

Teaching God's Word in the Mohawk Valley

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You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

—Psalm 4.7

MOHAWK VALLEY CHURCH FAMILY

Our summer is long past and autumn shows itself in stages of cool mornings and warm afternoons. Each year we have visitors show up looking for fall colors in the hills and mountains. These visitors are a regular encouragement and joy for the whole congregation.

Last month, as new work took one family away from Albany, it brought in a new family. The Ward family, who worshipped with us for a year and a half, took a new job in the Washington DC area. The whole congregation felt the loss of this as many built strong supporting friendships together.

We praise the Lord, however, because as one chapter ends the page turns to another. Just when the Ward family set off, the Kogucz family arrived to start a new job north of Albany. They show great excitement to learn and study God's word and always have encouraging comments to add during or after lessons.

This past weekend we enjoyed a visit from Chip & Emma Miles, an old "cornerstone" family of the Mohawk Valley church a number of years ago. Their work carried them to eastern Jersey, but not from the Lord's Kingdom. After being committed hard workers for the church here, they continue to work to spread the gospel where they live in NJ. It was encouraging to worship and visit with them again.

GOSPEL MEETING & CLASSES

We recently hosted Jeff Smelser for our fall gospel meeting. His studies pulled lessons from the times of the Kings of Israel and Judah. Packed with detail and application, his lessons proved great meat for the whole church to grow from.

Our Sunday morning Bible study in the pentateuch continues through Numbers. Simon's classes bring to life the detail oriented text. Tim Wells, filling in if Simon is out of town, does an excellent job fitting the laws and stories in

the context of the Bible timeline.

Our Tuesday evening Bible study, that I teach, is in the middle of Hebrews. The letter's two foci, the magnificence of our High Priest, and the practical exhortation to

hold fast, are timeless in their importance. The lessons bring out enthusiastic and earnest discussions.

The Thursday evening Men's Bible study will begin reading through Esther this week. Reading the text together builds the companionship and brotherhood of those who attend. I praise God for good word & work.

BUNTING FAMILY

Jack will turn 10 years old this month. He's earning the distinction of a double digit age. He is mature and patient in his work and relationships. His prayer shows his heart and inclinations. His love of learning brightens the family.

Thomas is trying to catch up to Jack's age as fast as he can. He has a catalog of all the jobs that must be accomplished before winter and a mental note of all the tools we need from the hardware store. His excitement to work encourages me.

Alice is absolutely 4 years old. Her eyes light up while listening to Winnie the Pooh, her hair is covered in bows and she wears many of her skirts all at once. I knew I would enjoy a daughter, but I am surprised by just how great a gift she is.

Heather's diligent work to teach our children is paying off. We see their bright hearts respond to the world they see, the books they read, and the Savior they learn about. We both enjoy taking about philosophy of teaching, trying to find better and purer ways to reach the hearts of our children, as well as the souls of our sisters and brothers at church.

Winter is coming and I am almost ready for it. I have about a cord of wood left to split and some odd jobs around the house to prepare for snow. I love the dry cool days of autumn.

Thank you for your prayer and support.

