



## Special Services Bring Special Visitors



celebrate Christmas. Of course, the two 3-year old sheep stole the show in their little sheep costumes. Followed by a wonderful time of cookies and fellowship, this Sunday evening performance warmed the hearts of all in attendance. And it had a lot of hearts to warm.

In just nine months, Riverside Baptist Church is averaging over 50 in Sunday morning services, and around 40 in the evening services. This special kids program, however, filled the auditorium with **73** precious souls, many of whom were visitors. Pastor Seyden presented the Romans Road to Salvation, offering a clear opportunity to all who were in attendance. The atmosphere was wonderful, as the Riverside Saints hosted friends and family in their church home.

Not to be outdone was the Christmas Eve service which followed later that week. Expecting that around 25 folk would brave the cold Chicago winter for this special evening, Pastor Seyden was blown away when 41 people attended, at least half of them being new faces. "There was a need in our community for a Christmas Eve Service, and the Lord led us to meet that need," said Seyden. Praise the Lord they did, as 41 people heard the Gospel through Scripture and song in this wonderful service.



## Illinois Fellowship Meeting – Unwrapping the Gift of Leadership



Erik Sanders & Ben Seyden at RBC

Riverside was honored to host the December meeting of the Illinois Baptist Bible Fellowship. In its second year, the meeting took on a leadership theme. The featured speaker was Erik Sanders, pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Everett, WA and Pastor Seyden's brother-in-law. Following dinner Sanders brought an encouraging message of fortitude on Monday evening. Tuesday's breakfast and brain storming session yielded great ministry ideas for all. Sanders' wife, Rebecca lead the ladies meeting.

The other speaker was Charles Lyons, pastor of Armitage Baptist Church in Chicago, IL. Lyons encouraged the pastors to position their churches as leaders in their communities, seizing opportunities to make an impact for Christ. He shared how the Lord has empowered Armitage to be one of the most influential churches in Chicago. The meeting was concluded with Pastor Sanders' challenging message on being more effective leaders.

The meeting was a great event. One pastor shared that he and his wife had felt so loved that it was like they had been on an out of town weekend, not a fellowship meeting. They went home refreshed and ready for the New Year. Praise God for good fellowship with Godly men and women.