

The Springfield Redeemer



**“Without guidance from God,
law and order disappear, but
God blesses everyone who
follow His teaching.”
Proverbs 29:18**

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Holy Grounds Celebrates Ten Years by Roberta D’Amico

After ten years of ministry here at 455 State Street Springfield, Holy Grounds Coffee House, an inner city “store-front” church, has celebrated its tenth year of ministering to the people of Springfield. To commemorate this blessed event, Holy Grounds held a two-day Open House event on Thursday, September 5, and Friday September 6, ending with a Dessert Social get-together at United Temple Church on Friday evening.



Thursday was a big day with the Open House starting after the morning Bible Study. First, we talked about how to start

the new book, the History of the Redemption Gate Ministry. We started with all the history that had been collected, putting it into a timeline. It will include photos, stories of events, and testimonies.

Meanwhile as people were coming in, we had them sign the Guest Book and write a short testimony of what the Coffee House has meant to them. We then took photos for the book, of each of the dozens of guests, some regulars, some new, and some old-timers!

By lunchtime, Shelly had made chicken, pasta, chili dogs, and salad. It was a lively festive occasion, greeting old friends, regulars, and meeting new friends. The afternoon gave us time to reminisce about past activities and events as we gathered

history for the Book. For example, when Pastor Scott Lively first came to Springfield in 2008, he brought a young couple, Anthony Wirth and his wife. He worked with us for a couple of years, before God put it on his heart to open his own church, City Church. Soon after Scott came, he bought a house right in the center of this area, off State Street, and called it the Redemption House. It was our first meeting place, and from there we went out every Tuesday night to witness, pass out tracts, and pray with people right on State street. At one time, a brother in the Lord joined us. He had made a large wooden cross, and we carried it on Tuesday nights on State Street for a time. It now hangs on the fence behind the Coffee House! Soon after that we acquired the present building at 455 State Street and spent at least a year renovating it into the present Coffee House and named it “Holy Grounds.”

At 5 o’clock, the Pizza Party began. At this time Pastor Scott made his announcement that he was retiring from politics and would be focusing on the next project that God has put on his heart, that is the founding of a First Century Bible College in Memphis Tennessee! He and Anne had left California and joined his sons, their wives, and 5 grandchildren there in Tennessee. Anne’s health is not good and it is better for her to be near family.

The First Century Bible College is something that has been on Scott’s heart for a while. It will be based on the way the early church operated: worshipping, praying, studying the Scriptures (following the Springfield model at the Holy Grounds Coffee House), fellowshiping, sharing meals, and praying and encouraging one another; all Holy Spirit led!

Then, at 5:30 on Thursday evening, the opposition showed up, the liberal LGBT agenda activists who have tried many times to shut down the Coffee House. They came with their signs, their falsehoods, their drums and tried to drown out the good time we were having. We went out to talk to them, but they insisted on believing the lies that they read in the news. We even offered them some pizza, but they refused.

Friday was a quieter day than Thursday; we greeted a few more guests, and prepared for the Dessert Social at United Temple Church at 7 p.m.



Group photo at United Temple

Pastor Cooley opened in prayer and read Psalm 133. Then he shared his heart about this ministry:

“The Coffee House has done more for the students of Commerce High School than anything else. If we don’t influence the young people we are doomed. Ten years ago we started a work to help people in need, then reached out to the school. Satan had just about taken over that school. Society is taking God out of everywhere, but we were able to influence the young people, putting God back in their lives. But God wants to do more. We need to get our children here in Springfield to be

missionaries to their own homes, families, and school-mates.”

Then Pastor Scott spoke, “It would be great if this building were packed with Christians from the suburbs, but they are afraid to come into the city. There is no needier mission field than right here in Springfield, Massachusetts. When we opened the Coffee House here, people came - people who would not go to a regular church, but were comfortable here. We received no grants to provide funds, no government money; if it wasn’t of the Holy Spirit, it would not have survived. After a time, we made Pastor Cooley the director. When I come to visit, I am so impressed. If you want to be blessed, come at 7 a.m. and see the kids. For a while we had hundreds. And they wouldn’t leave until Jackie Cooley prayed with them! Now, to expand the ministry, we need to get more churches to send Community Missionaries, to get involved, help reach Springfield. It will come to pass by God’s power and our assistance.”



Pastors Scott and Cooley

Pastor Roberto spoke next, telling his story and plans. Then, we introduced Steve Jablonski, the architect, and Wayne Albright, contractor. A few ideas were suggested for raising funds. Then we closed with a song and prayer and retired to enjoy the refreshments. We will move forward as God provides the resources through His people.

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8 a.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene; 10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim;

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.

TUESDAY – Calling All men – 6:30 p.m. – for Meeting and Fellowship!

WED – Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: Women’s Bible Study 1:00 p.m.; FIAT 2nd and 4th Thursday 7 p.m.

1ST SATURDAY: October 5, “Marriage with God” 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHTS: Next Open Mic and Fellowship! October 26, 2019, For more details, call Cathy Marvici at 413-233-7242. Be there, please! 7 p.m.