

James Lusby
December 2016 Report

Van Buren 2016 Year End Report

During the year two families asked to be identified with the congregation and two were baptized into Christ but we lost some who have been transferred or have moved to new jobs in other places. However, the membership attendance on the Lord's Day is now running in the thirties (when everyone is here) and when we have visitors (which we seen to have almost every Sunday) it is up in the forties or fifties. Our prayers are that 2017 will even be a better year for the Lord. We continue to visit with the local visitors and it is our hope that we will be able to encourage and study with them so that they will become faithful to the Lord.

On Sunday morning, our Bible Classes during the last half of the year were taken from different books of the Bible with special emphasis on growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. Wednesday evening classes were designed to examine practical applications of that knowledge. Our goal was to help brethren to be better able to put into practice what was learned.

We also, during the first have of the year we continued our studies from the book by E. Glen Barnhart, "Attitudes and Reactions to Congregational Problems." It is my belief, that such studies can be of great held in changing the attitudes of some from only thinking about "me" and be more concerned for the welfare of the church. Time will tell.

Mardi and I had personal Bible studies in our home on Tuesday and Thursday nights in the spring and in the fall. We also plan to continue the studies in our home in 2017.

The congregation's heating units went out the last week of February and the air conditioners went out during services the last of August and because of the extreme cold and then the heat we had to shorten services both in the morning and evening. However, even though the units are no longer manufactured we were able to find the boards needed to make them work.

Also, we were able to repair the sign. The wiring and other parts had to be replaced. Now people can see that we exist and find the time of our services.

Mardi and I appreciate very much your continued fellowship with us in the effort here in Van Buren. May our Lord bless you in your work for Him.

Brotherly,
James Lusby