

# May Newsletter 2017

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

From The Pastor's Desk:

## Faithful for Four

We recently celebrated the Lord's Resurrection together, did you know that Jesus appeared to hundreds of people after his resurrection and Paul says in I Corinthians 15 he appeared to 500 at one time. Then just before he ascended he left his disciples with the what we know as the great commission. The crux of this commission was "go and make disciples". When I was a young man I thought it only meant "go" as in go to Africa, go in to professional ministry, or go on a mission trip. While it does mean that, it may also be explained this way; "as you go" make disciples. This can radically change your understanding of the commission to go. If it is "as you go" it means "as you go" to work, "as you go" to school, "as you go" to the ball field, and even "as you go" home make disciples. If we begin to see our everyday lives as an opportunity to make disciples we will be fulfilling the great commission as the Lord intended.

How do we do this? One of the things that I hear repeatedly from people is they are afraid they are going to say the wrong thing. But, it might encourage you to know that according to recent research "78% of people who don't attend church regularly are open to discussions about your faith if asked". Many people want to talk about it. Getting the conversation started might be frightening, but can be a very natural thing. How so? Invite them to church. Many conversations start that way. If they come with you and hear the gospel preached you can ask them afterwards what they thought about what was said. This often will lead to deep conversations about the gospel. What people most want to hear is what your faith means to you and how it has impacted and changed you and your story. You can also commit to pray for them, which might just be the most important thing we can do for them.

To help all of us focus in on this concept of making disciples "as you go" we are going to kick off a campaign we are calling **Faithful for Four**. The idea behind **Faithful for Four** is to ask you to join me in committing yourself to praying for, engaging in meaningful conversation with, and inviting to church four friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. who you know do not attend church regularly. Even as you read this you probably are forming a list in your mind of people who fit that description. Pray for them now! And commit yourself to seeking to be faithful to them.

One of the most profound statements about the early church in Acts 2 is "the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved". As we are faithful to worshipping God, praying, applying the gospel to our lives, and making disciples "as we go" lives will be changed and our church will be full. Filling the pews is not the goal, making disciples is the goal. We can't sit back and wait for people to come to us. If we truly believe "the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1) we must go and take the message with us! Won't you join us as we are **Faithful for Four!**

*Grace and Peace*

*Pastor Jason Ford*

## Important! Save the Dates!

St. Paul Evangelical Church will be Hosting the Reformation Bible Conference 1517-2017 "The Gospel Rediscovered". This is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. At its heart the reformation was really a rediscovery of the true Gospel of a Righteousness that is by grace through faith and not of works. This conference will delve into the riches of this gospel as it was rediscovered by Luther, Calvin, and others and how this still has impact on our lives and churches today. The dates are Friday evening September 29th and Saturday Morning September 30th. The Speakers will be Dr. Duncan Rankin Adjunct professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary, Dr. John Richter Pastor of St. John's Church in Cullman, AL, and Rev. Jim Barnes National Minister of the EA. More information

will be coming soon. If you would like to help plan and coordinate this event talk to Pastor Jason.

## Exciting News

On April 25th, 2017 Pastor Jason Ford was unanimously elected to join the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Churches' board of directors. He will be serving alongside other ministers in the EA to help lead and promote the EA and its mission locally and around the country. The Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches is a growing, national voluntary association of churches, ministers, and believers networking together to further the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of this Association is to:

Deepen and expand the fellowship of our clergy and churches.

Help ministers and congregations discover new and creative ways to work together in partnership to advance the work of the Kingdom.

Assist churches coming out of denominational structures as they seek to function as independent, autonomous congregations.

Encourage our churches, clergy and laity to maintain a steadfast biblical witness, affirming Jesus as Lord in an era when many are pressuring Christians to compromise the truth. To support and promote the Scriptural principles of the autonomy of the local church and encourage a steadfast Biblical witness by our churches, our clergy and laity to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

To assist churches in finding pastors.

This is a voluntary position, and will only serve to enhance Pastor Ford's ministry here at St. Paul. You can learn more about the EA at <http://www.evangelicalassociation.org>

## Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies and Sunday School at 9:30 am

Summer Break – Last Day May 28th

### **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.**

### **Summer Break – Last Day May 31st**

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 from FaithWeaver.

## Children's Ministry- Save the Dates!

Terrific Tuesdays- This summer we will be celebrating kids on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in June and July, and the 2nd Tuesday in August. We'll plan events geared toward our different age groups, but families of all ages are welcome to attend. We'll have some day time and some evening activities. Look for more information coming soon. If you'd like to help plan any of these events, please see Stephanie Ford.

## Upcoming Events

SPEC Supper Club ~ Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Ladies' Book Group ~ Wednesday evenings 8pm May 3rd. "The Best Yes" by Lysa TerKeurst. We meet here in Cibolo and enjoy fellowship together while going through the book. Please see Stephanie Ford for more information.

Women's Fellowship ~. Thursday, May 4th at noon To discuss the trip to Schertz Park, June 1st from 9-2. It will be brown bag so bring a sack lunch and drink. An ice chest will be provided. For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Theology on Tap ~ May 5th and 26th. For more information, contact Pastor Jason at 210-382-6596. Locations to be announced soon.

Mother Daughter Banquet ~ Saturday, May 6th at 12:00. *Reservations* must be made no later than April 30, (no exceptions due to catering). The theme is "Once Upon an Apron", attendees should bring their favorite apron. You do not have to have a ticket purchased to make the reservation. Please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

The Sewing Sisters ~ May 11th and 25<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Council Meeting ~ Monday, May 15th at 7:00 pm.

Community Breakfast & Bingo ~ Thursday, May 18th at 8:30 am.

Offices Closed ~ In observance of Memorial Day the church offices will be closed Monday, May 29th.

## General Announcements

Graduation Sunday ~ St. Paul will be honoring graduates on Sunday, May 21st. So, if you or someone in your family will be graduating this spring, please let, the church, 210-658-5874, know where and when they will be graduating and what their future plans are. The deadline for submissions is May 14th.

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.

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. 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 Kids' Corp. The children participate in making new cards by attaching a new back and then selling them. To purchase 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 210-658-5874.

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. 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** ~ 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](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

### **109 Q. DOES GOD, IN THIS COMMANDMENT, FORBID ONLY SUCH SCANDALOUS SINS AS ADULTERY?**

A. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul, and God wants both to be kept clean and holy. That is why he forbids everything which incites unchastity, whether it be actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires.

### **LORD'S DAY 42**

### **110 Q. WHAT DOES GOD FORBID IN THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT?**

A. He forbids not only outright theft and robbery, punishable by law. But in God's sight theft also includes cheating and swindling our neighbor by schemes made to appear legitimate, such as: inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume; fraudulent merchandising; counterfeit money; excessive interest; or any other means forbidden by God. In addition he forbids all greed and pointless squandering of his gifts.

### **111 Q. WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF YOU IN THIS COMMANDMENT?**

A. That I do whatever I can for my neighbor's good, that I treat him as I would like others to treat me, and that I work faithfully so that I may share with those in need.

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

A. God's will is that I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone without a hearing or without a just cause. Rather, in court and everywhere else, I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind; these are devices the devil himself uses, and they would call down on me God's intense anger. I should love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it. And I should do what I can to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.

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)

May

Old Testament: 1 Kings 2 – 2 Chronicles 3

New Testament: Luke 22:39 – John 12:19

June

Old Testament: 2 Chronicles 4-Job 25

New Testament: John 12:20-Acts 10

## St. Paul Staff

Jason Ford, Pastor

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Robert Webb, Custodian

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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 therefore and make disciples ...} Matthew 28:19 and  
His Great Commandment {Love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself.}

Luke 10:27