

Twain Harte Bible Church Move

Twain Harte Bible Church (<http://thbible.org/>) is growing...and not just from all the potlucks! As a result of approximately five years of steadily increasing attendance, the church has outgrown its current facility. And now, after several years of work and planning, Twain Harte Bible Church has made the big move. Members and church leaders worked all summer to prep the new church building, the previous Black Oak School campus in Twain Harte.



Black Oak Campus

Today's Twain Harte Bible Church has an interesting history – it began as a Reformed Church in 1953, closed, and then reopened as an EFCA church in 1967. The original building was remodeled and expanded numerous times. The final piece of the move, accomplished in just one day with the help of approximately 100 of the church's members and attenders, made it possible for the first service at the Black Oak campus to be held August 21st.

The relocation idea sprouted in the minds of church leaders in 2014 when they received a resolution from the Twain Harte School District stating its intention to sell the school building due to declining enrollment. Pastor Matt Funk explains, "The first time we went there and took a tour, I distinctly remember feeling absolutely overwhelmed by the property and the project. It was amazing and very humbling."

Both Twain Harte Bible Church leaders and Twain Harte School District leaders are excited about the potential that this move means for the school, the church, and the community. The school district will finally be unshouldered with the mortgage they have been paying since the school opened its doors in 1997. Jeff Winfield, Superintendent for the Twain Harte School District, stated that he is pleased about the arrangement between the church and the school district, explaining that Twain Harte Bible Church's "purposes must match the original intent of the construction as a family-friendly educational setting. It will continue to benefit the Twain Harte community by providing a welcoming space for involvement whether in worship or other wholesome activities. For many of us around the area, the church's stewardship of the once vibrant school grounds will continue to provide access to people, families, and for hosting community events."

Church leaders feel similarly optimistic and thankful. Pastor Funk describes the new facility as an answer to prayer. "God brought us to this point. He is the one who caused us to grow so it's no surprise that He brought an opportunity to purchase a property that would allow for continued growth. We believe that this is God's plan. The facility has what we need and so much more; so much unrealized potential. It's with great excitement that we look forward to seeing what God is going to do. My prayer for the future is to use this facility that God has given to us to serve the Twain Harte community in a way that will ultimately bring honor and glory to Him." Currently, Twain Harte Lake Association and Twain Harte

Homeowners Association hold meetings in the building, sports teams conduct practice, and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) will use the grounds for training.



Original location at 22191 Mark Twain Drive

Sunday, August 14th was the final service at 22191 Mark Twain Drive. Many guests were in attendance, including 3 former pastors, one of whom was the founding pastor. It was a great celebration of God's faithfulness over many years.

Just one week later the first service was held at the new site. At this service, with over 300 in attendance, Pastor Funk provided a list of numbers to the attendees: 49 years of the church's existence – 2 ½ years of planning –

7 weeks of preparing – 7 days of moving – 1 church, united by one Spirit, one Lord and one God. He described the property as “clearly, a gift from God” but added that “it’s just dirt, wood and concrete, those things do not share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, people do”, challenging members that the church’s goals have not changed. “We need”, says Funk, “to continue to have the highest devotion to God, the strongest commitment to each other, and consistent dedication to sharing the good news about Jesus.”

Twain Harte Bible Church is planning a grand opening this fall to welcome the community to its new location.



First service at the new location

Submitted by Molly Rose