

Preaching in Vermont

June, 2017 Report

Addison County
church of Christ

145 Campground Rd.,
New Haven, VT



Summer evangelism prep continues

The preparations for our special evangelism effort at this summer's county fair is taking shape, but slowly. Due to illness among us, the evangelism committee met only once this month. However, we did talk about a wide range of things, and spent a good bit of time discussing possible ways we can appeal particularly to unbelievers. We believe we can do this, but are still working out the details of how to get it done. We have now mailed in our application, along with the rental fee (which increased some this year) and deposit.

Sermons

My lessons this month included:

- ▶ *Born of Water and the Spirit* (from John 3:5; prompted by a discussion of this passage near the end our *Big Picture of the Bible* study);
- ▶ *Needed: Mothers in Israel* (a nod to Mother's Day);
- ▶ *The Privilege of Intercession* (the blessings of both giving and receiving it; 1-2/4);

Special prayer service

As we have been doing each quarter, we devoted another final-hour Sunday this month to prayer. Since it was my turn to plan this effort, I chose the theme, "Praying for Others." (In fact, preparing this gave rise to the final sermon topic of the month.) Five of us participated in leading the prayers – the most in quite some time – and each of made petitions in behalf those within a certain class of individuals.

No-meeting men's meeting

Due to illness and changing work schedules, it is becoming increasingly difficult, it seems, for all the brothers to get together for a decision-making meeting. So, we opted for conducting some necessary business via email, and completed it in about a week, with all participating. It was not ideal, but it worked for us this time.

Adult study on Discipleship

Our regular adult class study on discipleship is going well. Two months in, it looks like we may not be able to finish by the end of the quarter, but we are having good discussions most of the time. Since *Ryan Miller* started a new job, which prevents him from making the class on Tuesdays, I have started emailing those who miss each Tuesday class, to let them know where we will pick up the following Sunday. Ryan has asked me if we can arrange a separate study time to catch him up on what he misses.

Study on Predestination

Our final hour study of the Bible v. Calvinism on Predestination had three sessions this month. There is good interest in this, since all of us who have worked the fair the past two years have encountered some who hold Calvinist beliefs. So far, we have covered the "Bible facts" on predestination and against the Calvinist concept, and are now considering several "Questions for Calvinists," that show the inconsistency of their teaching when compared with the Bible.

Brief notes

Carmina Moorosi finished her studies at Middlebury College and now has her bachelor's degree. Her mother and brother traveled here from South Africa to attend the graduation ceremonies, and it was good to meet them. Carmina plans to move to the Toronto, Canada, area, where some relatives live, and look for a job. We are thankful to have had her with us the past four years.

Finally, *Hannah* and I have resumed our study of *Portraits of Jesus* (the Gospel of Mark), which began in the teenagers' class, in the final quarter of 2016. We have been able to study each week so far, though not always at the same time. We still have seven chapters to cover.

Some of us heard *Tim Reeves* preach on "Seeing' God's Glory," during his meeting at Milton.

Dale Pennock
P.O. Box 266
Middlebury, VT 05753
vtpenns5@together.net