

## **Eighth Malawi Mission Visit \*\*\*\* May-June 2010**

by Harold Riley, Mission Leader

Since 2003, First Presbyterian Church has sponsored an annual trip to **Embangweni Presbyterian Mission Station** in Malawi, "*the warm heart of Africa*". In May and June 2010 eight adventurers, six of whom have been there previously, will fly to London, Johannesburg, and finally to Lilongwe, Malawi where we will be met by a van owned by our partners the **Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP)** and driven by our friend Clement Kamanga. The first stop is to visit John and Florence Gondwe at their new church where he is Pastor. They have just been blessed with the birth of a new baby boy, Emmanuel. Next we visit Andrew Chulu, another friend who has moved to head a new school for the deaf. Later on, a visit is scheduled with Jim and Jodi McGill, PCUSA missionaries at Mzuzu. When we finally reach Embangweni mission station guest house, we begin many different activities. Each person has his or her own interests; teaching crafts and Bible stories in the school for the deaf, teaching business principles, evaluating micro-loan applications, teaching computer skills to high school students, painting school black boards, speaking to the Student Christian Organization of Malawi, maybe giving a sermon or two and whatever other projects the pastor and teachers suggest.

The major event will be the dedication of the new church at Kalikumbi, a village 15 miles away from the main station, where our church has provided funds to help build the church, manse, teachers' houses and school blocks as well as bringing in electricity. As you know, Rev. John Gondwe was their Pastor when we first began assisting with this important church project. We will also see shallow wells, treadle pumps and medical clinic improvements that First Pres. has funded with the Christmas alternate gift fund.

Malawians really enjoy celebrating! The Kalikumbi Church dedication will last two days with food, dances and skits on Saturday and on Sunday the church service with many speeches and several choirs. The President of Malawi has been invited. A good time will be had by all.

These visits with our Malawi friends are always inspiring and teach again what real Christian faith and dedication is all about.

**Presbyterian Church at Kalikumbi before installing pews.**



**School for the Deaf gathers for morning devotions.**



## Worshippers in new church

