

# Will & LeeAnn Groben



**Update for 07.25.13** We would like to thank everyone who has been praying for us or encouraging us the past few months. In March, a small Bible church in Pennsylvania emailed to say they would like to talk with Will about their pastorate. In early June, after three months of phone conversations, email exchanges, essays, background checks, and two trips to Pennsylvania, we accepted the call to the pastorate of the Church of the Open Bible. As the name implies, the church has a culture of appreciating both God and his revelation in the Bible, and we believe this will be an environment conducive to effective ministry. The people of the church have been plugging along for a couple of years without a pastor, continuing the ministry of the church, including an evangelistic vacation Bible school, extensive community involvement and charitable giving, and a solid foundation of biblical community and teaching within the church.

These same people have welcomed us warmly. Over thirty of them came to help us unload our truck. In the past couple of weeks, we have been invited to several social events and received lots of encouragement and affirmation. They have helped us clean, tuned up our bicycles, lent us things like air conditioners and a dehumidifier [for the basement], fixed our furniture, and made themselves available for whatever we need. When we arrived we found Will's church office beautifully remodeled, with two built-in desks and more linear

feet of built-in shelving than we could fill with books!

We have been here almost four weeks now. LeeAnn spent most of the first week scrubbing our house, and now she is back to work at her job, while taking care of things like changing all our insurance policies and navigating the bureaucracy for new licenses and such. God blessed Will in preparing the first few sermons and he is enjoying the work. You might pray that he can prioritize and achieve what is most important even when there are so many other things calling for attention. Also, please pray that God will use our teaching and encouragement to facilitate people coming to faith and then experiencing the renewal and transformation promised in the New Testament!



**Horse and buggy parking at the Walmart!**

Our rental house is two stories, with a hot finished attic and a musty unfinished basement. Upstairs, we have LeeAnn's office, our bedroom, a small guest room with a single bed, and a bathroom. Downstairs, we have a covered front porch, living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room, and half bath. It is about 1200sf, including the stairway and all. It is half of a "twin," so there is a mirror image house attached to our house, which is owned by a nice family, the mother of which is a great gardener. Our lawn is not so special, but we have a little front yard with a pine tree and stone steps down to the sidewalk, a back yard with a rickety deck, which once had gardens but now has weeds [except where the neighbor's flowers come through], and outside the back fence there is another grassy area on the back alley where we park the pickup truck. We probably could fit two vehicles in that spot, but if we do buy another car, we might find parking one of them on the street to be easier.

The cats are adjusting very well, enjoying romping up and down the stairs, staring at the birds out the windows, and catching flies. Now that we have cleaned the house, unpacked the boxes, and put up pictures and window treatments, we are getting more comfortable here. Our house is in an urban neighborhood, whereas we would love to be out in the country, but we have met many pleasant people in the area and it is nice to be so close to the church, bank, post office, library, and so on. We miss our Florida house, with its gardens and wildlife, but we hope it will be a blessing to whoever rents it and a blessing to us as it provides income.

Our physical address now is 428 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue; Parkesburg, PA 19365. You can still reach us at our email addresses: willii@groben.com [Will] and ldg@groben.com [LeeAnn]. We still have our same cell phone numbers: 941.544.4270 [Will] and 941.544.4273 [LeeAnn]. We would prefer, however, that you call on our home phone: 610.857.3693. We will try to keep current on Facebook ["Will Groben"].

We also will try to maintain our website [www.groben.com], especially by adding materials from each sermon for those of you who like Will's teaching style. This week, we looked at 1 Peter 2.4-10: what does it mean that



Christ is the cornerstone? What does Peter mean by the many Old Testament quotations and illusions in this passage, and how can they in turn inform us about Christ? What is necessary to be a part of what God is doing in this time period? These answers and more are contained in the sermon notes, recording, and devotion for the passage, if you are interested.

Left is a picture of the chapel part of the church building. It once was an American Legion, but the church has redecorated nicely, and we will be repainting this autumn. We can fit about 120 chairs in here, and we hope to be filling them every week soon!

We are going to try to start rooting for the Phillies in baseball, with Will's mother's acquiescence [she is a Mets fan]. We will root for the Flyers in hockey easily enough, because we never got involved in hockey in Florida or Texas. But it will be hard for us to root for the Eagles in football. As Bucs fans, we delighted in stomping the Eagles in some important games in the past, and Will has been following all the Bucs' team news daily for years. LeeAnn is reverting to her previous association with the Colts, she says.

The weather so far has been very Floridian: hot, humid, and rainy in the afternoons. Our little village hosted a bicycle race as part of a state-wide series, and the route went all around our neighborhood. The first week we were here, the firemen had their field days two blocks away from our house. Now the church is decorated for VBS: the entire building looks like a roller coaster theme park, with track made out of noodles hanging from the ceilings and stuffed animals riding in cars! What fun! We pray that you are experiencing all God's blessings!

Will & LeeAnn