

## February Newsletter 2017

To Know Christ,  
To Make Him Known,  
To Build His Kingdom.

From The Pastor's Desk:

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.*  
Ephesians 2:19

We live in an age of rampant skepticism of religious institutions and the seeming marginalization of the church as an impact in our culture we must reconnect with what our mission and purpose should be as The Church.

We must ask ourselves what Jesus saw the church's mission to be. He commanded us to make disciples (Matt. 28:19). He told us His mission; which is to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). So, there is certainly a sense of reaching or gathering in how Jesus himself identified the mission of the church.

We must also ask ourselves what we do with the saints once they have been gathered. Hebrews 10:25 makes it clear that we are to regularly meet. We are to participate in the sacraments because it is commanded, and beneficial to our souls. We are to preach the Gospel and hear it preached (1 Corinthians 1:21) because this is God's agent of change. We are to pray and study his word. And we are to exist with another as the family of God (Ephesians 2:19). So, there is a sense of perfecting or equipping the saints to serve.

The Westminster Confession of faith describes the mission of the church in this way:

*[In This] visible Church, Christ hath given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the **gathering and perfecting** of the saints, in this life, to the end of the world; and doth by his own presence and Spirit, according to his*

*promise, make them effectual thereunto.* WCF XXV

We at St. Paul Evangelical Church have the great privilege and opportunity to be able to join in the mission that God is already performing in our community as he by His Spirit prepares hearts to be receptive to the message of the Gospel. The mission before us is to reach the lost, to disciple them and to see them grow in grace and be equipped to serve in His kingdom.

How do we accomplish this? We live our lives together as partakers of God's grace in the gospel. We recognize our brokenness and need of grace and we share that grace with each other and our community. In other words, we take advantage of the opportunities to connect with one another, to worship together, and to learn about God's grace. (Show up, make friends, bear one another's burdens, study God's word together). We will not be effective in gathering people until we first allow ourselves to be perfected (equipped).

Then we become intentional in the work of reaching people for Christ. Inviting friends, family, and coworkers to worship, fellowship opportunities, and bible studies is a good start. Inviting them to your home for a meal is an even better start. Serving them and loving them is the goal. Evangelism is not memorizing a system or a tract. It is loving others authentically. It is being honest with ourselves and others about who we are and pointing them to Jesus. D.T. Niles famously said *"Evangelism is just one beggar telling another where to find bread"*.

It is my prayer that we become a church known for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, but this will not happen unless we all commit ourselves to the things that Jesus values and commands us to be committed to.

*Grace and Peace*

*Pastor Jason*

## Welcome New Pianist

We are excited to welcome Brian Parks to our worship team! He is a very gifted pianist and began leading us in worship Sunday, January 22nd. Come and make him feel welcome!

## Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies and Sunday School at 9:30 am

### **THE GOSPEL PROJECT**

\*Children's Sunday School ~ Infants-6th grade

In the classrooms

\*Youth Bible Study 7th-12 grade

In the youth room

\*Adult Bible Study

In the front room in the parsonage

## Worship Service

10:30 - 11:30

Fellowship following service

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

**Bible Study does not meet on the first Wednesday of the month.**

In the Sanctuary at 7:00 **A Study on the Book of Romans.** Join us for a time of prayer, singing, and bible study. Pastor Jason is teaching. Children's Ministry in the fellowship hall classrooms, they are learning The Ten Commandments.

## St. Paul Youth

### A Gospel Heart

A story came to mind when I began to think through what I wanted to write about this month and it goes a little something like this...when I was in college I moved quite often. You would think I had become an expert "packer" at this point, but I found the more I moved I became more and more disorganized. I do blame this trend on the fact that I moved often in my college years. So, during one of these moves, I asked a dear friend of mine, whom I did have a crush on at the time, to help me move. Though we weren't dating at the

time, I do think this guy was a bit fond of me too. So, the day came and he showed up in his truck and when I say I had nothing packed I really didn't have anything together. However, instead of being raving mad and leaving, this sweet man stuck around and helped me get all my belongings to the next location. Our friendship helped him look past the work ahead of him. However, let's say the same situation popped up with an acquaintance or maybe a co-worker he really didn't care for...would he respond the same way? Most likely not!! And now you've probably guessed who this mysterious man is. Yes, I'm talking about our kind Pastor Jason. So, as you can see, his relationship with me motivated him to serve me in a way that is unnatural to do at times. This approach also applies to how we serve at church. We don't serve out of a heart of duty, but out of a heart of gratitude. That reason is why I encourage you to serve our church today. Even at a young age, there are plenty of ways to serve here at St. Paul. Many of you may have already started serving, but here are a few ways you can make a difference: helping the leading adult in nursery or children's worship, working in our sound booth, assisting in worship with candle lighting or liturgy reading, working as a greeter and collecting offering. Another option is reaching out to the trustees for assisting with church maintenance. We would be more than happy to connect you to serve in a way that fits your talents. I encourage you to think over these ideas or come up with one on your own. No matter what direction you choose, be encouraged that we serve in response to the love and gratitude that we have in Christ Jesus and all He had done for us. May you be encouraged to find your place in the body of Christ.

*Stephanie*

## Upcoming Events

**Women's Fellowship** ~ Women's fellowship will not meet in February. For more

information, please contact the church office at 210-6588-5874.

**SPEC Supper Club** ~ Wednesday, February 1st at 6:00 pm.

**Ladies' Book Groups** ~ Wednesday, February 1st at 8 pm, "Treasuring Christ." For more information, please see Stephanie Ford.

**Theology on tap** ~ February 3rd and 17th. For more information, contact Pastor Jason at 210- 382-6596. Locations to be announced soon.

**Officer's Retreat** ~ Saturday, February 4th from 8am to 2 pm.

**The Sewing Sisters** ~ February 9th and 23rd. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the parsonage from 9-11 am. All are welcome to come and enjoy good fellowship and ministry. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 210-6588-5874.

**Community Breakfast & Bingo**  
Thursday, February 16th at 8:30 am.

**Ladies' Night Out** ~ Thursday, Feb 16th 6pm. Support Downtown Cibolo Night! Dinner at Catalano's and Coffee and Dessert at Emily's Place. For more information, please see Stephanie Ford.

**Council Meeting** ~ Monday, February 20th at 7:00 pm.

**Youth Baked Potato Fundraiser** ~ Sunday, Feb 26th after worship (Baked Potato Bar, Salad, Bread, Drinks and Desserts) Join us for lunch and help support our youth!  
Adults- \$8 / Children- \$4 / \$20 max per family

**Ladies' Book Groups** ~ Tuesday, February 28th at 7 pm, "Prayer." For more information, please see Stephanie Ford.

## General Announcements

**Offering Envelopes** ~ Are on the table in the fellowship hall. They are labeled and arranged in alphabetical order.

**Nursery Volunteers Needed** ~ The church is in need of more nursery volunteers to assist in the nursery during the worship service. Please see Beth for more information.

**Hymnals Available** ~ The church has several hymnals that are available for free, there is a box in the fellowship hall.

**St. Paul Logo Coffee Cups For Sale**  
\$5.00 each by the book table.

**Liturgy Sign Up** ~ If you would like to contribute to the worship service by reading the liturgy, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway.

**Service Opportunity** ~ If you are looking for a way to serve the church and like working with computers, we have the perfect spot for you. The A/V Team runs the computer and sound for the service on Sunday mornings. You would be able to serve the church and not miss worship. Please consider sitting upstairs for a Sunday or two, to find out what all is involved. For more information, please contact Beth Johnson at 210-658-5874 or by e-mail at [BethJ@StPaulCibolo.com](mailto:BethJ@StPaulCibolo.com).

**SPEC Supper Club ~ Community Outreach**  
Preparing and serving a meal for the needy of the community once a month on the first Wednesday. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated as we attempt to help our brothers and sisters that may need a helping hand. Donations as well as volunteers are always welcome. Please see Rich A, Don & Marion D, or Willie & Ann S.

**Women's Fellowship Recycled Card Program** ~ In Support for St. Jude's Children's Homes ~ Used greeting cards, front cover only, can be dropped off in the designated box located in the Fellowship Hall.

They will then be sent to St. Jude's Children's Home, for use by Kids' Corp. The children participate in making the new cards by attaching a new back and then selling them. For information on purchasing of cards go to [http://www.stjudesranch.org/help\\_card.php](http://www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php). For more information, please contact the church office at 210-6588-5874.

**Prayer Team** ~ If you are willing to receive e-mails or phone tree messages with prayer requests, please give Willie S your e-mail address or phone number.

**Ushers and Greeters** ~ If you can help usher on Sunday mornings, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

### **Women's Fellowship Cookbooks Available**

The cookbooks are available in the church office or after church in the Fellowship Hall. They are \$15.00 each and have over 800 recipes. They would make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

**GREAT NEWS!! RACAP** now has a new drop off location for nonperishable food donations!! What could be easier, as you leave our FM3009 HEB, than to swing by the Schertz Cibolo Emergency Clinic and drop off your donations of nonperishable foods for RACAP. Donation boxes are available in the lobby. The clinic is open, 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week!! The clinic is located at 4825 FM 3009, Ste. 200 Schertz, TX 78154, On 3009 next to Bush's Chicken.

**R.A.C.A.P. Pantry Needs** ~ Jelly / Hamburger Helper / Bagged Rice / Canned Fruits & Soups / Spaghetti Sauce & Spaghetti Noodles / Dried Beans / Ramen Noodles / toothpaste, bath soap, shampoo, etc. NO TP

**Reminder: Due to health regulations R.A.C.A.P. is not allowed to accept any donations that are not in their original container or have been opened.**

**Notification of Events** - If you would like to be notified of St. Paul events, via Google calendar alerts, please send your e-mail to [admin@stpaulcibolo.com](mailto:admin@stpaulcibolo.com) with a notation for e-mail alerts.

If your church organization needs an announcement put into the Newsletter, the cutoff date is the 23rd of the month and if you need an announcement put into the bulletin, the cutoff date is Tuesday of that week at noon.

**Church Office Hours** ~ Monday - Friday  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

## Heidelberg Catechism

### **99 Q. WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US IN THE THIRD COMMANDMENT?**

**A.** That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths, nor share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders. In a word, it requires that we use the holy name of God only with reverence and awe, so that we may properly confess him, pray to him, and praise him in everything we do and say.

### **100 Q. IS BLASPHEMY OF GOD'S NAME BY SWEARING AND CURSING REALLY SUCH SERIOUS SIN THAT GOD IS ANGRY ALSO WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT DO ALL THEY CAN TO HELP PREVENT IT AND FORBID IT?**

**A.** Yes, indeed. No sin is greater, no sin makes God more angry than blaspheming his name. That is why he commanded the death penalty for it.

### **101 Q. BUT MAY WE SWEAR AN OATH IN GOD'S NAME IF WE DO IT REVERENTLY?**

**A.** Yes, when the government demands it, or when necessity requires it, in order to maintain and promote truth and trustworthiness for God's glory and our neighbor's good. Such oaths are approved in God's Word and were rightly used by Old and New Testament believers.

**102 Q. MAY WE SWEAR BY SAINTS OR  
OTHER CREATURES?**

**A.** No. A legitimate oath means calling upon God as the one who knows my heart to witness to my truthfulness and to punish me if I swear falsely. No creature is worthy of such honor.

Read Through the Bible in a Year program  
from *Tabletalk* daily devotional  
(*Tabletalk* is \$23/year and can be ordered at 1-800-435-4343)

**February**

Old Testament: Exodus 29 – Numbers 25  
New Testament: Matthew 22 – Mark 8:21

**March**

Old Testament: Numbers 26 – Judges 10  
New Testament: Matthew 8:22 – Luke 8

**St. Paul Staff**

Jason Ford, Pastor

*Jason@stpaulcibolo.com*

Stephanie Ford,

Youth Ministries Coordinator

*Stephanie@stpaulcibolo.com*

Elaine McIntyre, Organist

*tindo@gvec.net*

Brian Parks, Pianist

*Brian@stpaulcibolo.com*

Beth Johnson, Administrative Assistant

*Bethj@stpaulcibolo.com*

Robert Webb, Custodian

*Webbsondra@yahoo.com*

**Serving the Lord since 1876**

A mission-focused, kingdom-building family of Christ-followers seeking to be faithful to  
Jesus' Great Commission {Go and make disciples ...} Matthew 28:19 and  
His Great Commandment {Love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself.}  
Luke 10:27