

HOLY HILL



The History of Hermiston Christian Center

(Formerly known as Interfaith Christian Center)

1973-2003

Volume I

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A History had not been written on Hermiston Christian Center. Time was starting to run out on those left from the beginning. I had felt the importance of getting the events recorded because it is such a unique story of God dealing with us in the west end of Umatilla County. It gives us memories of many of the people involved, the miracles of God dealing with His people, the challenges of walking the Christian walk, and the potential power of the Holy Spirit in our daily Christian lives.

I'm deeply grateful for all the minutes and records that were available, but most of all for the input and review by many that walked the walk. Included are Bob Lovett, Aileen Ware, Rod Hardin, Mike Johnson, Al Anderson, Arta Joe Weaver, and Chris Barker. It was our intent to make this as comprehensive and complete, but please forgive us for any oversites.

In reading this history, I trust you will sense God's presence with us.

May God Bless,

Ron Baker

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PREFACE

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28: 18-20.

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And He led them out far as to Bethany, and He lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen. Luke 24: 49-53

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of me.... For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence....But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1: 4-8.

Thus was the New Testament Church born. It was to spread over the then civilized world under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, in spite of persecution, and strife. The Great Reformation and printing press made the Bible available to most individuals. Great men of God led revivals and greater understanding of the Word. However, division due to different interpretations led to many various churches with different creeds and emphasis on the Holy Scriptures.

In the early 1970's the United States was undergoing a national crisis in purpose as different factions of its citizens tried to interpret the meaning of the Vietnam War, the hippie generation, the aftermath of the assassination of President Kennedy, the Cold War, Watergate, and the resignation of President Nixon. People of all generations were seeking answers to heal the nation and bring purpose to their lives.

This led Christians of all faiths to re-examine their beliefs. Billy Graham had now become a household word with a growing list of crusades not only in the United States, but expanding to Europe, as well. His call was simple, "To return to the Bible and God, and renew our acceptance of Jesus Christ." It attracted not only many new believers, but national television, press coverage, and acceptance all the way to the White House.

Pat Boone, a popular singer, wrote a book called, A New Song, which outlined his struggles with life and the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Anita Bryant, another popular singer, took on the prejudices of the time and proclaimed tolerance and witness for Jesus Christ. Oral Roberts with his City of Faith and Oral Roberts University in Tulsa,

Oklahoma, had a television ministry that reached most of the United States. He wrote many books about the power of the Holy Spirit and seed faith. Most noted were, Miracle of Seed Faith and The Call. They were distributed widely and proclaimed the power and acceptance of the Holy Spirit. The University turned out graduates educated in the dynamics of the Holy Spirit in all vocations.

Oral Roberts conducted laymen seminars bringing Christians from across the land to Tulsa, Oklahoma. He had an excellent staff headed up by Dr. Howard M. Ervin who wrote, "These are not Drunken as Ye Suppose". It is probably one of the most scholarly books written on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Dennis and Rita Bennett of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Seattle brought the power of the Holy Spirit into the church life of his congregation and wrote a popular book, Nine O'Clock in the Morning, that created a real stir among particularly liberal Christian denominations.

Kathryn Kuhlman, an evangelist, empowered by a healing ministry traveled among leading cities and conducted great revivals. She would call the ministers of the gospel in the audience up on stage and show them the miracles. Then she would challenge them that this should be occurring in their own churches.

The Christian press turned out many more books and literature, authors and evangelists like Merlin Carothers; Catherine Marshall; Francis Hunter; renewal of the book, In His Steps, by Charles M. Sheldon; Joy Dawson; Ken and Gloria Copeland; and many more.

The Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship led by Demos Shakarian grew rapidly and established chapters across the country. FGFB conventions drew people from all walks of life and gave a platform for people to hear the leading participants of the hour. It made the Baptism in the Holy Spirit a reality to many people.

In total this movement became known as the Charismatic Movement. Its purpose was proclaiming the truth and the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with excellence. It challenged Christians to live victoriously, grow spiritually, and know God intimately. People were hungry for this fulfillment in their lives, but it was not without challenges to the main structure of many established churches and denominations. Consequently, the participants came out of many of the established denominations, but the move was generally not an initial part of most church programs.

In 1972 there were approximately 33 churches in the Hermiston, area. This movement started to affect the lives of many Christian members of various churches. While all the events could not be described, it is noteworthy to show the experiences of some that affected the eventual formation of Hermiston Christian Center.

In 1972 Dennis and Rita Bennett, pastors of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Seattle, held a laymen's seminar at the Episcopal Church in Prosser, Washington. Mila Watt of

Hermiston was a member of the Episcopal Church and publicized the meeting. Approximately fifty people from Hermiston attended two nights including many youth. Dr. Bennett was an exceptional man of God giving real wisdom to understanding the power of God and the meaning of the Holy Spirit in our Christian walk. Rita Bennett took the youth in separate meetings and introduced them to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. This led to a youth group which was led by a young couple from the Catholic Church, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Robinson. They had a mute child, Ryan, which had led them in search of greater spiritual understanding. They were a couple provided by the Lord at just the right time.

Of those that attended, they wanted to meet and learn more. Jim and Mila Watt started holding meetings at their house which just kept growing. Mila served well as a spiritual leader in the direction of these meetings. As the continued, there was talk of a need for a new church.

REVEREND ROBERT LOVETT

Reverend Robert Lovett was the pastor of the Southern Baptist Church in Hermiston. He had come from Alexandria, Louisiana, where he headed the Lakeview Mission after graduating from Louisiana College. Before becoming a preacher, Bob had been a successful insurance executive in Oklahoma City and was a sales manager of Maison Blanche in New Orleans. He and his wife, Agnes, with their 5 children had moved to Hermiston to be pastor of Highland Baptist Church starting on Easter Sunday, 1970. One of his parishioners, Mrs. June Dunn, had given him a book to read called, Nine O'Clock in the Morning.

The following is a description of the events that followed written by Bob Lovett.

I moved to Hermiston on Easter, 1970, to pastor Highland Baptist Church. The church was meeting in the Carpenter's Hall. There were about 33 present, but the Lord began to bless. In October, of that year we purchased the former Mormon Church Building on 11th street. It would seat about 200 people and the Lord began to fill it quickly. However, some of the stout Southern Baptists didn't like the "Praise the Lord" atmosphere and there began to be some disagreements.

Charismatics began to pour in and I was told that I had been sent to Hermiston to pastor the Charismatics. Prayer meetings were springing up all over town. The Spirit was alive and well.

Twelve of us went into the mountains and spent the day fasting and praying. At the end of the day each wrote down what they felt the Lord said to them. I looked at the sheets and they all said the same thing only in different words and these words were, "very soon the Holy Spirit will tell you to resign and start a charismatic church and the Lord will richly bless it."

The following week about 10 p.m. I was in the church kneeling at the altar praying over the situation. Jim Watt was doing the same thing. Suddenly, I began to speak in the tongues. Jesus had baptized me in His Spirit.

Then I traveled with a busload of Christians from Hermiston to the Kathryn Kuhlman Crusade in Portland. We were admitted thirty minutes before starting time and I checked the attendees to see if they were really sick or not. I talked to a small Catholic nun who had a terribly distorted foot. When the meeting started all the ministers were on the platform and Kathryn would call out to those that needed healing to come forward. The first one to come forward was the Catholic nun and her foot was completely healed. That began a wonderful demonstration of the Spirit's power. Later a fellow from our church felt his hearing aid fall out and he could hear even better than before. At that time Kathryn told him to come forward. When he got on the stage, Kathryn asked him what church he was from. He couldn't think of Highland Baptist church so he said, "Bob Lovett's church" Kathryn asked him, "Who is Bob Lovett?" Paul said, "There he sits, ask him yourself" She then turned to me and said, "Bob Lovett, come up here." I came and she touched me and I was slain in the Spirit. I got up and she touched me again and again I went down and this time she knelt by my side and said, "Bob Lovett, your ministry will never be the same." Wow!

We came home and immediately I was called to St. Anthony Hospital to pray for Mrs. Sullivan. When I arrived at the hospital and looked at her.... Oh! Oh! Oh! Her eyes were bleeding. She had burn spots all over her body where x-ray treatments had exploded within her. She had a few days to live. I prayed for her and something exploded between us. She blinked and so did I. As I was leaving the Lord said, "Son, come back and pray for her Friday. I'm going to heal her". On Friday I returned and a miracle had taken place. Her eyes were clear, the burn spots were gone and so was the fever. I said, "Vada (Sullivan), What has happened to you?" She replied, "You ought to know. You were here when it happened." The following Sunday, Vada testified before Highland Baptist Church and I thought the people would be thrilled, but many became angry. So much for terrible theology!

I knew time was drawing short for me at Highland Baptist. The following Wednesday one of the deacons asked me if I spoke in them there tongues?" I replied, "Yes, and I received them while praying at that platform."

On Sunday I resigned from Highland Baptist Church and the following Sunday in the CRC building we had the first service for Interfaith Christian Center. We had 103 attend. A few were saved. Several received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and one miracle--the healing of a little crippled boy. What a day!

That began a series of exciting adventures. Every Sunday was exciting. We moved to the Carpenter's Hall where I had begun with Highland Baptist Church. The place was full every Sunday. Young people sitting on the floor, others sitting in windowsills, etc. What excitement! What miracles!

God began to give us a beautiful vision. I saw an auditorium, a school building, and a lane where people lived. This is the end of the direct copy of Bob's testimony. The rest is incorporated in with the continued history of Hermiston Christian Center.

SPIRITUAL EVENTS IN HERMISTON

The busload from Hermiston that went to Portland to attend the Kathryn Kuhlman meeting affected many other people as it did Bob Lovett. Kathryn challenged the ministers that these miracles should be happening in their churches. The Lord had challenged Bob and others to share with various congregations.

Changes were taking place in other churches in Hermiston. In the Christian Church, two leading laymen were Ed Sheets and Clark Dumond. In the early 1970's Clark and Mayme experienced the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, along with their close friends, Ed and Min Sheets. Hungry for more freedom in pursuing their deeper Holy Spirit experience, Clark and Ed walked in the power and boldness of the Lord sharing their new found experience. Ed became very active in the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship. Ed saw his son, Mark, receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit at the Bennett's meetings in Prosser. Clark and Ed could not be quieted about the power of the Holy Spirit in their own church so felt a leading to join the movement that was starting in Hermiston. They both became elders of Interfaith Christian Center and made a great contribution.

There was a substantial growth of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship during this period. Demos Shakarian (in California) had founded the organization. They held conventions in most of the major cities and would bring in excellent evangelists, teachers, and businessmen as witnesses to the power of God. Pendleton formed a chapter led by some leading Christian businessmen of that area, notably Roy Comrie, and Woody Clark. Ed Sheets, Jay Wheelhouse, and Don Albert got a very active Hermiston chapter going as well. Usually there were monthly meetings and they brought in good speakers witnessing to what the Lord was doing in their lives. Some pastors also joined in which aided the ministry.

In the Southern Baptist Church, Aileen Ware, thought she would always be a Baptist. She had suffered a tremendous tragedy in her life because of the loss of her son, John, who was a helicopter crew chief in the armed forces and served in the Vietnam theater of war. He was shot down over the jungles of Vietnam and listed as missing in action. He was never found, but eventually the wreckage of the helicopter was discovered. Aileen sought the Lord's help and entered into a closer walk with the Lord. She sought and found a deep relationship and found greater fulfillment in the power of the Holy Spirit. She was a Sunday School teacher and found herself often teaching on the Holy Spirit. She felt herself called to attend where Bob Lovett was now preaching as he had been her former pastor. Walking home from church one day she found herself speaking in tongues. She was to become very loyal and helpful in the formation and building of Interfaith Christian Center. She has lived to be the last remaining charter member of Hermiston Christian Center.

In the Methodist Church, the pastor, Reverend Gene Hamblin, had stated he was going to leave as the church wasn't growing. He was well liked by the congregation and they pledged to start Bible study groups. They studied the book of Acts and gradually some gained a new understanding of the power of the Holy Spirit. Some of the Sunday School teachers wanted more Bible-oriented study material. The lay leader, Ron Baker, asked the district superintendent if they could do this. He suggested that if they weren't happy, they should look elsewhere.

A membership class was conducted at the Methodist Church and Ron and Jane's oldest daughter, Sheila, attended. It was the norm that after completing the class, you joined the church, but Sheila told her Dad, that she wasn't because she didn't know enough about the Bible. She was also watching Oral Roberts on TV, so Ron thought he'd better see what she was watching. He was led to send in a small contribution and later received an invitation to a Laymen's Seminar to be held on campus at Oral Robert's University. Ron and Jane knew they had to go. Jane had become pregnant with their fifth child against doctor's orders. The doctor had told her she should have an abortion. Jane had wept buckets of tears.

The laymen's seminar was so well done and about 500 people were there. The first night, Dr. Howard Ervin, head of the theology department, gave the most immaculate talk in the most learned English on how he as a pastor had come into the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Here was a highly educated man who spoke in the most descriptive and precise way that left no doubt that God had more for each of us. At the end of that meeting, those that wanted to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit were invited to a separate assembly room. Lining the outside of the room were students from Oral Roberts University. Dr. Ervin gave the simplest explanation of how to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He then led the entire group in prayer. The students prayed with us. Soon the room was filled with prayers in tongues as people received. The joyous feeling that came over the group was wonderful. Ron received his prayer language, but Jane was having difficulty receiving and said to the southern gal that was praying with her, "I don't want to have to lay down on the floor and roll". In a southern drawl the girl said, "Mrs. Baker, the Lord wouldn't want you to do something that would embarrass you". Jane almost immediately received her prayer language. When she came home, she went to the doctor and said, "I'm not having any abortion. I'm going to have this baby." The baby was to be Ray Baker, and everything was fine. Praise the Lord!

These are only a few of the stories that were happening in the small town of Hermiston. Similar things were happening in adjacent areas. People responded in different ways. Some stayed in their own churches and worked to deepen the spiritual understanding in their own congregations. Some transferred to the Assembly of God church in Hermiston, at the time pastored by CK Barnes.

START OF INTERFAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER

As people were seeking God's direction, the Holy Spirit was directing. At the Southern Baptist church, they had a congregational meeting about this so-called Holy Spirit stuff. Bob Lovett was voted out.

Bob knew what he was to do and held the first worship service at the Hermiston Civic Recreation Center on September 7, 1973. About one hundred persons attended the first service. Bob ministered on Luke 4. There were three healings manifested and several persons saved.

The next Sunday they met in the 4-H building on the Fairgrounds. The following Sunday they moved to the Carpenter's Hall located at 7th and E. Main Street. This is

where the current Simmons Financial Group Agency is located. Those that felt they needed a new charismatic church home now had a pastor and a temporary meeting place. Attendance was good from the very start. A picture of Carpenter's Hall is shown as the first exhibit in the pictorial section..

Because of the diversity of those who started attending the new worship services, Bob thought it should be called Interfaith Christian Center. Often the Sunday evening service had more than the morning service as many would attend their regular morning service at their own church, then attend the new service Sunday evening. Bob printed his first newsletter in January, 1974, and it stated that average SS attendance was steadily growing and was 50 to 60.

The Articles of Incorporation for Interfaith Christian Center were filed on October 8, 1973 and accepted by the Oregon Corporation Division on October 12, 1973. The four men that signed the Articles of Incorporation as being the initial Board of Directors were: James C. Hein, Clark G. Dumond, Ray Dunn, and Edwin E. Sheets.

The Incorporators of Interfaith Christian Center met on April 1, 1974 to organize the corporation. The initial Board of Directors consisted of the following individuals: Ray Dunn, James Hein, Clark Dumond, and Ed Sheets. It was decided that the congregation would choose seven elders to act as the new Board of Directors and to guide Interfaith Christian Center. On April 7, 1974, the Pastor, Bob Lovett, called a meeting of the congregation of Interfaith Christian Center together to elect seven elders to govern the church and act as its Board of Directors. Those elected by written ballots were as follows:

Pastor and Elder, Bob Lovett
Elder, Ron Baker
Elder, Ed Sheets
Elder, Clark Dumond
Elder, Norm Eppenbach
Elder, James Hein
Elder, Bob Wolff

The minutes were signed by Ed Sheets and attested by Clark Dumond.

In the August 29th, 1974, newsletter, Bob reported combined worship service on Sundays of 115. The following Report was included:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORT- Our VBS was excellent. Average attendance was 30, not as high as expected but the quality was great! In fact the best yours truly has seen and he has seen many VBS schools. Our thanks to: Mrs. Jane Baker-Principal, Mrs. Jan Wheelhouse-pianist, and department leaders-Mrs. Marlene Inman, Mrs. Sue Brucker, Mrs. Kit Wolff, Mrs. Alene Rohde, Mrs. Lee Wilcox, Teri Hein, Janie Hein, and Pat Fines.

From 1974 the church steadily grew. It continued to meet in the Carpenter's Hall, which was a small inadequate facility, but people packed in because things were happening. The church had no visible resources, but the greatest resource of all, a belief and realization of the power of God as demonstrated through the Holy Spirit. The power of prayer and the prayer warriors was most noted. Miracles happened in people's lives and

ministry deepened. The Good News Singers, which were built mainly around the Eppenbach family, gave vibrant and uplifting worship leadership.

INITIAL MISSIONARY EFFORTS

The church was involved in missionary support from the very start. In the January 2, 1975, newsletter Bob reports as follows:

" We covet your prayers as we prepare to leave for Aguascalientes, Old Mexico for a series of evangelistic services. We are anxious to meet Elmer Koiman who Interfaith has been helping to support in his radio ministry. Elmer has a great work going on in Mexico and we pray that we shall be of assistance to the work of Christ there. Ed Sheets and I will leave early Jan. 6th from the Hermiston airport. Dr. Woods of Grandview, WA, is loaning his plane and a pilot to us. We thank God for making this trip possible. There will be several Full gospel businessmen who will leave from California to join us. Our meeting in Aguascalientes will be January 9-12. Guadalajara will be the following week. Please be in prayer for us and also for the airlift to India led by Cliff Beard and Elmer Burnette. This airlift will leave January 9. June Dunn will join this airlift so we will have first hand reports on both missions. Praise God!"

The church was also supporting Daniel Ost of Missionary Revival Crusade. His work centered out of Laredo, Texas, into Mexico and Latin America. They were a center sending missionaries throughout that region.

Bob and other laymen, particularly Ed Sheets and Clark Dumond, went on a missionary trip to Mexico almost every year. In October, 1975, Bev Reynolds accompanied them. Clark and Mayme Dumond would spend considerable time in Mexico ministering and often bring some youth back with them for a stay in Hermiston.

GROWTH AT INTERFAITH (1975)

By this time a youth group was meeting on Monday nights. Adult Bible studies were meeting in the homes of Jim Hein and Marj Bartlett on Monday nights. Clark Dumond was leading a Prayer and Bible study on Wednesday night at the Center.

On May 4, 1975, a congregational meeting was held and elected two men to the Board of Elders, namely: Al Anderson and Pat Umphre's.

Bob and Interfaith strongly supported the Full Gospel Businessmen's local chapter. In April, 1974, Bob reported in his newsletter as follows:

"Blessings fell upon those who attended the F.G.B.M.F. last Friday and Saturday, plus the service Sunday at Interfaith. The results are impressive. At least 25 saved-Many Healings-Living Testimonies of what the Lord can do. Praise the Lord!" The regional F.G.B.M.F. met in Portland in May and Hermiston Chapter meetings were generally every month.

The first baptism service was held on Easter Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. at McNary Beach on the Columbia River.

On December 5, 1975, the minutes stated that Pastor Bob Lovett reported the fact that three individuals had resigned as elders of the church, namely; Jim Hein, Bob Wolff, and

Pat Umphres . This left the following board of six elders, namely, Bob Lovett, Pastor, Ron Baker, Ed Sheets, Norm Eppenbach, Al Anderson, and Clark Dumond. At this meeting there was discussion and review of an option agreement entered into with Ed Sheets for five acres of land located in his tract of land bordered by the Union Pacific Railroad, the Stanfield Highway, 10th Street, and the A Canal. Discussion centered on whether to build. Ed Sheets thought this should only be a temporary site and that we should be exploring other possible sites for building. This site is now where the Blue Mountain College, State of Oregon, and Armory are located.

The first election of officers is mentioned in these minutes: Those elected were Ron Baker, President; Al Anderson, Vice-President; Bob Lovett, Secretary; and Clark Dumond, Treasurer. The board also selected Aileen Ware as Assistant Treasurer. Clark Dumond gave an up to date financial report stating that our depository was the United States National Bank of Oregon and that a savings account had been opened at the Ben Franklin Savings and Loan Association, Hermiston Branch. A motion was made and passed authorizing signatures of Bob Lovett, Aileen Ware, and Clark Dumond for the checking and savings accounts.

Also at this meeting, a draft of the proposed by-laws was submitted by Ron Baker. He had drafted them from copies of other by-laws with which he was familiar. A motion to adopt the by-laws was made and passed unanimously.

MIRACLES AND MINISTRIES

A happening that Ron Baker will never forget occurred on April 30, 1974. He had bought the PTL Ranch and was putting in a pumping plant on the river and pivots on about 2500 acres. The pumping plant had been delayed due to permits and corn planting time was upon him. He had been planting corn dryland, but then there was not enough moisture so planting had been stopped. That Sunday morning, it was like the Holy Spirit talking to Ron saying, "If you want moisture, you humble yourself and ask for prayer." He knew the power of prayer in that congregation. So he did. Monday evening a large black cloud formed along the Columbia River at around Boardman and came right up the river dumping at least one inch of rain on the PTL Ranch. The storm dissipated at about Wallula Gap. The corn planters went to work and next Sunday's church service was all abuzz at what had happened.

One of the great ministries that held a Thursday through Saturday seminar at the Portland Coliseum each year was the Bill Gothard seminar on Basic Youth Conflicts. Robert Lovett made a great effort to get people to attend as it was in early June. To keep the cost down many took their trailers and campers. The first year they camped at Rob and Connie Lovett's house in Portland. Some slept in a camper in the back yard and many in the house while Rob and Connie went to a motel. The next year Rob and Connie's house was again used but in addition a trailer, camper and a tent were set up on an empty lot belonging to a great aunt of the Anderson's. The group in later years moved to a campground on the Sandy River east of Troutdale. When this was shut down to overnight camping, the group moved to Ainsworth Park camp ground next to Troutdale.

At least thirty to forty people from the congregation went each year. This continued for several years. It was one of the best seminars in understanding relationship with God and your fellow men, particularly families and between age groups. It was a very effective ministry and did a great deal in helping the growth in the congregation.

Bob commented on the June, 1975, Institute of Basic Youth Conflicts Seminar at the Portland Memorial Coliseum as successful "We had 46 in attendance. We won one of Bill Gothard's Chalk Talk Paintings for the largest attendance from over 80 miles away. The teachings and the fellowship was tremendous. We plan to start a class for those who have attended, to maintain and increase their knowledge of God's Principles of Living."

Bob brought in special speakers as well. On Easter Sunday we held Easter Services in the Hermiston High School Auditorium with a great turnout. These were tremendous and powerful services as people had gained insight into the power of the resurrection.

The church continued its outreach to Mexico. In February, 1976, Danny Ost spoke in worship about his plans in Mexico. Danny was a director of Revival Crusade that is amazing the evangelistic world with its success in evangelism. This organization was being used by God to win thousands to Christ in Mexico. Danny expected to open a new Center in Mexico City that will seat 4,000 people. It was to be built in an area that contains five million people with no church of any kind in that section of Mexico City.

Clark and Mayme Dumond carried on a personal Mexico ministry. They had gotten interested in Mexico in the 1970s. They would take trips to Mexico and stay several months. They started taking one or two high school girls with them so they could learn the language. Then they would bring some Mexican youth to Hermiston for several months. They provided for exchange of approximately 12 young people in this manner and was a blessing to each of them. With this experience, Clark was very conversant in the Spanish language and this played a significant role in the Christian School. They had continued this till about 1977. In 1978 Clark had a real heart for missions and decided to start a Christian book store. He started it on Ed Sheets 5 acre tract where Ed had built a building. In about 5 years he moved the store to Main Street in Hermiston.

The youth group continued to grow under the leadership of Barry Reeves. They held a Youth Retreat at Ed Sheets cabin in the Blue Mountains in April, and had a special spiritual experience. A side note Barry Reeves married Joan Marlow on October 3, 1976 at the Assembly of God Church with Bob Lovett officiating.

WHERE TO BUILD?

On March 15, 1976, at a meeting of the Board of Directors, Ed Sheets submitted the proposal to purchase the eleven acres bordering 10th and Newport Streets for a purchase price of \$63,000. The Board authorized a Sales Contract for a purchase price of \$60,000. A down payment of \$17,500 was made and there was two annual payments of \$21,250 plus 9% interest to pay. The property was paid off February 26, 1978. The thought was that this was a way to develop some equity and a possible place to build.

VISION OF A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (1976)

The vision of the church was to establish a Christian school. In the minutes on September 23, 1976, Bob Lovett reported that the representative of Accelerated Christian Education would be at the church on October 12. On February 10, 1977 the minutes report that a discussion was held concerning the possibility of a Christian school and the requirements of such a school. The board authorized Bob Lovett, Ron Baker, Jane Baker, and Cecilia Dickenson to make a study of Christian schools and submit recommendations. From this would start a coordinated effort to get a Christian school going before even a building was available.

CHURCH GROWTH (1976)

This note shows the growth of the church in the minutes on December, 1976, made by Bob Lovett. He stated that the year 1976 closed on the best year in the history of Interfaith Christian Center. Attendance and gifts and signs following have been at an all time high.

The program schedule was full starting with Bible Study Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Worship Services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Youth night on Monday night; Women's Bible study Wednesday morning at home of Jane Baker; Wednesday night prayer and Bible study at the Center led by Clark Dumond; Thursday night was gym night at Rocky Heights led by Al Anderson; and Friday night was Praise Night at the Center.

During October, congregational members participated in the city wide evangelistic thrust for Hermiston and many attended the regional Full Gospel Regional meeting in Pendleton. Pastor Bob and his wife Agnes attended the Oral Roberts Holy Spirit Seminar in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Action groups were formed headed up by individual Elders. They were Education and Administration, Ron Baker; Evangelism and Missions, Clark Dumond; Intercessors, Ed Sheets; Discovery of Gifts, Al Anderson; and Music and Worship, Norm Eppenbach.

Growth in the congregation meeting in the cramped quarters of Carpenter's Hall is shown in the February, 1978, newsletter citing Bible Study attendance at 122 and combined worship service at 291. Bob wrote about the three goals for which we were raising money. He had just made an emergency trip to Washington DC regard to the FM Radio application. More will come up later on that. Then in March he spent 10 days in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and urged the church to continue its involvement in that missionary effort.

WHERE TO BUILD? (PART II)

There was continued concern over the building program. Bob would write, "Pray Concerning Our Building Program: The Lord Has A Special Plan For Us. He Will Not Allow Us To Go Off In Another Direction. The time Is Upon Us To Pray Earnestly for God's Leading and Revelation. The Lord Tells Us To Ask And We Shall Receive-To Knock And The Door Shall Open-To Seek And We Shall Find. The Lord Has His Best For Us and We Must Discover That Leading That Will bring His Best Upon Us."

There is no doubt that the outward as well as the inward prayerful reach of the entire congregation enabled the miraculous events to follow.

Urgency was upon the Board as the Carpenter's Hall had been put up for sale. As they studied the potential growth of the area, it became increasingly clear that the traffic pattern of the city was West and South and we were on the East Side of Hermiston with our sites. An idle 37 acre site on 17th and West Highland just on the outside edge of the Hermiston City limits was noted as a potential possibility, but nobody even knew who owned it. Ron Baker volunteered to find out so called the Umatilla County Courthouse and got the name of Esther M. Knebel living at The Dalles. He called her and she said she had just listed the property with a lady in Eugene. Mrs. Knebel was 83 and had just decided to get her affairs in order. Ron told her that we were interested in the property for a church and Christian School.

On March 30, 1977 Ron called the real estate Realtor in Eugene and she said the price was \$160,000. Nobody in Hermiston even knew that the property was for sale. Ron reported to the Elders and the Elders met on "HOLY HILL" and prayed claiming the property for the Lord's work. The property was on the high point going west on Highland so it became nicknamed very quickly as "HOLY HILL".

The Elders met on March 30, 1977 and decided to counter offer \$120,000. The real estate agent came back at \$140,000. The Elders then agreed to offer \$130,000. The real estate agent agreed, but it would have to be paid off in 3 years because of Mrs. Knebel's age. The Elders agreed and Bob and Ron drove to The Dalles on April 4 and met the real estate agent to sign the papers. Now this was strictly an act of faith on the part of the Elders. There wasn't \$5000 in the bank for the escrow payment so it was advanced by one of the Elders.

The next day upon reliable sources reported by Ed Sheets, a real estate agent in Hermiston called Mrs. Knebel and told her he could get a lot more money for her if she would break the deal. She told him she liked what it was going to be used for and she wouldn't change the deal. God's hand was directly in this matter.

The following resolution was passed: "Be It Resolved that Interfaith Christian Center enter into a Sales Contract for the Knebel property on West Highland and 17th Streets consisting of 37.52 acres for a sale price of \$130,000 to be paid in 2 1/2 years. \$37,700 down payment and a Sales Contract for \$92,300.00 payable at 8% for a period of 2 1/2 years as follows: \$30,767 due on June 1, 1978; \$30,767.00 on June 1, 1979 and \$30,767.00 due on January 1, 1980. Interest to begin on June 1, 1977". The resolution was passed on May 19, 1977. Now if you don't believe in prayer and the power of God, there is no way this little group of believers could ever meet an obligation like this.

The Elders put up the eleven acres for sale because the church now had some equity in it, but it was not to sell until early in 1980. Henry Frischmuth of U.S. National Bank came to our rescue. As a bank they would loan on land and so we were able to make our payments. A \$26,000 note with the bank made the first payment, but the church through its giving would pay that down quickly. The Elders were to go through some trying times as the eleven acres didn't sell. The giving of the body was outstanding so they were able to make the payments on time with the banks help.

A recap in the minutes of August 1977 showed that the debts of the church were \$20,000 on the eleven acres, \$92,300 on the 40 acres, and \$20,500 to the U.S. National Bank.

This showed our equity was in the eleven acres of approximately \$80,000. There was \$2600 in the bank at that time. Discussions were continually on how we could build on the new property, but had the \$92,300 to pay off before we could finance a building loan. It was not to be until June of 1979 that the eleven acres would sell to the Hermiston School District.

In the meantime on our new site, it was almost straight sand and we had been able to change the topography tremendously. This was just another example of God's guidance.

MINISTRY (1977-78)

In June, 1977 the church started having two Sunday morning worship services. This was due both to spread out the attendance, but due to the hot conditions in the Carpenter's Hall as there wasn't any air conditioning.

Another big turnout went to Basic Youth Conflicts Seminar in July, 1978. The majority camped out along the Sandy river to cut costs. These people had a great time of fellowship.

The Sunday School program was growing in spite of the cramped quarters. The faculty in 1977 was Nursery-Pat Fines and Carol Nance; Kindergarten-Natalie Marlow and Colleen Baker; Grades 1 & 2, Holly Stefanides; Grades 3 & 4, Brad Anderson; Grades 5&6, Barry Reeves; Junior High, Don Albert; High School & Adult, Ron Baker, and Superintendent, Mary Corp. In 1978 the faculty was; Baby Nursery, Jackie Wyckoff; Nursery, Roger and Shirley Parsons & Carol Nance; Kindergarten, Verlee Morris & Linn Bush; Grades 1 & 2, Joan Reeves & Annette Anderson; Grades 3 & 4, Jane Baker & Nola Wilcox; Grades 5 & 6, Kay Stefanides & Diane Parr; Junior High, Don Albert and Tony Parr; High School, Tom Watkins; Adults, Ron Baker, and Superintendent, Jo Ann Sebastian.

VISION FOR RADIO STATION

Bob Lovett shared a vision for a radio station along with Darrell and John Marlow. They had previous experience in radio. The vision was discussed with the Elders and required application for a radio license. Darrell was very familiar with this and took the lead. The Elders were supportive of the radio program, but it was more of a program of the Marlow and Eppenbach family with Bob Lovett as their advisor.

In April, 1979 the Elders appointed a radio committee. It recommended to the Board of Elders that the radio station should be separated from the Church. Reasons given were:

1. Community acceptance and public relations
2. Those vitally concerned should make the decisions
3. Less debt burden for Interfaith

A motion was made and passed to transfer the radio station to Umatilla Broadcasting Corp. The Elders would be supportive, but it would operate as a separate corporation called the Umatilla Broadcasting, Inc. Darrell Marlow served as President, Norman Eppenbach, as 1st Vice-President; John Marlow as Second Vice-President; and Aileen Ware as Secretary/Treasurer. Bob Lovett and Al Anderson served as directors for a time. The minutes also include Elaine Marlow, Janice Eppenbach, and Elnora Marlow

as directors. The radio station did receive its license and went on the air in June, 1980. It was located at 1090 on the Am Radio dial and was named KLWJ (Kingdom Living With Jesus). It was located off of Powerline Road above Umatilla. Its programming featured Christian Radio Broadcasting and Christian music that gladden the heart and ministered to the area. At 2500 watts it covered the cities of Prosser, Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Hermiston, Heppner, Boardman, Irrigon, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, and Arlington.

FELLOWSHIP (1977)

The congregation had lots of fun together. Starting in 1977, Ron and Jane Baker would invite the congregation to their house for a New Year's Party. Up to 75 people would attend. With everybody marching to "When the saints come marching in," you know Christians can have fun and enjoy each other. This worked out until the new building provided more room.

PLANNING HOLY HILL

The new church property needed water. The drilling of a well was necessary. Troy Griffin, a long time well driller in the area, was chosen for the job. An overall plan of the property was necessary to decide the best location of the well. Ron Baker was familiar with topography mapping so surveyed and made a topography map of the property. Then with the guidance of Bob Lovett and the Elders, an overall plan for the property was developed. It was an ambitious plan including housing, initial building, gym addition, main sanctuary addition, ball field, and trailer park.

It was apparent we needed an architect. A survey of possibilities came up with Don Lindgren, A.I.A. architect, of Portland, Oregon. He quoted us \$7,000 for preliminary design, and \$23,000 to draw the working drawings of the first phase. Bob Lovett and Ron Baker had made a preliminary draft of the vision for the property. The Elders in November, 1977 adopted the preliminary design for the building and authorized the drilling of the well. Both motions were made by Clark Dumond, probably the most conservative of the Elders, but a great man of faith.

From the large scale plan, Ron Baker picked the sight for the well. The drilling of the well started in February, 1978. Troy Griffin's foreman was a water witcher. This is the trait of using two willow branches which supposedly cross when you come across water underground. It is classified as superstitious and some think it is of the devil. Anyway, the foremen did it after the sight was picked and stated that we had picked the right sight. But as the well kept getting deeper and deeper and you pay by the foot, prayers were going up for water. At last we hit water about 500 feet down and it proved to be an excellent well, estimated at 1000 gallons per minute, "What a moment of excitement!" It provided all the water for the trailer houses, church, ball field, and front greenbelt irrigation. The well cost \$9,500 for drilling and \$6,500 for casing.

On August 8, 1978 the Elders petitioned the City Council to be annexed into the city so we could get on city sewer. The overall plan proved to be just right to zone as a planned unit development. It passed the zoning committee and city council very easily.

ROBERTS: ANGELS ON ASSIGNMENT

Thomas Roberts was working construction in the Hermiston area in 1978. Tom and his wife Claradel started attending church at Interfaith and did some repair work on Bob Lovett's house. Tom felt they were supposed to help out so when the electricity got hooked up to the well, they moved their trailer onto the church property close to the well. It really seemed that God had sent these two angels from Goldendale, Washington, their main home, to help get his work done and well they did.. They were terrific workers, fit into the congregation like gloves on your hand, and stayed there for about three years during the building of the church. They never took a salary, but worked on the church building mostly full time.

Although the church had procured the property, it was truly a diamond in the rough as it had a rather deep coulee through the midst of it, which had been an ideal place to dump junk. The rough terrain was fine, but it still meant a lot of dirt needed to be moved to accommodate the ground level approach to the top floor of the sanctuary and offices. On the lower level the daylight basement opened directly out to the ball field. C & B Livestock loaned the church the use of its Caterpillar 613 self elevating scraper. Tom Roberts started the excavating of Holy Hill the fall of 1978 with this piece of equipment. He spent close to 5 months reshaping the topography. Unless you saw the first and last, you wouldn't believe the change.

HOLY HILL TAKES SHAPE

The pictorial section shows a congregational inspection of the 40 acre property after it had been purchased. The picture gives an idea of the wide range of elevation which helped make the sanctuary a daylight basement and ground level worship center. Another picture shows the church's first sign on the property. A real leap of faith!

As the land was taking shape, it was now possible to get the water line installed so the building site and ball field could be irrigated, planted, and dust controlled. The pump was put in the well and the main line extended clear to the building with outlets to irrigate the ball field. It was now possible to water the ball field, control the blowing dust, supply the building, and the trailer sites adjacent to the well.

During the summer of 1978, the architect was finalizing the working drawings on the building.. However, the eleven acres had not sold and Bob Lovett made the rounds with the banks to get a building loan. U.S. National Bank would loan us on the land, but not on a building.

Dedication of Holy Hill occurred on September 10, 1978 at 2 p.m. The pictorial section shows Bob Lovett breaking ground with his shovel as the Elders present watch. They are (left to right) Al Anderson; Norm Eppenbach, Bob Lovett, Ron Baker, and Clark Dumond.

MINISTRY GROWTH (1978-79)

People ministry was high on the list. Cell groups were organized. Daily Vacation Bible School was held the summer of 1978 with Joey Duff, Lou Zimerlee, and Cecelia Dickenson leading. The Pastor delegated certain families to Elders that needed help or counseling. Al Anderson was particularly helpful along with the pastor and his wife,

Agnes. Not enough can be said about Agnes as she proved to be like a solid rock in ministry.. She was a very spiritual lady and great in counseling and working with women. She was known to all for her great leadership usually behind the scenes.

Bob was great in lining out guest speakers. The popular recording artist Keith Green and his family appeared at the Carpenter's Hall on two separate occasions. He was a masterful piano player and was just starting out in his career and was relatively unknown at that time. When he returned a year later, a barbecue was held for him after the Sunday church service.

The active support of the F.G.B.M.F. brought many speakers like Buzz Goertzen , the yodler, and Don Ostrom, Seattle Chapter President. Cliff and Helen Beard, missionaries that came from Australia, ministered to the body from 1974 to 78 on righteousness and many other excellent subjects from the very first. We would be visited by Danny Ost, and Elmer Koiman, both missionaries in Mexico, and by Rev. Dewees, Oral Roberts Crusade Director. Stan Chester, the converted Jew, was to show up first in 1977 and been back many times since. In 1978 we started receiving Ben Torres, a great Christian teacher that was well received. He was always popular and brought a great ministry in teaching the Word to the congregation.

In November, 1978, the Elders discussed the need to expand leadership in the body by appointing a board of deacons that could take on leadership of various areas and projects. They would also tend to be the candidates for Elders as well. There is an excellent picture of the Board of Deacons in the pictorial section taken in 1984.

GO -- CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The possibility of the Christian School was put on the front burner the spring of 1979. A church rummage sale was held to raise money for the school. It was required to send \$950 with the ACE (Accelerated Christian Education) contract to line up materials. It was necessary to send the pastor, Bob, and the school principal, Jane Baker, to Garland, Texas for a week training session. Jane Baker was to step forth as principal aided by Aileen Ware, Secretary, Lorraine Lincoln, Cecelia Dickinson, Mary Meyers, Erin Lovett, Ann Waid, and Bev Westhaver. Jane and her staff went to work in organizing and preparing the program. The basement of the Carpenter's Hall was the site for the ACE Christian School from kindergarten to eighth grade. The initial exhibit in the pictorial section shows the newspaper article on the new Christian School

One high school student, Cami Moyer, insisted on coming and since she had been in a Christian School before, she was a great help and blessing. Nearly one hundred students enrolled for the first year of Christian School, and the final attendance came out at 84. A great deal of volunteer work was put in to get desks and facilities ready. How these teachers and volunteers pulled this off the first year in the basement of the Carpenters Hall has to be one of the greatest of miracles. However, it created a strong push by all those parents as well as church members to get a building erected.

One of the memories of that first year was the sign painted by Loretta Umphres Richardson entitled: "GOD DON'T MAKE NO JUNK". It is still remembered by the students who attended.

In April, 1979, Tom Roberts was selected to be an Elder.

CONSTRUCTION STARTED (1979)

In April, plans were started to get the materials together and start building the concrete retaining wall on the entire North side of the building. Ron Baker served as building committee chairman with a voluntary crew. Ken Galaster and Ron Waters were two laymen that were a great help in building the forms for this concrete wall. There was lots of additional voluntary help. The crew was so afraid of failing that they made it three times stouter than it needed. See the pictorial section for pictures of Tom Roberts at the start of the footing for the wall. He probably put in more time than any other individual in making the building become a reality. Additional pictures show the pouring of the big concrete wall and the wall after all the forms came off.

MINISTRY EXPANDS (1979-80)

The church ministry program for the year 1979 continued. Agnes Lovett started a Woman's Bible Study on Thursday morning that became very popular. On March 4 on Sunday morning worship was held in the Hermiston School Multi-purpose room with guest Carl Riley preaching. Attendance at our two services on Sunday was generally averaging 300 people. Cliff and Helen Beard ministered at the Center the last week in July. Another 28 registered and went to Basic Youth Conflict later in the summer for 32 hours of instruction plus personal applications in camping out. This always brought new understanding to the congregation.. Registration for the new Christian school was going great. Volunteer work every Saturday on the church building kept everyone busy. The ladies usually had a potluck for the workers at the building site on Saturday. That encouraged a full day's work. The regional F.G.B.M.F. again had a regional meeting in October in Pendleton with Danny Ost and Buzz Goertzen on the program.

John Powell married Annette Anderson at the Assembly of God Church in late November, 1979. On January 12, 1980 Kenneth Galster and Beverly Reynolds were married in the Assembly Church. Ken had been a great volunteer on the building and grew spiritually as well. Jeff Jernstedt and Ann Stefanides were also married on January 12 at the First Methodist Church.

Bob hadn't been able to come up with any financing, but the building had started anyway. No money, but a vision of our kids going to Christian School and belief in our purpose. It brought about great unity in the body and people worked above themselves. Terry Journot headed up the design and installation of the heating and cooling systems. Richard Drake was a drywall installer and finisher.

GOD'S TIMING IS PERFECT

In June, 1979 Ron Baker received a phone call from Rich Sherrell of the Hermiston School Board asking about the eleven acres. They were looking for a site for a new grade school and wanted to know if it was for sale. Now the truth was that the Elders had wanted \$100,000 for the property, but had considered taking as low as \$83,000 for it. Ron Baker asked \$105,000 for the property. They bought the property for cash after the passing of the school bond. Consequently closing didn't come until October, 1979. On closing Bob Lovett and Ron Baker met with Dale Gaylord, vice-principal of the School. Dale asked us if we knew what the soil was like on the property. Ron Baker said no as

we had never dug any test holes. He tossed some caliche rocks on the table. The property was almost entirely caliche with little topsoil and cost extra to build what is now Highland Hills Elementary School. In the meantime we had moved a lot of sand on our new property. This was another confirmation that we were on the right track and property. Even though the Elders thought they had been delayed in the sale of the eleven acres, Bob was to write in the minutes on June 28, 1979, "God's timing is perfect". It had forced the body to stretch more than thought possible and we were now in better shape to tackle the big job of constructing the new building. The cash receipts from the sale of the eleven acres allowed us to pay off the U.S. National Bank and complete the land payments on the 40 acres. In the minutes on September, it was estimated this would leave us with \$15,000 to \$18,000 to put on the new building.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Trusses for the floor were ordered and placed. The plywood from the concrete forms was used for the base floor between the basement and top floor. Framing the entire structure was now the top priority. The congregation was short on any professional carpenters or framers. We received a quote of \$10,500 from Irwin to frame the entire building including the roof. The framing contract was signed January 3, 1980. Mr. Irwin did put a good size crew on framing and moved the project along.

We made arrangements with Floyd Smith to do the plumbing by paying him his costs and providing him volunteer help. We poured the concrete floor for the basement in January and Travis Fox from Echo came in and did the floor finish. Tim Wood helped and advised on the electrical. Jack Sheets of Pendleton quoted the doors and windows.

THERE IS FINANCIAL POWER IN THE CHURCH

We knew it would take \$100,000 to enclose the structure and we had not come up with any type of bank financing for the construction even though the land was clear. The Elders kept thinking that the U.S. National Bank would still help us out as they had been good to work with on the land purchases. Bob Lovett and Ron Baker went to the U.S. Bank expecting a favorable response, but got turned down. Again the Elders were on their knees, and the answer was not long in coming.

A new local bank was being formed called Columbia Community Bank. They were aggressively seeking new business. By the January 3, 1980 Elders meeting, Bob Lovett was able to present the offer from the bank which had come out of a meeting with Jim Pratt, President of Columbia Community Bank. It was as follows:

- A. Bank takes 1st Mortgage on 40 Acres.
- B. Bank wants new deposits. We were to encourage our people to bank with them.
- C. Members could pledge their CD's for minimum of 6 months and receive 11.8% interest. The church could borrow that money at 2% over CD rate at 13.88% for the 6 months or longer if the CD was rolled over.
- D. Bank would loan \$80,000 construction loan at 2% over prime which was 17.25% at that time. Repayment was to start on September 14 at \$1,800 per month.

The hidden fact that few realized that there was more CD's in the congregation body than would normally be expected. People in the congregation stepped forward and pledged their CD's and this raised about \$60,000 in addition to the first mortgage of \$80,000. This made the construction of the building feasible. This arrangement was unique among bank financing and was another evidence of God's direction

ADMINISTRATION AND MINISTRY GET STRETCHED (1980)

With the building program now proceeding mainly on a volunteer basis, growing pains were evident during the spring months of 1980. The Good News Singers had led the music program since the inception of the church. In time more changes came to the music program and the Elders thanked the Good News Singers for their service and expressed their appreciation. Bob Lovett arranged for the leadership of the music program. Woody Woods had moved to the area from Montana and was appointed steward over music. Rick Drake became Worship leader.

Bob Lovett was feeling the extra administrative load, which limited time on ministry. The Elders organized themselves to help. Ron Baker was heading up the building and several laypeople were part of an unofficial building committee. They were Terry Journot, Tom Roberts, and Kay Stefanides. The volunteers were great and came from throughout the congregation and school parents. We tended to announce the work for the week on Sunday. Tom Roberts was on the job almost full time and directed the volunteer effort.

Clark Dumond worked on the treasurer needs while Mary Ross served as Financial Secretary. Don Albert was in charge of the Bus Maintenance. Sunday School Education was led by Larry Benson, Adult Education led by Tom Watkins, and Jeannie Douglas started helping Bob with the minutes and some secretarial duties. Then Bob Duff was added in charge of visitation, and Ike Smith in evangelism. The youth ministry was led by Jack and Lorraine Lincoln, and institution responsibilities by Barry Reeves.

MOVE TO HOLY HILL

Installing the sewer became important. The city assessment was \$12,500 to bring the sewer to the corner of our property. By April, 1980 we had borrowed \$55,000 and had a limit of \$150,000.

The pictorial addition shows the progress of the framing in May, 1980. Soon after this picture we had a terrible wind storm that blew down some of the second floor framing. People showed up from everywhere to help stabilize it which was accomplished without too much damage. On June 9 Pastor Bob Lovett announced that the church was going to move to Holy Hill on July 1 and have its first worship service in the new building. He was to get the building inspector's permission.. Bob was anxious to move to stop the rent on the Carpenter's Hall.

"We've moved" announced Bob Lovett and the first service in the new building was open air with no roof on July 6, 1980. Rev. Thampy , a missionary from India, was our pulpit guest. It was a great moment although we had a lot to do. Ben Torres was to minister on July 17 and lead a youth retreat held right on the 40 acres the week-end of August 15-17th. There was a picnic and baptism on the church grounds on August 10th. A hole was

dug with a backhoe and then lined with plastic to make the baptismal fount. Among those that were baptised was Dave Conklin. The attendance at Basic Youth shot up to 59 the last of July with 37 first-timers and 22 alumni.

The move verified that the Christian School would start in the new building on September 4. In August the roof trusses were swung into place. See pictorial addition. The building was enclosed as of September 4 when school started.

ENTER--ROD HARDIN WITH HAIR

Jane Baker had been the school principal the first year, but wanted the Elders to hire a new principal. The Elders interviewed Rod Hardin on June 23, 1980 and decided unanimously to hire him. Rod had a Masters Degree in Education with 8 years experience in public school and 4 years experience in a Christian School. They were to move from Seaside, Oregon in August when Sheila Hardin gave birth to Rachel. They were to locate a double wide on a lot on the church property. Rod asked that Jane remain principal one more year while he served as assistant. After that he took over and has served in that capacity to the present time. "That is why he has lost his hair!"

In June, 1980, Norm Eppenbach resigned as an Elder mainly because of the action on the Good News Singers. Norm had served well and the Elders gave him their appreciation. Woody Wood and Rick Drake were appointed to take over the worship and music ministry.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WAS TREMENDOUS

People had continued to pledge CD's to the bank which increased to \$84,000. This gave a total line of \$164,000. The interest rate on the CD's was cheaper than the first mortgage as the economy had gone through a high interest period up to 20%. Prime interest rates started to drop back to 11 1/2 per cent interest which helped. However, the total borrowed also increased the monthly repayment to \$3050. We had continuing requirements over our bank line to finish the building and yet needed to start to repay as well.

FINISHING THE BUILDING

The finishing on the inside was now the major task with many decisions on colors, and other interior decoration. An interior decoration committee was appointed consisting of Kay Stefanides, Chairwoman, Gladys Harding, Min Sheets, Jane Baker, and Ann Woods. At that time Jean Conklin worked as a consultant in interior decoration and so she helped the committee as well. One of the main decisions on color was to go for a purple carpet with blue chairs in the sanctuary. These were the royal colors according to Scripture. Purple and blue are quoted several times as the main colors in the tabernacle in Exodus 26:1, "Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet." V. 31, "And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work:" Exodus 27:16 "And for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework".

Contractors that helped were very understanding of the church's need to keep costs down. Tom Westland, a long time paint contractor in the area, and member of the Hermiston

Assembly of God provided our paint at his cost. It had never really been possible to budget or project the actual cost of the building. However, we knew we had to have it ready for school and weather tight. There was a tremendous volunteer effort during August 1980 to get ready. The list of things needed seemed endless. The minutes of Elders on August 11, 1980 helps tell the story. Under construction we did the following:

1. Send \$4000 to the roofer
2. Roofing bill: \$10,000, Architect payment \$3,360, Plumbing \$1347, Payless and Big Pierre Lumber , \$3,431; Bancroft for Sewer, \$12,000.; Heating and Air-Conditioning, \$20,000 (Paid \$5,000); Water and Sewer each year, \$2,400; Pendleton Glass, \$13,010 (Paid \$5,000); Lights for down stairs, \$5,937; Plumbing Fixtures, \$4,700; Water heaters-3 heaters \$1200.; Drop Ceiling downstairs, \$5,250.
3. Okayed dropped ceiling bid of \$5,250. Okayed plumbing fixtures.
4. Motion to purchase sinks. Add janitor sinks. Motion to purchase 2 water heaters.
5. Dismissed with prayer

It was truly a walk of faith. The amazing thing was the volunteer effort, the ordering and delivery of building items by suppliers, and frankly, how well it all went together. The church had great support not only from its members, but also from the community particularly the business community. Our suppliers gave a little more, carried a bill a little longer, gave free service and advice, and were slow to ask to be paid. The idea of a new Christian School being added to the community was more than just a church project. The community felt an interest in it too.

Tim Wood, an electrical contractor, never charged for his time, just the cost of materials, and we got a top job. But it was like this was something that had to be done, whether you were a Christian, or not. Red Leonard, a member of the board of the bank, known for being independent and tough, was for the Christian School and thought it should happen. He told that directly to Jane Baker. This was the Spirit of Hermiston that helped the project along.

After moving to the new site on July 6 for services, the pressure was really on to get the building ready for the school. Worknights were organized Tuesday and Friday nights plus Saturday. There were some volunteers like Tom Roberts, Rick Drake, Frank Douglas, and others that just worked nearly full time. Others were there almost every moment they weren't on their regular job.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STARTS SECOND YEAR IN NEW BUILDING

The Christian school started its second year in the new building with an enrollment of 107. Hallways were not painted or carpeted. Bathrooms had to be finished. Lights and heating ductwork completed, installation of heating units, set up of sound system, doors needed to be hung and replumbed. Yet each part kept moving ahead and nobody minded the inconvenience.

In 1980 the Dumonds had arranged for Sarita Moctezuma from Guadalajara, Mexico to attend Interfaith Christian School for the year. She lived with the Al Anderson Family for a full year and was one of the graduates the year of 1981. She became a daughter for

life for the Andersons. They kept in close touch with Sarita who came back for a visit three times through the years. The Andersons visited her in Mexico many times.

By December, 1980, we had borrowed \$73,600 on CD's plus the \$80,000 first mortgage. The church owed about \$14,900 in construction bills. The Elders started delaying projects until the money was available to fund them.

TRAILER PARK--NEW CHALLENGES

Since the church property was now zoned, and had sewer and water, it had trailer lots that were available and various people applied to move trailers onto the lots. The Elders had to set up rules, and regulations, as well as monthly rental charges and hook-up charges. The trailer park was initially thought to be a good thing. The concept of having a place where widows and other church-oriented people could be on the property sounded great in theory. As time went on it gradually was to develop into more of a problem than help. The Elders were to learn that renters don't always pay their rent and the church is in a difficult position to be a landlord.

CHURCH RECOGNIZES CONTRIBUTIONS

At the annual meeting held March 8, 1981, recognition scrolls were passed out to some who had particularly contributed to the building program.. They were Tom Westland (painting), Floyd Smith (plumbing), Jarod Peak (sound system), Frank Douglas (worked several months as volunteer particularly on the dry-wall), Pat Umphres (worked a lot on speciality projects), Terry Journot (heating and air-conditioning), Tom and Claradehl Roberts (workers for long period), and Kay Stefanides (interior decoration committee). This certainly was a short list of all the many that deserved recognition.

The color committee worked on the design for the front of the sanctuary and the cross. A wooden cross was decided and Jim Tracy hired to construct it. Doors and glass was procured directly from Baxter for \$8400. Carpet was finally laid in the three school rooms and hallways the last of March, 1981. The sanctuary did not have any new carpet for about 5 years. The Elders moved the insurance on the facility to \$800,000, the estimated replacement cost of the building.

FINALLY--A PLACE FOR WEDDINGS

Weddings started to happen in the new sanctuary as it became more finished like, but there still was not carpet. Alan Savage and Sue DeGroot were married in the sanctuary on March 1, 1981. Doug Tankersley and Ann Waid were married on March 21, 1981 in the sanctuary. Doug was helping on the design of the Highland frontage, but then they moved to Portland. They have moved back in 2003. Shawn Weaver married Tom Wells in the church on April 30. She was Clark and Mayme's granddaughter and Marty and Arta Joe Weaver's daughter.

One of the big weddings was that of Rick Drake and Cecelia Lovett Dickinson on May 8th. They had both contributed immeasurably to the body and it was a grand occasion. Following was another big wedding of Natalie Marlow and Terry Journot on June 13. They were also both very active in the church, but kept everyone guessing when they were going to tie the knot. Pastor Bob gave them lots of opportunity to announce it when he caught them whispering in the back row.

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school had grown. The building provided the rooms for a full scale Sunday School program. In April, 1981 Larry Benson was selected as Sunday School Superintendent.

CRAMER PROPERTY

In May, 1981, Mr. Cramer met with the Board of Elders. In 1967 he had bought 7 acres from the Hermiston Irrigation District that was on the south border of the church property. He had sold 2 acres in 1968 to the Lunds that left him with 5 acres. His property was land locked and he had been driving through the Knebel property to gain access even though he never had permission. Mr. Cramer was asked what kind of an easement he wanted and what he would pay for it.

In 1980 Rod and Sheila Hardin located their double wide on the church lot adjacent to Mr. Cramer's property. . An incident occurred when Mr. Cramer drove his pickup through the Hardin's backyard. Mr. Cramer did not realize this was no way to make friends and influence people with a red head. Many a chuckle about the incident, but it had upset Sheila Hardin and now the Elders had a serious problem with Mr. Cramer.

It actually took several years to get the matter resolved. Dan Banke who was an Elder at the time became the peacemaker and the church bought the 5 acres from Mr. Cramer for \$9,600.

BOARD OF DEACONS APPOINTED

The building was allowing fulfillment of a more active church program and the enlarged needs for administration and supervision were apparent. The Elders considered appointing a Board of Deacons that would help cover some of these areas. In August, 1981 the following Deacons were appointed: Jack Lincoln, land; Woody Woods, music; Barry Reeves, nursery; Cliff Owens, personal development; Marty Wirta, outreach; Larry Benson, education; Dan Banke, adult education; John Powell, building code; R. Biske, building; Rick Drake, music and workshop development; and Terry Journot, building. The Deacons were ordained on Sunday, August 16, 1981. Rod Hardin had been meeting with the Elders representing the school. He was asked to preside over the Board of Deacons. He was ordained as an Elder in October, 1981.

The growth of the school made it necessary to separate school and churches finances and make a separate budget for the school. This required an upgrade in the financial record keeping. Ron Baker had Shirley Bolen organize the financial records which included the building costs and produce a financial statement. Eventually Sheila Banke took over the financial records and developed them into a computerized system which was a big improvement

NEEDED; MORE LABORERS IN THE FIELD

July was a great month for spiritual growth with the Dobson series, Ben Torres, Stan Chester, and Basic Youth Conflicts. Now in August, Bob was to appeal in his monthly newsletter for Spiritual Physical Work as this is what he listed as yet to do: Get in the

doors and windows, ceilings installed, stairway built, cabinets in the restrooms so the sinks could be installed, duct work, electric work, desks made for the Christian school.

The September newsletter asked the congregation to pray for an associate Pastor to work alongside Pastor Bob. The Elders have been praying and searching for God's man to fill this position. We know that when this Body begins to pray, the Lord answers. The board was to interview Glenn McMurray on December 13th, 1981. Glenn was the pastor of the Bethel Church in Ellensburg, Washington .

Children's church began January 3, 1982 for ages 4&5 and grades 1-6th. Sheila Hardin was in charge of the older group. Sheila has served in this capacity for many years and made a tremendous contribution in those children's lives.

TRACK MEETS; THE TEST OF ENDURANCE

The Christian School has held an Invitational Track Meet every year from its inception. As high as 10 to 15 schools have participated and it has always been a highlight of the school year and involved lots of lay participation. Umatilla and Hermiston School Districts have both been very cooperative in letting the school use one or both tracks each year. Rod Hardin has led this event from the start and it is etched in stone in all the memories that it has created.

In April, 1982 the Interfaith Christian School won the Invitational Track meet in a close finish for the third consecutive year. The administrative challenge of organizing and running the track meet each year was challenging, and was handled in a most excellent way by Rod Hardin, Mary Ross, and staff. There were approximately 500 students participating.

MUSIC PROGRAM BLOSSOMS

For Easter Rick Drake led the choir in the Easter Cantata which was praised as excellent. Lorraine Lincoln, Mary Ross; staff, and school presented "Kids Praise" in a beautiful way and everyone was so proud of our school. Pentecost Sunday was also special as the congregation dressed in costume in celebration of that great day in which the Holy Spirit was released for Salvation and power.

AIR CONDITIONING-TASTE OF HEAVEN

July Fourth, 1982 , was the second anniversary of moving into the building. It was a Sunday and celebrated by the sanctuary now being AIR CONDITIONED. How we forget those comforts we take for granted. Don Albert shared on how God saved his business and the technique for business success.

CHESTERS-OUR CONTACT WITH ISRAEL

Rev. and Mrs. Stan Chester were to visit us in July after just returning from Israel. The Chesters spent about half of their time in Israel and the other half in the Northwest ministering. We were fortunate to usually see them almost every year. In 1989 they would lead a three week trip to Rome and Israel. Jane Baker along with 4 Assembly members from Pendleton went on this trip with the Chesters. It was truly a memorable experience.

ADDED LEADERSHIP

In 1982 the Elders remained the same being Bob Lovett, Ed Sheets, Clark Dumond, Ron Baker, Al Anderson, and Rod Hardin. Tom and Claradel Roberts had moved to Goldendale and sold their trailer on the church property over to Rick and Cecelia Drake. Additional deacons were added in Ike Smith, Max Sanchez, Dave Melville, Darrell Marlow, and Jerry Fenley. Dan Banke accepted the Sunday School Director job and did an excellent job for many years.

DEBT REDUCED

In October, 1982, the first mortgage was \$79,829 and the loan on the CD's was \$72,000. While \$24,000 payments had been made for the year, \$15,071 was interest. This encouraged the need to get more applied to principal to reduce the interest. It was also necessary to reduce the CD loans as some people were needing their CDs to be released. It was a real credit to the church that this was accomplished in a very orderly manner until all the CDs loan was paid off.

The annual New Year's celebration at the Ron Baker residence came to an end with the move to the church. The congregation had enjoyed some great times, but the church provided more room for the growing congregation.

WATER ISSUE

The church had drilled a very successful well in 1977. Part of the water was to irrigate the 3 acre playground. In 1980 the state Water Resources Department urged the church to apply for a permit because state law allows irrigation of only one-half acre without such a permit. The church applied, but no action was taken. The church continued to irrigate the play field. A technicality emerged as the church's well was in the area being studied for the Buttercreek Critical Ground Water area, so no permit was issued.

During the summer of 1982, Ron Baker received an urgent call from Rod Hardin. The Umatilla County watermaster was at the church and going to force us to turn off the water. Ron was there in 15 minutes. It was apparent that the watermaster was going to issue a citation and Ron didn't want Rod Hardin to get it. Ron told the watermaster if he was going to cite the church, he was president of the Elders so guess he would have to give him the citation. In July, 1983, the case was heard before the Umatilla County District Court in Hermiston. Dennis Doherty who was active in the congregation and a lawyer defended Baker. However, the court convicted Baker of using groundwater without a permit and fined Baker \$525.

The case had come to the attention of the State Water Resource Director who Baker had called upon to remedy the situation. The Director wouldn't act so Baker had worked with the two state representatives, Senator Mike Thorne and Representative Bob Harper. They introduced a bill allowing the church to irrigate 3 acres without a permit. Baker testified before the legislative committee on the problem and nobody would really fight the church over the matter. As a result, Harper and Thorne were able to get the bill passed by the legislature just before it closed its 1983 session. That made it legal for the church to use the water. Later, Dennis Doherty, was able to have the conviction removed. Nevertheless, the East Oregonian gave the church and Baker a full page spread on the

story on August 6, 1983. It was a very complementary article to correct for some of the unfavorable publicity of the water citation.

GLENN McMURRAY, ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Rev. Glenn McMurray became an Associate Pastor on August 1, 1983. October, 1983 became the ten year anniversary for the church. In December, Glenn was added as an Elder. He started taking on more administrative duties as Bob switched to more out reach. The annual meeting was held in December, 1983 with written reports included of the activities of each department.

GOD'S MIRACLES-TWO NEW SCHOOL BUSES

One of the needs of the Christian school had been a school bus. In October 1983 the church bought another bus for the School as the one previously was going to require some major repair. The Umatilla Ordinance Depot had to prepare a chemical stockpile emergency preparedness program called CSEPP. The program required the provision for for evacuation of students or gas tight building facilities. When the Elders chose the evacuation alternative, the bus ministry was to get a major shot in the arm. This switched from trying to get some extra mileage out of old buses to eventually having two new modern buses. One new bus came in 1994 and the second bus in 2000.

HEALTH BENEFITS FOR STAFF

The December 6, 1983, minutes were to include some urgency about our staff. It was decided to provide health insurance for our pastoral staff, Bob, Rod, and Glenn. It was reported that Agnes had been ill and would need treatment. A special salary increase was given to Bob to help with the expenses for Agnes. This was to start 5 years of prayer and concern over Agnes until she would pass away in 1988 from her cancer. She was such a saintly woman that was a mighty spiritual force in the body. Surely God would respond to the congregation's prayers on her behalf. The church and leadership was to learn one of those difficult lessons that we don't always understand God's will.

The church absorbed the additional cost of health insurance and also started dealing with the issue of putting the Christian School staff on social security. Some legal rulings had been passed down which preempted exempting religious workers from social security. It was better to pay than fight the new rulings. Maintenance on the building was also becoming more of an issue to deal with as it started to encounter some wear and tear. A full time maintenance man was needed, but not affordable.

CHALLENGES TO COMPLETE BUILDING

In January, 1984, Ron Baker gave a report to the Elders-Deacon Retreat of the needs to complete the building. They were to finish the doors and windows, \$3-4000; heating-\$5000; upstairs carpet, \$7000; and parking lot lights, \$5000. The total was about \$21,000. Building a gymnasium was also discussed. It would take \$17,000 to draw up working drawings. The leadership decided that 1. the priority is to complete the present building; 2. Activate building maintenance; 3. Evaluate outreach and review quarterly, we need a stronger base before going ahead with construction; and 4. Wait on blueprints for gym. It was worked out that Pastor Glenn would make building work assignments with a follow-up plan for the deacons meeting. They would divide the work into categories and free the elders for more ministry to the spiritual needs of the body.

In the January 1985 elders meeting, it showed that Wally Terry had been added to the Board of Deacons. Pastor Glenn McMurray worked with the Board of Deacons. They became a help in addressing problem areas that needed attention with the growth of the church and its program. One area was the expanding trailer park with its need for organization, compliance with regulations, sewer and water hook-ups, storage buildings, and appearance. A trailer park board was organized and further development stopped until the current condition could be brought into compliance.

Details in the building needed attention to complete the heating and air-conditioning, and get doors and windows finished so carpet could be laid upstairs. Getting the parking lot lights functional was another priority. John Chesley drove all the way from Pilot Rock and helped us with many electrical problems including making the parking lights functional.

LIVING WORD BOOK STORE

Clark and Mayme Dumond started the Living Word Book Store in Hermiston in 1978. In 1983 it had moved to main street and was dedicated on Friday, June 17, 1984. The store was gradually expanded and eventually taken over in 1987 by Marty and Arta Jo Weaver. Arta Jo was Clark and Mayme's daughter. After their retirement they sold it to the current owners in 1992. It has remained as an excellent outlet of Christian material for the community and area.

MINISTRY EXPANDS UNDER TWO PASTORS

The ministry of the church kept a full schedule during 1984 with two full time pastors, special events like the Marriage Seminar in October, a choir led by Pastor Glenn, Ben Torres teaching seminars, F.G.B.M.F. fall convention in Pendleton, Harvest Festival on Halloween night, cell group meetings at various homes, and an active women's program.

An interesting contest emerged in July when the Deacons challenged the Women's Ministries in a Dare to Finish. The dare was that the men of the church would finish the building before the women could buy the carpet for the rest of the building. The winner was to provide a banquet for the other. No loser there.

Pastor Glenn and the Melvilles were working with the youth. They attended a Wallowa Youth Camp on August 22-24. The Melvilles worked as teachers in the Christian school.

ATTENDANCE RECORDS IN 1984.

Attendance at Interfaith made a record in April, 1984 with an average of 131 in Bible study and 395 in total Sunday worship services. The Sunday morning adult Bible classes for this quarter were Women's Issues taught by Agnes Lovett; Marriage by God's Standards taught by Rod Hardin, I Corinthians, a word study, by Wally Terry, and new members class by Bob Lovett.

The high school class was taught by Jack and Lorraine Lincoln, Junior High by Terry Journot; 3rd-5th by Sheila Banke; 1st and 2nd grade by Mary Corp and Mary Ross; 4 & 5 year olds by Jeanne Benson and Marsheen Fenley, 2nd and 3rd year olds by Terri Cole ,

Stephanie Hardin, and Connie Lopez. Nursery by Sheila Hardin, Joan Reeves, and Laura McMurray.

Working in children's church; 2 and 3 year olds, Stephanie Hardin, Cora Price, Laura McMurray, Jackie Turner, Jody Snyder, Cece Jones, Teresa Albert, Janet Kammerzell; 4 & 5 year olds, Sheila Banke, Ann Melville, Susan Bullington, Ella Marlow, Joyce Stratton, and Charlene Lincoln.

SCHOOL MINISTRY CONTINUES GROWTH

The Christian school has always been a ministry of the Interfaith Church. While it isn't possible to recap all the events of the School, after 4 years of operation, Rod Hardin gave the following summary at the 1983 Annual Meeting.

Interfaith Christian School hosted the following events during the course of the school year:

1. Mini Convention, held late February with 60 events. Over 300 people were involved including students, judges, and staff.
2. Track Meets, two were held, involving approximately 12-15 schools from Oregon and Washington, over 500 students participating.
3. Regional Junior Convention, held at Kettle Falls, Washington, was represented with 20 students from the school.
4. Major programs to the public included our annual Christmas program, Easter program, and End-of-School Awards Program.

It has almost always been necessary to help the school from the Church treasury. Yet the Elders and School Administration have always worked to make the Christian School as financially independent as possible. Two hurdles for the Christian School were the placing of all employees under Social Security and some under a Health Plan. It also became a requirement to meet the state's minimum wage law. Two fundraisers were generated to help make up the difference. One was to man Fourth of July Fireworks Booths and the other was the Christian School Food Concession at the County Fair. Church and school parents and participants have manned both events. Rod Hardin has headed up both events and they have been real winners in accomplishing raising funds and showing the resolve of the congregation to give the option for Christian Education.

The Fireworks fundraiser is believed to have been started in 1982. The fair booth was started in 1984. Both have been run continuously since and have generated a lot of money to make improvements basically for the school.

THE LOVETT FAMILY

Not much has been said about the Lovett family, but they had 5 children and 1 adopted son. They had been raised in the church and some were very active. Bob writes in the 1984 newsletter about the current status of the Lovett family, which will bring back memories to many.

"1984 was a great improvement over 1983. 1983 was a rocky road for the Lovetts, but praise God 1984 was much better.

Richard and Cecelia still live in Hermiston along with son Brent and Jan. Rick is driving truck and ministers as song leader for Interfaith Christian Center aided by Cecelia.

Gene and Nancy are living in Kennewick, Wa, where Gene bought into a business. Their children Mike, Tonia, and Daniel are doing good.

Robert and Connie now live in Hermiston where Rob is driving truck. Along with daughter Libby they are doing good.

John and Erin now live in Heppner, Ore. John is tire Manager for Morrow County Grain Growers. They, along with children McClain, Jamie, and Caley Ann are doing good.

Joe and Bev are living in Molalla, Ore. Joe is Sales Manager for A-1 Distributing in Canby. They love the rural style of living. Their two children Josh and Rebecca are doing good.

Johnny is in the Airforce and stationed in Germany. All is well with him.

The entire Lovett family is thankful for all blessings of 1984 and look forward to 1985.

MASTER PLAN FOR GYM

On May 17, 1984, the building committee did an all day tour of Christian churches and schools in Western Oregon organized by our architect, Mr. Lindgren. The tour included George Fox University, Salem Christian Center, Eugene Christian Center, and Mt. Hood Christian Center. It gave some great ideas to the participants on the options to consider in planning our school gymnasium and school expansion. From this tour and member input, Mr. Lindgren, developed a master plan for this expansion.

At the August 14 Elder meeting, it was voted to send a letter of appreciation to Marty Weaver for his devoted work in the school, church, and with the security alarm. The Elders also entered into a joint employment of Lorraine Lincoln with the Christian school. She would serve each approximately half time. For the church she would serve with the cell group ministry and counseling.

ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING, 1984

The Annual Leadership meeting was held the first part of September included the Elders, Deacons, Pastoral staff, leaders in women's ministries and Sunday School. The meeting held on Sunday, Sept. 9, covered the following areas:

1. Rod Hardin, Christian School, goals. School close to 100 students last year. Trying to make the school self-supporting.
2. Dan Banke, Sunday School and Children's Church. Attendance in Sunday School was up to 135 with 70 to 100 in children's church. Need more splits in classes and more dividers in large classrooms.
3. Barry Reeves, Satellite Ministries, goals
4. Rick Drake and Pastor Glenn, Music, Big emphasis in upgrading the sound system.
5. Pastor Glenn, Deacons Report. Deacons have been big help in getting projects done in the church.
6. Agnes Lovett, Women Ministries, Have ladies in charge of following areas: Prayer Chain, Agnes Lovett; Visitation, Jackie Koppany, Wedding and showers, Jackie Ashbeck, Annette Powell, Hospital, Deloris Stone, Telephone, Jeanette Conners, Hardship ministries, Sue Anderson. All women involved in intercessory prayer. Need our kitchen equipped.
7. Lorraine Lincoln, Cell Groups, Goal is to get every member involved into a prayer group.
8. Marilyn Anderson, Nursery, Need more room and separation

9. Ed Sheets, Trailer Park Committee, Working for uniformity, Needs strong rules and regulations, improve communication with tenants.
10. Pastor Glenn, Youth Group, Meeting Wednesday night, Planning Harvest Festival
11. Ron Baker, Building Committee, Reviewed projects to complete, like enlarged nursery, kitchen, expansion considerations.
12. Financial. The CD loan had been reduced to \$42,000 with 1st mortgage at \$75,000. Paying \$3,000 a month. Approximately \$20,000 being applied on principle per year.
13. Goals were set for the coming year.

Debbie Oldfather became the first paid church secretary and she started at \$50 a week. It was gradually raised but it certainly was a labor of love.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORTS, 1984

The Annual Business Meeting was held on November 11, 1984. Pastor Glenn brought a report on the outreach ministries emphasizing the need for each member to be involved in personal evangelism. Dan Banke reported growth in the Sunday School from an average of 98 last year to 117 this year. Rod Hardin reported on the Christian School. He recognized the school board and staff. He reported that the School had again received Model School Status in its annual evaluation. Ron Baker brought the church building report and revealed the architect's plans for the new gymnasium complex with classrooms. He discussed church growth and the progress being made on the church loan. It was projected that it would only take five years to eliminate the debt on the building and free up about \$40,000 in principle and interest payments per year. Bob Lovett reported on the book, Team Ministry, by Pastor Iverson of Bible Temple in Portland. He believed the concept of "Team Ministry" had great importance to Interfaith Christian Center in its transition phase moving from a small church to a larger church.

Beginning January 1, 1985 the church converted its financial records to being on a calendar year. This moved the annual meeting from November to end of February.

Pastor Iverson and part of his team came to Interfaith on March 5 and met with the Elders. He explained his book and concept of team ministry that they did at Bible Temple. It was a very productive session and outlined a procedure of delegating responsibility to various staff members who then worked together to accomplish the various goals of the church. The Elders felt we should adopt as many of these procedures as we could which would give relief to Bob Lovett and give a more balanced approach to the leadership.

SANCTUARY CARPET-HURRAH

In February, 1985 Thomas Kay Textiles quoted in a letter to Kay Stefanides \$8,622 installed to the church on the carpet for upstairs. The church was entering its 5th year and there had been no carpet upstairs except for some used carpet that was used in some areas. People were becoming more anxious in having the new carpet for the sanctuary in the royal purple color that had been selected. The Elders were on a policy of paying as we go so thought we should wait for more funds before we could purchase the carpet.

Yet the pressure was on to move on the carpet. An idea about a fund raising project for Palm Sunday came up and it was announced ahead of time and asked to pray. At the end of the Palm Sunday service, envelopes were handed out to everyone and a master scorecard was set up on the platform. The goal was \$8600 either in cash or as a pledge. Ron Baker led the presentation and it started out like who would give \$1000? Then who would give \$500? Then who would give \$400, then \$300, then \$200, then \$100, then \$75, then \$50, then \$40, then \$30, then \$20, then \$10? Everyone could participate at some level. It worked and we raised almost the total amount. That is the way the church got its new purple carpet for the sanctuary.

SCHOOL UPDATE; 1985

Rod Hardin reported in May of his efforts to improve School staff. He had interviewed Irv Elliot of Hood River Christian School. He was available, is an administrator, and has worked at the state level for A.C.E. Mr. Hardin suggested that Irv's job would be Activities Director for the church and school. He could work as Mr. Hardin's assistant. Athletic Director, and handle many administrative matters in the church and school. His wife has school and secretarial skills and is good with people. The Elders interviewed Irv and Lolly Elliott at the next meeting and hired them on staff starting July 15, 1985.

The Elders voted to ordain Rod Hardin as Minister of Education in July.

PASTOR McMURRAY RESIGNS

He had been called to be an outreach pastor, but had many other assigned duties instead. There was a general agreement even though Glenn had done a very excellent job. Dave Melville was selected as youth leader and then taught in the Christian school. He was well liked by the youth and did very well.

CRAMER PROPERTY, PART II

The Trailer park board chaired by Ed Sheets dealt with the thorny issue on right of way clearance with Mr. Cramer and tried to reach a compromise with him. Dan Banke and Dave Melville of that committee did admirable work in finally reaching a compromise with Mr. Cramer. This was reached in July, 1985 in which Mr. Cramer agreed to sell the property to the church for \$9,600. The Elders approved ending a long dispute that everyone felt good about. A payment schedule was worked out which the church met.

TRAILER PARK BOARD

The trailer park board consisting of Ed Sheets, Dan Banke, Dave Melville, and Rod Hardin dealt with the issues that the trailer park had created. This committee was given the authority to enforce the rental agreement between Interfaith and the tenants so that the pastors did not have to become involved. The board faced problems in upgrading the looks of the park, collection of rent, and sewer and water hook-ups. While these problems were dealt with by the trailer park board in a very forthright manner, it finally became one of the reasons that the property was sold to get the church out of dealing with such problems. It was learned by leadership that being a Landlord is not an easy function for a church to have to perform.

The School Board had been functioning with Jack Lincoln as chairman and was working on budgets and to advise Rod Hardin on school policy. The board had 7 members representing staff and parents with 2 advisors. They were to make a yearly budget for approval of the Elders and advise the Elders of specific needs that affect operation of the school.

The Elders-Deacons retreat held September 5-6 addressed the vision of the church. Pastor Bob was to key note the vision accompanied by focus on goals for the coming year, next two years, and five years. Emphasis was on getting the church moving in unity on music, growth, and evangelism. The concept of preparing and following a budget for the church was approved. A framework for the church budget had been started in August, 1985 by Pastor Bob, Ron Baker, Marty Weaver, Irv Elliott, Mary Ross, Wally Terry, John Powell, and Barry Reeves. It proved to be more of a task than anticipated and took several months to complete.

WOMEN MINISTRIES UPDATE , 1985

In October Kay Stefanides met with the Elders to update and discuss the Women's Ministries. The Women's Ministries was now two years old and was both a working and social organization, self-supporting, with no formal by-laws. Current officers were President, Kay Stefanides; Vice President, Min Sheets; Treasurer, Marilyn Anderson; Secretary, Ella Marlow. The officers served for two years. The group met once a month alternating afternoon lunch programs with evening dessert type programs. The officers had executive meetings before regular meeting to handle business. Current projects were library shelves, Kitchen committee to get kitchen completed, taking care of crisis family needs, give showers, and help with children emergencies. Kay wanted more support and commitment. They were considering a secret sister program and sponsoring a progressive dinner. It was decided to insure that the women's ministries be sure to be included in Elder-Deacon meetings to better tie them in with total body ministry.

COVENANT MEMBERSHIP

The concept of covenant members had been discussed during Elder meetings by Bob Lovett. The concern was to establish some criteria for commitment of members. This was partially brought forward by the Christian school, which gave better rates to member families. This would only work if such families were truly committed and tithe paying members. It was decided the pastor should prepare a letter to all members explaining the concept and the program for 1986. It was also necessary to establish unity and a clear line of authority from the Pastor to the Elders to the Deacons to the membership. In any organization, problems needed to be confronted and discussed. There has to be loyalty and understanding even when honest differences occur. Irv Elliott had recently been hired and was constructive in improving the lines of authority and removing friction.

It was also important for the pastor to submit to the Elders as well as the Elders to submit to the pastor. The church leadership was learning how team ministry requires commitment and loyalty to make unity and progress happen. This is the one body of Christ that the Scriptures talks about and Satan loves to try to insert his disruptive influence. A three page letter to all members was prepared by Bob Lovett outlining the Vision of the Church, the responsibility of the members, and the desirability of a covenant relationship between the Church and its members. This is listed in the minutes

for November, 1985. An organizational chart showing the organization plan as it was operating in 1985 is attached in the pictorial section.

Rick Drake had been handling the music and worship leader responsibilities without pay. In September the Elders decided to make Rick Director of Music and pay him \$500 a month. They also decided to hire Cecelia to be Records and Evangelism Secretary for \$300 a month with a review in 3 months.

MEMORIALS

A memorial plaque was established citing the contributions and gifts to the church in memory of loved ones that have passed on. The installation of new carpet for the downstairs learning center was given by Mary Meyer in memory of her husband, Paul F. Meyer. The lighted cross in the sanctuary was given by Marjorie Vierson and family in the memory of E. Markham Baker. The platform flags were given by Aileen Ware in memory of her son, Sergeant John A. Ware, who was killed in Vietnam. The outdoor flag pole was given by Marjorie Vierson in memory of her second husband, Ernest L. Vierson.

DUMOND'S CAR ACCIDENT

Clark and Mayme Dumond were involved in an automobile accident in September that could have been very disastrous. However, the Lord had his hand on this wonderful couple. Mayme was driving on the freeway home from Portland. She fell asleep and the car hit the railing. When the state policeman arrived, Clark had crawled out and answered on what happened. He said, "We normally take a nap about this time of the afternoon." At that moment, Tom Wells, their son-in-law, had been traveling towards Portland and saw Dumond's car. He turned around and got there when Clark told the policeman. Nothing much fazed Clark. After all the Lord was in control. Mayme broke her ankle and they were shook up some, but all were relieved that it hadn't been worse.

ED SHEETS RESIGNS AFTER MUCH SERVICE

Under Doctor's orders, Clark did resign as Financial Secretary at the end of the year. Mary Ross also resigned as Treasurer. Larry and Dean Platt were appointed Financial Secretaries, and Barry Reeves as Treasurer. Also in December, 1985 Ed Sheets explained his commitment as International Director for Full Gospel Businessmen and the draw to be more involved in politics. He wished to resign as an Elder, but remain as our representative in the area of politics. Each Elder expressed their appreciation to all that Ed had done over the years. A letter of appreciation and plaque were given to Ed on the following Sunday.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1986

Our Annual Meeting moved to February 23, 1986 to accommodate the change in accounting to a standard fiscal year. With our emphasis on covenant members, we now showed a total of 134 covenant members. Jack Lincoln and John Powell were interviewed by the Elders and selected as new Elders. The Christian school had a current enrollment of 86 with the staff consisting of Rod Hardin, Dave Melville, Anne Melville, Sheila Hardin, Jackie McDonald, Mary Meyer, Stephanie Hardin, and other volunteers of Peggy Connors and Aileen Ware. The current school board was Jack Lincoln, Chairman,

Don Albert, Jane Baker, Mary Meyer, Linda Terry, Anne Melville, and Advisors of Rod Hardin and Irv Elliott. Dave Melville was leading the youth group, and Dan Banke was doing an excellent job as Sunday School Superintendent. The music program was expanding under Rick Drake who was adding a choir and orchestra to the program. The cell groups numbered 4 with 43 participants under the leadership of Jack and Lorraine Lincoln. Ginger Watson was serving as Missions Secretary with giving going to 6 foreign missionaries.

Elders voted in February, 1986 to give awards to Mary Meyer and Aileen Ware for their long time service. They also voted to give award to Ron Baker for dedicated service from the start.

ELDERS-DIRECTORS DISTINGUISHED

In February, 1986 a change was made in the by-laws making a distinction between Elders and Directors. Up to this time, they had been the same, but some felt that the Elders should be free for spiritual matters while the Directors covered the administrative business of the church. The Directors would be elected by the congregation, not the Elders. This led to new officers for the Board of Directors which were Bob Lovett, President; Jack Lincoln, Vice-President; Rod Hardin, Secretary. Wally Terry had been elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors consisted of Wally Terry, Rod Hardin, John Powell, Jack Lincoln, Al Anderson, and Bob Lovett. The Elders remained as Bob Lovett, Ron Baker, Rod Hardin, John Powell, Jack Lincoln, and Al Anderson.

The transitional plan would be to rotate the Elders off the Board of Directors as their terms of office finished. Terms of office for the Board were three years on a rotating basis. An Administrative Council was appointed to cover many pending business matters and save the Board from meeting so often. That council consisted of Ron Baker, Administration Elder; Dan Banke, Chairman of Deacons; Barry Reeves, Treasurer; Wally Terry, Legal Council; and Irv Elliott, Administrator.

In May the Elders added Larry Platt, Ron Nofsinger, Ralph Caruso, and Joe Ashbeck as Deacons. Jerry Fenley and Larry Benson asked to be withdrawn as Deacons. Linda Terry had been President of Women's Ministries, but withdrew in May, 1986.

FINANCIAL RECORDS

Mary Ross and Mary Corp had taken care of the financial books for the church which were on a single entry system. In the spring of 1986 the two Mary's resigned and returned the books back to the church. Ron Baker had Shirley Bolen recap the financial records from the very start through the checkbook and establish a double entry set of financial books for the church. This accumulated all the out of pocket costs in building the church. This was completed in June, 1986 and submitted to the Elders. From that point on the accounting has been done on a double entry system. Sheila Banke was to become financial secretary and put the books on the computer.

The Elders in their August minutes considered selling enough land to get out of debt, which would free Interfaith to get started on a gym. The Elders were also concerned about the necessity of Bob Lovett finding an assistant pastor that could also be trained as

a suitable replacement. Bob was instructed to seek such a person that he could train with the background of the vision of the body.

In September, 1986, Irv Elliott submitted his resignation. This was accepted regretfully by the Elders as he had been a great help to both the church and school in administration and athletics. He had been offered an expanded job with the A.C.E. organization in organization of its school conventions. He would continue to serve as athletic supervisor, convention director, and bookkeeper.

A plan to purchase chairs for the sanctuary was adopted in October. They were to be gold frame and blue seats and an initial order of 100 was made.

FINANCIAL SERVICES UPDATED

The Columbia Bank sold out and the church loans were taken over by Inland Empire Bank. The church was able to combine both the real estate loan and the CD loan along with an additional \$7,000 covering the piano balance, water & sewer assignments for an over all total of \$99,031. Interest was at 11.5% with payments of \$2177 per month for 60 payments or 5 years. This loan made on December 3, 1986 gave the church a reasonable payment plan and allowed the release of the remaining CDs. It was a great chapter in the success of the finances and the accomplishment of debt reduction in 6 years.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 1987

At the annual leadership meeting in February, 1987, it was recommended to activate the building committee. This was set up by the Board of Directors appointing Ron Baker, Terry Journot, Rod Hardin, Kay Stefanides, Mary Meyer, Wally Terry, Dan Banke, Ron Nofsinger, and Bart Starr. They were to establish goals to finish the present building and make plans for the future.

The Annual Business meeting was held February 22, 1987. Dan Banke, Sunday School Superintendent reported a gradual increase in average attendance in the Sunday School to 134. Sheila Hardin, missions secretary, reported on support of the following missionaries: Victor Ost, Martinez, Mexico; Faith, Hope, & Love International, Laredo, Texas; Quanrud-Mexico-Missions, Guadalajara, Mexico; Pastor V.A. Thampy, India; Matt & Su Lambert, Indonesia; Joe Ost in Spain and Mark Ost in France. Lorraine Lincoln described the counseling load through the office averaged 50 to 60 per week. Dan Banke gave the trailer park report which was seeking to replace the multiple ruptured bladder tanks to maintain pressure.

Rod Hardin reported that the Christian School had attained its 6th consecutive rating as a model school. The school was participating with more students in state and national conventions, Fifteen students went to the National Convention in Denton, Texas. New programs of Reading Readiness and Computer Literacy have been added to the program. Clark Dumond has been teaching a Spanish class for older students. Mary Meyers had completed 8 years as a full time volunteer. Last fall Interfaith received the honor of being the Northwest Cross-Country Champions.

The election at the annual meeting was to finalize the new board of directors by adding 5 members. Those elected were Larry Platt, Jack Lincoln, Ron Nofsinger, Ron Baker, and

Pat Umphres. Remaining on the board were Bob Lovett, Rod Hardin, Al Anderson, and Wally Terry. In July the Elders appointed Dan Banke to fill out the term vacated by resignation of Wally Terry. John Powell was appointed to replace Al Anderson who wished to serve only as an Elder and not as a Director.

BUILDING TRUSTEES FORMED

The Board of Deacons continued to work on projects to finish up on the building. Here we see the name of John Chesley showing up as he did a lot of the electrical work on installing the outside lighting in the parking lot. As an accomplished electrician he was of great help on many electrical projects. Before new Deacons are ordained they will work first in an area called, "Building Trustees". Those appointed to this area included: Cole Cordray, Jeff Meisner, Paul Dela Cruz, Bart Starr, Gary Wilson, Jerry McFarland, Dale Meir, Hubert Fenley, Dan Thomas, Greg Torre, and Don Weber. These were ordained on Sunday, July 19th. While everyone contributed, Pat Umphres and Hubert Fenley proved to be real handymen. They could do about anything, were always willing, and contributed the time to get it done. They both were great brothers in the Lord, and fishing buddies. Pat had a temper that would get in his way if he got into a controversy in a meeting. He was loved for it because he worked so hard to control it.

In the summer of 1987 and 1988, Dave Melville was in charge of building the new sign on the corner of 17th and Highland. At that time the city had restrictions on how high a sign could be built and consequently the low profile of this sign that exists there today.

At the recommendation of several Elders, the School Board was terminated and an Educational advisory committee of seven to be appointed by the Pastor and School Principal to be instituted instead. They would be in an advisory status.

LEADERSHIP APPRECIATED

The Elder leadership had been very stable from 1974 to 1987. The leadership had been expanded by adding the Deacons, Building Trustees, and a big increase in church leadership committee and ministries. In December, 1987 Bob would write in the Sunday bulletin; "One thing your Pastor appreciates is loyalty. At prayer Tuesday morning, a real appreciation for our Elders, Deacons, Building Trustees, all of our church leaders, came upon me. All the trials the Elders have faced these many years together and we are still together-not one Elder has quit. I appreciate that. I give thanks to God for our leadership and I ask God's blessing upon them."

In December, 1987, the Elders interviewed Ron and Linda Nofsinger and voted to call Ron as as Elder. The Elders also interviewed Larry and Cathy Walker as an associate Pastor and called him to start January 1, 1988.

Also in December the congregation would give a farewell for the Lincoln family. Jack and Lorraine had been a vital part of Interfaith for about 10 years. Now the Lord had moved them to Longview, Washington.

AGNES LOVETT GOES TO HEAVEN

Agnes Lovett passed on to be with the Lord on December 19, 1987 after her four year struggle with cancer. There had been a multitude of prayers for her healing. She was such a saintly, spirit filled lady, was a great counselor, and such a prayer warrior herself. It just did not seem possible that God would not heal her. Fellow Christians had seen so many miracles of which she had prayed for that it was shattering to some of the congregation's faith to see her pass away. Agnes and Bob had been married 40 years and Bob took it hard. In the Sunday bulletin Bob would write; "WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE your Pastor feels toward this body of Interfaith. Your concern, love and devotion expressed were beyond measure. We did not need for anything. We cannot imagine anymore that could have been done that was not done. As your Pastor, I can only say that during these hours of grief your expressions of love were ideal. 'God bless you.'

"Expressions of sympathy came from various parts of our nation, but particularly from the Northwest. Aglow Chapters sent their expressions, as well as so many individuals. Certain ones had great meaning, such as, "You did not know me. I was just hurting and believing suicide was the best way. A friend suggested that I call you. I did. You were so gracious and kind. My first impression of you was, "This person is a real lady." Because of your advice and prayers, I made it through my trial. Your memory will live forever." We all will miss her a great deal, especially me." Signed: Bob Lovett.

At the Annual Meeting, March 6, 1988, three positions of Director were to be elected. Dave Melville, Paul Dela Cruz, and Terry Journot were elected.

Some of the carpet upstairs had gone bad prematurely and so a settlement was finally worked out with Thomas Kay and the carpet replaced during late 1988. Kay offered \$3000 credit for carpet plus \$500 for installation. It was decided to change the carpet in the stairways, hallways, offices, and music room.

Dannette Starr became bookkeeper effective June 1 as our previous bookkeeper, Linda Holestine, had resigned as of that date. It was determined that we should get the books on the computer so that the school and church could be better segregated.

BOB LOVETT RESIGNS

In July, 1988 Bob Lovett approached Ron Baker and Clark Dumond and stated that he was considering resigning and going into a Counseling Ministry. He would let the Elders know when he returned from his three-week vacation. A combined Elders and Directors meeting was held on September 6. Pastor Bob was present and submitted his verbal resignation and said he would submit a written resignation. Pastor Bob requested that his salary continue through October 16, 1988. Pastor Bob then left the meeting. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the Pastor's resignation. The following actions were then taken:

1. Remove all existing officers and re-elect new ones.
2. Amend the by-laws so that an Elder other than pastor could be elected President of Corporation.

3. Elected the following officers: Ron Baker, President; Ron Nofsinger, Vice-President; Dan Banke, Secretary; Rod Hardin, Treasurer; Larry Platt, Financial Secretary.
4. Pastor Larry Walker was asked if he was interested in taking the position of Interim Pastor until the Position of the Pastor could be filled. He accepted the position with the understanding that his children would not be required to attend the Christian School. This could be reevaluated if he was considered for a permanent pastor position.

Pastor Bob's official letter of resignation was very helpful and is as follows:

Dear Friends:

The basic headline today is, "Pastor Bob has resigned as Pastor of Interfaith Christian Center". The reasons for this resignation are several.

One, I will be attending graduate school at CBN University next year.

Two, this would mean a long transition, with everyone knowing my ministry would be temporary at Interfaith.

Three, Interfaith needs a new Pastor with a vision for Interfaith and school. My staying longer would only delay what needs to be done in the very near future.

Four, all of us in leadership (Pastor, Elders, Directors) believe and are in agreement that this is God's will for Interfaith Christian Center.

_Please Be In Prayer

1. For Interfaith Christian Center- a new vision and a Pastor of God's choosing.
2. For Pastor Bob Lovett and family. We desperately need God's direction.

Sunday, September 11

Will mark my 15th year at Interfaith Christian Center. This is a long time at one church. There are many memories wrapped up in those 15 years as we have interacted in each others lives. This was demonstrated Tuesday evening as the Elders, Directors and myself agreed and fell into each others arms in tears.

I leave Interfaith Christian Center with a heart full of love for each one of you and will continue to pray for you.

A new challenge and direction awaits me. Be in prayer for me. God bless you all!

In Jesus Name,
Bob L.

Another joint meeting of the Elders and Directors was held on September 13 to finalize Bob's schedule which was submitted by Al Anderson. Rod Hardin would lead music except for October 16 on Bob's farewell Sunday. Rick Drake would lead it then. The leadership was challenged to keep harmony in the congregation as this development had come up rather suddenly and was rather earth shaking to the congregation.

At the October joint meeting of Elders and Directors, Rod Hardin presented a revised school budget to operate to June 30 at a \$4,284 loss. This would allow maintaining Dave and Ann Melville, and Rod as salaried personnel. A new budget was to be submitted for the next year. The revised budget was passed. The pulpit search committee would be

the Elders. Larry Walker worked well as Interim pastor so it provided continuity and pulpit supply.

Karen Dela Cruz had taken over head of Women's Ministries and updated the Elders and Directors on the women's activities. Al Anderson was appointed to act as representative to the women's ministries from the Elders. The importance of completing the kitchen was a goal of women's ministries and they would aid in fund raising.

PASTORAL SEARCH-RON LEWIS CALLED

The pastoral search committee found a limited number of available pastors who wanted to pastor a non-denominational church. Benefits were a major issue. Fortunately, they were able to locate Ron Lewis who had returned to the Hermiston area, but had pastored in Stanfield and been serving as a traveling evangelist. He had credentials in the Assembly of God Church. His family was strong in music as he and his wife Johanna were accomplished pianists and their three daughters sang. The Elders decided in January, 1989 to call Ron Lewis as pastor starting on February 1. They were received as the new pastor at the Elders-Directors Board meeting of January 24.

Pastor Larry Walker said he would resign as Interim pastor as of February 15. February 12 was designated Larry Walker's Recognition Sunday. Pastor Ron Lewis took over on January 29. The Elders and Directors expressed their appreciation to Larry Walker for the excellent job that he had done as Interim Pastor.

In February meeting of Elders and Directors, Ron Baker reported on the completion of borrowing an additional \$10,000 from the bank to cover the church's obligations. Giving had dropped during the transition and the loan was very helpful. This had been added to the long term loan. The Inland Empire Bank had been very cooperative to the church during this time as several principle monthly payments had been missed. Larry and Dene Platt resigned as Financial Secretaries. They had served well for two years.

COVENANT CHANGES TO ACTIVE MEMBERS

At the March Elder-Director meeting, after considerable discussion, it was determined to change the by-laws changing the designation of a member of the church from covenant to active. Active members would be determined by those active during the last 6 months. After the initial list, new members would fill out a membership application. An inactive membership list would be started. A quorum would be determined off of the active membership list.

NEW PASTOR PUTS HANDS TO THE PLOW

A Leadership Strategic Planning Meeting was held on March 18 to coordinate the mission of the church with all its programs and the new pastor. Pastor Ron was experienced as a pastor so the programs became revitalized and a new sense of coordination and purpose created. This became evident by the time of the Annual meeting delayed till April 2. As Pastor Ron gave a detailed mission and objective report for 1988-1989, he concluded by stating, "We have put our hands to the plow and need to keep moving. Our God Reigns". The directors elected were Bart Starr, Dan Banke, and Barry Reeves.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

At the April Board meeting, Rod Hardin submitted the school budget. Considerable work on budgeting had been done the year before so the requirements were well understood. The budget was passed with a restriction of not to exceed a \$2,500 loss without approval of the board. Pat Umphres resigned as a member of the Board. The fact that Pat had hung in there with the Board during a difficult time was to his credit. As Ron Baker and Ron Nofsinger responded to him in a formal letter, they said, "We have appreciated your faithfulness in attendance of meetings and your input and expertise which has always been extremely helpful. You helped guide Interfaith through a Pastoral transition and helped reestablish the goals we all feel God has for this body. We will miss you in the meetings, but we intend to continue to avail ourselves of your expertise and practical knowledge."

At the April 25 Board meeting, Dave Melville submitted his resignation from the Board. At the end of the school year, his family was moving back to Enterprise, Oregon. A motion was passed to hold a suitable farewell service for Dave and his family, as they would be leaving the community and had contributed so much to Interfaith.

It needs to be said that the past year had been particularly difficult with some of the tenant relationships in the trailer park. The trailer park board with Dan Banke as chairman had been very thorough and persuasive in bringing each matter to a successful conclusion even though difficult at times. Chairman Dan had given excellent input to the Board of Directors so they were informed and approved of the actions that had to be taken.

At the May Board meeting, the two vacancies on the board were filled by appointment by the Elders. Ron Nofsinger and Darrell Marlow were each appointed to a one year term. Then election of officers was held: Elected were Ron Baker, President; Ron Nofsinger, Vice-President; Dan Banke, Secretary; Rod Hardin, Treasurer; and Clark Dumond, Acting Financial Secretary. Jane Baker was designated as School Financial Officer to carry out a program of collections for the school. Jane would essentially act as the contact person in implementing the policy as delineated by the Board of Directors.

Bart and Danette Starr moved to Seattle in August so the church lost one director and its bookkeeper. Sheila Banke agreed to become bookkeeper, which gave added expertise in this job which was very helpful. She was able to put the books for both the school and church on the computer. Jeff Meisner and Pat Umphres were appointed as Directors in December. Also in December, it was noted a major repair of the roof had been completed.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 1990

The 1990 Annual Meeting was held February 25, 1990. Terry Journot and Paul Dela Cruz were re-elected as directors. A very complete financial report outlining both the school and church was prepared by Sheila Banke. It showed that the church had improved its financial position and the school was operating well under its budget. Positive developments reported during the year were:

1. The Board of Directors had done a good job of getting on top of the finances after the pastoral transition.

2. Building Maintenance had proceeded well including repainting the building.
3. The church and school has become more involved in the community, especially with the well-received fair booth.

Leadership roles gradually change under change of pastors. In the women's ministries, Joanna Lewis served as president with Deloris Stone as vice-president and Wanda Thurman as Secretary for 1990. In 1991, president was Karen Dela Cruz with Linda Nofsinger as vice-president, and Wanda Thurman as Secretary. Connie Yutzie was youth leader. Dan and Tracy Gordanier served as Children's Church Leaders. Dan Banke continued as Sunday School Superintendent.

The pastor presented a plan to the Board of Directors to improve the pastor's salary in a step by step procedure. It had been known that Bob Lovett had not been very demanding in his salary because of the building of the church. It was also apparent that the church needed to upgrade the salary schedule particularly that the current pastor had a family and the church was below some suggested standards. The Board adopted the first step of the plan.

NAME CHANGED

During the fall of 1990, the Board of Directors received several letters from involved members of the congregation about the name of the church, Interfaith Christian Center. It was felt that some people misinterpreted the name and felt a change was in order. This led to considerable discussion. A congregational meeting was called to allow members to make input and give suggested name proposals. The principle name proposed seemed to be Hermiston Christian Center. It was made a part of the minutes that the first person that suggested the new name was Mayme Dumond. The Board voted on November 6, 1990 to change the name to Hermiston Christian Center. This was confirmed by a congregational meeting after the morning service on March 24, 1991. The vote was unanimous for Hermiston Christian Center with one abstention.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1991

The Annual Meeting of 1991 was held on February 24. Rod Hardin reported that the Christian School had been upgraded to "A School of Tomorrow" level. Generous contributions had allowed the purchase of additional computer equipment. The two big fund raisers-Fireworks and Fair Booth had generated funds to allow purchase of additional playground equipment. He stated, "May the Lord richly bless all who have faithfully given of themselves or their substance sacrificially to insure the continued operation of Hermiston Christian School".

The Women's Ministries report referred to Colleen Baker who was serving as a medical missionary with Youth With A Mission in Belize. Children clothes had been sent for some of the refugee children in Belize. Ron and Jane Baker had visited their daughter in Belize and saw first hand the benefits to these children. They had dinner with a refugee family that had three young girls all dressed in the dresses sent by our women's ministries. The father worked on a farm when he could for \$1.25 a day. They lived in a thatch roof hut with a hot bed of coals for a stove. Yet, the Bakers were the guests of

honor as the family showed their appreciation. They had killed the fatted calf except it was the lean rooster. Ron said he had never felt so humble in his life.

Three directors were elected at the Annual meeting. They were Mike Thurman, Pat Umphres, and Ron Baker.

LEWIS FAMILY MINISTRY

Ron Lewis and his family brought a great music program for the worship services. Both Ron and his wife Joanna played the piano very well. Joanna normally played for the worship services, but Ron would take the keyboard from time to time and could play very inspiring and uplifting music. The three daughters although teenagers and younger were talented in singing and gave specials frequently. Ron also started the involvement of a choir and they would do specials. A fund was started for choir robes.

The church during 1990 and 1991 went through a transitional mode of stabilizing, trying to do everything better, healing of some of the hurts of the past, and pressing on towards new goals. Accomplishments in maintenance of the building, improvements in the school, and improved financial accounting and budgeting were not dramatic, but very important in firming up the base of the church under this transition. Worship attendance was pretty stable at a 1990 average of 127 and 1991 average of 126. Yet there were new faces that were being added to leadership roles, while several key families were to leave the area during this time.

Ron Baker was a member of the Hermiston Rotary Club. Usually the club had a local pastor as a member of the club. There had occurred a vacancy in this position so Ron Baker submitted to the Board that Ron Lewis be allowed to become a member of Rotary and that we sponsor his monthly fee of \$25 per month. The Board approved as it was thought this would provide good exposure to the community. Mike Johnson continued this precedent when he was pastor. It did help give the church more exposure among community business leaders.

CHURCH JOINS ASSEMBLY OF GOD DISTRICT

The Credential Committee of the Oregon District Council of the Assemblies of God approved the ordination of Reverend Ron Lewis. It took place at the annual District Council held at The People's Church in Salem, Oregon on March 14, 1991.

Over the years the Elders had discussed the wisdom of the church joining with some larger affiliated group of churches. Some inquiry had been made, but generally it required the transfer of the property. This was not satisfactory with the leadership. It was generally considered that the Assemblies of God would not be possible as they all ready had a church in Hermiston. However, the Assemblies of God changed their policy and would entertain more churches in a given area if the population justified it. The close affiliation of Pastor Lewis with the Assemblies of God also had a beneficial effect.

At the June 18, 1991 meeting of the Board of Directors, Pastor Ron Lewis and Ron Baker presented the agenda item of church affiliation. They reported the results of the Elders inquiry into an affiliation with the Assemblies of God. Positive points to be considered were:

1. A covering for the church in case of need for pastoral search.
2. A source of counsel in case of a dispute in the church.
3. Access to facilities
4. A more coordinated Mission program
5. Church would retain its autonomy and financial independence.
6. Our present form of government could stay the same.

A potluck dinner at the church was set up to meet with the District Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Bill Gallaher. At the Board meeting on August 20, a resolution joining the Oregon District of the Assemblies of God was passed and referred to a congregational meeting. A congregational meeting was held on September 15 with Bob Rose of the Assembly of God and Harvey Schmutz, the Sectional Presbyter. After open discussion and a question period, the resolution recommended by the Board of Directors to affiliate with the Assembly of God was presented. It passed by 53 affirmative, 2 no, and 1 abstention. A copy of the press article was shown in the Assembly Forward magazine and is in the pictorial section. . . .

During the summer of 1991, the trailer park and the church building were transferred over to be on city water and metering. This required a separate water meter for each trailer. Dan Banke and Terry Journot led the volunteer effort to get all the trailers plumbed for the meters and make the hook up to the city service. This proved to be a rather labor intensive project. The church had to allocate an expenditure of \$5000 to the city to hook onto their system. The city hook up provided for continuous water supply and removed the church from the liability and regulations of maintaining a community system. This would be required if we continued to meet the domestic needs out of the well. With this completed, the well water was used for the irrigation needs of the property.

Fritz and Emma Lawson, Connie Yutzie's parents, had moved their trailer in on a vacant trailer lot and became active in the congregation. Fritz was a handy man type and helped with some carpenter type finish work. Pat Umphres and Fritz built the kitchen cabinets and counter in the activity room downstairs. This included a sink and room for refrigerator so the room could be used handily for a fellowship and potluck area. It filled a supplemental need to the kitchen which was not completed yet. Fritz served as an adult Sunday School teacher for awhile. Emma was an experienced cook and was the author of the taco potato for the fair booth that has been so popular over the years.

RON LEWIS RESIGNS

Pastor Ron Lewis resigned in January of 1992. Pastor Lewis had been very helpful in getting the church affiliated with the Assembly of God and filled a connecting link in building the church.

Pastor Paul Taylor, a retired Assembly pastor, who lived in Hermiston filled the pulpit the following Sunday after Ron Lewis's resignation. Pastor Barnes, retired pastor from the Hermiston Assembly of God, and well known by the directors and many of the congregation filled the pulpit the next Sunday.

In February, the Board of Directors, asked Pastor Paul Taylor to serve as Interim Pastor until a permanent pastor could be selected. The Board authorized a gift and thank you letter to Ron Lewis and his family expressing appreciation for their ministry to the body. Bill Gallaher, the District Superintendent, offered his help in locating a permanent pastor and gave a suggested procedure. He also came up with two candidates. This was much appreciated by the Board which served as the Search Committee. The wisdom of coming under a covering like the Assembly of God was confirmed and was so helpful to the leadership.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 1992 BY-LAW CHANGES

The Annual Business Meeting was held on February 23, 1992. Directors re-elected were Dan Banke, Jeff Meisner, and Larry Platt. Clark Dumond chose not to run for election. The financial report showed the church had continued to reduce its debt retirement by \$15,627. This was consistent with the pattern of several years. Revised by-laws were also passed by the annual meeting: The significant changes came in adopting procedures generally practiced in Assembly of God churches. They were:

1. Naming the Senior Pastor as President of the Corporation
2. Elders serve only as appointed by the Senior Pastor
3. The governing board shall be the Board of Directors. Each director serves for a three year term and can only be re-elected once. He can be re-elected after a year's absence.
4. Policies for election, review, resignation, and responsibilities of Senior Pastor outlined.

Rod Hardin reported on the Christian school which had now run 13 years and served a unique ministry of the church to the community. The fundraisers had continued to be very well supported and big help to making improvements in the school program.

MIKE JOHNSON CALLED

The Pastoral Search Committee found each of the two candidates recommended by District Superintendent Bill Gallaher good possibilities and followed up by interviewing them at their churches, hearing them preach, and then inviting them to preach at Hermiston Christian Center. The final candidate was Mike Johnson and his wife Tami who had been serving as associate pastor at Corvallis, Oregon. Pastor Johnson was accepted by a congregational vote in May and made their move to Hermiston with their young son, Zachary. They were welcomed by immediate involvement in several Christian School events as school drew to a close for the year.

For their first summer, they were given the baptism of fire with the church's and school's involvement in the fireworks booth and the potato booth at the County Fair. The firework's booth was the most successful ever making \$5,000 for the Christian School.

Pastor Mike Johnson was officially installed by Superintendent Bill Gallaher on August 23, 1992.

CHURCH CHANGES COLORS

Board of Directors appointed a paint committee to recommend a color for the church when it was painted. The committee consisted of Dene Platt, Jane Baker, Natalie Journot, and Debbie Wilson. They met and recommended it be painted a rustic white. Other projects before the board were major roof repair and to start a greenbelt along Highland and 17th. Terry Journot was selected to head up the painting committee. A lot of preparatory work for the painting was done by the churchmen including washing, renailing, and soffet work to get the building ready. The main painting was completed in August, 1993, with some of the soffet work done afterwards. It was a major effort, but the newer, lighter color was well liked by the congregation.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1993

The annual meeting was held on February 28, 1993. Pastor Mike gave his first Pastor's Report and it showed we were moving in a positive direction. He stated, "This past year has been a season of change for our great fellowship! I believe that we are in the midst of preparation for some great thing that God wants to do through His church!

"It was with great excitement that our family came to Hermiston last May. We found a people who loved God and truly cared about one another. And then you extended that care to us. Thank you for your love!

"This care and concern for others was easily translated into the phrase, "The Magnetic Fellowship." We extended our greeting time during our services to prove the point. When people come to Christian Center, the comment that we hear most is how friendly we are! We praise God for this invaluable character trait!

"In 1992 there was an expressed effort to enhance our image as a church. A laser printer was donated to bring clarity to all of our printed materials. Colorful brochures were purchased to inform our constituency and guests of our denomination and doctrine. Wednesday night activities, which had been dormant for a time were restarted in a new format called "Adult Ministry Training." Wednesday night *Intercessors* led by Clark and Mayme Dumond continues to be a highly valued time of the week.

"We added three new missionaries from our fellowship, the Assemblies of God. They are Mark and Angela Flattery (Tanzania), Gary and Sandra Bell (Honduras) and Jef and Melanie Johnson (Chi Alpha-Oregon State University). We also raised funds through our annual Christmas offering to cover the cost of a hearing impaired system.

"The weekend that we presented our ministry, there was a track meet. This was a sign of things to come! How wonderful it is to see our church come together for two-summer fundraisers for one of our more visible ministries, the Christian School! We had the privilege of sitting in fireworks booths, and working side by side with you in the Potato Booth at the fair! In the fall, I also coached flag football. It is a joy to walk through our

classrooms several times a week to greet our students, and to share the Word with them during chapel times.

"During the past year, I was active in the West End Ministerial Association, a board member for the River of Love Project, and a member of Rotary. I also served as one of the catalysts behind the Community Singspirations. We share in a great relationship among pastors and churches in our community, that we will continue to do our part to facilitate.

"Another great joy was to be in many of your homes and work places. It is always interesting to see what you do as a vocation, and to understand just a little of what it is like to walk in your shoes. I also enjoyed times of offering pastoral advice, leading or attending the various meetings of the church, and sitting across a table from you at meal times. Whether it be standing knee deep in a river with a fishing pole, or shedding a tear with you during difficult times, it is a privilege to be your pastor!

"It is my desire in 1993 that we continue to move ahead in the area of worship. The more we understand and experience the reality of God's Spirit during times of worship, the more we will grow individually and numerically as a church. Worship helps us define our love for the Savior when we are outside the walls of the church building. When our worship for God is vibrant, it is a witness of the Spirit to others. My heart is that we will continue to be open to the moving of the Holy Spirit through gifts in the church, whether they be verbal during a service, or through our action in ministry.

"What a blessing it is to have such a dedicated and hard working staff! Rod and Sheila Hardin are tremendous people, and daily demonstrate how indispensable they are to our fellowship! "The other Sheila", Sheila Banke has also given selflessly to the unenviable task of bookkeeper. She, along with her husband Dan, also led our Sunday school. Be sure to personally tell the Hardins and Bankes your appreciation for their ministry. I know that I don't tell them enough!

"We also have an excellent group of men on our board of directors! Right from the start, we've jelled together into a real leadership "team." Board meetings have been encouraging times as we have seen over and over again God's provision in the area of finances and funding for special projects. Thank you, gentlemen, for your time away from family for the sake of the ministry!"

This was one of the best reports given and so detailed the pastor's heart and ministry that it was included almost in total.

Rod Hardin reported, "1992 was another banner year for the Christian school. The two main fundraisers topped a total of \$10,000. The continuity of the staff has been an added plus. Vicki Honey and Wanda Thurman continue to serve as supervisors, and in the fall of 1992, Linda Parker joined the staff as kindergarten supervisor. Our monitors, Elsie Torre, Debbie Miller, Billee June Owen, complete the Learning Center staff. Clark Dumond has enriched our program with his Spanish classes again this year, and Janet Jackson has organized and is running a most welcome addition to the school--a library. Last, but not least, is our secretary Sheila Hardin, and our bookkeeper, Sheila Banke, who

spends many hours each month keeping our accounts straight. God has blessed us with a great team.

"The staff of HCS wishes to thank the congregation and friends for their continued support through their finances and prayers. Without you this school would not exist. May the things done now last for eternity as we affect young lives and "teach them daily in the temple."

The Annual meeting also included reports updating progress in Adult Ministry Training by the Pastor, continued emphasis on Sunday school and adding variety to the adult Sunday School classes by Dan and Sheila Banke, and the mix of fun and prayer developing in the youth program led by Jane Baker, Marti Baker, and Terry Journot.

Hubert Fenley and Mike Thurman were re-elected as Directors to the Board.

Election of officers was held at the March board meeting with vice-president, Terry Journot; secretary, Rod Hardin; and treasurer, Dan Banke.. In August, 1993, Larry Platt resigned from the board. After consideration, the board appointed Garry Wilson to fill his vacancy.

One of the great outside ministries that various church members participated in was the "Walk to Emmaus". It is sponsored by lay members of many different churches and is a weekend of wonderful spiritual fellowship and uplift. In 1993, Pastor Mike Johnson went on the "Walk to Emmaus" and over the years many other members of the church have participated as well.

GREENBELT GETS STARTED

Ron Baker chaired the greenbelt committee. Jerry Boettcher at Westwinds Nursery drew up a proposal at no charge if they could provide the shrubbery. The greenbelt had to be coordinated with a new preferably lighted sign. Proposals were obtained on an adequate sign which turned out to be a Stewart sign at a cost of \$7000.

IMAGE BUILDING

There had been considerable roll over of membership. The church was receiving new members, but had lost some former members. Pastor Mike recommended that the church send a letter of forgiveness to all former constituents and current constituents. The board unanimously endorsed Pastor's Mike recommendation. The letter was sent out in November. It stated that the church was pressing forward to serve the Hermiston Community. If the recipient held an offense or ill-will against past membership, lay or pastoral leadership, please accept our apology. You are most welcome to try one of our worship services. Whether needed or not, the letter showed that the leadership was sincere in continuing to make improvements in its image and church fellowship.

The Board authorized a loan for \$7000 from Inland Empire Bank to proceed with the Church Sign. This was done in February, 1994.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1994

The annual meeting was held on February 27, 1994. In the pastor's report, he stated that perhaps the defining moment for our church in 1993 was the letter of forgiveness sent out by our fellowship in December. The following excerpt from that letter sums its purpose, and where we are headed as a church: "We as a body, church board and Pastor, earnestly desire to put the past behind us so that we may press on to what God has called our church to be in the Hermiston community." May the Lord help us in our pursuit'.

Many projects and goals were completed and achieved in 1993. Among them were painting the church, replacing sound equipment, a pictorial directory, a new computer for the office, initiation of pastor's prayer partners (what a difference it made'.) the fall crusade with Gary Holde, a board retreat in the mountains, the Light For The Lost Banquet we accomplished without the benefit of a kitchen, began the process for purchasing a new reader board sign, and search for a music/youth pastor.

Rod Hardin reported on the Christian School now in its fifteenth year of operation and maintaining an average of sixty students. The two fundraisers--the fireworks and fair booths--again topped \$10,000 with the help of many seemingly tireless volunteers. By the way, let me say again how incredibly exciting it was to see so many pitch in and make these activities successful. They definitely required a team effort and God gave us a great team'. These fundraisers enabled us to purchase an additional computer for the multi-media center.

Again this year, we were and continue to be blessed with a WONDERFUL staff. Newcomers this year are Jennifer Triplett, who teaches Kindergarten, Charri Peck, who subs for us and coaches volleyball, Marc Walker, who instructs art and works with student conventions; and Candi Feliz who replaced our retired Clark Dumond in the Spanish department. Vicki Honey and Wanda Thurman continue to faithfully serve as supervisors in the Middle and First Grade Learning Centers; while Linda Parker bravely transferred from teaching kindergarten to monitoring in the Upper Learning Center alongside me. Elsie Torre again serves with Vicki Honey, completing the Middle Learning Center team. Upstairs, the library continues to develop and expand under Janet Jackson's supervision, and our office staff, Sheila and Sheila, keep the Eagles soaring in the right direction. I am very thankful for the fine staff the Lord has given us. We are blessed!

Terry Journot gave the youth report. Terry and Natalie and Jane Baker have shared the duties of the youth program. Dan Banke recognized the wonderful team of faithful teachers in the Sunday School program; Jane Baker, Terry Journot, Tom Parker, Wanda Thurman, Jessica Parker, Tracy Meisner, Angie & Debbie Wilson, Sheila Banke, Rod and Sheila Hardin, and Dan Banke.

Terry Journot and Garry Wilson were re-elected as Directors. This made the current board include Ron Baker, Dan Banke, Pat Umphres, Mike Thurman, and Hubert Fenley. Pat Umphres resigned in May due to health reasons. Jim Sheffield was appointed to fill the vacancy.

EASTER PROGRAM, 1994.

Marti Baker returned from the Celebrant Singers in January, 1994 and again helped with the music program. She directed the Easter Program which proved a wonderful characterization of talent and costumes involving members of the congregation. See pictures in pictorial section.

A BRAND NEW BUS

The Board was submitted a decision to make on the Umatilla County Emergency Management Proposal. In light of the incinerator project at the Army Depot, the emergency preparedness group is offering us a free school bus, or pressurized air system to evacuate or protect our building occupants in the case of an accident at the Depot. It didn't take the board long to make that decision to go for a new school bus. An allotment of \$60,000 was provided to purchase the new bus and Rod Hardin was able to spec it out. In November, 1994, Rod Hardin and Hubert Fenley flew back to North Carolina and drove the new bus back to Hermiston. What a blessing for the school! The same program supplied a second bus in the fall of 2000.

The Greenbelt project got under way with the new sign installed in April. C&B Livestock spread 6 to 9 inches of manure on the strip and plowed it under. Then the area was cultivated and all the rocks removed. A sprinkler system was installed. The grass was seeded by the end of September. At the same time, Terry Journot and Dan Banke were heading up a crew to get the church painted. To spur things along, Ron Baker made a challenge that his group would get the greenbelt in before Terry's group got the church painted. A little friendly rivalry works even in a church.

ASSESSMENT APPEAL WON

The Umatilla Tax Assessor had reassessed the church's property and determined that the ball field consisting of 6 acres should not be exempted from taxation. The previous exempted area had been 11 acres. This would raise the property taxes considerably. The church appealed and appointed Ron Baker to represent them as he had worked with the Assessor with his business. In the telephone hearing with the Assessor and the Chief Hearings Officer of the Department of Revenue Ron Baker was able to point out that the ball field was a part of the ministry of the church and school. It took a considerable area to accommodate play and athletic area for all 12 grades covered by the school. The Hearings Officer had researched the subject with the Hermiston School District, which told him they recommended 10 acres for play area for secondary schools. Consequently, the Hearings Officer ruled in favor of the church and reinstated the 6 acres of the ball field as exempt from taxation.

The kitchen committee authorized an update drawing of the kitchen by a professional designer, which would specify equipment. This was done by Barry Eastwood at a cost of \$1,600 and was a big aid in getting the equipment procured for the kitchen.

STEVE FRERICHS-NEW WORSHIP/YOUTH PASTOR

Pastor Mike came up with a candidate for music/youth pastor in Steve Frerichs. Steve grew up in Hermiston attending Hermiston Assembly. After moving to the Valley, he worked with youth at Aloha Christian Life Center for a year, and at Forest Grove Assembly for four years. The Board as well as Pastor Mike, felt very strongly about adding this position, but finances were tight. It was proposed to ask the congregation for added pledges to cover the monthly salary. This was done and basically was how that position was funded initially. Steve and his wife, Ellen, started on staff on March 1, 1995 and proved to be a great addition to the staff in both the music and youth ministries.

RANGERS AND MISSIONETTE PROGRAMS ADDED

Pastor Mike and Terry Journot took the lead in developing the Royal Rangers program which is a boys program for ages 5 to 12. There was quite a group of boys involved and additional men such as Mike Thurman, Hubert Fenley, Greg W. and Clark Dumond stepped forward to provide leadership.

The Missionettes program designed for girls was started by Dottie Sheffield. Tina, Irma, Natalie, Nancy and Michelle were some of the ladies that took leadership with the Missionette clubs.

HEART FOR ROMANIA

Dave and Jean Conklin had joined our congregation. In July, 1995 they went on a missions trip to Romania helping in the orphanages, schools, and with senior citizens. They developed a non-profit ministry called "Heart For Romania" and made many trips to Romania. They helped bring children from Romania to the United States that had special physical needs that could be helped principally at the Shriner's Hospital in Portland. The church congregation supported their ministry. Jean also served as one of the pianists for the morning worship services.

Four youth including Nathaniel Banke, Rachel Hardin, Robert Beaubien, Nicole Journet, along with Steve Frerich, youth pastor, took a missionary trip to Romania with the Conklins during the summer of 1998.

MISSIONARY PROGRAM UPDATE

The missionary program was always blessed by visits from several missionaries that we had supported over the years. In August, 1995, Tim and Naomi Ost, missionaries to Mexico gave us a visit. Dr. Stanley Chester, who spends half of his time in Israel, also visited. His background in Jewish culture and the Hebrew Language always brought new insights to understanding difficult passages in the word of God. Jerry and Gail Gibson, also missionaries to Mexico, were with us in August as well. Other missionaries we were supporting at that time included: Eric & Jacqueline Jenkins, Mali; Jef & Melanie Johnson, OSU, Corvallis; Joe & Gayle Ost, Spain; Kevin & Jodi Strum, Latin America; Mark & Denise Ost, France; Mark & Jeannine Powers, Mozambique; Mark & Angelia

Flattery, Tanzania; Percy & Ruth Quanrud, Hispanic Ministries; Scott & Beth Schoenborn, Japan; V.A. Thampy, India, and Victor & Ruth Martinez, Mexico.

Marti Baker, who had served as song leader and choir director before and after going on tour with Celebrant Singers to Bulgaria and Cuba, announced her wedding on September 9, at the Heppner Christian Church. She married another member of Celebrant Singers, Kevin Mossman, a good trumpet player. After they completed their education, they returned to Boardman, where Kevin became computer specialist for the Morrow County School District and again they became a part of our congregation.

PROPERTY SALE PROCESS

The Board of Directors had discussed on several occasions the possible sale of the river front property to liquidate the remaining church debt and resolve the trailer park issues, which were a continuous problem of administration. In November, 1994, the Board met with Bob Knight of Schroth Realty to discuss the possibilities of the development and sale of the riverfront property. This started a long procedure of obtaining the right answer for this possibility for the Board.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 1995

The Annual Business Meeting was held on February 26, 1995 Pastor Mike called 1994 a season of release for our fellowship. Several new families had joined us as we expanded our program into a wide variety of areas. Music had been enhanced by the return of Marti Baker from the mission field. Missionettes began and Royal Rangers were ready to start. Wednesday night attendance had grown substantially. We had seen the new school bus arrive, the hood added to the kitchen, the greenbelt project underway, a new sign installed, and improvement of the front entry with wind protection.

We had added Scott and Beth Shoenborn, missionaries to Japan, to our missionary list. The pastor had participated with a good representative group of the Seniors at the "Never-too-Old Retreat". The young singles was the next group to be emphasized in ministry. Emphasis toward spontaneous worship and continued openness to the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit would be among our pursuits for the coming year.

The by-laws were amended to reduce the Board of Directors to seven. Ron Baker, Dan Banke, and Jim Sheffield were re-elected to the Board. Remaining Board members were Garry Wilson, Terry Journot, Mike Thurman, and Hubert Fenley.

PLANTING THE GREENBELT

The plan for the shrubbery for the green belt was presented to the congregation. Members would have the opportunity to support a number of a preferred shrub on the plan. The total shrub cost was \$1800. The congregation responded very well and underwrote the entire cost of the shrubs. The sprinkler system was installed in March 20-24. Planting of the shrubs was done on April 9th, Palm Sunday, with a special service. Everybody showed up for church in their gardening clothes. It was a great service as people planted the shrubs they had designated. Pictures on the schedules shows the participation in the service. The completion of the greenbelt was a great aesthetic addition to a frontal appearance, which along with the sign, showed the community

things were happening at Hermiston Christian Center. The church was awarded a plaque from the Chamber of Commerce for the "Community Enhancement Award" based on the greenbelt project.

SHEILA HARDIN-GREAT CHURCH WORKER

Sheila Hardin gave her notice of resignation as church and school secretary after over 9 years in that capacity. Everyone knows that Sheila is one of those great church workers that does a great job in carrying out the Lord's work. She resigned really to be a full time Grandma, but later has returned as Rod's secretary for the school and continues in Children's church. What a great contribution she continues to make. Interestingly enough, her daughter, Stephanie Evans, in 2003 occupies the church secretary's position. The church and school each having a secretary has been a good efficiency move for the total ministry. Shari Peck was hired for the job of Church Secretary to fill Sheila Hardin's vacancy.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bill Gallaher, AG District Superintendent, had made a recommendation to the churches in his district who called their boards, "Board of Directors" to change the name to "Board of Trustees". His feeling was that there is a spiritual issue involved. We all recognize that in many regards, a church is a business. However, our time in board meetings is also a ministry to the church body as a whole. The thinking on the change would be to subconsciously shift our thinking from a pragmatic business mindset to a Biblical stewardship model. The Board accepted the name change to take effective by a by-law change for 1996 to use the name, "Board of Trustees".

On July 9, 1995 the area experienced the most severe hailstorm ever recorded for the Hermiston area. The hailstones dented cars, caused extensive roof damage, and destroyed agricultural crops. The roof damage to the church building was estimated at \$15,000. This allowed the Board to authorize installing a new 30-year composition roof on the peak roof, rubber sealant and snow seal on the flat roof, new office air-conditioning unit and repair of other two units, and finish painting the building.

PROPERTY SALE

Preparation for the sale of the riverfront property including allotting for the Hardins to move and pass a congregational resolution. That resolution took the following form: "The church board is hereby authorized to pursue the sale of approximately 10 acres of land on the South end of Hermiston Christian Center property, current location of the trailer court properties. The church will make provision for Rod and Sheila Hardin's Mobile Home if it becomes necessary for them to be relocated by allocating them \$25,000. The revenues from the sale of said properties shall be dispensed for:

- A. Capital construction of a multi-purpose facility.
- B. Debt reduction of \$23,000 and Capital construction with the balance of funds.
- C. Building repair/upgrade/completion up to \$100,000, with priorities at the discretion of the board, and the balance toward capital construction."

This resolution was passed at the Annual Meeting on February 25, 1996.

QUILTS, QUILTS, QUILTS

Quilts, Quilts, Quilts, was the theme of the Women in Touch program that was given by Marjorie Vierson. There is no record, but memory of the number of quilts that a group of church ladies headed up by Marjorie and including Aileen Ware, Dottie Fenley, and many others turned out. They went to many benevolent causes. Some of the quilts went to Teen Challenge in Spokane, Washington.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 1996

The Annual Business Meeting for 1995 was held on February 26, 1996. Pastor Mike's report emphasized the continual commitment to discipleship and small groups. He emphasized a four way commitment to membership, maturity, ministry and missions. This was built around the theme, "We Build People".

Pastor Rod's report on the Christian School noted a gradual increase of students back to 83 students and serving approximately 30 homeschool students. This enabled the High School and Jr. High Learning Centers to be divided. Rod continued to have a great staff including Mrs. Deanna Bork, Mrs. Michelle Broyles, Mrs. Linda Parker, Mrs. Vicky Honey, Mrs. Wanda Thurman, Mrs. Denise Eaker, Mrs. Michelle Broyles, Mrs. Jennifer Triplett, Mrs. Kelly Wilkerson, Mrs. Sheila Hardin, Mrs. Janice Gillson, Mrs. Tami Johnson, Mrs. Sue Hagedorn, and Mrs. Elsie Torre.

Pastor Steve Frerich's report on youth and music outlined some real growth. Tami Johnson had handled the youth program before Steve and did a fantastic job. Steve had worked with the youth to make the first Sports City a reality. This was a sports outreach to the youth in the community and created real growth in the youth program.

The worship team was also expanded and added to the depth of the worship service in variety of song, vocals, and instrumentation. They included Sheila Banke, Jean Conklin, Ellen Frerichs, Nancy Green, Tami Johnson, Cheryl Pollick, Brad Reynolds, and Dennis Rogers.

There were a variety of church ministries reported. They were Children's Church, Sheila Hardin; Church and Grounds Maintenance, Rod Hardin and Hubert Fenley; Library/Guidance Counseling Office, Janet Jackson; Men's Ministries, Garry Wilson; Royal Rangers, Terry Journot, Nursery, Melissa Parker, Sunday School, Dan Banke; Women's Ministries, Tami Johnson; Missionettes, Natalie Journot and Dottie Sheffield; and Small Groups, Pastor Mike.

Two positions on the Board were filled by the election of Dennis Rogers and Mike Thurman.

The church had taken on Steve Frerichs by underwriting his sub-standard salary with pledges. Within a year the board was able to give Steve a worthwhile salary and do it out of the budget. It had been a step of faith and prayer by the board and God had blessed the ministry of the church. Pastor Mike described it this way in the letter of confirmation to Steve. "Your staff salary as described in this schedule runs August to August with evaluations in July. This decision was made after a season of prayer by the trustees. There will be a "subdued" pledge drive in early April, after Easter. As you are probably

aware, there is no money to cover anything that we've done. My first salary here was much the same- a huge step of faith for our congregation. Trust God - He will provide for the need'. It's a great day at Hermiston Christian Center!"

In August Sharri Peck resigned as church secretary and Cheryl Pollick was hired to replace her.

New carpet and linoleum were installed downstairs during August and September, 1996. This was financed principally by special contributions. Then the next big project was new chairs for the sanctuary. Three hundred chairs would cost \$11,775 with shipping included. Fund raising was started in October. Plumbing work was also being done on the kitchen, but it was going to take another \$10,000 to install equipment and finish it up.

OUR PATRIARCH PASSES ON TO THE LORD

Clark and Mayme were both charter members of Hermiston Christian Center and contributed so much. Suprisingly to all, Mayme preceded Clark in death in 1994. Clark's ' heart's desire' was to get new Christians to understand God's principles of tithing. He knew first hand that God is faithful to those who honor Him. Clark helped out in teaching Spanish in the Christian School. He also had a bent towards poetry. After Mayme's death, he longed to join her in heaven. He was able to put it on paper for all who knew him to enjoy. Here is a reprint of it:

HE WILL COME AGAIN by Clark Dumond, 1996

When Mother's years on earth were spent
She went not out through space - alone
He took her withered hand and went
Together, to their father's throne.

Christ said, "I'll go prepare
A place for you to spend eternity,
And dwelling with me face to face
Where'er I am - there you will be."

No ear has heard, no eye has seen
Those twinkling chimes, those echoing calls.
That light, So brilliant! Yet serene,
That filters through those sacred halls.

I plead with you, dear friend on earth:
Deny Yourself! Take up the cross!
Surrender to the second birth;
Revert to profit what is loss.

Here - I await his coming soon
With outstretched arm and withering hand.

That flight so far beyond the moon
Together to the Promised Land!

On March 1, 1997 C&B Livestock held its Annual Beef Production Sale. All the Baker girls and family would be home. The evening before Clark had asked to see the girls. All the girls, Sheila, Colleen, Suzanne, and Serena as well as Ray, Jane, Ron, and Dan , Nathaniel and Caleb Banke were bedside. Clark gave the two Banke boys a word of encouragement on following the Lord. We all knew that Clark was now satisfied and on March 3, 1997 he got his wish to go to the Promised Land to be with Jesus and Mayme.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 1997

The Annual Business Meeting was February 25, 1997. Pastor Mike's report reviewed the year of 1996 as being a year of tremendous increase. Many new families and members were added to the church, the small group ministry had begun to blossom and several significant and desperately needed changes to the facility were made. Glory be to God! The following items were acquired during the year to help enhance and further the ministries of the church.: Two copy machines, lawn bags for the riding mower; chandeliers for the foyer; new carpet and linoleum for the downstairs; new composition for the slope roof, and a fresh coat of sealant for the flat roof.

A more important resource that we gained this past year was the activity of our attendees. More than ever before, people have stepped forward to be involved in ministry.

Terry Journot was the first person to serve two complete 3 year terms as a director since the policy was implemented. He was eligible for a minimum of one year's rest. Steve Green was elected to fill this position and Garry Wilson was re-elected.

The fund raising for the new chairs had reached over \$8800 by May, 1997 so the chairs were ordered. The chairs arrived in July and gave the sanctuary a really professional look.

Dorothy Sheffield and Danny Monahan were married in the church on July 3, 1997.

TRADEMARK OFFER ON RIVERFRONT PROPERTY

In September, Trademark Construction from Stayton, Oregon submitted a purchase proposal for 11.1 acres of the riverfront property for a minimum of \$277,500. Covenants and refinements were negotiated and a motion to submit a resolution to the congregation on December 7 was accepted by the Board at its October 21 meeting. Attached in the pictorial section is the resolution and Exhibits A and B that were considered at the Congregation Business Meeting on December 7 and passed.

PAYROLL BENEFITS UNDERWRITTEN

The Board of Trustees were informed that the church and school needed to come under the minimum wage act of Oregon, which was \$6/hour. Teacher's time in the school had to be allotted so they did not drop under this figure, and did not get overtime which would cause budgetary problems. This also meant we came under Social Security with the employees paying half and the church paying half. This also put the church under Oregon State Unemployment insurance. Jim Sheffield worked with Sheila Banke in

getting all these programs set up. It was also a major increase in salary costs particularly for the school. It led to some increase in school tuition and a gradual adjustment in both giving and growth for the church and school to absorb these increases. To the leadership it seemed an almost insurmountable obstacle, but it was gradually absorbed and everyone felt better that we were paying our staff more in line with business standards.

Pastor Mike informed the Trustee Board in January, 1998, that he had been elected Assembly of God Presbyter for the Blue Mountain Section. The Board felt great that our pastor had been so honored.

ENTER PASTOR JOEY DUFF

In February, Joey Duff met with the Trustee Board about serving an internship in the church under Pastor Mike. She was generally well known by the Board and it was felt to be a positive addition for ministry, particularly for the women. She has remained as an Associate Pastor since and has done an outstanding job in handling prayer concerns, church fellowship, women's ministries, and consulting on individual needs.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 1998

The Annual Business Meeting to review 1997 was held on February 22, 1998. Pastor Mike felt it had been a great year. The church had grown both numerically and spiritually. The presence of the Holy Spirit in a powerful way had been seen in some of the services. Our average attendance had increased from 121 to 139. The annual budget was up about \$40,000. Capital improvements had been \$18,570 and the principal debt had been reduced \$7,599. The addition of the 300 new chairs in the sanctuary along with repainting, and new banners added to the worship atmosphere. The sale of the 11 acres was a big event and promised to put us on a stronger financial basis. Pastor Steve had been brought up to a full time basis. We especially saw a number of young families come to the church, filling our nursery, and adding their energy to the congregation.

Pastor Rod in his report noted the frustrations in 1997 of the theft of computers and destruction of doors and damage to the property. Yet God made it a blessing in disguise and we have replaced them with better and have received many donated items. The new carpet and linoleum downstairs in the classrooms and hallway had made a better atmosphere. The Senior Convention group made a successful journey to Purdue University in the new bus and made a good showing at both the state and international conventions.

Pastor Steve noted the growth in worship and the moving of the Holy Spirit. The Worship Team had been anointed and growing. There had been a steady improvement in the sound equipment making it more effective. The Youth program had also blossomed with the support of some other young couples who served as sponsors. The group had steadily grown and was often the largest group at youth rallies.

The other reports reflected the growth in the church. Terry Journot reported we had a group of twelve men attend the Promise Keepers regional event. Cheryl Pollick had taken over serving as the Missionette Coordinator and they had four separate groups operating. Christian Education had continued growing under the leadership of Dan and Sheila Banke. Aileen Ware updated on the activities of the Keen-Agers while Leon

Pollick cited the opportunities with the Sign Evangelism Ministry. Tami Johnson had lead the Women's Ministries, who had taken on updating the nursery to meet the need for more space and facilities. They had conducted several fundraisers, including at the Umatilla County Fair and at the Hermiston Antique Show to go toward the Nursery remodeling.

Ron Baker and Dan Banke became the next two to cycle off the board. Jim Sheffield was re-elected and Terry Journot elected back to the board.

The following officers were selected at the March Board of Trustee meeting: vice-president, Terry Journot; secretary, Rod Hardin; treasurer, Jim Sheffield. Other members of the board were Garry Wilson, Steve Green, Mike Thurman, and Dennis Rogers. In April Roger Morter was appointed to the Board.

Updates of facilities and equipment in 1998 included a bid to repair soffetts and facile on south side of building for \$4,500. Re-roofing the educational wing with a 20-year guaranteed roof was also accepted. Terry Journot was working on the lighting and kitchen.

THE JOHNSONS MOVE TO BEND

On September 27, 1998, Pastor Mike submitted his resignation as pastor. It came as a surprise, but after it was explained, it was accepted. Pastor Mike had been approached by the Bend, Oregon, First Assembly Church at the direction of the District Superintendent. The Bend Church was a troubled church suffering a major split and severe reduction in attendance. It had been one of the leading churches in the state at one time. Pastor Mike had earned the reputation at Hermiston of being a pastor good at getting a church turned around and growing again. This is what he had done at Hermiston during the six and a half years he had been here. He had also improved the image of the church in the community gaining the respect of area churches, and the favor of community leaders. These were all things the Bend church needed. Because of the transformation of the Hermiston Christian Center, it was easy to see why God would send the Johnsons into such a situation. Consequently, it was a move that the congregation accepted in a positive light and was viewed as a step forward for everyone involved. The Johnson family departed with 2 more children born while in Hermiston, Lauren and Kyle.

The Board of Trustees decided to act as the Pastoral Search Committee. Jim Sheffield was selected as chairman of that committee. Terry Journot as Vice-President would serve very actively in the search. The District Supertindent, Bill Gallaher, gave his support and came up with several possibilities.

THE FRERICHS DEPART

When hiring a new senior pastor it is customary for the associate pastors to resign to enable the new pastor to build his program. The only one really affected was Pastor Steve Frerichs. He had taken our youth group and built it up from a low of eight to a high of fifty-three. One of the highlights was the direction of the musical, " The Power of His Love" which was very powerful. They had served the congregation almost four years. They were offered the position of Associate Pastor of Worship/Youth at the Hood

River Assembly Church. Their last Sunday was December 6th and it was with sad hearts that the congregation saw them leave. They had served us well.

The December meeting of the Board of Trustees outlined the bills and obligations to be taken care of when the initial property money came in. It consisted of the following: \$12,450 to Palmer Roofing for roofing repair; \$1,740 for Road Runner for installation of air for basement; \$2,300 to Jason McClintock for upgrade on ladies restroom; pay \$25,000 to the Hardins for their move from the trailer court, \$4,500 for property taxes; and \$15,000 to pay off the CD loan at the bank. This totaled approximately \$65,000.

PASTOR CHRIS BARKER CALLED

A special meeting of the membership of Hermiston Christian Center was held on December 20, 1998 for the purpose of voting on pastoral candidate, Pastor Chris Barker. Presbyter Harvey Schmautz called the meeting to order. The vote was essentially unanimous. The meeting then welcomed the new pastors, Chris Barker, his wife, Crystal, and their two children, Bethany and Katie.

The Barkers commenced their full time ministry on January 10, 1999. In February, Pastor Chris started evening services again. On February 14, Superintendent Bill Gallaher came and officially installed Pastor Chris as the new pastor of Hermiston Christian Center. He charged the new pastor to shepherd and for the congregation to follow. Pastor Chris was presented with a shepherd staff.

The Board of Trustees held its first meeting for 1999 on January 12, with the new pastor in attendance. He was elected as President/Chairman of the Board position. A new bookkeeping system was established using the accounting firm of Barnett & Moro, Certified Public Accountants. Sheila Banke closed out the previous year's books and aided the transition. Jim Sheffield and Pastor Barker reviewed all the new procedures.

INVESTMENT OF SALE FUNDS

The February meeting of the Board of Trustees reviewed the investment opportunities of the balance of funds coming from the sale of the land. It was determined we had about \$180,000 to invest. It would be invested in Putnam Investments with \$65,000 into the Growth & Income Fund; \$50,000 in the George Putnam Fund; \$45,000 Research Fund; and \$20,000 into Growth Opportunities. Pastor Chris Barker and Terry Journot were to act as managers. Dottie Sheffield will be the representative.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1999

The Annual Business meeting was held on February 28, 1999. Due to the fact that we just had a new pastor, a resolution was passed to extend all board member terms one year. This left the current board being Dennis Rogers, Steve Green, Terry Journot, Roger Morter, Mike Thurman, Garry Wilson, and Jim Sheffield. Jim Sheffield gave the financial report. He recognized Sheila Banke for her long, faithful and very capable effort in keeping the church books. Jim reported that the church was now using the accounting firm of Barnett & Moro. He reported on the net proceeds from the land sale at \$263,084.67. Sixty-three thousand of that was used for clearing debt and building maintenance; \$22,341.02 was placed in a contingency fund; and \$180,000 was invested through Putnam Investments for use in future building projects.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES, 1999

In May Jim Sheffield notified the board that they had moved to the Tri-Cities and submitted his letter of resignation from the board. Pastor Chris thanked Jim for his friendship, time and ministry here at Hermiston Christian Center. The board also decided to put Robin Bozeman on full time as the Church Secretary. It was also decided it would be a good time to start considering funding an associate/youth pastor. Steve Green was to resign from the Board of Trustees the first of June as they also were moving to the Tri-Cities.

In September the board appointed Kim Abbott to fill Steve Green's vacant board position. It was also decided to hire Dan and Eileen Sproule as Youth and Associate Pastors. They were from Dallas, Oregon and Pastor Chris had worked with them before. Dan and Sheila Banke resigned as Sunday School Suptertindents after many years of faithful service. Al & Denise Fisher agreed to accept the position.

CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS, 1999

The year started out with a Valentine Party. Pastor Chris had the board members and wives come to the platform to play the "Newlywed Game". It was discovered that Mike and Wanda Thurman knew the most about each other.

On Mother's Day, Marjorie Vierson was recognized as the oldest mother and Carla Morter and Arleeta Naylor as the Mothers with the most children.

In May Pastor Chris took the Keenagers to Teen Challenge Center in Spokane, Washington. Marjorie Vierson and the ladies in the church had made several quilts which they donated to Teen Challenge.

On June 12, Simone King & Melissa Parker were wed by Pastor Chris at the church. Simone is stationed at San Diego, but has been deployed for more than a year to overseas duty.

On June 30, Pastor Chris and Crystal took the Seniors to "Family Camp" at Brooks, Oregon. Attending were Hubert and Dottie Fenley, Aileen Ware, and Marjorie Vierson.

In July Crystal Barker and others take over the Missionette program after the resignation of Rosemary Rigney.

On July 30 the pastor took 5 men from the church to Promisekeepers.

On July 17, a fellowship was held at Pastor Chris's home for the board and staff to meet Dan & Eileen Sproule. They were hired in August to fill the youth position. Their first Sunday was at the annual picnic at the end of August. This family of Dan, Eileen, Justyna, and Makynna have been a great addition to the church staff.

On August 29th, a Country Western picnic was held at McNary Park. Pastor Chris baptized seven at the beach.

Summer fund-raisers kept everyone busy with not only the Fireworks, and County Fair Booth, but the Pendleton Round Up as well.

Hermiston Christian Center hosted the A/G Light For The Lost Banquet for the Blue Mountain Section. While a first for the pastor and church, it went off well with the decorations, food, and organization. This has led to repeat performances.

On September 26, the first NEWCOMER LUNCHEON was held. Headed up by the capable leadership of Helen McAfee, it proved to be a very effective means of meeting and welcoming newcomers, as well as, gathering needed information for ministry.

Starting in the fall period, Pastor Chris established regular prayer times for the church held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 a.m. and Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. This has been so much of a blessing that the program has continued to meet and pray to intercede for needs in the fellowship and the world.

VIDEO COMMERCIALS

In the fall, the Board decided to present "Impact Video Commercials" to the congregation and raise funds to put these evangelism commercials on Cable TV. A special offering was received to purchase three commercials for two years. Shortly after they began airing, Pastor Chris went to an A/G meeting in Pendleton where the Superintendent, who had seen the commercials on TV, made favorable comments. One of the families that came to HCC said that they saw the commercials and knew we were a church that wanted to reach the lost. The pastor and board were encouraged by the advertisement program.

HARVEST CARNIVAL

The church had always made an effort to put on a worthwhile harvest type program for Halloween. Pastor Chris and his staff enlarged the concept and put on a Harvest Carnival that was opened to the entire community. It involved the FFA petting zoo, carnival games, puppets, inflatables, Depot fire engines, and Police Department. All had a focus of evangelism and getting people to know we are here and interested in them. The tracts, stories, puppets, and smiling faces from the over 60 church and school volunteers. Robin Bozeman was a key assistant to the pastor in making the event successful. It was a lot of hard work in the beginning! The first year there was an attendance of over 600 kids (12 and under) in attendance, not counting parents. By the third year of this event, the attendance has increased to approximately 900 children 12 and under. Wal-mart was particularly helpful in providing some key prizes, such as bikes for the drawings.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 1999

The Board had approved redoing the front doors on Alan Burke's bid. New steel doors were also installed at the rear of the building, Middle Learning Center, and Upper Learning Center. The ladies restroom remodel was completed. A bid had been received on re-doing the front sidewalks. Two new computers were purchased, a new pump for irrigation installed, and sanctuary lights repaired and replaced. Linda Parker finished two banners in the front of the sanctuary, "King of kings" and "Lord of lords". Progress was continued on the kitchen project. The round tables were purchased for the sanctuary.

Terry Journot headed a project in July to paint the church. Many others helped including Pastors Chris and Pastor Rod. The building was pressure washed prior to the painting. The entire outside and half of the inside of the church got painted.

FIRST ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Another new tradition got started in 1999 with the first Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Church held on the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving. Tables were hosted by various families in the congregation and very attractively decorated. The church provided the turkey and ham and the dinner was well planned out. It was "Quite a spread!" as well as great fellowship, door prizes, and Pastor Chris' Thanksgiving jokes. This tradition has steadily grown with over 300 in attendance in 2002. It truly utilizes the sanctuary to its ultimate.

NEW MEMBERS-1999

New members added in 1999 were Al & Helen McAfee, John Myers, Megan Parker, Dan & Dorothy Monahan, and Shari Fetter.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 2000

The annual business meeting was held on February 27, 2000, to cover the activities of the year 1999. There were 69 total memberships listed. Pastor Chris reported on his first year as a very eventful year and outlined the new areas for ministry. He reported that in 2000 that regular Wednesday night services were now being held, beginning at 7 p.m. including an Adult Bible study, Youth Service, Royal Ranger and Missionette programs, and Nursery care.

Pastor Chris stated , "That with common purpose, goals and the anointing of the Holy Spirit we can see many things taking place: effectiveness in outreach, training, and discipleship, and encouragement, strength, and joy for the Church. We have all been called! We have all been set apart! It is my prayer that joining together as brothers and sisters in Christ, with the power of His Holy Spirit, we will see the greater Hermiston area won to Christ!

"May I encourage you in this way? Make it your goal to bring a fellow believer along with you in ministry. Let's teach, train, share, encourage and join together to see God's work accomplished through our lives. Our theme for this year is, "Come Along With Me!"

Rod Hardin reported on the Christian School. Currently, there are 76 in-school students and 10 home school students. The backbone of this ministry is the staff the Lord has called to us. Vicki Honey has been Middle Learning Center Supervisor for 11 years, as has Wanda Thurman in the Lower Learning Center. Linda Parker is now in her 8th year as a Supervisor in the Upper Learning Center. We are also blessed with Angie Jepps in Kindergarten and Pre-School; and monitors, Tracy Meisner, Megan Parker and Denise Eaker. Two parents, Terri Myers and Chris Hanson, volunteer regularly, rounding out our Learning Center staff. Other staff include my wife, Sheila, in the school office, Melanie and Jessica Thurman, who volunteer as Yearbook Class advisors, and Terry Journot who coaches our basketball teams. Last but not least, we thank the Lord for our

pastoral staff, Sr. Pastor Chris Barker and Youth Pastor Dan Sproule. Their leadership and support makes a major difference in the operation of the school.

Youth Pastor Dan Sproule reported on their first 6 months of youth ministry. He thanked Paul and Danielle Harris for their faithful ministry to the young people of the church. He reported that we are calling the Youth department "Connect Uth Ministries" because we believe that we are here to 1) Connect students to God, 2) Connect students to each other, and 3) Connect students with their world. If we can accomplish these 3 things, our students will be "World Changers".

Crystal Barker, Women's Coordinator, reported on the Women's Ministries. Their theme had been "Women Touching the World". The Women's Board consists of Kat Abbot, Helen McAfee, Carla Morter, Linda Parker, Anne Rowan, Eileen Sproule, and Karen Woloszyn. Their activities included a Women's Bible Study group, a spring dessert called "Singing in the Rain", group of 20 ladies attending Women of Faith conference in Boise, church garage sale, participating in sale of pies, and cookies at the Fair Booth, and their traditional Christmas luncheon, and Secret Sister revealing.

Men's Ministries was reported on by Pastor Chris. The men are meeting on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 8 a.m.

The Christian Education report by Pastor Dan thanked Dan and Sheila Banke for their year of service as Christian Education Directors which was greatly appreciated. Current teachers are: Vickie Kent, two to three year olds; Linda Parker, 4 to 5 year olds; Matt Galli, 1st and 2nd graders; Cheryl Pollick, 3rd to 6th graders; Eileen Sproule, Junior and Senior High; and Richard Smith, Terry Journot, Al Fisher along with the pastoral staff, adult education.

Sheila Hardin reported on the growing Children's Church. Dorothy Monahan gave an update on the Missionette program and Michael Bozeman reported on the Royal Rangers. Aileen Ware reported on the Keenager's-Senior Adults. They had traveled to Teen Challenge in Spokane, family camp at Brooks, Oregon, and the Never Too Old Retreat at Camp Davidson.

Prayer and Evangelism was reported on by Pastor Joey Duff. Prayer gatherings meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 6 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursdays at Noon and Saturdays at 6 p.m. The internet also keeps those on the prayer chain updated on the latest needs.

Dennis Rogers was re-elected as a Director and Dave Conklin elected for first time. . Mike Thurman was thanked for serving 2 terms. Tom Parker was appointed to fill Jim Sheffield's unexpired term. New board of Directors consisted of Terry Journot V.P. Rod Hardin Secretary, Kim Abbott Treasurer, Roger Morter, Dave Conklin, Dennis Rogers, Garry Wilson and Tom Parker.

EASTER PRODUCTION

An Easter Production directed by Pastor Chris shared the gospel message over Easter weekend. It involved a large cast of performers from the church, lots of costumes, and an

imaginary backdrop. It was a musical production given three times and opened to the public. Attendance was great and it came off as if done by professionals. Live animals added to the scenes portrayed. Bob Hammler and Robert Naylor headed up the sound department and did a great job. A new lighting system was purchased for this musical production. In the next two years Eileen Sproule assumed the leadership of this production. Since it involved so many of the congregation, the people took real pride in its presentation and it was very professionally done.

FAITHFUL SERVICE.

In April Jeff and Tracy Meisner resigned the janitorial position after many years of faithful service. Others who have assisted with the care of our facility from 2000-2003 are Sarah Wilson, Eric Berrios, Greg Torre, Tom & Amber Donaldson, James & Lori Abbott, Tom Parker, Ken McIntyre, Faustino Santacruz, and Cheryl Pollick.

On May 1, Monday, the funeral for Hubert Fenley was held at HCC. Pastor Chris performed the ceremony. What a blessing Hubert has been over the years! Hubert was a master craftsman so his services were always desired for those special projects. He put in many hours and you never heard a complaint. He also was elected to the Board of Directors where he served as a steady hand. He and Pat Umphres were great friends and did a lot of projects together. They only had one sin-they loved to go fishing!

A GIVING CHURCH.

After multiple break-ins and in May our safe being stolen, the board decided to get bids on a security system for the Church. Smith security matched our low bid and we came to the congregation on one Sunday in June and in one offering received the funds needed. The security system cost \$1,819.00.

Spirit of giving! Another blessing – P. Chris was approached and taken to Tri-Cities to purchase a new drumset for the church. What a wonderful donation – valued at \$1,310.00 – that still serves us today!

Wal-mart donations continued to come throughout the year – DC donated a 36” TV – several vacuums, furniture, desks, and much more. What A Blessing! Later we talked to them about TVs for the Nursery and School Classrooms – they came through again!

RIVER FRONTAGE SALE

After the sale of the 11 acres, the church still owned the hillside and river flood plain as well as the Cramer property. It was essentially land locked and difficult to use. In July 2000, the board was approached by a homeowner on Alleluia Ave. desiring to extend his lot. He wanted to purchase additional riverfront property. This ended up being a neighborhood project. A business meeting was called on August 6th after the morning service. The Board of Trustees was given the authority to act on behalf of the congregation for the sale of the property adjacent the river. After many meetings with homeowners, lawyers, and city planner and surveyors, the property was finally divided and sold among 10 home-owners It was a long process. In July of 2001 the homeowners agreed to a price of \$75,000 for the two lots behind subdivision. Ten lots would be divided and sold to the ten owners. They would pay according the square foot. The board wanted to net \$60,000 and anticipated \$15,000 in survey, filing, and lawyer,

closing cost. David Hadley was hired to assist Pastor Chris through this process. What a blessing! The church eventually netted a good return, keeping their existing easement that follows our irrigation line behind the houses, as well as, gained an additional 10 foot easement from the street.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In October the ladies loaded up in several vehicles and traveled to Boise, Idaho, for the Women of Faith Conference. It happened to fall on Eileen Sproule's birthday – so Crystal Barker had given an envelope with \$1 in it to all the ladies. They all were to shop for Eileen's birthday. All they could spend was \$1. As they revealed their surprises that evening – Sounds like it was an evening none of them will ever forget! Many people bought her butterfly clips – which Eileen displayed in her hair the following Sunday. A sight! Only Eileen!

In September the church hosted the ministry of Larry Overstreet with "Walk Thru The Bible" ministries. This conference on the Old Testament was open to the community as well. He outlined the O.T., its books, main characters, time lines – and taught us motion so that we could remember them also.

In November, Pastor Chris and Pastor Rod hosted our first auction for HCS. We had many donations from businesses all over the community. Even with attendance being low, we netted \$5000+. This really helped with the school budget.

In December HCC hosted all the area Pastors and Wives for a Christmas Dinner. There was over 40 in attendance. What a blessing to bless our area pastors!

Also in December besides our many holiday activities, we took a Sunday evening and loaded up on a hay wagon from the church to go caroling. It turned out to be an evening not to forget. As the group strolled through the neighborhoods, snow began to fall – a wonderful memory was created for us all. The evening was concluded at Ed & Spring Sherrell's house for a bonfire, hot chocolate and goodies.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, 2000

In August of 2000, a budget shortfall was discussed because of the many improvements made to the facility and grounds. The board voted to take \$34,400 out of our investment fund to bring the books current.

With the expertise of Pastor Dan (youth pastor/computer expert), the church purchased its first used video projector and began power point presentation for worship, as well as, announcements. Debbie Wilson prepared worship slides and took on the announcements and still does them to this day – she is very creative. FAITHFUL!

In 2000, thanks to Pastor Chris' determination, continued kitchen progress was made. Pantry cabinets were installed in the kitchen. The kitchen floor was put in. Terry Journot headed up all of the kitchen projects.

In the spring of 2000, several leaders of the church including Roger Morter, Ron Baker, and Rod were discussing what to do with the playfield. The grass stand was not very good and the hand move irrigation system was difficult to keep on the move. Ron Baker

urged that it was the time to redo the field, reseed it, and put in an automatic sprinkler system. Ron volunteered to do the first part. As soon as school was out, the grass was sprayed to kill it. Then he had dump trucks haul dried manure from C&B Livestock and applied it about 6 inches thick. That is a lot of manure! Then the manure was plowed under and a grader used to level it all out. Then the field was drug to get it as level as possible. Terry Journot arranged for Carlisle Harrison to lay out the sprinklers which he did on a volunteer basis. The C&B grader, which had been nicknamed Janie's grader after Jane Baker who financed it, ran the shallow ditches for the entire automatic sprinkler pipe. A volunteer crew consisting of Greg Torre and others helped Carlisle glue it all together. As one can see it was a big effort. After the irrigation system was in, then it was seeded and turned out to be a beautiful improvement and a real savior in watering. The budgeted cost was \$6,500 but there was a lot of volunteer labor and equipment as well. At a special Sunday in October the congregation recognized all those who helped with this project. Special recognition went to Carlisle Harrison and Ron Baker. Terry Journot was also very instrumental in getting this project done.

A workday/barbecue was scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2000, in order to bark the greenbelt. Wal-mart transported one and a half trailers (180 cubic yards) of 3 1/4 inch bark from Great Northern Bark to the church for a cost of \$2,900. A plastic membrane was laid down first and then covered with the bark. This greatly improves the weed control and reduces the maintenance labor. This project got about 2/3 of the area covered and the balance was done a year later.

In Fall of 2000 the Chemical Preparedness Program provided \$60,000 for a second bus to the school because of the size of the student body. God had one put aside in Portland that was Eastern Oregon ready with sanders, fog lights, tinted windows, and white roof. Another school district had turned down the bus, so they dropped the price \$3000 to accommodate our budget. Since we had 2 new buses - The Board had been trying to sell our old bus - Faith Church of God (Ron Lewis) - had shown interest. The Board voted to bless Faith Church of God by donating the bus to them.

CHURCH EXPANSION CONSIDERED

In 2000 there was much discussion about the expansion of our current facilities. The Pastors, Board, and wives traveled to Pullman to look at a church facility there that had recently been built. In November - Pastor Chris, Pastor Rod and Kim Abbott attended a seminar on "Effective Growth Strategies for the Expansion of Church". There they met John Taylor who was later contracted to assist in developing an updated masterplan.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2000.

New members added in 2000 were Pauline Daulton, Adam & Vanessa Eldridge, Robert and Linda Hines, Phillip and Toni Houston, Brian Misner, and Sara Wilson.

WEST END MINISTERIAL ASSOC-2001

In 2001 Pastor Chris was elected President of WEMA (West End Ministerial Association). During the year the ministerial association recognized the need to reach out to the Spanish community, so weekly classes were offered for the pastors to learn Spanish. Frankie Berrios has been their teacher. Our church also participated in the

organization of an all-church community service on Pentecost Sunday. HCC also hosted a Christmas Dinner for all the area pastors and wives. Over 40 were in attendance.

MIRACLE VAN

February – One morning Pastor Chris and staff drove to office and discovered a brown van parked in our turn around area – with keys, title and a note saying it was a gift to the church. This 1986 15-passenger van has been a great blessing for many ministry trips and hauling equipment.

In February – HCC hosted Carol Robeson and the seminar “Strong Man’s His Name-What’s His Game.” on Sunday thru Wednesday.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING-2001

The Annual Business Meeting was held on February 25, 2001. Seventy-two members are on the active membership list. In his report the Pastor expressed the thought that the Lord has definitely blessed us over the past two years. So many things have been accomplished. He said, "I am so thankful for everyone who has given of themselves to see the various projects completed." He also noted that at least 37 individuals had made personal commitments to Christ in 2000. More than 60 people participated in our annual Easter Production. The Harvest Carnival was another great success. Is it worth all the effort? ABSOLUTELY! He challenged the membership to join with him in this new year to continue to MAKE A DIFFERENCE! He thanked Garry Wilson for serving two consecutive terms. Kim Abbott and Mike Bozeman were elected to the board.

Terry Journot reported that much had been accomplished on the kitchen. Ranges had been ordered. Approx. \$5,200 needed to make kitchen operational. John Powell and others helped in the installation of other equipment.

Rod Hardin updated on the Christian School which was now serving 73 in-school students and 13 home-school students. The addition of the first annual auction on top of the fireworks and fair booth provided over \$14,000 for the school. The school had graduated eight seniors, the largest class so far.

Pastor Dan Sproule reported on the growing youth program. Their growth as a Worship Team has been outstanding and they have led in the Sunday evening service several times. More youth are becoming involved and going to camp. God does incredible things in the lives of teenagers during the week of camp. The entire congregation rejoices as they see the growth in the youth program.

Growth in other departments was reflected in the reports. In Men's Ministries, seven men from the church went to Promise Keepers in Portland. Pastor Chris experienced the Never Too Old Retreat with the Keenagers. Women's Ministries started a dangerous precedent with their "Ladies Night Out". Watch that one, Men! The Nursery continues to expand and need more facilities needs which are gradually being met. Sheila Hardin continues the outstanding job of making missionaries real to 30 to 40 kids during Children's Church. They set a goal of \$500 for their offering and made it!

The Prayer Ministry is being discovered by more people under the leadership of Pastor Joey Duff. As the church grows, there are more families and more needs. More Prayer Warriors are always needed.

The Sunday school program is always vital. The adult program has gained more variety and the utilization of many different adult teachers giving new dimension and perspective into God's work.

With the uncertainty of the economy and through prayerful consideration, the Board decided to pull our remaining funds of \$141,000 from the Putnam investments and put them into a savings account. Months later \$100,000 was invested in Church Extension Plan at 4.75%, the best available rate at the time.

WEDDINGS-2001

March 24 – Ray Baker married Trisha DeBoer at Hermiston Christian Center with Pastor Jim Simpson officiating. Ray's parents are Ron and Jane Baker and he was born when Interfaith Christian Center was just getting started.

On September 1, Larry Smith and Heather Wycoff were wed by Pastor Chris in the Echo Park.

In October Chris & Terra Griggs were wed by Pastor Dan. Chris has been very instrumental in our STL fund-raisers. As a manager of Dairy Queen, he has provided coupon books for our youth to sell. All proceeds go to missions! What a blessing!

YOUTH TOP SPEED THE LIGHT

In the spring, Pastor Chris and staff attended the Oregon District Council where our Youth were recognized for giving \$10,000 to Speed-The-Light Missions in 2000. Our church ranked second in the state. Pastor Chris presented a plaque to our youth during the following Sunday morning service.

MASTERPLAN DEVELOPED

In May, our church contracted with Taylor/Gregory Architect in the development of an updated masterplan. The Board selected the following people to serve on this committee: Pastor Chris & Crystal Barker, Al & Helen McAfee, Roger Morter, Mike Bozeman, Kim Abbott, Sam Myers, Garry Wilson, Ron Baker, Anne Rowan, Dan Sproule, Rod Hardin, and Rachel Hardin. Five meetings were scheduled over 3 months to establish a masterplan and the various phases to see it become reality. It was completed and presented to the membership at the 2002 business meeting.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS-2001

As our kitchen project continued, Kim Abbott discovered a commercial freezer that Wal-Mart in Pendleton was selling. Our Church was able to purchase it for \$100.00. What a blessing! This storage has been very beneficial for major events and fundraisers.

In June, the board accepted a proposal from Advanced Office Systems to lease two copiers – one for the church and the other for the school downstairs. With our increasing printing needs, this was a real blessing.

In July the board decided to purchase a new video projection unit to replace the now failing unit. The new unit was mounted from the ceiling. Garrett Lee and Pastor Dan were instrumental in the installation and running wire to complete this project.

During 2001 Pastor Dan, Joe Harn, Mike Calame, Al Anderson and Kevin Mossman worked together to network our offices both upstairs and downstairs. Now the staff would be able to communicate with each other such as share documents, master calendar, print to copiers from computers and have internet access.

THE CALL OF DUTY

In July we said goodbye to our friends the Woloszyns. Tom had been the Commander at the Army Depot and Karen taught in our Middle Learning Center. It was hard to let Tom, Karen and the two boys go. They were transferred to Florida. Tom was very instrumental in the Iraq conflict. Although, they continue to visit and say, "One of these days we will be back to Hermiston and our Family!" Rachel Beaubien (Hardin) was selected to fill the teacher position in the Middle Learning Center.

MEN'S ACTIVITIES

In July some of our men traveled to Depot Bay – crabbing & bottom fishing in the ocean. Pastor Chris came back with the most catch – 5. Was kind of a slow day, but we had fun just the same. Pastor Chris claimed the most catch due to the men on each side of him who kept feeding the fish! In September of 2000 a group of men went again. Camping in a state park, ate the wonders (food) of Amber Donaldson, and came back with more fish. After two trips and an unsettled stomach - Pastor Dan decided the ocean was not for him.

In October a couple vehicles full of men headed for Nampa, ID to the Promisekeeper convention. Reservation had been made – and we budgeted for 4 men per room. When we go to our motel – we discovered – not queen beds, but double beds. Needless to say, some slept on the floor.

On December 3rd we held our first Men's Dinner and Christmas Shopping Trip. Who would have thought a group of men could go shopping. The focus was fellowship, as well as, shopping for our wives and families. Got to see it to believe it. Mr. Mike Calame was voted as our shopaholic.

RECHARGING

In August, Pastor Chris went to General Council in Kansas City, Missouri. Besides participating in the business sessions of the Assemblies of God Council, he and Crystal attended some wonderful services that challenged and blessed them tremendously. Jim Cymbala was one of the speakers and Hillsongs from Australia led worship.

In September, Pastor began recognizing those who had read through the Bible in one year. Certificates were handed out and a new challenge presented to be a "People of the Word"! This challenge/program increases/expands every year to include more people! PTL!

The Staff of HCC had walked through a discipleship program called Cleansing Stream Ministries. Our staff went to a final regional conference in November and God did some wonderful healings in their lives. In the next two years – two groups from our congregation walked through this intense discipleship and deliverance material. Great testimonies continue to come forth.

BOOKKEEPING RETURNS IN HOUSE

In September, it was determined by the board that we needed to bring our bookkeeping back into the church. Stephanie Evans was approached to take on the task on a part-time basis.

NEW MEMBERS & MIRACLES- 2001

In 2001, new members added were Al & Marilyn Anderson (returning), Mike & Melissa Boylan, Joe and Pearl Harn, Pat & Karen Hart, David and Julie Horn, Sam & Terri Myers, Verna Miller and Larry and Heather Smith.

2001 – God did some wonderful miracles. Just to mention a few: Ethan Abbott, born to James and Lori Abbott, was struggling as an infant, losing weight, doctors were not positive, believing that this could be life threatening. On a Sunday evening a group of believers gathered as a fellowship in the prayer of agreement for Ethan's healing – and in the coming weeks we would see God completely heal that child! One Sunday morning, Pastor Chris said that he felt led that there were many in the congregation that needed prayer and he felt that he and Crystal were to anoint and pray over each one. God did so many neat things during this time – but one – Mike & Melissa Boylan (newer to church) came forward and Melissa requested that we pray for Mike's unsaved family, and even mentioned that Mike has not received Christ. In that moment, opportunity for ministry was presented and Mike accepted Christ. This family continues in the church to this day – involved in ministry and seeing new miracles continually in their family.

MISSIONARY GIVING EXPANDS

1999 Missionary Giving - \$17,246.33 Supporting 15 missionaries and 3 ministry organizations

2000 Missionary Giving \$21,828.95

2001 Missionary Giving - \$39,321.57

SOUND FACILITIES UPGRADE-2002

In January a new phone system was purchased and installed for \$5,075.00 – including 16 digital phones, two attendant phones and a horn for the outside playing field. Praise God he supplies!

The purchase of a new soundboard had been a discussion by many before Pastor Chris came to HCC. The sound fund now had the money. The board approved to purchase of a \$1,500 – 32 Channel Mackie Mixer. It has been a great blessing for services, as well as, special productions including drama, etc.

In February, the board approved plans submitted by Joe Harn for the construction of a new sound booth to contain all of our audio/visual equipment. Volunteers worked on it

and had it finished for the Easter Production. Joe Harn headed the project with others assisting.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING-2002

The Annual Business Meeting was held on February 24, 2002, to cover the activities of the 2001 year. Pastor Chris noted in his report that with the Sanctuary filling and the building seeming to shrink, this past year's focus has been on master planning for the future expansion of Hermiston Christian Center. He thanked the 15 members of the building committee for their service and dedication to this project.

He further stated that our records show a great increase in our attendance over this past year. For quite a while, we have consistently run over 200 in our morning worship service, with a high at Christmas of 311. All departments have increased in size, which has increased our need for workers. He thanked the many people who have volunteered in the various projects concerning the repair, maintenance and improvement of our facility and grounds. He expressed his excitement about using our new kitchen, the networking of our computers and the new phone system that has been installed.

"We thank God for His many blessings! In 2001, our tithe/offering increased 31.5% and our total missions giving exceeded \$40,000. Church, in 2002, let's be open to "enlarge the place of our tent". Let's make room for Christ in our lives! God may stretch us, lead us into new ministry and places of service. May we eagerly and expectantly look for His activity and power in our lives. Let's be open, let's be used, let's be HIS!" – Pastor Chris

The Hermiston Christian School Report given by Rod Hardin reported that we are ministering to 86 full time students and 4 home-school families. Rod and Sheila Hardin have now served the School 22 years and it has been in existence for 23 years. The school has been continually blessed by an outstanding, dedicated staff that works not only on the academic education of the students, but for their spiritual growth, also.

The Youth Report given by Pastor Dan Sproule on the growth of our young people was certainly encouraging. He thanked the adults who had volunteered and helped the youth program. Tom and Amber Donaldson joined the adult staff in 2001 and helped with the drama team. Tom has been in charge of activities and Amber helped out as acting secretary. Eric Berrios worked with the student worship team helping them learn new songs and work as a more effective team. Eileen Sproule has been all-around help and a great stimulator in all that she does.

The youth made Speed-the-Light a major project and set their goal to raise at least \$10,000. They ended up raising \$10,100 which placed them number 2 in the state of Oregon for STL giving. The students really made a contribution toward missions!

They had many activities including development of their worship team, attending Summer Camp, Silverwood, and Oregon District Youth Convention. God was awesome in 2001! However, Dan and Eileen are looking forward with great anticipation and excitement in what God has in store for the youth in 2002. God has already raised up another group of students to build a drama ministry in the youth department. Their theme

for 2002 is "Compel them to come". A vibrant youth program is so important to the total ministry of the church and we are blessed by having one of the greatest.

Reports on Sunday School, Children's Church, Royal Rangers, Missionettes, and Nursery all show the growth and need for more workers to aid the expanded programs.

Roger Morter was re-elected to a 2nd term, Adam Eldridge and Brian Misner were elected to fill Terry Journot and Dennis Rogers spots. Remaining Board members were Dave Conklin, Dennis Rogers, Kim Abbott, and Mike Bozeman. At a subsequent Board Meeting, Roger Morter was elected Vice-President and Kim Abbott as Secretary/Treasurer.

PLAYGROUND PLANNED

In the Spring of 2002 – Pastor Rod formed a committee to plan and raise funds for a new playground structure. As of June 2003 we have \$4,129.18 in our fund. We hope to see part of the structure up in Fall of 2003.

PASTOR'S BIRTHDAY

In April the congregation surprised Pastor on his birthday. The congregation raised funds and put curbing into the landscaping of his home. The Pastor stated, "I was overwhelmed at not only the generosity, but all the effort in putting it together! WOW!"

OUR OLDEST MOM PASSES

For several years Marjorie Vierson Baker had been the oldest mother in the congregation. On May 1, she passed away to be with the Lord. On May 11th a Celebration of Her Life was held at the church. She had been known in the congregation for her work in missions, quilting, and playing the piano at the retirement homes. She was active in the KeenAgers and never missed a trip. She had been a Christian since early childhood being a charter member of the Presbyterian Church in Moses Lake, Washington. She and her husband had married at Kahlotus, Washington after graduating from Washington State College. They moved to a ranch property at Lone, Oregon where they were members of the Church of Christ and Marjorie played the piano and organ for church for years. She continued playing till her death. The lighted cross in the front of the sanctuary was given by the family in honor of Edwin Markham Baker who passed away in 1968. . The flagpole in front was given in memory of her second husband, Ernest Vierson. Marjorie and her second husband, Ernest Vierson, received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at a Full Gospel Businessman's Convention in Phoenix, Arizona where Ed Sheets had invited them. She and her family have been very active in Hermiston Christian Center. Ron Baker is her oldest son, Sheila Banke, her granddaughter, and Ray Baker, her grandson. Her Celebration of Life was so fitting because she had led such a wonderful life of 94 years and had really never been sick until the last few months and the Lord took her quickly. At the close of the service the grandchildren each laid a rose on the casket and sang Jesus Loves Me. Not a dry eye after that!

MEN'S MINISTRY AT COOKIE TREE

Men's Ministry got off the ground with a men's breakfast at 6:00 am on Mondays, at the Cookie Tree. Al Anderson took the lead in putting this all together. The men have also

been meeting for monthly breakfast at HCC for a time of fellowship and Bible Study with Pastor Chris.

On September 1, the Men's ministry held a Chili Feed & Dunk Tank. The Pastors and other men sat in the dunk tank. The purpose was to throw balls at the target to spill the person sitting above the dunk tank. A splashing good time!

In November, the men went to the Honorbound Men's Conference at People's Church in Salem, OR. It was a great time of growth. The altar service was incredible and definitely a life changing experience!

EXTRA EVENTS IN LIFE OF CHURCH

On June 1, Burt and Mescal Paine celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at HCC. It was a fun event with them repeating their marriage vows and many friends and family aiding in their celebration.

In June, Pastor Rod, Dan And Chris went to Chandler, AZ on an all expense paid trip to view a new curriculum for possible use in HCS, Alpha/Omega. Since that time the school has begun using some of their elective curriculum on computer and plan to make a full transition over the next few years.

In June of 2002 – Pastor Chris was elected Presbyter of the Blue Mountain section for the Oregon District Assemblies of God. A tremendous honor!

Our July Water Baptism service at McNary Beach was incredible. We sang, we fellowshiped, and we baptized 20. PTL! We were so thankful for 70+ people in attendance. In July of 2003 we baptized another 10 with over 100 in attendance. We added a picnic into the equation and had a wonderful evening at the beach. It was beautiful to see our blended family – speaking both English and Spanish. We will also never forget Guadalupe's torillas! (She brought enough for everyone!)

In July on a workday, the balance of the Greenbelt was barked and papered. Terry Journot's backhoe was used as it has for many projects around the church and greatly appreciated. Completing this project made weed maintenance of the Greenbelt much, much easier.

During the Summer of 2002 Terrell Jenkins offered a Greek Class. It gave an excellent background in understanding the Greek and Hebrew interrelationship in the authorship of the Bible.

In September a Food Trailer was purchased and donated to HCC from a member in the congregation. Again, another blessing! It will be used at local events, outreachs, etc.

PAVING THE PARKING LOT

During the Summer of 2002, the board made the decision to pave the parking lot, including additional lighting, new entry sidewalks, new island, new fence and landscaping. Pastor's Chris' father, Clarence Barker, surveyed the property and laid out a

design for contractors to follow. The congregation was challenged to raise \$28,000 for the parking lot/concrete work with the church funding contributing the other half to cover expenses. They contracted with Blue Mountain asphalt at a price of \$52,590. Shelco did the electrical work and additional lighting for \$14,500. Stark Brothers completed the concrete work in January. The \$28,000 goal was reached in March of 2003 and the final paving came in May, 2003. More blessings! Additional gifts came in that enabled the parking lot to be striped and to finish landscaping projects.

Another blessing – It was desired to add parking downstairs, as well as an easy drop off for school parents and children. The Swaggart family (school) donated their equipment and time to move dirt and create an entrance off of main parking lot. Many blessings followed. Concrete dividers were donated to the church to use as a retaining wall. Roger Morter, Sam Myers, Kim Abbott and others took on this project. Dan Banke took on the task of re-seeding the hillside to keep dirt from blowing. In addition, \$3,000 was donated to the school to lay gravel. When the upper parking lot was paved, there was enough extra to pave the driveway going down to the lower parking lot. (Kim Abbott had been praying for that!)

In August, fresh paint and new partitions were added to the Christian School (\$3,375.00 – materials and labor). A much needed touch. All of this made for a busy period really spanning over two years! The church has been blessed by all of these extra efforts and expressed its thanks to all the contributors and workers.

MINISTRY CHANGES

Robin Bozeman served as church secretary for several years and put in a lot of hard work. She completed her tour in May. In August, Stephanie Evans (Hardin) started full-time as office manager/bookkeeper. Holly Pixton started assisting as a part-time secretary.

In July, Pat & Karen Hart became the new Sunday school directors. Keith Ames became the new Royal Ranger director with Larry Smith, Dave Horn and Tom Parker assisting him.

In HCS Rachel Beaubien (Hardin) moved to Portland and Catherine Dotson was selected to fill her place in the Middle Learning Center for 2002-03.

In 2002, Lorna Carter began a new ministry, a Praise Dance Team, called Children of Virtue for Children 9-12. They have ministered on special days such as Mothers and Father's Day. Lorna came to us from Texas and is working at the depot for 3-year stay.

Julie Horn assumed the role of Women's Ministries in 2002 following Crystal Barker who directed from 1999 forward. Crystal continues to advise and be involved herself in ministry to women. In October, the ladies went to "Women of Faith" in Portland with 40 ladies attending. Pastor Rod drove the school bus and his hair looked a little thinner when he returned.

Debbie Aimes assumed role of Director of Missionettes in 2002 following Crystal Barker. Pastor Chris' wife began taking a greater role in the area of music and the development of a puppet team involving junior age children.

In October, an unusual character was introduced to our congregation. Pastor had been encouraging the congregation to be a people of the Word. "WORD WOMAN" (Eileen Sproule) blessed us with her presence. We are still trying to figure out what is wrong with Book Boy (Pat Hart). We have all enjoyed the encouragements to stay in the Word of God as directed by the mighty swings of Word Woman's Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

Another miracle happened in October of 2003 – James Bryan, entered into our lives and challenged us toward growth. James was led to the Lord in the middle of the night by Pastor Chris over the phone. His conversion was so miraculous, his hunger so overwhelming, that he grew in leaps and bounds, always having a list of questions from his times in the Word. His salvation and growth went on to stir up and encourage many in the faith.

WEDDINGS-2002

The Liz Sheffield Wedding was held on August 16 at the Kennewick Golf Course with Pastor Chris officiating. Father and mother of bride are Jim and Dottie Sheffield.

The Jason and Colleen Bethel wedding was held at the Hermiston Christian Center on December 28th with Pastor Chris officiating.

SPANISH MINISTRIES EXPANDED

In August Pastor Gilberto & Beverly Hernandez agreed to come on staff without compensation. They wanted to help to develop a Spanish ministry at HCC. As they have become acquainted with the congregation, it has stirred real excitement for this expanded ministry and they have been a welcome blessing. It has also been an answer to prayer as this has been on the heart of the congregation for a long time, but not knowing how to get it started. It is wonderful to worship with our Spanish brothers and sisters.

On August 18th a Service and Annual Picnic was combined with outreach to the community at Victory Square Park. The Step of Faith Trio was special guests. Singing and Praying was done some in English and some in Spanish in order to make everyone feel welcome. The area was canvassed with posters and flyers inviting neighborhood to join us. New families were added to our congregation as a result.

Pastor Gilberto started a Spanish SS class, and a Spanish Wednesday service. The church purchased a translation system for the Sunday morning service starting in January of 2003. Victoria Rivera, Pastor Gilberto, and Irma DeAnda Gutierrez have all interpreted.

CHRISTMAS-2002

During the Christmas season a group of the congregation filled a bus and went to carol at the retirement homes. In Pastor Chris's words, "I will never forget playing the piano at Rose Arbor – as everyone gathered around to sing. BEAUTIFUL! Great memory and ministry!" We ended the evening at Aileen Ware's new home at Sun Terrace. We

caroled, toured her new apartment and gathered for food and fellowship in the recreation room. Great fun!

NEW MEMBERS-2002

New members added in 2002 were Keith & Debbie Ames, Roberta Lynn Zacharias, Kevin & Marti Mossman, Mark & Catherine Dotson, and Jim & Dottie Sheffield.

ATTENDANCE AND MISSIONS-2002

Attendance Average in 2002 - 232.

Missions Giving \$40,891.89 & now supporting 38 missionaries and 8 ministry/outreach organizations, besides BGMC, STL, LIFE and LFTL mission agencies.

Our kids gave over \$2,000 in 2002 to BGMC missions.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING-2003

The annual business meeting was held on February 23, 2003 with a current membership of 111 active members. Pastor Chris reported that our church has seen significant growth over the past few years. In 2002 we averaged 232 in our morning worship service and have now begun playing with the 300 number on an occasional basis. We are now experiencing growing pains and making plans to facilitate what God is doing in our fellowship and community. God is good!

We passed our missions giving goal. HCC gave \$40,891 to local, national and foreign missions in 2002. Our church has seen new leadership arise for various departments. Pat and Karen Hart are now overseeing our Sunday School department. David Trowbridge began a ministry to our Young Adults. Julie Horn is now overseeing our Women's Ministries department. Keith and Debbie Ames are now overseeing our royal Ranger and Missionettes departments. Crystal Barker is now assisting in the music department. Al Anderson has been a blessing in planning our weekly and monthly men's breakfasts. Mike and Jennie Calame are overseeing our sound ministry. As we put these together with those who are already serving in various ministries we see that God is doing a good thing at HCC.

A few of the highlights for the pastor from 2002 include: 1) Our water baptism at the Columbia River will always bring great joy to my heart. We prayed, sang, rejoiced and baptized twenty. 2) This past year I attended the Billy Graham School of Evangelism. It was a LIFE-CHANGING experience for your pastor. I will never be able to express all that God did for me! 3) What a joy to bring Gilberto and Beverly Hernandez to HCC this last August. God definitely has plans in bringing salvation to all mankind. The development of Hispanic ministries has brought great joy to not only to the Lord, but also to this pastor. 4) A favorite fellowship time of mine is our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. We questioned whether we could do it, but we gathered over 300 people into our sanctuary to "Give thanks to the Lord!"

I must thank the board and staff! To my staff I say, "Thank you!" May God continue to blend us all together and bless us as we endeavor to LEAD the Church and REACH the world!

Rod Hardin reported on the Christian School which now is at 73 full time students and serving 4 home-school families. The volunteer effort in addition to the regular staff enables the school to cover both academic and spiritual growth for all the students. The upgrade in facilities including the new lower-level parking lot was the result of volunteer efforts of school parents. Volunteers also make the Fireworks and Fair Booth work to bring in again over \$10,000 for facility upgrades. It was interesting to note that the Fireworks booth fundraiser has been going since 1982 and the Fair Potato Booth since 1984. This has raised a lot of money for the school over the years.

The number one facility goal is the PLAYGROUND! The curriculum is being gradually changed over to a computerized curriculum for grades 3 to 12.

Pastor Dan Sproule reported that 2002 was a great year of ministry for Connect Youth Ministries. God provided many opportunities for our students to get and be involved in ministry. Our worship team has been together for over two years now and God is doing a tremendous work in each of their lives as they minister in worship to other students and adults as well. In January, we were able to begin a youth drama ministry. We have 10 students that are involved in this ministry. They have been able to perform and minister in youth services as well as in our Sunday Night services.

The youth participate in many events during the year. Included are Winter Camp, Acquire the Fire student Conference in Tacoma, Summer Camp, Youth Convention, and Games and Grub Night monthly.

The volunteer help is great and want to especially thank Tom and Amber Donaldson and my wife, Eileen for their continual help and support.

Pastor Joey Duff reported on the Prayer & Care Ministry which has become a more concentrated effort to focus on the expanding needs brought into the church body as it grows. The prayer chain, use of Internet, and direct prayer for those that stop by and students keeps this ministry vital to getting prayer needs answered.

Pastor Gilberto gave his first report on the Hispanic Ministry. Beverly and he had been able to get their house sold and move to Hermiston in October. He is teaching a Spanish Sunday School class on Sunday mornings and conducting a Wednesday evening worship service. Recently they have started a Friday evening prayer time from 6 to 9 p.m. Average attendance has been 12 to 15 but sometimes gets up to 26. A special Thank You was given to Victoria Rivera for her eagerness to serve in this ministry. She has started a radio outreach on 1090AM for one hour on Fridays reaching out to both English and Spanish people. Guadeloupe Santicruz is teaching Spanish classes on Mondays for the Church staff. Gilberto said, "We are very excited about what God has done already with Hispanic Ministries, and look forward to seeing what He is going to do.

Kathy Abbott reported on the growing Nursery Ministry. They have had a wonderful addition with the installation of a television and a VCR. They have installed a numbering system that allows a parent to be called from the sanctuary by the child's call number. This was donated by the Women's Ministry.

Children's Church exceeded their goal of raising \$2,000 for the Boys & Girls Missionary Crusade. This has taught the growing numbers of children to be faithful givers. Sheila Hardin has carried the leadership of this program for years, and needs additional volunteers to meet the demands.

The Women's Ministries has continued with Julie Horn taking over the reins from Crystal Barker. Their activities have added a Bible Study on Thursday mornings and continued fund raising at the County Fair. Forty ladies attended the Women of Faith Conference in Portland which Crystal organized. Their Christmas tea involved 70 ladies and the Secret Sister revealing involved about 50 participating ladies.

A Father/Daughter Banquet was hosted by the HCC Missionette program for the whole Blue Mountain section. Pastor Chris was the speaker. Father/daughter photos were taken and our Missionette leaders did a wonderful job with dinner, activities and an evening of fun.

Kim Abbott was re-elected to the Board. Kevin Mossman was elected to fill Dennis Rogers's position. Dennis had fulfilled his maximum of two terms. His service on the board was very much appreciated. At a subsequent Board meeting, Brian Misner was elected as vice-president, and Kim Abbott re-elected Secretary/Treasurer. Remaining Board members are Roger Morter, Dave Conklin, and Adam Eldridge.

YOUTH HELP OUT ON BOOK OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION

On Feb. 14th, Danielle Banke and others from our youth group worked with other Christian students from around Hermiston in conducting the "Book of Hope" Distribution at the Hermiston High School. The Book of Hope, which is a youthful version of the Gospel, was given with a candy bar to every student who would receive it. Pastor Dan and Pastor Chris videoed many students. The goal: the Word of God in the hands of every student!

TWO MORNING SERVICES STARTED

On April 1st HCC went to two morning services. (8:30 am and 10:45 am with Sunday School in the middle at 9:45 am. Marti Mossman also began a 2 & 3 yr old Children Church during the entire 2nd service.

EASTER FORMAT CHANGES

The Easter program was changed to a celebration involving an Illustrated Sermon and wonderful music from our Choir. The program was presented on Saturday evening and twice on Sunday morning.

MEMBERS INVOLVED

In the spring of 2003, Bob Hines returned from Teen Challenge to rejoin his family. What a miracle! A family restored! He had subsequently been hired to go to work for Teen Challenge in Spokane so the family moved there in July for his new job.

Garry and Debbie Wilson have been our front door receptionists for many years. Garry has also headed up the ushering duties. These are the quiet contributions that just make a church hum from faithful dedicated service.

With the completion of the paving of the parking lot and redoing of the sidewalks, the big tree was gone and what was to appear? Carla Morter and her green thumb answered that as she designed and planted the Island out front. Kim Abbott had arranged for the irrigation before the asphalt was laid. This is a very nice improvement for all to see as they approach the entrance.

NEW MEMBERS-2003

New members added in 2003 were Jason Bethel, Colleen Bethel, Victoria Rivera, Rebecca Alejandre, Ed Sherrell, Spring Sherrell, Gilberto and Beverly Hernandez

The Church continues to move forward! Planning and preparing for greater harvest/ministry in the coming years!

We look forward to our 30th anniversary – September 21, 2003!

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

This history of Holy Hill hopefully has brought to you as the reader an account of how God works with his people. It brings back many memories, thoughts of those that have crossed our path, and many miracles of God's work. Many people have been impacted by the ministry at Hermiston Christian Center and it is an ongoing walk. It definitely was a ministry called into existence by God as he seeks to minister to each one of us through the power of his Holy Spirit. This leaves us with the challenge of Hebrews 12: 1-3, *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."*

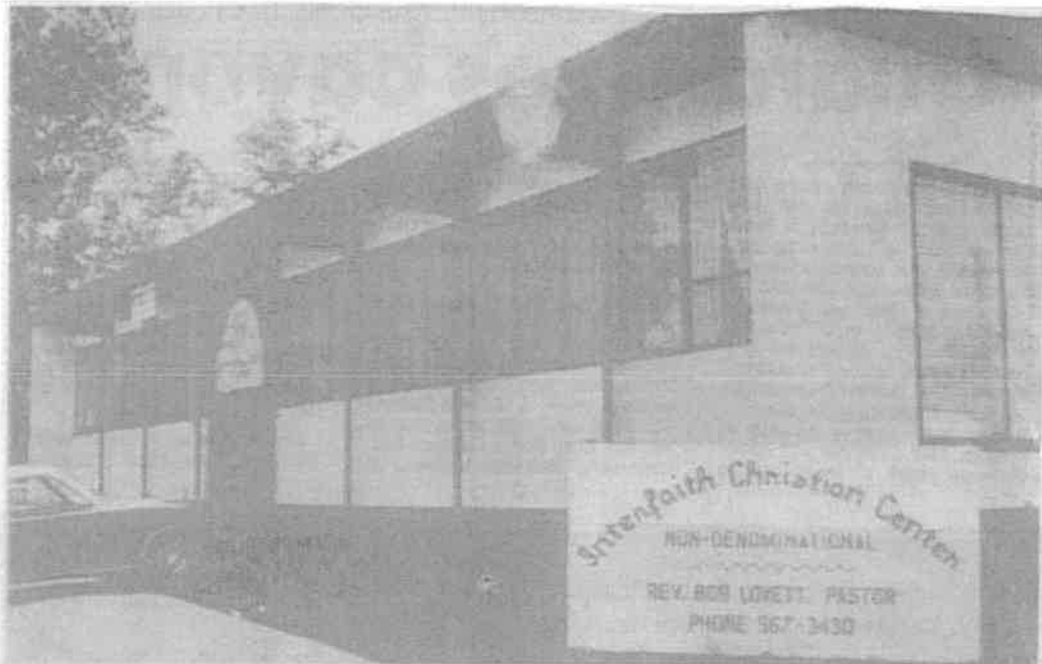
And we know that his strength will continue to draw us closer, so it is so fitting that the Eagle has been our mascot and that our key Scriptural verse is *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."* Isaiah 40:31.

We know that to those who have received much, much will be required. May that be fulfilled as the history of "Holy Hill" continues to unfold.



PICTORIAL HISTORY

New Christian School



This building at 702 E. Main St., Hermiston, is expected to house the city's second Christian school starting in the fall.

New Christian school nears enrollment limit

By SUSAN GORDON
Times Staff

HERMISTON — Sixty children have already enrolled in the Interfaith Christian School, a non-denominational Protestant school scheduled to open Sept. 4.

The Rev. Bob Lovett said it will be the second church-related school to open in Hermiston. The other is operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Classes will range from preschool to eighth grade, but the graded concept will not be emphasized, Lovett said.

Maximum enrollment has been set at 80 and classes will be held in the Interfaith Christian Center, 702 E. Main St., which shares offices with a carpenter's union local.

Three teachers have been hired to supervise the studies of students who range in age from 4 to 14.

Lovett said enrollees came from all over western Wasilla County and began to take advantage of the fully disciplined program. He said about half the students are members of his church.

The school will use accelerated Christian education, a program developed in Garland, Texas, as its curriculum. Each student will be assigned a Bible in which to study

along with occasional textual material.

Since from teachers, Lovett said. The program is designed to guarantee proficiency because students are not allowed to proceed without demonstrating skill accomplishment in tests, he said.

Subjects taught will be similar to those taught in public schools, but evolution will not be part of the curriculum, Lovett said. The Bible will be used to explain man's creation, said Lovett, who will serve as school superintendent and teach religion.

Lovett said he won't apply for accreditation and doesn't think it is necessary.

"Private schools are not required to be licensed," said Ken Stanhope, superintendent of the Educational Service District. "However, students from private schools not licensed must be carefully screened as to competence when entering another school."

When asked whether he thinks parents who are unhappy with over-crowded public schools will choose to enroll their children in Interfaith, Lovett said parents who are dissatisfied with public education will choose the Christian

school.

"Public schools are also centered. This will be God centered," he said.

Students will be expected to comply with strict discipline standards, he said. Misbehaviors will be spanked and students who don't conform will be expelled. Parents are expected to closely cooperate with teachers in educating their children, Lovett said.

"Parents will give us the right to do things the public schools don't have the right to do," Lovett added.

Lovett said he is impressed with the accelerated Christian education program because it teaches character along with scholastic matter.

"Students will learn how to live, how to get along with people, how to forgive, how to work. Character concepts like honesty, loyalty, dependability and endurance will be taught," he said.

Preschool age and kindergarten children will be charged \$10 a month, not the half-day offered by other private schools, he said. Tuition for first through fifth grade is \$10 a month and \$10 monthly for older students.

Mexico Ministry and Basic Youth



Left to Right: Min Sheets, Bob Lovett, Ed Sheets and Mr. Wood's pilot as they depart for Aguascalientes, Mexico for a series of Evangelistic Services with Missionary Elmer Koiman in January, 1975

A picture taken in Mexico showing a Praise Group. Ed Sheets and Bob Lovett, 3rd and 4th from the right. Bev Reynolds is the lady in white, 4th from the left. October, 1975



Part of the group that attended "Basic Youth Conflicts" Seminar in Portland in June 1975. Total of 46 attended. This was taken at the camping site where the majority camped near the Sandy River and commuted in each day. Agnes Lovett in the front row.

Part of the group attending the "Basic Youth Conflicts" Seminar taken in front of the Portland Coliseum. Bob and Agnes Lovett and Frank Douglas in the front row.



River Baptisms



The congregation gathered for a potluck - baptism service at Hat Rock Park during 1977-78



Pastor Bob baptizes at the Hat Rock Inlet.



Pastor Bob baptized over 20 new converts during this outing in 1977-78.

Potluck was part of the summer gathering at Hat Rock Park.



Interfaith Christian School in 1979-80



Interfaith Christian School students and staff for the first year in 1979-80.

Kindergarten Class in 1979-80



The first year Kindergarten Class at Interfaith Christian School in 1979-80.

Holy Hill Dedication



The sign on 17th and Highland designating the Knebel Property which became the site for Hermiston Christian Center.



Inspection of Holy Hill by congregation on day of dedication, September 10, 1978. This picture taken where the ball field is now.

The congregation encircle the site and dedicate it to the Lord.



Bob Lovett turns the first shovel of dirt to start the building of Interfaith Christian Center on September 10, 1978. In back are the Elders, left to right: Al Anderson, Norm Eppenbach, Ron Baker and Clark Dumond.

Holy Hill Dedication - Continued



Another picture of the congregation walking into the site of the dedication.



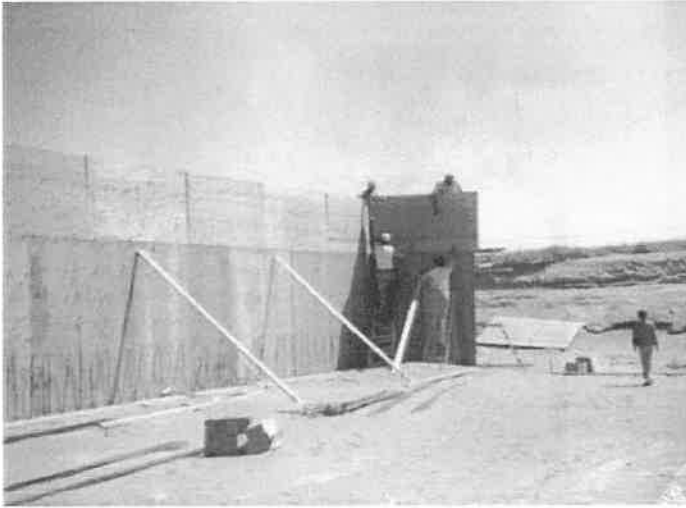
You have to end up with something so grand with Potluck!

Ron Baker points out the lay of the land and where the actual building will be located.



Everyone including the children turned a shovel of dirt that day. What a Glorious Vision for everyone!

Church Construction Starts



Forming the North and East walls of the building 1979.

Forming the North and West walls of the building 1979.

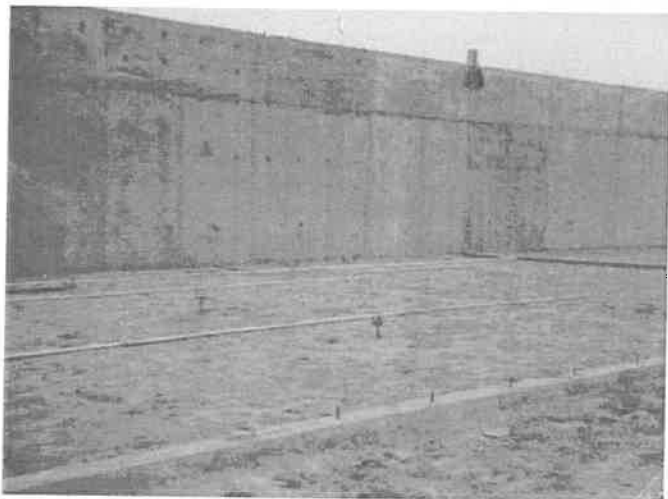


Pouring the North wall. All one continuous pour made in one day.

Tom Roberts takes a break as the footings for the South wall are made.



The Concrete Wall Go Up



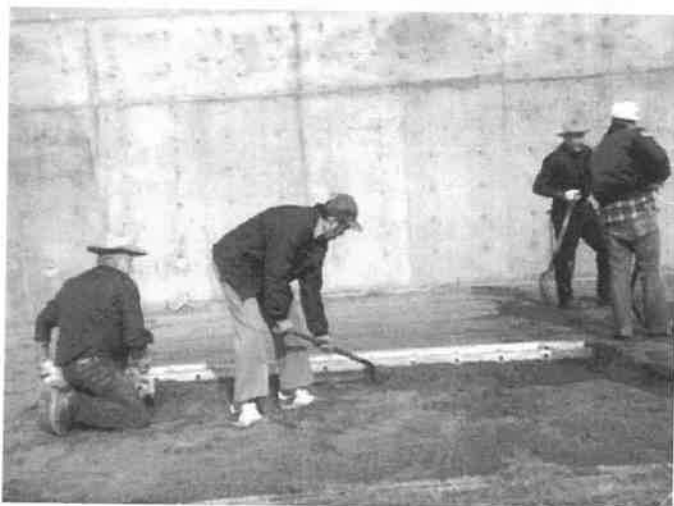
The North wall after the forms came off.
We were all proud of the job

Looking north over the future ball field to
the north wall form of the building.



South wall footings and wall forms.

Frank Douglas, Bob Lovett and Tom Roberts
level the base for pouring the concrete floors.



Footings Laid



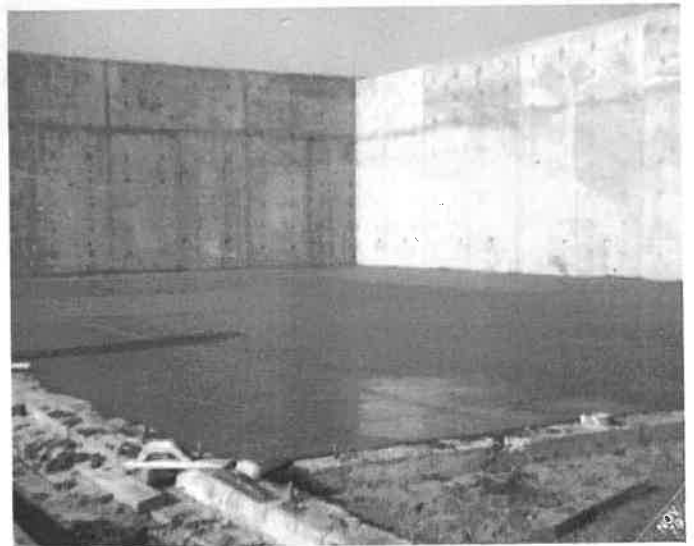
Tom Roberts, Bob Lovett, Johnnie Lovett and helper lay out footings.

Getting it straight and true. Tom Roberts, Ron Baker and others.

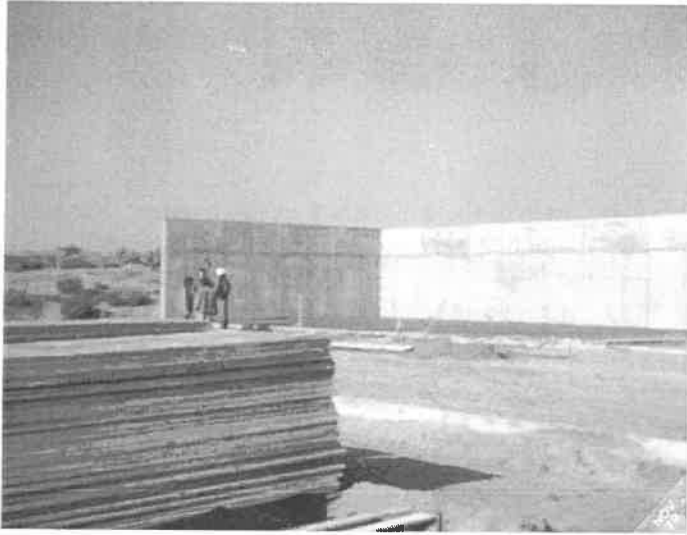


Pouring concrete floors. Facing the camera is Virgil DeChand, facing away is Marvin Haws.

Finished concrete floor and wall.



Framing Goes Up



Lumber delivered, ready for the walls.

Up go the walls!



Framing the South side.

Building takes on second floor.

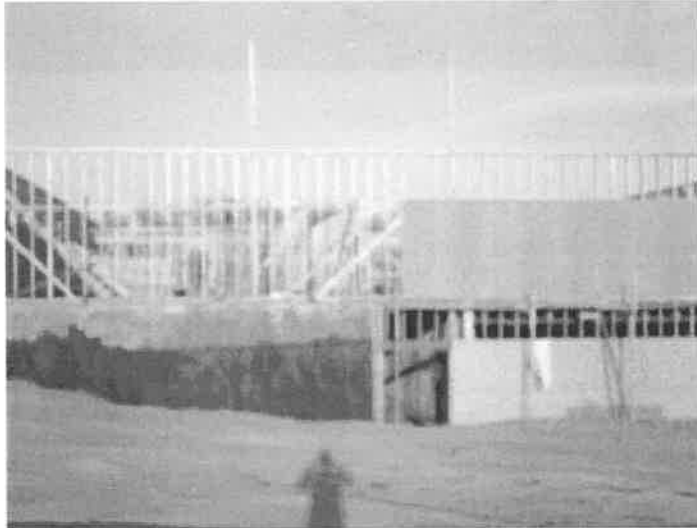


Second Floor Added



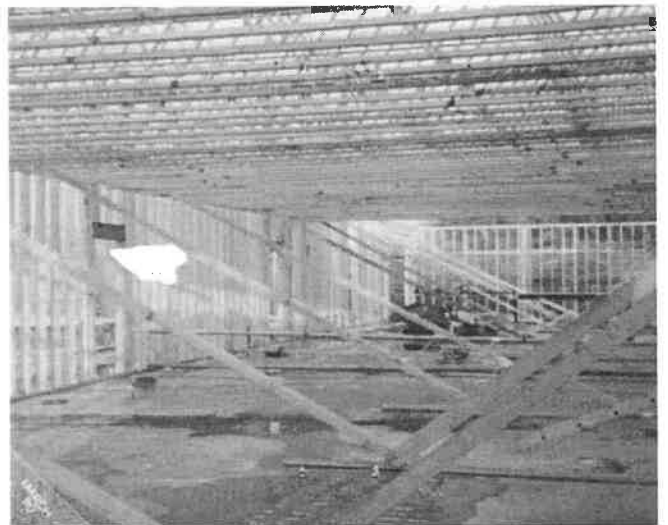
This is a classic of the enthusiasm of the women. Here Mayme Dumond and Claradale mix and apply sealer. Mayme was 75 yrs old when this picture was taken.

Second floor gets framed. Looking from the northeast. Taken spring 1980.



Second floor from the west. Note sealer on concrete wall.

Ceiling trusses added on second floor.



On Goes the Roof



Preparing sections of the roof trusses on ground before lifting by crane into place.

Crane lifts final roof section into place. Done August, 1980.



Another view of crane placing final roof section into place.

Final roof section in place.

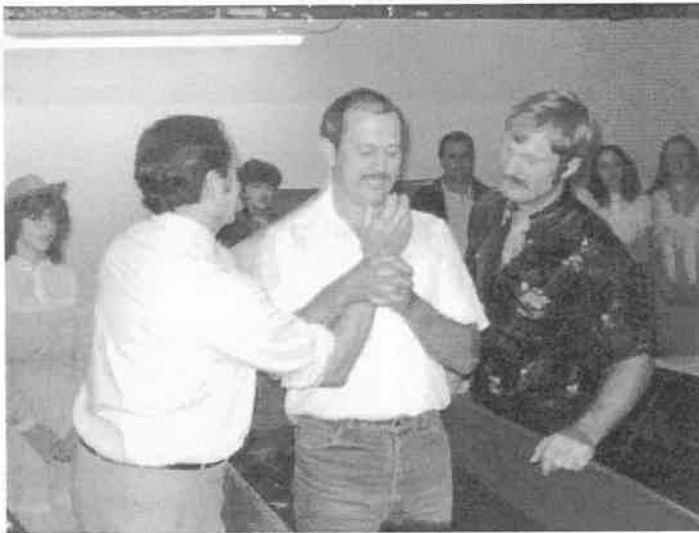


Baptisms at Holy Hill



In 1980, while the building was being built, a baptism service was held outside. A backhoe was used to dig a trench and then covered with plastic and filled with water made for our first baptism. Here Bob Lovett baptizes a new convert.

Bob Lovett baptizes Dave Conklin on Holy Hill.



After the building was complete, Ron Waters built a large tank which was used for baptisms downstairs. Here Bob Lovett baptizes a new convert with Rick Drake assisting.

Bob Lovett baptizes a new convert with Rick Drake assisting.



School Street Carolers



Street carolers

Warbling youngsters in grades two through eight from the Interfaith Christian School in Hermiston sang Christmas carols and other happy songs on Main Street Wednesday to entertain shoppers. The choir will be singing at 7:30 tonight in the school's rendition of "A Christmas Carol."

Christian School, Upper Grades, 1980-81



Interfaith Christian School. Grades 7 - 12, 1980-81.

Christian School, Lower Grades, 1980-81



Interfaith Christian School, Grades 2 - 6, 1980-81.

Christian School, Kindergarten, First Grade, 1980-81



Interfaith Christian School, Kindergarten & 1st grade, 1980-81.

Outstanding Students - 1980-81



Rick Drake presents awards to outstanding students in his learning center in 1980-81.

School Staff - 1980-81



Interfaith Christian School staff left to right:

First Row:

Erin Lovett, Linda Nofsinger, Mary Meyers, Loretta Richardson, Pauline Craig, Rod Hardin, Cecelia Dickenson and Jane Baker

Second Row:

Maricel Micktezoma, Bev Westhaver, Ginger Watson, Ann Waide, Lorraine Lincoln and Rick Drake.

Interfaith Christian School's new Principal,
Rod Hardin.



Interfaith Christian School assembly in
sanctuary.

School Staff - 1981-82



Interfaith Christian School staff in 1981-82 left to right:

Front:

Mary Ross, Diane McDonald, Ginger Watson, Mary Meryers, Bev Westhaver & Cindy Lincoln

Back:

Lorraine Lincoln, Shawn Weaver, Ron Reigard, Mike Koufas, Larry Benson, Bob Lovett, Rod Hardin and Jane Baker

Middle Grades - 1981-82



Interfaith Christian School, Grade 4 - 6, 1981-82.

Upper Grades - 1981-82



Interfaith Christian School, Grade 7 - 12, 1981-82.

School Staff - 1983-84



Interfaith Christian School Staff 1983-84 Left to Right:

Front:

Mary Meryers, Carolee Price, Stuart Dick, Warren Rogers, Garry Price, Debbie Picker and Aileen Ware

Back:

Cecelia Kickenson, Jackie McDonald, Mary Ross, Glenn McMurray Rod Hardin, Sheila Hardin & Maxine Rogers

Older Learning Center - 1983-84



Interfaith Christian School, Older Learning Center, 1983-84.

Middle Learning Center - 1983-84



Interfaith Christian School, Middle Learning Center, 1983-84.

Younger Learning Center - 1983-84



Interfaith Christian School, Younger Learning Center, 1983-84.

Kindergarten - 1983-84



Interfaith Christian School, Kindergarten, 1983-84.

Our First Pastor - Bob Lovett

A WORD ABOUT OUR PASTOR.

REV. BOB LOVETT

When the Lord placed a unique call upon Pastor Bob Lovett by sending him to Hermiston, Oregon, only the Holy Spirit knew the potential that would be awakened through his ministry. Out of it came the formation of Interfaith with a unique vision that has challenged our Christian growth and opened doors as we dared to knock. The guidance, enlightenment, power of the word, and exhortation brought to us by Pastor Bob has enriched our lives and molded our body together binding it closer with love, understanding and the guidance of His Holy Spirit. From every walk of life we have come to love and appreciate Pastor Bob and thank him for changing our lives and showing us a pathway towards a deeper relationship with our Lord. We also share the same sentiments about Agnes who has shared with Bob this special call upon their lives and has been a true helpmate to Bob and all of us.



Pastor Bob in Action



Bob Lovett teaching on the campground to those attending Basic Youth in Portland. Taken in 1975 or 76 at campground by the Sandy River in Troutdale.



Bob Lovett preaching in the new sanctuary, 1980s.



Bob Lovett in his study after being presented a new cup.



Bob Lovett and church honors Sheila Hardin after 1985 Sunday School Christmas Program for all her hard and dedicated work.

Agnes Lovett



Agnes and Bob Lovett.

No doubt our favorite grand ladies: Agnes Lovett and Mary Meyers at a church picnic at McNary Park.



Agnes Lovett takes a break at the Ainesworth Campground where a group camped to attend Basic Youth Conflicts, 1979.

Left to Right: Bob Lovett, Frank Douglas, James Hunt and Agnes Lovett at Basic Youth Conflicts Seminar in 1979.



Associate Pastor Glenn McMurray



Pastor Glenn decked out to serve along with Paul George.

Awards Ceremony featuring Rod Hardin, Glenn McMurray, Sheila Hardin and Maxine Rogers.



Sunday School Christmas Play 1983. Pastor Glenn is Santa Claus and Rod Hardin.

School Assembly 1985-86.



The Lighted Cross



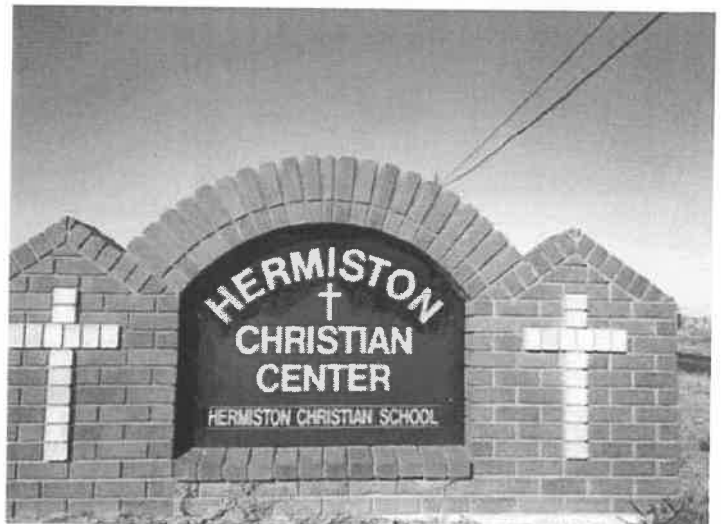
The lighted Cross, a distinction of our sanctuary. Given as a memorial to E. Markham Baker.

Rod Hardin and Bob Lovett conduct school assembly with cross in the background.



Rick and Cecelia Drake sing at a school assembly.

Our first outdoor sign built by Dave Melville.



School Action



Rod Hardin, School Principal, depicted as in charge.

Upper Learning Center with Dave Melville.

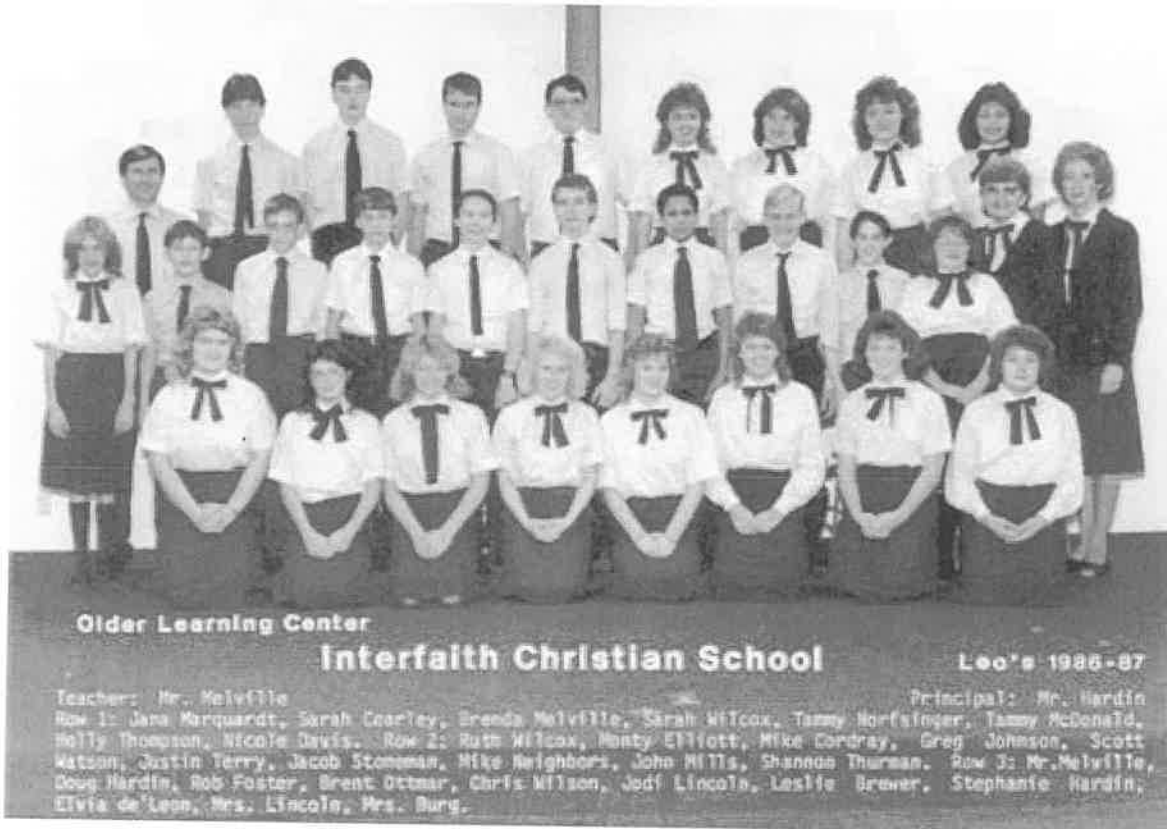


Irv Elliot, combined church and school administrator.

Irv Elliot, coach, passes out awards to players.



Christian School - 1986-87



Older Learning Center

Interfaith Christian School

Leo's 1986-87

Teacher: Mr. Melville

Principal: Mr. Hardin

Row 1: Jana Marquardt, Sarah Cearley, Brenda Melville, Sarah Wilcox, Tammy Nofsinger, Tammy McDonald, Holly Thompson, Nicole Davis. Row 2: Ruth Wilcox, Monty Elliott, Mike Cordray, Greg Johnson, Scott Watson, Justin Terry, Jacob Stommair, Mike Neighbors, John Mills, Shanna Thurman. Row 3: Mr. Melville, Doug Hardin, Rob Foster, Brent Ottmar, Chris Wilson, Jeff Lincoln, Leslie Brewer, Stephanie Hardin, Elvia de Leon, Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Burg.



Middle Learning Center

Interfaith Christian School

Leo's 1986-87

Teacher: Mr. Hardin

Principal: Mr. Hardin

Row 1: Lisa Elliott, Melanie Thurman, Jennie Crossland, Jason Fenley, Gregory Hardin, Erin Mills, Charity Bym, Barbie Nofsinger. Row 2: David Melville, Joshua McDonald, Stephen Stogner, Mike Thurman, Emmet Bym, Danny Buergo, Jeremy Cearley, Joseph Reeves, Brandon Horn. Row 3: Mrs. Ware, Mrs. Nofsinger, Charlotte Cordray, Pattie Burg, Charlynn Torre, Cindy Allan, Angie Wilson, Jamie McDonald, Suzie Burg, Mr. Hardin, Mrs. Meyer.

Christian School - 1987-88



Christian School - K - 2 - 1987-88



Grades K-2

Interfaith Christian Center

Leo's 1987-88

Teacher: Mrs. Anne Melville

Principal: Mr. Rod Hardin

Row 1: Kishauna Weber, Kristen Powell, Carissa Weber, Scott Thurman, Juan Sandoval, Yelinda Inocencio

Row 2: Mrs. Debra Wilson, Tiffaine Carrick, Aaron McFarland, Kristie Carrick, Nathaniel Banks,

Matthew Turner, Kathy dela Cruz, Mrs. Peggy Connor. Row 3: Sara Wilson, Joy Quinlan, Daniel Fenley,

Tammy Thurman, Rachel Hardie. Not Pictured: Mrs. Melville

School Sports



Irv Elliot with School Cross Country Team, 1985-86.

School Playground.



The Eagles junior basketball team, 1985-86.

The Eagles in a basketball game, 1985-86.



Track Meet



Christian School track meet at Umatilla Track.

Christian School track meet, Serena Baker in lead and Tawnie Watson in second.



Track Marathon at School ball field.

High jump and school track meet, Sherrie Watson is pictured.



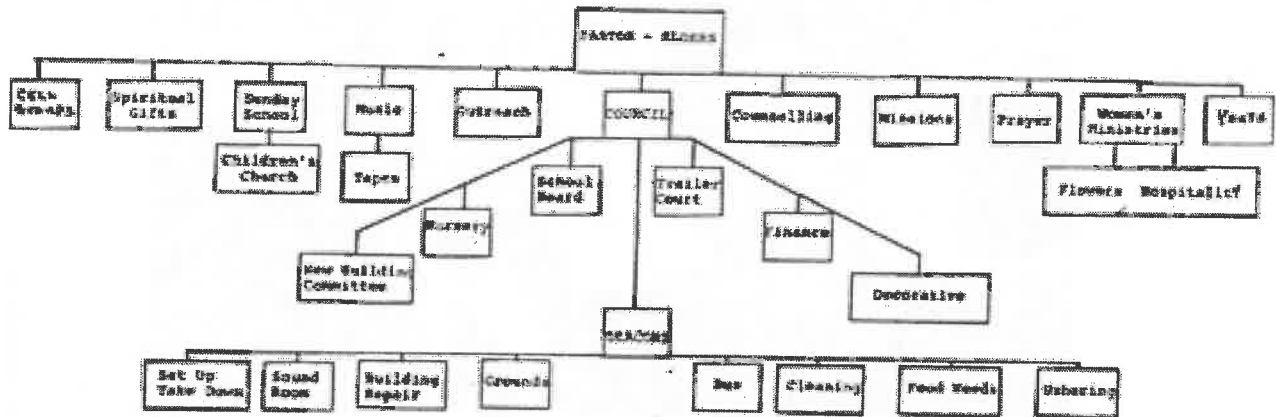
Board of Deacons - 1992



Board of Deacons taken in 1992.

Ron Nofsinger, Wallace Terry, Dan Banke, Larry Platt, Dave Melville, Berry Reeves, Max Sanchez and Darrel Marlow.

Plan of Organization



PASTOR

Bob Lovett
Al Anderson
Tom Baker
Clark Donald
Bob Hardin
Ed Sheets

CELL GROUP LEADERS

Al Anderson
Jack Lincoln
John Powell

COUNCIL

DEACONS

Don Baker
Terry Forrest
Jack Lincoln
John Powell
Harry Reeves
Tom Sawyer
Wally Terry
Judy Tenley
Dave Melville
Rick Drake
Larry Benson
Garnell Barlow

NEW BUILDING COMMITTEE

Tom Baker
Terry Forrest
Rick Drake
Marilyn Anderson
Betty Reeves
Wally Terry
Jackie McDonald
Bob Hardin
Don Baker
Irv Elliot
Ray Stauffer
Dave Melville

SCHOOL BOARD

Jack Lincoln
Don Albert
Tom Baker
Mary Meyer
Linda Terry
Rene Melville
Bob Hardin
Irv Elliot

TRUSTEE COURT

Don Baker
Dave Melville
Bob Hardin
Ed Sheets

Hardin Family

Anniversary



Couple celebrates 25 years

The children of Rod and Sheila Hardin invite you to join them in honoring their parents' 25th wedding anniversary at an open house, Sunday, Sept. 13, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Hermiston Christian Center.



Family Picture Taken in 1982

Rod, Sheila, Stephanie, Doug, Greg and Rachel

Some of the Elder Families



Ron and Jane Baker with 2 youngest children, Serena & Ray

Ron served as Elder from 1974 to 1998 and chairman of building and greenbelt committees. Jane was principal of the school from 1979-81.

Clark and Mayme Dumond

Ron served as Elder from 1974 to 1992 and Spanish teacher in the school. They started the Living Word Bookstore.



Ed and Min Sheets

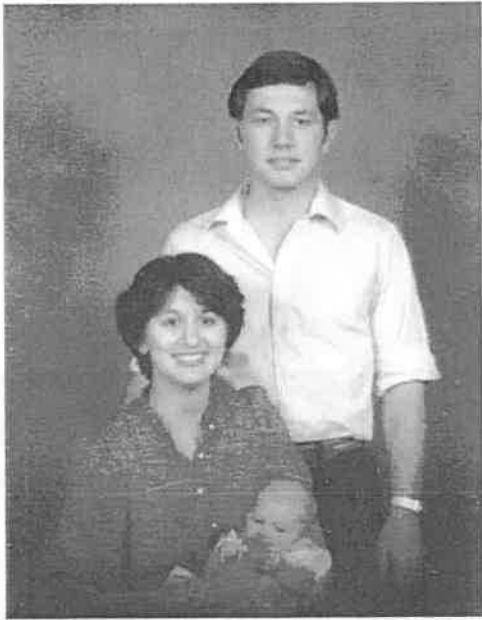
Ed served as Elder from 1974 to 1985 and was prominent in the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship.



Al and Marilyn Anderson



Church Families



Terry and Natalie Journot with Nicole taken in 1982

Terry headed putting all the heating and air conditioning in the new building. He was appointed Deacon in 1981 and then served on the Board of Directors from 1988 - 97 and from 1998 - 2002.



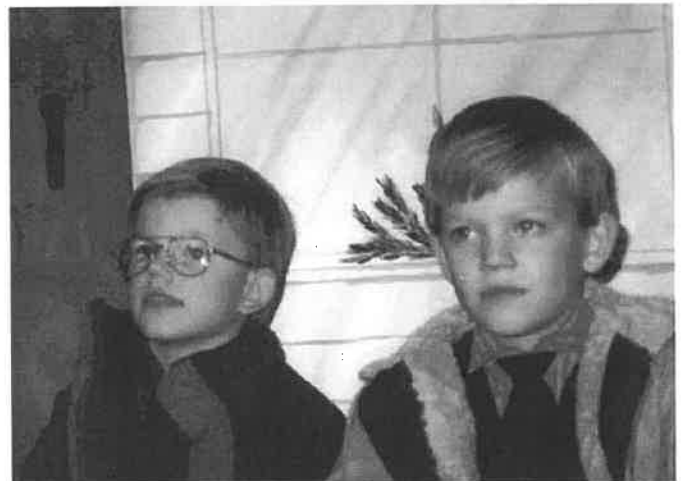
Dan and Sheila Banke with Nathaniel taken in 1982

Dan was appointed to the Board of Deacons in 1981 and elected to the Board of Directors from 1987 - 98. He was chairman of the Trailer Park Board. He and Sheila served as Sunday School Superintendents from 1982 - 1999. Sheila was the church/school bookkeeper from 1986 - 99.



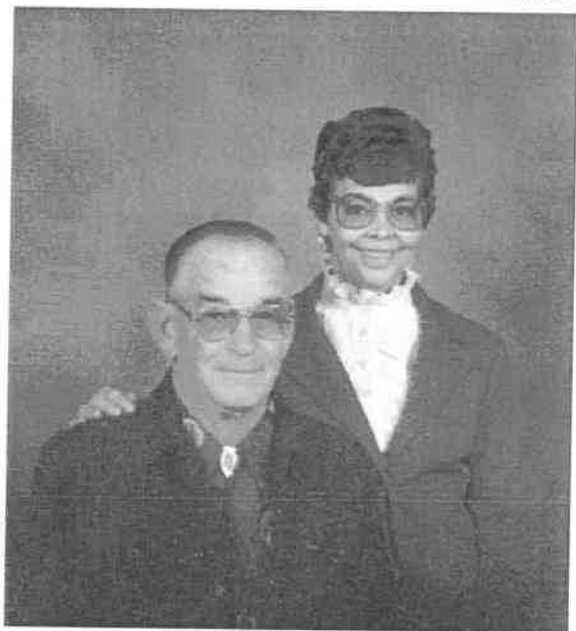
Dave and Ann Melville with David & Brenda

Dave and Ann were youth leaders and taught in the Christian School from 1982 - 89. Dave served on the Board of Directors from 1988 - 89.



Caleb (11) & Nathaniel (12) Banke attended the Christian School and grew up in the church.

More Church Families



Hubert and Dottie Fenley

Hubert was a great handy man around the church and did a lot of projects. He was elected to the Board of Directors from 1990 - 96.

Charter Member Aileen Ware

She served in many areas of the church and school: Assistant Financial Secretary, School Secretary from 1979 into the 80's. She was a real asset in writing the history of the church.



Jack and Lorraine Lincoln with Charlene & Jodi

Jack was appointed a Deacon, served as Christian School Board Chairman and served on the Board of Directors from 1986 - 90. Lorraine served on the school staff in the 80s.

Reinhold and Mabel Biske

Reinhold was appointed a Deacon in 1982 and served on many projects around the building.



More Church Families



John and Annette Powell with Christine, Michael and Andrew

John married Annette, Al and Marilyn Anderson's daughter in 1979. John served as Elder from 1986 to 92.

Pat Umphres was the "Peter" in our congregation. Spontaneous, exuberant and could do anything. He served on the Board of Deacons several times.



Pat and Marlou Umphres tending their granddaughter at a church picnic in 1981.

Never Too Old Retreat at Camp Davidson

Aileen Ware, Marjorie Vierson, Marylou Umphres,
Dottie Fenly and Viola Harner



And More Church Families



Clark and Mayme Dumond, and Mrs Elma Parkes. Clark was an original Elder from 1973 - 92. The Dumonds also started Living Word Bookstore in 1978. Elma Parkes was a good and faithful attendee of the church.

Larry and Dene Platt were participants in the Interfaith Program from 1980 - 89. Larry was appointed a Deacon in 1982. They served as Financial Secretaries from 1985 - 89.



Mike and Wanda Thurman have been active at Hermiston Christian Center and School. Mike was appointed a Deacon in 1982 and elected to the Board of Directors in 1991. Wanda has taught in the school since 1981.

Roger and Carla Morter and their family have been active in the church and School since the early 90s. Roger was appointed to the Board of Directors in 1998.



Mary Meyer - A Dear Volunteer



Mary Meyer and her husband, Paul, came to Hermiston in the construction business. Paul passed away and Mary stayed as a faithful volunteer in the school from 1980 - 88. She led many of the productions and dramas for the school.

Mary Meyer in the classroom. Years of dedicated service.



Greg and Elsie Torre with twin boys John and Joseph. Greg helped with the underground irrigation on the ball field.

Pastor Bob's Retirement



Bob Lovett and Aileen Ware cut Bob's Retirement Cake in October 1988.

Bob and Agnes Lovett visit with Berry Reeves at a social at the church in 1986.



Bob Lovett receives a cup from Bob Jepsen, Heppner City Mayor, and supporter of the church.

Bob Lovett's family was a great help to his ministry. Here his son-in-law, Rick Drake, presents an award to Ray Baker in the early 80s. Standing by is Erin Lovett.



Assembly of God Affiliation

HERMISTON CHRISTIAN CENTER AFFILIATES

On September 15, 1991, the membership of Hermiston Christian Center voted to affiliate with the Oregon District of the Assemblies of God. Rev. and Mrs. Bob Rose ministered in the Sunday morning service and were available for questions during the following congregational meeting. Attitudes were positive and were expressed by 57 of the 60 ballots cast in favor of affiliation.

Affiliating with the Assemblies of God was a decision resulting from a process set in motion by the Elders. The need for a covering had been decreased on occasion by the leadership of the eighteen-year-old independent body.

The church was typical of other independent churches founded during the same period. Christians from varied denominational backgrounds thirsted for the ministry of the Holy Spirit and were being filled. A Southern Baptist pastor in town attended a Kathryn Kuhlman meeting in Portland where he witnessed a friend receive an authentic healing. The enthusiastic pastor, however, found a less than enthused endorsement of his new openness to the Gifts of the Spirit from his congregation and was asked to resign his church.

Because of the inhospitable climate toward the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the nominal churches at that time, others were asked to restrain their pursuit of the things of the Spirit or leave their churches. A disfellowshipped pastor, a group of Full-Gospel believers, all unwelcome in their churches, came together to

form Interfaith Christian Center. The name was recently changed to **Hermiston Christian Center.**



After facing the crisis of change in pastoral leadership the question of affiliation surfaced once again. Pastor Ron Lewis, an Assemblies of God minister was called by the church to serve as Senior Pastor on February 1, 1988. This opened up avenues of fellowship that the church enjoyed such as summer youth camps. Because of continued isolation from a covering body, the desire was apparent once again to be involved with an affiliation. It was obvious that the Holy Spirit was directing the church toward the Assemblies of God.

An opportunity was made available by the Sectional Presbyter Harvey Schenaut and the Oregon District to discuss affiliation. Superintendent Gallaher was invited to meet with the leadership of the church. A congregational meeting followed with open discussion. There was a vote of the Board of Directors and a final vote by the congregation to bring the process to a conclusion.

Hermiston Christian Center is located in the city limits on the west side, a 20,000 sq. ft. facility positioned on

40 acres with an indebtedness of only \$40,000. The church is made up of a constituency of about 200 people with a Sunday morning worship attendance average of 130 and 60 voting members.



Left to right: Jenna, Joanna, Ron, Hope and Lindsay in front.



Pictured are elders (front row) and Board of Directors.

The unique ministry that the church offers to the community is a K-12 Christian Day School, the only one in Hermiston. Rod Hardin has served as principal for 11 of the 12 years it has operated.

Hermiston Christian Center is not only excited about the District covering and programs they will enjoy but intends to contribute to the fellowship. They plan to be involved in Shared Responsibility from the beginning of this relationship. The leadership of Hermiston Christian Center is thankful for the kindness of the Oregon District and the constituents of Hermiston Assembly of God and Pastor Harvey Schenaut for opening the door of fellowship.

Page 13.

FORWARD

Hermiston Christian Center affiliates with the Assemblies of God.

Affiliation Pictures



The Lewis family; Jonna, Joanna, Ron, Hope and Lindsay. This picture was taken at the time of affiliation with the Assemblies of God.



Board of Deacons and Directors at the time of affiliation with the Assemblies of God.

Front: Ron Baker, Rod Hardin, Ron Nofsinger, Ron Lewis, John Powell, Clark Dumond and Al Anderson
Back: Joe Ashbeck, Mike Thurman, Pat Umphres, Bob Rose, Dan Banke, Paul DeleCrus and Terry Journot

Church Pictures - 1993



Eastern front of the church taken in 1993 before the change in colors.

Western front of the church taken in 1993 before the change in colors.



Pastor Mike Johnson's Office.

Youth group in 1992 led by Jane Baker, Terry Journot and Marti Baker. They made the poster with their feet.



Pastor Mike Johnson in Action



Pastor Mike Johnson taken with Dottie Fenley and Marjorie Vierson in 1996 at Never Too Old Retreat at Camp Davidson.

Pastor Mike at a church gathering. Hubert Fenley and Mayme Dumond in front. 1993.



Pastor Mike visiting with Roger Morter. Marylou Umphres and Clark Dumond visiting in the background.

Pastor Mike and Board Director Jim Sheffield at a church picnic in 1996.



Easter Program - 1994



Marti Baker leads the Easter Program in 1994.

The costumes of the 1994 program were outstanding.
On the right is Terry Journot and Greg Hardin



Pastor Mike leads a vote of appreciation to the cast.

Pastor Mike comments on the Easter message
portrayed by the cast presentation.



Greenbelt Dedication



Pastor Mike leads the circle of dedication after planting the greenbelt as part of Palm Sunday service in 1995.

The congregation encircled the sign as a the center-piece of the greenbelt and sang praises for this big improvement to our church frontage.



Everyone pitched in planting the variety of shrubs which have distinguished the greenbelt.

Chairman Ron Baker packs the layout master plan for the greenbelt. Individuals in the congregation funded the shrubs.



Members Plant the Greenbelt



One of our last pictures of Clark Dumond planting his contribution to the greenbelt.

Sharon Reynolds and Dottie Fenley planting their shrubs.



More of the circle of the congregation.

Carla Morter, Sheila Banke and children plant the island in the front of the church.



More Greenbelt Planting



The Journot family planting their section of the greenbelt.

Pastor Steve Frerichs, our worship leader,
working on the greenbelt.



I'll sit here in the shade, the little Naylor boy thinks
as his parents plant shrubs.

Mary Lou Umphres and Judy Dike planting the greenbelt.



Keenagers



Dinner at Marjorie Vierson's

Aileen Ware, Mary Lou Umphres, Sybil Huff, Marjorie Vierson, Pastor Mike Johnson, Dottie and Hubert Fenley

Keenagers trip to Dry Falls, Washington in 1996

Jane Baker, Aileen Ware, Dottie and Hubert Fenley and Marjorie Vierson



Keenagers trip to Camp Davidson in 1996

Hubert and Dottie Fenley, Marjorie Vierson, Aileen Ware and Clark Dumond

Keenagers trip to Camp Davidson in 1996

Hubert Fenley, Marjorie Vierson, Dottie Fenley and Aileen Ware



Pastor Mike Johnson Leaves



Pastor Mike Johnson and Family taken in December 2000, two years after leaving Hermiston Christian Center.

Pastor Mike and Tami
Zack, Lauren and Kyle



The Rev. Mike Johnson will retire as pastor of the Hermiston Christian Center Oct. 25.

Pastor to leave growing church

By Joyce Hensley
of the Hermiston Herald

HERMISTON — The Rev. Mike Johnson will give his last sermon Sunday in the Hermiston Christian Center, where he has served for six years.

Johnson resigned to take the pastorate of the First Assembly of God Church in Bend. He will serve as senior pastor for the 300-member church.

"It should be a real challenge," Johnson said.

The Christian Center, which also houses a Christian school, was Johnson's first experience as a senior pastor.

During his time at the church, its membership has more than doubled.

"We started with 65," Johnson said. "The congregation is now

170. The people put their backs into the work. I just happened to be here during this time. The congregation has grown because of the attitude and friendliness of the original group here in the church. But, God brought the most change. I believe He has blessed this place."

Johnson served previously as associate pastor for the Kings Circle Assembly of God Church in Corvallis.

While serving as pastor of the Christian Center, Johnson earned a doctorate of ministry from the Northwest Graduate School of the Ministry in Kirkland, Washington.

"This has been a great church," he said. "I hate to leave."

A community-wide reception will be held for Johnson from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday in the CRC Building.

Pastor Chris Barker Arrives

Pastor assumes post at center

By The Hermiston Herald

HERMISTON — Pastor Chris Barker has assumed the senior pastorate of Hermiston Christian Center and School.

He fills the position vacated by Pastor Mike Johnson who assumed the pastorate of Bend First Assembly in November.

Barker comes to Hermiston from Dallas, where he had ministered for the past three years in the position of senior associate and music pastor at Valley Life Center, sister church in the Assemblies of God.

His ministry journey has taken him from his start as a junior high puppet team member at Salem Christian Center to serving in var-



Barker

ious associate pastor positions in Anchorage, Alaska, Wilmington, California, Rogue River and Dallas.

From the time he felt the call of God upon his life at the age of 12, Pastor Chris, as the congregation calls him, has ministered in one aspect or another — including puppet ministry, Christian education, senior adult ministries and music, both instrumental and vocal.

Barker has also coordinated

camps and conventions, and produced musical and drama productions.

Barker met his wife of 13 years, Crystal, while a student at Salem Christian Center Academy.

"It was love at first sound after our music teacher put us together for a vocal duet," he said.

He and Crystal are the parents of two daughters — Bethany, 4, and Katie, 2. As a family, their main hobby is music.

Having come from the Willamette Valley, Barker is often asked what he thinks of Hermiston. His joking reply is, "At least we're dry!" He said he sees Hermiston as a wonderful place to live, serve and raise his family.

Pastor Chris Barker becomes Pastor of Hermiston Christian Center.

Never Too Old Retreat at Camp Davidon

Mabel Bishke, Aileen Ware, Dottie Fenley and Pastor Chris



The staff of Hermiston Christian Center in 1999

Dan & Eileen Sproule, Crystal & Chris Barker, Sheila & Rod Hardin, Joey Duff and Robin Bozeman

The staff of Hermiston Christian Center in 2002

Dan & Eileen Sproule, Beverly & Gilberto Hernandez, Sheila & Rod Hardin, Stephanie Evans, Chris & Crystal Barker and Joey Duff

