

# Carbondale Bible Fellowship



June, 2003

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Pastor Schmidt in his office at the Ministry Center

## CBF Moves to Carbondale

Excitement filled the air as Carbondale Bible Fellowship met for the first time in their new location on January 19, 2003. Through the ministry funds provided by First Baptist Church of Marilla and through the giving of this local body of believers, CBF was able to rent two 2<sup>nd</sup> floor suites in a professional building in downtown Carbondale. (See picture above. (Our space is the right window area above the Law Office.) The building even has its own elevator. The space is ideal for the current needs of CBF. One suite hosts the weekly Bible study, while the other suite, consisting of 2 rooms, is a perfect fit for Pastor's study and nursery/ladies' quilting room. The "ministry center" has already been used on several occasions outside of the normal Sunday use. These occasions include weekly ladies' Bible Study/Quilting meetings on Tuesday evenings, a bridal shower, a baby shower, counseling sessions as well as planning/study time for Pastor James.

## In The Beginning...

Bible Studies for the New Year began with a chapter by chapter study of Genesis. James has worked diligently to bring this portion of Scripture alive and to show the progression of God's plan since the beginning of time. In April, we left Genesis for a brief study in Luke leading up to the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Christ. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, we returned to Genesis, picking up in chapter 25 with the life of Jacob. Although many of the accounts in Genesis are very familiar, the people have commented on how interesting it is to see all the puzzle pieces fit together. Praise God for His timeless WORD!!!



Fellowship Dinner at the Ministry Center

Carbondale Bible Fellowship is a church plant sponsored by First Baptist Church of Marilla, New York.

The church planting team consists of the following individuals:

Pastor & Mrs. James Schmidt,  
Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Decker,  
Mr. & Mrs. Nate Harmon, and  
Heather Stanquist

# Christmas Takes on a New Meaning

**D**ecember 22, 2002 was a cold Sunday morning. As the time neared for people to arrive for Bible Study that day, an unfamiliar car pulled up. Inside was a lady with 4 children and a dog. Seeking a place of refuge, she came to the lodge to stay for a few days. Following prayer and consultation with others, the Schmidts decided to open their home to this family. Since the lodge was booked over the upcoming weekend, the family moved into the Schmidts' basement apartment on Christmas Eve. This year was significant as the Schmidts had decided that they would not spend Christmas with either side of their family. Rather, they determined to stay home and have Christmas with the people of CBF. So, Christmas Eve was a festive occasion as this lady and her four children joined the Schmidts and several other individuals from CBF for a turkey dinner.

Christmas morning was filled with joy as provisions had been made so that the children had gifts to open. This Christmas reminded the Schmidts of how God took them in and loved them as His own. This family, who had been complete strangers just 3 days before, became part of the Schmidt household from December 24<sup>th</sup> until January 22<sup>nd</sup>. God provided for their needs and protected them from grave danger. The children were able to hear the Gospel and to sit under the teaching of God's Word on several occasions. Although contact has not been maintained, we trust that the family will remember God's Word and the love that was shown to them while they were on the mountain with the Schmidts.

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## A Church Begins to Form!!

Just 18 months ago, a small Bible study met in the trailer of James and Andrea Schmidt. Seven people gathered together for Bible study in those beginning weeks. Now, approximately 15-20 people come together every Sunday for fellowship and for Bible Study. As we look back over the past 18 months, it is encouraging to see the progress God has allowed us to make. Since August, giving has been encouraged among the team. Although Marilla continues to support this ministry, giving from CBF has matched or exceeded the monthly support from Marilla. In January, CBF began renting a building. (See CBF Moves to Carbondale). Spiritual growth is evident as individuals are beginning to seek ways in which they can serve the body. The Constitution has been drafted and is in its final stages of revision. Relationships continue to form as this body knits together to become a church.



## Dinner paves the way for more outreach

On Wednesday, June 4, 2003, CBF hosted its first outreach event. In an effort to make contact with the business community, CBF invited several community leaders to a complimentary seven course formal dinner. The menu included the following courses:

- ☞ **Appetizer:** Shrimp Remoulades and Stuffed Mushrooms
- ☞ **Soup:** Cream of Radish Leaf Soup and Deviled Eggs
- ☞ **Salad:** Green Salad with Garlic Dressing or Banana Poppy seed Dressing
- ☞ **Fish:** Broiled Haddock with Tarragon Butter
- ☞ **Sorbet:** Lemon Sorbet
- ☞ **Main Course:** Stuffed Chicken Breast with Browned Potatoes and Broccoli Stuffed Tomatoes
- ☞ **Dessert:** Linzertorte mit schlag or Chocolate Éclairs

Since the ministry center does not have a kitchen, the dinner was held at the lodge where Schmidts are the caretakers. At 6:00 p.m. as guests began to arrive, valet service was provided. Twenty-four guests were served including eighteen community individuals, who were becoming acquainted with CBF for the first time. During the meal, Dr. Colin Smith, a professor at Baptist Bible College, gave a brief lecture on morality and the business community. He explained how the church can help the local businesses. Following the dessert, guests were asked to recommend a friend for this type of event if they enjoyed the evening. Twelve names were listed for the next event. Several significant conversations took place during the evening, and at least one couple stated they may come and visit the Bible Study meeting. We are so thankful for God's blessings. Much time and effort went into this dinner, and it definitely paid off to begin to get our name out in the community.

# It's A BOY!

James Ray Schmidt, Jr.  
Born: May 25, 2003,  
at 9:22 p.m.  
Weight: 7 lbs. 7 oz.  
Length: 20 inches



We praise God for His lovingkindness and for the precious bundle He has loaned to us.

Looking back over the past couple of years, the Schmidts had yearned for a child of their own. Several times this yearning was mentioned to the individuals at Bible Study. On Sunday, September 1, 2002, the Schmidts wept before the people as they told of their longing for a child and asked for prayer in that regard. Little did they know that even then, James, Jr. had already been given to them. At Thanksgiving, CBF had a praise and testimony time. It was then that James and Andrea could announce with great joy and anticipation that God had answered their prayer and they were expecting.

On Friday, May 23, 2003, the Schmidts celebrated their fifth anniversary. Just two days later, they welcomed James, Jr. into the world. What a wonderful and timely gift!!!



Easter Service at the Lodge

## Record Attendance is noted for the Easter SonRise Service



On Sunday, April 20, 2003, Carbondale Bible Fellowship hosted a SonRise service on the mountain at the lodge. This was a joint effort with First Baptist Church of Waymart, and South Clinton Baptist Church. Pastor James Schmidt, Pastor Leo Mancini and Pastor Rand Kizer worked together to plan this year's service. Dr. Rod Decker was the speaker. Approximately 85 people attended. According to members of the other churches, this was the best year ever. Following the service, breakfast was served by the members of First Baptist Church of Waymart.



Dr. Rod Decker & Pastor James Schmidt at the Easter Service

**We appreciate your prayers and support.**

# The Church Takes a Vacation

How often can a church close its doors due to vacation? Perhaps many would find that quite odd, but that is just what took place on April 27<sup>th</sup>. There were no services held in the Ministry Center at Carbondale Bible Fellowship as 15 individuals from CBF traveled to First Baptist Church of Marilla for a "church vacation" from April 25-27, 2003. Individuals stayed in the homes of FBC members. On Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, the group went to Niagara Falls for a wonderful day of sightseeing and fellowship followed by a dinner with the deacons and wives of FBC. On Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, the group attended the early service and Sunday School hour of First Baptist Church. A brunch followed, and then the group returned to Carbondale on Sunday evening. The trip was an encouragement for all. We look forward to another vacation in the future. For pictures of our vacation, see our website (listed below).

## Upcoming Events

Please pray for us as we make plans to produce a video representing Carbondale Bible Fellowship. This video will be distributed to households where interest in our ministry is expressed.

August 5-10, 2003, First Baptist Church of Marilla is sending a team down to help with surveys and outreach.

August 9, 2003: Carbondale Parade. We plan to have a float in the parade again this year.

Another outreach dinner is planned for the late summer/fall as well.

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