

Greetings from your friends at The Gathering in Harrison:

May the peace and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts today and every day. We wish to thank you for your prayers and support on behalf of The Gathering as we have worked to become a “New Place for New Faces” and to fulfill our purpose statement: “To glorify God by sharing God’s Grace, and Gather God’s people so that everyone may grow and give God’s Gift to others.”

The Kids Ministry and Education Team have been hard at work seeking to fulfill that purpose statement. The VBS program continues to grow and produce fruit. This summer attendance was up with a total attendance for the week of over 100 children with 25 children attending every session, representing an increase of 10 over last year. Of those attending 15 had never been to The Gathering before. The number of adults volunteering to assist has also increased.

The Youth are also busy at The Gathering. We have begun meeting on a regular basis; and this fall spent quite a bit of time helping people of the community rake leaves and get ready for winter. We currently have 10 youth participating in Confirmation Studies that will culminate at Easter. These young people are currently in the process of planning a “30 Hour Famine” through World Vision, to draw attention in our community to the global food crisis; and to raise funds in an effort to do our part toward alleviating that crisis. Through the efforts of these teams we have seen the number of children and youth at Sunday School Classes increase as well.

Servant Evangelism holds a place very dear to the hearts of The Gathering’s congregation and this team continues to be very active. The Gathering’s food pantry has grown and we are experiencing tremendous support from the Harrison community. Over 150 families have received boxes representing over 750 meals distributed in 2011. The Gathering is also one of the founding groups of the Mobile Food Pantry effort in Clare County. The Servant Evangelism Team at the Gathering in conjunction with the Community Nutrition Network are hosting a food truck in Clare county once a month and to date we have distributed over 48,000 lbs of fresh produce and staples to 698 families. 50 different people from our fellowship have volunteered their time in support of this effort. The S.E.T. and the Gathering ladies continue to raise funds through various projects in support of outreach and benevolence. This year we also expanded our presence in the community through efforts at community events and the County fair. Three cases of Bibles were distributed during fair week alone at our booth.

This activity is not just about keeping busy. Our goal is to share God’s grace with this community. We are blessed as we see new people, both seniors and young families attending meal and worship opportunities and new lives being dedicated to Christ. We are celebrating five adult Baptisms and two professions of faith last year; as well as several persons preparing to take membership classes.

The Building and Property Care Team is working hard to upgrade and improve our facility so we may better serve God’s people. We are currently planning to upgrade minimal kitchen facilities and to refurbish an area that the youth group can call its own.

This ministry would not be possible without your prayers and financial support; and I cannot express enough how much your support has been and is appreciated. Your continued support will help us continue reaching out to this community. We would like to invite you to stop in and visit us at The Gathering to see first hand what we are about. We would be glad to come and share our story with your congregation as well. Contact Pastor Mike at [pastormike@gatherchurch.org](mailto:pastormike@gatherchurch.org) or call the church at (989) 539-1445.

Thank you again for the blessing you are in the lives of our members and to the people of the Harrison area.

Blessings,  
Pastor Mike Simon