

PROGRESS 2008

First Assembly of God — Under new leadership, same great savior

First Assembly of God saw a transition of leadership for the first time in 20 years with the departure of the Rev. Harold and Nan Schutte and the arrival of the Rev. Michael and Mary Dotson last August. Even though First Assembly of God has a new spiritual leader, it continues to proclaim the message of Hope that is found in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Change is common to all human life. It has been said, "We are not today what we were yesterday; we will not be tomorrow what we are today." However, there are a few things in life that never change nor should they. Unlike the human conditions or circumstances, God never changes (Malachi 3:6). He is the same yesterday, today, forever and NOTHING'S TOO HARD FOR GOD. And like Him, His truth is also everlasting. It remains the single constant in our ever dynamic world of shifting cultural values. These truths of God are found in His Word.

First Assembly of God proclaims God as the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and therefore all its miracles and writings are totally true. We believe in salvation through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross; water baptism by immersion symbolizing new birth in Jesus; the baptism in the Holy Spirit as personal blessing for empowered living. We also believe in holy living in obedience to God's Word; miraculous answers to prayer for healing and deliverance; and the soon return of Christ for those who have been born again.

Through the various ministries and programs of

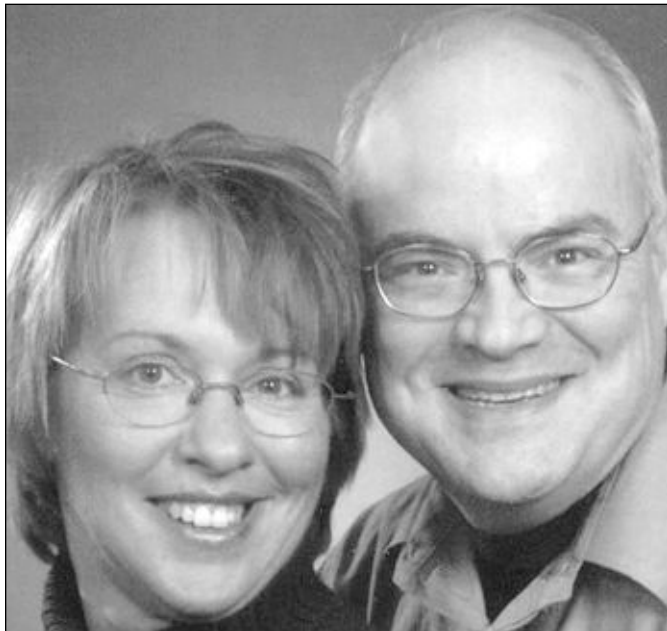


photo provided

First Assembly of God welcomes people to meet their new minister, The Rev. Michael and Mary Dotson.

Oskaloosa's First Assembly of God, one of the 12,000 churches scattered throughout the United States, we place high priority in sharing that NOTHING (in this life) IS TOO HARD FOR GOD. And the most important decision we will make in this life is where we will spend our eternal life. When we have made that choice, we're not only prepared to die... we are finally ready to live. As Christians, it is important that quality time is spent with God, getting to know Him better. This is done two ways: Through His written Word (The Bible), where He speaks to us; and through prayer and meditation, where we talk to Him. These two communication channels are essential life support for all.

Where would any of us be without the support of understanding friends and family? It is the same in the Christian life. For this reason, we are excited about the

many implemented ministries First Assembly of God offers. Sunday School at 9 a.m. is designed with every age group in mind — studying varied Bible-based topics that are geared for this generation, 10:15 a.m. Sunday morning worship service has been formatted for the adults and children (including a supervised nursery for all services) and again Sunday evening at 5 p.m. During the week, a variety of programs are offered — noon and evening Bible study groups, Girls clubs (M-pact), boys clubs (Royal Rangers), youth activities, young adult activities, ladies and men groups and senior adult activities.

Pastor Mike and congregation of First Assembly of God invite you to come — experience the Hope that comes from worshipping God with other Christians and learn for yourself that NOTHING'S TOO HARD FOR GOD.

Penn Central Mall: hub of community activities

Penn Central Mall is the home of 20 merchants near the heart of downtown Oskaloosa and is a hub of community activities and events throughout the year.

From getting a bite to eat at Pizza Ranch or El Azteca to buying clothes at JC Penney or jewelry at Gardner Collier Jewelry, Penn Central Mall has it all.

The mall's Center Court is an open space in the heart of the mall, where several groups hold community activities throughout the year.

Mall Manager Patti Ryan said some new events were held at the mall in 2007 and hope to do them again this year. Kidtoberfest was "huge" and benefited the youth of the community, Ryan said. Also, the mall held Four Weeks of Giving during the Christmas holiday season to benefit local non-profit organizations. The mall also hosted a craft show in November, and during the last week before Christmas, the mall held an event in Center Court every night with refreshments being served, she said.

"We're working on a car show in March," Ryan said.



Ryan said the mall is always open for functions, and groups interested in holding an event at the mall just need to call Ryan and get scheduled on the mall calendar.

A priority for the mall's owner — Oskaloosa Penn Central Partners LTD and its chief, Eric Baumgart, of Plano, Texas — is to install a new roof for the mall. Ryan said work on the new roof will begin "as soon as the weather allows," hopefully in March.

Mall hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Penn Central Mall can be found on the Internet at PennCentralMall.com. Mall officials can be reached at (641) 673-

9414.

Penn Central Mall merchants

- ArrowQuick Solutions
- Cellular Specialists
- Curves For Women
- Dollar General
- El Azteca
- Gardner Collier Jewelry
- General Nutrition Center
- Glory Nails
- Goodwill
- Hawkeye Real Estate
- Iowa Hearing Aid Centers
- JC Penney
- Maurices
- Pizza Ranch
- Penn Central Eye Clinic
- Penn Central Theatre
- Regis Hairstylists
- Reruns
- Shoe Sensation
- Wood 'N' Stuff

If you see news, call 672-2581

Custom Draperies & Closets begins fourth year

Now beginning her fourth year of ownership, Jacque Moats from Custom Draperies and Closets is aggressively seeking new ways to better serve her clients. During the past three years, she has proven that her design skills are second to none, has built a positive reputation in the community and has left no customers unhappy with the quality of her craftsmanship. This reputation is what has made it possible for her to continue her small busi-

ness against the fierce competition offered by big box stores, cheap catalog retailers and a struggling economy.

In light of all of these circumstances, Jacque has made several critical decisions recently.

In an effort to make Custom Draperies and Closets more mobile, prices more competitive and her family happier, Jacque has moved her business home! What does this mean to you, the customer? Simple eco-

nomics ... lowering your overhead means keeping costs low. Jacque promises to pass these savings directly to her customers. It also means she is more accessible to her customers and her family.

If you are in the market for blinds, shades, shutters, drapes, valences, duvet covers, slip covers, pillows or closet organizing systems, Jacque would like to make your ideas a reality.

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