

# September Newsletter 2015

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

## Pastor's Article

I have been thinking a lot these last few years about suffering. In October of 2011 I was diagnosed with stage 3 Testicular cancer. I had 9 tumors in my lungs and a mass around my aorta in my abdomen the size of a pineapple. The amount of pain I had before I went in for treatment was staggering. I had surgery the second week of October and then began Chemo treatments the week after that. In what basically amounted to 2 months I had 28 days of Chemo treatments. I was constantly sick and lost down from 225lbs to 165lbs. Miraculously God saw fit to heal me. The tumors in my lungs are gone. The Mass in my abdomen went from 7 inches by 5 inches all the way down to smaller than 3 millimeters and is now essentially gone. My pain is gone I gained back all of my weight plus 50 lbs, then lost it again. As I now have a few years distance from the worst of my pain and suffering I would like to take this opportunity to share just a few of the many things that God taught me through this trial.

C.S. Lewis said in his classic work on suffering. "Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains". I found this to be remarkably true. I learned more in the 4 months I was ill than I had any many years of reading and study. The first thing that God "shouted" to me was one simple truth. God puts us where he wants us, when he wants us there. It was a hard lesson to grasp. The first thought that crosses your mind when you are diagnosed with a life threatening disease is "why me God, and why now". I had worked many years as a youth pastor, interim pastor, and even volunteer pastor before finally accepting a call as a senior pastor just a year before my diagnosis. It didn't take long for me to realize though that I was exactly where God wanted me. I told my wife not long after we started going through this trial that I was excited to see what God wanted to teach me through this. No matter where you are, and no matter what you are going through stop and ask yourself what is God teaching me through this? I would rather be exactly where God has me than to be anywhere else that I could possibly imagine; ven if God has me in the midst of a great trial and great pain. The promise of Romans 8:28 rings even more true today than ever before. Truly "God works all things for good for those that love the Lord".

The second truth that God shouted at me through my suffering is a lesson that we all think we have learned but easily lose sight of in the midst of our fast paced busy lives. And that is the simple truth that every day is a remarkable gift. Just yesterday I went and watched my 12 year old son practice football. I find such joy in this simple thing. Every morning I wake up and see the sun shine, get to kiss my wife, and hug my son I think what a precious thing each new day is. Lamentations 3:22-24 says "The Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness". Never has this been more true to me. The Lord's mercies are new every morning. I beg you please do not get lost in the busy pace of life, stop and notice the beauty all around you. Find the joy in a simple cup of coffee in the morning, the excitement of reading a new book, and of the smell of fresh cut grass. Life is full of unspeakable joy and beauty! Embrace it!

The third truth that God shouted to me during my suffering, and indeed the one that brought me the most hope of all is the truth of the Resurrection. Romans 8:11 tells us "he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His spirit who dwells in you". Before my trial I found it easy to discount the importance of the resurrection. But the fact is IT HAPPENED. It is

a real event in space time and history. It is not a myth, it is a fact. When we face illness, pain, and death the promise to us is the fact that just as Christ was raised we will be as well. We will live forever without pain, without tears, without suffering. There is great hope in a future that is sure!

Elisabeth Elliot who suffered the loss of her first husband to martyrdom at a young age said this of God's will:

"The will of God is never exactly what you expect it to be. It may seem much worse, but in the end it's going to be a lot better and a lot bigger".

*Jason Ford*  
*Pastor*

## Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies for All Ages 9:30

**All Sunday School/Bible Study will resume September 13th**  
**The curriculum for all classes will be The Gospel Project**

### **Every story casts His shadow**

66 books. Dozens of authors. A holy canon thousands of years in the making. Every word, every verse, bears His testimony. The testimony of the Holy Messiah. Jesus Christ. Eternal King.

**The Gospel Project** is a chronological, Christ-centered Bible study for Kids, Students, and Adults that examines how all Scripture gives testimony to Jesus Christ. Through this course, participants will journey from Genesis to Revelation and discover how God's plan of redemption unfolds throughout Scripture and still today, compelling them to join the mission of God. Join us and 1,000,000 other Christians as we begin this life changing study. Each Sunday at 9:30 AM starting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

Youth Bible Study 7th – 12th grade  
In the Youth Room of the Parsonage

Adult Bible Study  
In the parsonage classroom

## Worship Service

10:30 - 11:30

Fellowship following service

### **Weekday Bible Study**

Tuesdays at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall  
Pastor Jason is facilitating a discussion on **The Book of James**.

### **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

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.

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual St Paul Evangelical Church Pumpkin Patch Update

### *THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!*

As of today, the pumpkins are scheduled to arrive on Saturday, October 5th, 2015 around 2:00 p.m. If that date or time changes, we will send out an email and phone tree call.

Until then, we need to keep getting ready. We need more pallets, so if you have some, drop them off next to the storage shed behind the parsonage. (they need to be in good shape)

We will have pedal tractors again for the kids attraction. If you have one the church can use or see one you could buy to donate, please do so. Again, just drop them off at your convenience.

We also need a few wagons, to transport pumpkins to cars for our customers.

Please sign up for a few shifts at the patch. The board will be up soon. We need lots of coverage. It really is easy, get a friend to join you, call a neighbor that needs some company. Let's reach out!! Invite people and share the fun!

Flyers will be in the fellowship hall in September to hang up around town. Spread the word on your Facebook accounts each week. Share photos you take while you are there. Spread the word about the patch.

A Thank you goes out to all the trustees, as they have already begun getting our grounds around the church and house ready. It is quite a task.

Let's make this the best year yet! We have so much to offer at St Paul. The Sunday school classes will be doing activities all month at the patch and there are several groups coming to visit the patch as well.

Thank you for your involvement and we will see you at the Patch!!

*Questions and or concerns call a council member or the church office at 210-658-5874.*

## Upcoming Events

### 5th Sunday Pot Luck Meal

Sunday August 30th. Please bring a side dish and or dessert and enjoy fellowship.

### Pumpkin Patch Planning Meeting

Sunday, August 30th after worship. If you would like to participate in the patch, please attend this very important meeting. If you have any questions please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

### St. Paul Leadership Series

On August 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall we will have our first in a series of leadership events.

This is an opportunity to gather together and work through what it means to be a leader at St. Paul Evangelical Church. It is also an opportunity to discuss the direction, vision, and goals of St. Paul. Council members, Board of Christian Education Members, Women's fellowship board, and anyone else who is interested in being a leader at St. Paul Church are encouraged to attend. Run time will be no more than 2 hours.

### SPEC Supper Club

Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:00 pm.

## **Women's Fellowship**

Thursday, September 3rd at noon. Lunch at La Cabana, 170 Buffalo Pl, Cibolo, TX 78108.  
Reservations required, please contact Bonnie on or before Monday, August 31st.  
For more information please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

## **Offices Closed**

In observance of Labor Day the church offices will be closed  
Monday, September 7th.

## **Sunday School Kick Off**

Sunday, September 13th Sunday School will begin with breakfast.

## **Board of Christian Education Meeting**

Sunday, September 13th after worship.

## **The Sewing Sisters ~ September 10th & 24th**

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, September 21st at 7:00 pm

## **Community Breakfast and Bingo**

Thursday, September 17th at 8:30 am.

## **General Announcements**

### **Thank You**

Thank you for the cards, calls, visits and prayers during my last back surgery. A special thanks for all the prayers many of you have said for me over the last few years. Pat P.

### **Thank You**

I would like to thank all who prayed for me and sent cards during my recent surgery and recovery. I truly appreciated the care and concern. Vi R.

## **Volunteers Needed**

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.

## Volunteers Needed ~ 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 really needed for this endeavor as we attempt to help our brothers and sisters that may need a helping hand. We are seeking donations toward this cause as well as volunteers. Several members have already expressed an interest in helping.

Please see Mr. Rich A, Mr. Tom C, Mr. & Mrs. Don & Marion D,  
Mrs. Beth J or Mr. & Mrs. 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](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.

## 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.

## Cradle Roll Program

If you have a child under the age of three, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874 in order to enroll in our Cradle Roll Program. The Cradle Roll is an outreach program that provides biblical items and resources to parents of children three and under.

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

***They are almost out of the following items: Spaghetti Sauce and Spaghetti / Dried Beans  
Meat Helpers (Hamburger, Tuna, etc.)***

*Regular Pantry Needs: Jelly / Canned Fruits / Muffin Mixes Jell-O / Laundry Detergent / Dish Soap /  
All Toiletry Items (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, etc.)*

**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 [Beth@stpaulcibolo.com](mailto:Beth@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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

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)

### September Readings

Old Testament: Psalms 149 - Isaiah 23  
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 13 - Ephesians 5

### October Readings

Old Testament: Isaiah 24 - Jeremiah 31  
New Testament: Ephesians 6 - Hebrews 1

## Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 11

**29 Q. Why is the Son of God called "Jesus" meaning "saviour"?**

A. Because He saves us from our sins. Salvation cannot be found in anyone else; it is futile to look for any salvation elsewhere.

**30 Q. Do those who look for their salvation and security in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only saviour Jesus?**

A. No. Although they boast of being His, by their deeds they deny the only saviour and deliverer, Jesus. Either Jesus is not a perfect saviour, or those who in true faith accept this saviour have in Him all they need for their salvation.

Lord's Day 12

**31 Q. Why is He called "Christ" meaning "anointed"?**

A. Because He has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who perfectly reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God for our deliverance; our only high priest who has set us free by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by His Word and Spirit and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom He has won for us.

**32 Q. But why are you called a Christian?**

A. Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in His anointing. I am anointed to confess His name to present myself to Him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.

## Attendance for July 27 - August 23

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
August 2	99	5	104
August 9	65	9	74
August 16	65	6	71
August 23	88	5	93

## Giving Report for July 27 - August 23

*“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*

<b>Undesignated (env/checks/loose plate)</b>	<b>11,901.00</b>
Communion	18.00
Wild Game Dinner	300.00
New Building Fund	240.00
Prakash India Mission	380.00
GRASP	100.00
R.A.C.A.P.	75.00
Local Mission - SPEC	1,050.00
Church Maintenance	3,825.00
Pass Thru	170.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,059.00</b>

**Weekly undesignated giving average for this time period was: \$2,975.**

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

## St. Paul Staff

Jason Ford, Pastor ~ Jason@stpaulcibolo.com

Elaine McIntyre, Organist ~ Elaine@tindomorgans.com

Beth Johnson, Secretary ~ Beth@stpaulcibolo.com

Robert Webb, Custodian ~ Webbsondra@yahoo.com

St. Paul Evangelical Church  
Historic Downtown Cibolo  
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108 S. Main St., Cibolo, Texas 78108  
Telephone {210} 658-5874

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