

June Newsletter 2017

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

From The Pastor's Desk:

Being Intentionally Kingdom-Driven This Summer

One of our Core Values at St. Paul Evangelical is that all of us are members of the Kingdom of God and we each have a vital role to play to see His Kingdom advance. Even as life keeps us so very consumed with school, and work, and carting kids to the ball field or dance rehearsals we are still to be **intentional** with how we promote the Kingdom. Summer though is a different rhythm, but it doesn't mean we get a two-month break from being citizens of God's Kingdom. In suburbia, summer gives us a break from a more rigid schedule, even church slows down as we take breaks from Sunday School and Wednesday Night ministry. The trouble is of course it is easy to be so exhausted that you do, in practice, take a two-month break from being a citizen in the Kingdom.

So here's what I'm driving at when I use the word "**intentional**:" how is the summer more than just a break from the grind of school life? How can you, given that you *do* have a more relaxed schedule and more free time, use that to advance the kingdom of God? I think that is a fair question. How do you use this different rhythm of life to cultivate more discipleship, more community, more love for Jesus, or more interaction with your neighbor?

Well, you will have to be intentional. Most of our summers are broken up into a few weeks of travel, weekends away, or visiting family. These are good things; we need breaks away from the mundane. But in the end, the mundane is where we live, where redemption happens, and where all true change will actually take place. Most of us focus so much on these breaks that everything else in the summer is either anticipation before the event, or letdown after it is over. How can we change

this, how can we redeem the summer? Well, if it happens, it will be because your family has conversations about it, and just as much as you mark your calendar for times of retreat and getaway, you will have to mark out times to engage your neighbors, new friends or whatever expression being a citizen of the God's Kingdom means to your family in your particular place and circle of influence.

Remember this summer at St. Paul we are asking you all to be **Faithful For Four**. The reason we kicked off this campaign, in part, is to remind us that summer is not just a break, it is an opportunity to be intentional as we reach out to those in our spheres of influence who might be impacted by the gospel, those who might be drawn closer to Christ by your service, hospitality, or words of hope. Is this hard? I think that is the wrong question. It is hard if serving people is considered hard. It is hard if it means laying down your life to feed and serve people rather than watch TV. It is hard if you don't like messiness, because the kingdom of God is always about making better disciples or more disciples, and that is an inherently messy process. No, the real question is, "Is this what it means to be like Christ?" And then we plead for faith to believe that what Jesus promises always brings about something we can't plan for or predict—joy!

Grace and Peace

Pastor Jason Ford

Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies and Sunday School
On Summer Break

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.

On Summer Break

Faithful for Four Campaign.

Join us as we think through our friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers and become Faithful for Four of them. Meaning we consider those who are not believers or do not attend church regularly and we commit ourselves to pray for them, engage them in conversations about the gospel, and invite them to church. The goal is not just full pews, the goal is discipleship. Become a maker of disciples just as Jesus commanded us!

Save the Date ~ Reformation

Conference. September 29th and 30th.

We will have a weekend Conference about the lasting spiritual impact of the Reformation.

Youth News

One of the books on my reading list is Paul Tripp's book on Parenting. He is a gospel-based pastor, author, and conference speaker. Here's an article he wrote on words I found fascinating. If anyone is interested in reading his parenting book together in the fall, let me know! Stephanie F.

The Importance of Words by Paul Tripp

How much did you talk yesterday? Can you remember half of what you said? Some of us talk more than others, but even those of us who are considered quiet say a lot during the course of a day. From the moment we wake up to the moment we go to bed, our existence is defined by words.

Because talking is so natural, we don't pay much attention to what we're saying. But in my many years of studying the Bible and counseling people, I have come to realize the significance that God places on words, and the lasting impact they have on us and on others.

First, our God-given ability to communicate makes us unique in all of creation. Unlike the flora and fauna, we are designed in his image (Genesis 1:27) and can share our thoughts, desires and emotions with one another through words.

Second, the first words human ears ever heard came from the mouth of God (Genesis

1:28-30). The Creator of the universe unlocked the doors of life to humanity using words as his key. To this day, there is nothing we depend on more than our ability to give and receive communication.

Third, sin has radically distorted our words, resulting in much hurt, confusion and chaos. Just like Adam and Eve denied guilt, accused one another and blamed God (Genesis 3:12-13), our words often ignore God's design and are employed for selfish gain.

Finally, the Bible teaches us how to get from where we are to where God wants us to be with our words. And in Christ Jesus, we find the grace that provides all we need to speak as God intended for us to speak.

While those four principles about words may seem elementary, don't take them for granted. I must confess that on many occasions, I forget the weight God puts on words and am careless with how I communicate.

I would encourage you to take extra time today and reflect on the questions below. Words belong to God, and he has lent them to us so that we might know him and be used by him.

How seriously do you treat that blessing and calling?

God bless,
Paul Tripp

Upcoming Events

Offices Closed ~ In observance of Memorial Day, the church office will be closed Monday, May 30th.

Women's Fellowship ~. Thursday, June 1st from 9am to 2pm. Outing to Schertz Park. It will be brown bag so bring a sack lunch, drink and lawn chair. No pets or glass containers. An ice chest will be provided. The pavilion is located at the corner of 1518 and Aero. For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

SPEC Supper Club ~ Wednesday, 7th at 6:00 pm.

Youth Game Night ~ June 7th and 28th –from 6pm-9pm in the Youth Room. We'll have ping pong, basketball, and other activities available. Bring your own brown bag dinner, but desserts and snacks will be provided.

A/V 101 ~ Thursday, June 8th 6 at pm, meal provided. Do you love technology? Do you have 21st century spiritual gifts? If so, the Audio/Video Team is for you. An introductory workshop will be offered in which you can learn more about this exciting ministry. Topics will include sound board and worship software basics. For more information see Brian P.

Theology on tap ~ June 9th and 30th. For more information, contact Pastor Jason. Locations to be announced soon.

"Pinterest" Meeting ~ Saturday, June 10th Meal Planning Seminar 11am-1pm. Do you struggle with the question "what's for dinner"? Would you like to save more money from the grocery store? Here is opportunity to solve some of these issues. Join us for a session about Meal Planning techniques (thanks Erin Manganello for donating your time and ideas) and then we'll all go grab some lunch together. We'll have a sign-up sheet available for those interested. Questions? See Stephanie F.

Terrific Tuesday June 13th –10:00am
Sprinkler Park and Picnic located in New Braunfels. Summer is here and it's a great chance to get these kiddos together for some fun! Let's meet up at Fischer Park in New Braunfels (at the sprayground) then have a picnic together. Hope ya'll can join us!

Reformation Seminars ~ As you probably know by now this is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. This is an event of profound importance in the history of the church as a whole, but particularly for St. Paul Evangelical Church. We have a direct spiritual lineage to these events. Later this year we will have a weekend Conference about the lasting spiritual impact of the Reformation. In preparation for this event we will have two Summer Seminars on June 14th and again on July 12th both at 7:00 to learn the "story" of the Reformation. Why did it

take place? Who were the major players? And finally, how did it impact who we are and what we do here at St. Paul. Make plans to join us! Childcare will be available. If you plan to attend and will need childcare please let Pastor Jason or Stephanie Ford know.

Annual Reports Due by June 15th ~ If you are the head of a committee or organization, please turn in your annual report to church secretary Beth J.

The Sewing Sisters ~ June 8th and 22nd. 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.

Youth Summer Camp ~ The week of June 19th-23rd

Council Meeting ~ Monday, June 26th at 7:00 pm.

Terrific Tuesday ~ June 27th –10:00am Witte Museum in San Antonio. Here's another opportunity to get our kids together and have a great time! We can meet up at the church at 9:30am and carpool together. We'll check out the cool exhibits at the Witte Museum and grab some lunch. Hope all can attend!

General Announcements

Nursery - St. Paul is currently looking for a paid Nursery Attendant for Sunday Mornings during worship. If you know of anyone interested in the position, please see Stephanie F.

Thank You ~ The church would like to thank all who participated in our 26th annual Mother/Daughter Banquet. A special thank you to Laura W and Sharna Z.

Congratulations ~ The church would like to congratulate our graduates of this year.

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.

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.

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.

SPEC Supper Club ~ Community Outreach
Preparing and serving a meal for the needy of the community once a month on the first Wednesday. 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. 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 Willie S your e-mail address or phone number.

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!! Schertz Cibolo Emergency Clinic, 4825 FM 3009, Ste. 200 Schertz, TX 78154, On 3009 next to Bush's Chicken.

R.A.C.A.P. Pantry Needs ~ Peanut Butter & Jelly / Tomato Products (sauce, paste, diced, etc.) / Spaghetti Sauce and Spaghetti Noodles or Dry Pasta / Canned Fruits / Canned Soups Dish Soap / Laundry Detergent / Toilet Paper
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 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 44

113 Q. WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US IN THE TENTH COMMANDMENT?

A. That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in my heart. Rather, with all my heart I should always hate sin and take pleasure in whatever is right.

114 Q. BUT CAN THOSE CONVERTED TO GOD OBEY THESE COMMANDMENTS PERFECTLY?

A. No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience. Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God's commandments.

115 Q. NO ONE IN THIS LIFE CAN OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PERFECTLY: WHY THEN DOES GOD WANT THEM PREACHED SO POINTEDLY?

A. First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to know our sinfulness and the more eagerly look to Christ for forgiveness of sins and righteousness. Second, so that, while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, we may never stop striving to be renewed more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.

PRAYER LORD'S DAY 45

116 Q. WHY DO CHRISTIANS NEED TO PRAY?

A. Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us. And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking him for them.

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)

June

Old Testament: 2 Chronicles 4 – Job 25

New Testament: John 12:20 – Acts 10

July

Old Testament: Job 26 – Psalms 64

New Testament: Acts 11 – Romans 1

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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