

THE GREINERS

Church Planters to Montana



Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas to all our supporting churches! It is so hard to believe that it is already December. Southwest Montana has had some warm weather the past two weeks which hardly makes it feel like winter when we are used to much colder temperatures.

Our goal these past few months has been to build relationships between the two churches that we are bringing together. We desire for the church to have a spirit of unity between all of the members that come which means the focus these next few months will be a bit more of an inward focus as we try to help people not feel jealous of new people who come. We began praying that God would give us wisdom on how to best bring the two churches together.

Harvest Fest in October went well. It was our first big church event which was very stretching for both of us but the congregation enjoyed it immensely. Our main focus in having the Harvest Fest was to encourage relationships between both groups of people. We did not feel especially successful with that goal but it was very encouraging to see people get involved and stick around for the activities and meal.

At the start of November, Caleb began to preach on systematic theology covering several subjects in the constitution. This will hopefully help people be prepared once we begin the process of membership. There were several changes we made throughout the church with decorations and creating a foyer area. We also emptied out several of the classrooms downstairs so they will be ready for renovations. During the month of November we began to talk to people about the name change, the pros and cons they felt toward taking Smelter City Baptist Church's name and other feelings. We discovered that for some of the older people there was a bad connotation with the smelter. This was because when it had shut down many jobs were lost, and it really hurt the community. With that knowledge, we continued to pray about what the Lord would have us to do. In mid-November we began Wednesday night Bible study and Friday morning Bible study; we are excited to see the fruit that will begin to come from this in time. On the Sunday before Thanksgiving we had a Thanksgiving potluck and praise time with the whole church. Both church groups were mingling and talking together. It was such a blessing to see a small answer to prayer for more church unity.

December brought the announcement of our new name to the church, and it was amazing to see excitement in people. The church's new name will be Valleypoint Baptist Church ("A point of hope in our valley.") We are so excited to finally have a direction we can start preparing for. The new logo and church name is shown on our announcement slideshow every Sunday morning and we have had good questions about our goals for the church in this upcoming year. We also had our first ladies meeting this past Saturday and the ladies are very excited about making it a regular occurrence in the months to come. Currently we have about an average of 35 people coming on Sunday mornings, which has been a blessing. We are excited to see what God has for our church in the upcoming months.

We ask for your prayers as we begin to get the materials together for Valleypoint Baptist Church. Our goal through the next few months is to create material with the new name of our church, get our website updated, rename the church with the secretary of state, and many more things. We appreciate you partnering with us in prayer as we begin this journey.

Yours in Christ,

Caleb & Alyssa Greiner