



# Susquehanna Valley

## BAPTIST CHURCH

*Brandon, Valerie & Lucas*

**THE STARNES FAMILY: *Planting for the Harvest* in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

February – March 2012

We just completed a series of messages entitled “New Things for a New Year.” We covered several items in this 8 week series. As I reflect on these messages and look forward to the spring, I am assured that the greatest need we have is a closer walk with our Holy, All-knowing, and All-Powerful God. It has been nearly 18 months since the Lord allowed us to plant the Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church. I cannot thank God enough for the difficulties and blessings that He has allowed us to experience. The past few months have brought new challenges, but great reward.

Last fall, we completed a 6-week door-knocking campaign in our community of Linglestown. In those weeks, we were able to knock 385 doors. Through these initial door-knocks, we were able to make several new contacts in our area. I spent most of November – February following up on these contacts. As a result of these efforts, I have been able to present the Gospel to nearly 1 dozen people. We will be resuming our door-knocking efforts on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Please pray as we seek to plant and water the Gospel seed and trust God for the increase.

We were thrilled with the response to our Christmas Cantata (a joint effort of the Heritage Baptist Church and our church). We had an excellent attendance with several unsaved folks in the congregation who were given a clear presentation of the gospel- from the birth of Christ to the cross of Christ! We also had a mini missions conference with dvd presentations from two missionaries who are special friends of the church during which time we took up faith promise commitments for the coming year. Pray for us as our theme for 2012 is "From Jerusalem to the Uttermost." It is so important that we continue to evangelize in our "Jerusalem"- God has planted this church in a city with great need!

We were privileged to hold a song-leading seminar conducted by Bro. Rob Greer on Saturday, January 14, and I believe there will be great results from his teaching. It is an encouragement to see church members eager to perfect their ministry!

We are very excited about some of the upcoming plans that we have. We are scheduled to have our first ever revival meetings next month. The dates are April 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup>. We will start the meetings with a Friends & Family Day and pray to see some new faces from the community. In the month of May, we will be working with our sending church (Heritage Baptist) in a Bible Conference designed to minister to the family. The family unit was ordered by God and is under direct attack today. Please keep both of these upcoming meetings in prayer. Our family is doing well. Lucas and Meridyth are learning the value of getting along and sharing! They both are growing very quickly. Lucas turned 4 on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Meri will turn 2 on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

I want to leave this letter with some prayer requests. Please join us in praying diligently for Zdenko V. (salvation), Jim & Amanda (salvation), and for the church to continue to grow. On another note, we request that you pray for our family's personal support level. Over the past several months, we have had some churches unexpectedly reduce or drop our support because of needs within their own assembly. At just over a year old, SVBC currently does not have the resources to compensate this shortfall. We trust the Lord will continue to care for us as He has undoubtedly done so far!

We simply stand amazed at the great God that has called us into this place of service. We count it a grand opportunity to “Serve the Lord with Gladness: (and) come before His presence with singing.” (Ps. 100.2)

Serving God With Gladness,

W. Brandon Starnes & Family  
Psalm 138.8