

January Newsletter 2016

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

From The Pastor's Desk:

It is hard to believe that the new year is upon us! It has been such a joy to settle in here in Texas and at St. Paul. I am so grateful and blessed to be able to serve you as your pastor. Every year at this time so many of us set resolutions about our weight, our work, and many other areas.

Donald Whitney has written some very helpful thoughts on how we can reorient and redeem our resolution making:

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?

8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?

Don Whitney writes:

The value of many of these questions is not in their profundity, but in the simple fact that they bring an issue or commitment into focus. For example, just by articulating which person you most want to encourage this year is more likely to help you remember to encourage that person than if you hadn't considered the question.

It is my prayer that you have a wonderful new year filled with joy and with glorious growth in the gospel of grace.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Jason

Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies for All Ages 9:30

"The Gospel Project"

Children's Sunday School ~ Infants - 6th grade
In the Fellowship Hall classrooms

Youth Bible Study 7th – 12th grade
In the Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study
In the Youth Room of 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 7:00pm we will be studying
The Gospel of Mark.

Join us for a time of prayer, singing, and bible
study. Pastor Jason will be teaching.

Children's Ministry in the fellowship hall
classrooms, they are learning from The Jesus
Storybook Bible.

Youth Ministry Intern Update

As most of you know we have been searching
for a part time Youth Intern for some time. The
Council and Board of Christian Education
decided to offer the position on an interim basis
to Stephanie F and she has agreed. There will
be a trial period of seven months we will
continue to search for a more long term
solution, but are very excited she has agreed
to get things moving forward. She will begin
implementing new ministries and programs in
January, please pray for her and support her in
any way you are able!

Upcoming Events

Taking Down of the Greens

Saturday, January 2nd, at 10 am. All are invited
to come and help take down the Christmas
decorations. Many hands make light work. For
more information, please contact the church
office at 210-658-5874.

SPEC Supper Club

Wednesday, January 6th at 6:00 pm.

Women's Fellowship

In observance of the New Year, Women's
Fellowship will not meet in January.
For more information, please contact
the church office at 210-658-5874.

The Sewing Sisters ~ January 14th & 28th

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 210-658-5874 .

Leadership Seminar

Monday, January 11th at 7 pm.

Council Meeting

Monday, 18th at 7:00 pm

Community Breakfast & Bingo

Thursday January 21st at 8:30 am.

Semi-Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch

Sunday, January 31st. The semi-annual
meeting will be to review and approve the 2016
proposed budget by the church council.

General Announcements

Thank You

The church would like to thank all those who
participated in our Christmas season, either as
a reader for the Advent candles, in decorating
the church for the season, purchasing a
poinsettia plant, sewing the quilts for the
homebound, preparing and delivering the gifts,
donating to the sock & mitten tree to benefit
Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Shelter of
Seguin, helping with the 11th Annual
Christmas Community Breakfast, the children
and youth Christmas program, participating in
the Cibolo Christmas Parade, or in some other
way. Thank you for your time & donations.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends
and family of Mrs. Berta N. Mrs. N entered rest
on November 11, 2015.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends
and family of Mr. Lennert B. Mr. B entered rest
on December 27, 2015.

Congratulations

The church would like to congratulate MR. &
Mrs. Justin & Christine S on the birth of their
daughter Carlee Marylynn S. She was born on

December 17th. Stats 7# 3oz. and was 20".
Great grandfather Robert S.

Flower Calendar

Fellowship Servers / Ushers

For the 2016 year we have a sign-up sheet for each, flowers, fellowship serving and ushering. They are on the wall in the Fellowship Hall for your selection of a Sunday.

Sign up early in order to choose the Sunday you prefer.

Inquirers Class

If you are interested in learning more about this church, please sign up for this class. You are not obligated to join but the class is a requirement for membership. Date and time to be determined later.

Confirmation Class

We plan to begin our confirmation class after the new year. Please sign up if you or your child is interested. You must be at least 12 years of age. Date and time to be determined later.

Directories & Offering Envelopes

Are on the table in the hallway. They are labeled and arranged in alphabetical order.

Church Offices Closed

In observance of the New Year the church offices will be closed
Thursday & Friday, Dec. 31st and Jan. 1st.

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.

Contact Information Needed

If you are a member and took directory pictures, we should have updated information on you and your family. If you have an e-mail address that the church might not have, if you are a regular attendee but haven't formally joined the church we would ask that you fill out the "Guest Card" attached to the bulletin or

provide the church Secretary with your information. We are gearing up to bring many new ministries and would like to be able to contact you in the manner you prefer, i.e. telephone, e-mail, or regular post, to inform you of the details.

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. The computer part is a simple program to use and the sound board is basic as well. Please consider sitting upstairs for a Sunday or two in order to find out what all is involved. For more information, please contact Beth Johnson at 210-658-5874 or by e-mail at Beth@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., a program of the children at St. Jude's Ranch to learn entrepreneurship skills. 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. For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Prayer Team

If you are willing to receive e-mails or phone tree messages with prayer requests, please give Pastor Willie Stratemann 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.

R.A.C.A.P. Pantry Needs:

Soup and Toilet Paper (URGENT)
Canned Pasta with meat (Ravioli, Lasagna, Spaghetti, & Meatballs, etc.)
All Tomato Products

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.

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)

January Readings

Old Testament: Genesis 1 - Exodus 28
New Testament: Matthew 1 – 18:20

February Readings

Old Testament: Exodus 29 – Numbers 25
New Testament: Matthew 18:21 – Mark 6:29

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 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

Lord's Day 18

46 Q. What do you mean by saying "He ascended into heaven"?

A. That Christ, while His disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth into heaven and will be there for our good until He comes again to judge the living and the dead.

47 Q. But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as He promised us?

A. Christ is true man and true God. In His human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in His divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit He is not absent from us for a moment.

48 Q. If His humanity is not present wherever His divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

A. Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity He has taken on, but at the same time His divinity is in and remains personally united to His humanity.

49 Q. How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?

A. First, He pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of His Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven – a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, His members, to Himself in heaven. Third, He sends His Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee. By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives, not

earthly things, but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

Lord's Day 19

50 Q. Why the next words: "And sitteth at the right hand of God"?

A. Christ ascended to heaven, there to show that He is head of His church, and that the Father rules all things through Him.

**Attendance for
November 23 - December 20**

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:8

As His custom was, Jesus worshipped on the Sabbath day. Luke 4:16

Date	Worship	Nursery	Total
November 29	63	4	67
December 6	92	2	94
December 13	106	2	108
December 20	70	3	73

Giving Report for

November 23 - December 20

"Bring the whole tithe into...My house, and test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty,

"and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much

blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Malachi 3:10

Undesignated (env/checks/loose plate)	14,663.75
Communion	39.00
New Building Fund	240.00
Building Use	1,700.00
Prakash India Mission	350.00
R.A.C.A.P.	160.00
SPEC	20.00
Pass Thru	837.99
TOTAL	18,010.74

Weekly undesignated giving average for this time period was: \$3,666.

Weekly undesignated giving needed to meet budget is \$3,488.

St. Paul Staff

Jason Ford, Pastor

Jason@stpaulcibolo.com

Elaine McIntyre, Organist

tindo@gvec.net

Beth Johnson, Secretary

Beth@stpaulcibolo.com

Robert Webb, Custodian

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St. Paul Evangelical Church
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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