wonderful month of steady progress. We have been blessed to see continued faithfulness in attendance. Bethany has begun to teach our children's Sunday School, with my wife there to help when needed. As I previously shared, this is a new area of service for her, but we're thankful that we can be a part of how God is using and growing her. She has also sung specials for the morning service. It's encouraging to see God's people glorify Him. Sarah, Bethany's sister, has been playing piano for all our services. Initially we had planned to have her play for Sunday School and Wednesday night. However, the first Sunday she was going to play we had nearly 20 people in our morning service (the speakers we were using wouldn't be loud enough to hear) so she volunteered to play and did a phenomenal job. She has shared how serving this way has been stretching her, but she knows it is what God wants and what she needs. Again, we are so blessed to be used to see people grow.

Wednesday nights have continued to be a great time. Our children's class has seen the regular addition of two children, brother (Leroy) and sister (Khianna), they come with a friend (Ava)...whose mother (Jen) attends our adult class. Occasionally I will see Leroy and Khianna after school when I drive their bus, and they always have a kind word and tell me they enjoy coming to church. Jen, who has been attending our Ladies' Bible Study, and has also been attending our adult class on Wednesday night. She has been unable to attend Sunday services due to her work schedule, but we are thankful that she joins us Wednesday nights. Yet another blessing since we changed our Wednesday night schedule to include a children's service followed by an adult service.

Gracie had her 6th birthday toward the end of the month, which prompted Amber's parents to make the long trip to see us. Amber's step-father is not one to sit around, so while they were here we took the opportunity to repaint an old house that sits on the church property. I was notified a couple months ago that the general appearance of the house would cause it to be registered as a vacant property (which is accompanied by fines). While there is still more to do to give the building more curb appeal, painting has gone a long way in improving its overall appearance.

We had been praying about incorporating another service on Sundays. Originally our thought was to begin Sunday afternoon services in January 2024. But during this past month we've had conversations with folks that showed a good deal of interest in afternoon services now. So we have committed to begin holding Sunday afternoon services on October 1. We have yet to solidify how we will use the time between services, but we will have at least one potluck at our home the first Sunday of each month. I believe the Lord confirmed that this is the right decision because the Sunday that we made the announcement to add the afternoon service (September 24th), a new family from 45 minutes away attended Sunday School and Sunday Morning Service and when they left they said that they were looking forward to being back next Sunday (October 1st) and would call us later about what they could bring to the potluck.

God's faithfulness and goodness continue to abound. Thank you for your faithfulness to support us as we take part in the marvelous work of God.

Prayer Requests

- Sunday Afternoon Services

Regards,

