

MOVING FORWARD

... in southern New Jersey

Our church's theme song of recent months has been a chorus by Penny Ford, "God Is Helping His Children," for that is just what He has been doing! We have been blessed to marvel at how the Lord has helped us miraculously meet our financial obligations without fail, to watch the progress of some new converts, and to welcome new attendees, including Mike and Heidi, Sharon, Matt, Shirley, Linda, Jim, Erica, Keith, Sally, Joe, and others! We have especially been enjoying our Wednesday night prayer meeting and Bible study. We meet informally around the dining room table in the parsonage; it has been so spiritually helpful to everyone! In addition to this, we have been holding a monthly Friday night prayer meeting with two other area churches, specifically to pray for revival in South Jersey.

In April 2005 we were recognized as "Volunteers of the Year!" A plaque for the church and a nice dinner were given to us by the nursing home that we have ministered in monthly for 18 years.

Another wonderful blessing, something that had been a dream for a few years, was made possible last fall. Due to the generous memorial gifts for three of our precious saints who went to heaven, we were able to have a large, attractive, lighted sign made and installed in the front yard of our church in November 2004. We waited for warmer weather, then on Sunday morning, June 5, 2005, we had a beautiful service to dedicate the sign in memory of Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Florence (Bolton) Green. We

also dedicated the lovely stone planter box in memory of Miss Martha Jones. At this service, which also marked our 32nd anniversary, we re-dedicated our newly remodeled church. Mrs. Abigail Zimmerman and family were honored for donating the new carpet for our sanctuary. We had several family members and friends present for this wonderful time of remembrance, after which we had "dinner on the grounds" using the parsonage carport. It was a time to reflect on where we started and why we are still here, but also a time to look ahead to what God still wants to do for us!

More recently, on September 18, 2005, we had another exciting day that we had been looking forward to for some time. Rev. and Mrs. Rod Wells were here to share with us from Brazil, and we again had "dinner on the grounds." Following was a baptismal service, at which Rev. Mills and Rev. Wells presided. How the church family rejoiced, along with the family and friends of the baptismal candidates, as we heard the touching testimonies given by Danett Bolton, JoDenise Muller, Jeff Donnally, and Shirley Lambert. God has surely been working in their lives, and what a blessing they have been to our church! Yes, God is helping His children — and we praise Him!

—Submitted by Sr. Karen Mills

