



# St. Paul's Church

January 2010  
Volume 2, Issue 1

## **Special Interest Articles:**

- Daily Devotions & Commentary
- Women's Bible Study with Beth Moore
- James One Project
- Milestones
- Coming in February

## **Moving Into an Exciting 2010**

Dear Saints,

As I look back on 2009 I see a parish that has been on a real roller coaster ride, from the high of moving into an incredible new space in March to the painful realities that the financial distress or malaise the country is in has had some serious consequences for St. Paul's and our ability to do mission and ministry. We have been forced to become far more thrifty than ever before and yet somehow, miraculously, we have survived. I know that God has provided and will continue to provide.

Because of finances we have been forced to make significant changes in our worship and yet we were able to do so because Brian and Beth Barber were willing to take on that work and share their gifts and talents with the parish. We have added a second worship service at 8 AM and I was richly blessed with that worship last Sunday morning. We will begin yet another new worship service on February 7 with the introduction of The Flame Within led by Dane Sammis and featuring Christian heavy metal music and, amazingly, God has raised up a "house band" to play for that service under the leadership of Dane and Brian Barber. We are planning a monthly Wednesday evening service of Prayer, Praise and Healing which we will begin in March and will coincide with the monthly Day of Prayer. We have added a new Sunday School class in the pre-school area with a new group of volunteer teachers emerging to lead that class. The existing adult Sunday school class is expanding and growing in both its numbers and its curriculum.

Don Shepson began a time of Beer and Theology on a monthly basis that is a place where men can gather and have public conversations about theological topics, taking the Gospel into the world. Children's ministry has started a monthly parent's night out as a service to our families with young children, providing free child care (volunteers appreciated). A new women's Bible study has begun on Saturday morning with more than a dozen already in attendance. SOS Ministries continues to expand its ministry and mission beyond Buncombe county as doors have opened for ministry in Yancey county and we hope to soon re-start the ministry we

## **Exciting 2010 cont.**

had begun with the young people in Pisgah View Apartments. We are in the planning stages of fellowship events for young adults and also for a course that we will open to the community on strengthening marriages. We recently began the James I Project as an outreach to those in our community who are known to us to be in need of a helping hand to make it through the month with enough to eat. I am also excited about Legacy Church meeting in our facility and the possibility of Don Killian starting an alternative school in the Ministry Center in the near future. I look forward to being more organically connected with Legacy Church and partnering with them in mission.

We have organized the parish into two distinct teams that are now functioning in their respective capacities as Discernment Team and Responsibility Team and new leadership has emerged in many areas. We hope to see new leaders continue to emerge with new ideas and fresh excitement for mission and ministry in 2010. I would personally like to see God raise up a team to put on the Alpha course as an outreach to the community. I hope that we can also offer a parenting course to the community in 2010 and that God will raise up those with passion and leadership to bring this about. I hope to have a functioning youth program and my prayer is that God will send us youth and their families in 2010 to broaden the scope of our ministry. I am also praying for the beginning of a healing ministry that will grow beyond a monthly offering and become a regular staple of our ministry at SPC. I pray that we will begin to move out into ministry to our communities, and develop a real, living connection with a sister parish in Rwanda. In all that we do my prayer is that we not lose sight of our vision of connecting with God, one another and the world.

One of our main goals for 2010 is to improve our communications with the parish. We intend to publish a monthly newsletter again that will primarily be to keep you informed of what is going on and what is coming up. I hope that you will find it helpful and informative and also a way to get a sense of where we are headed and why. I also hope that this newsletter will be something you can share with your friends so that they can see that we are a vibrant parish, willing to try whatever it takes to reach our community for Jesus Christ, a parish deeply identified with Him, in love and fellowship with one another for the purpose of discipleship, and a vital part of western North Carolina.

In Christ,

John

## **Daily Readings and Commentary from Pastor John**

This year for our Daily Readings we are offering a new option. The readings will come you daily by email. There will be links to the readings online and there will be a commentary on the readings from Pastor John.

Please call the office, 277-7730 or email: [admin@spc-asheville.org](mailto:admin@spc-asheville.org) to let us know if you would like to receive these daily readings and commentary.

## James One Project – *Feed the Hungry*

*Anyone who sets himself up as "religious" by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.*  
James 1:26-27 (The Message)

In January we began the James One Project. We packed 15 boxes for distribution to those who need some help this month. In order to stock our “pantry” we are focusing on one food item monthly and asking each person at SPC to bring this item. February we will be focusing on rice We will pack boxes again at the February Parish Gathering, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Womens Bible Study with Beth Moore

Women of all ages and their friends are invited to join this study of the life of Christ based on the Book of Luke. The goal of the study is to get to know Jesus intimately -- as though you walked with Him during His days of earthly ministry. Join us on Saturday mornings at 9:00am and bring a friend. For information contact Suzanne Greene, 277-6718.

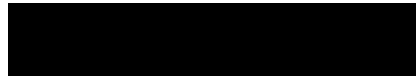
## Milestones for January

### Birthdays

1 – Jim Shores	24 – Kitty Caldwell
9 – Julia Connelly	24 – Carol Anderson
11 – Brian Barber	29 – Beth Barber
14 – Anne Snellgrove	30 – Benjamin McEntire

## Coming in February

- **The Pastor’s Bible Study** will move to Wednesdays beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **Discovering SPC** – Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- **Flame Within Service begins** – Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm
- **Responsibility Team Meeting** – Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm
- **Day of Prayer**, Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Ash Wednesday** – February 17<sup>th</sup>, Imposition of Ashes at 6 pm
- **Parents Night Out** – Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
- **Parish Gathering** – Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>



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## SPC VISION

To connect people  
with God, One Another and the World  
and to transform our lives, our relationships and our communities.

## SPC MISSION / PURPOSE STATEMENT

SPC exists to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission – to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength; to go and make disciples—to give the people of Asheville and Western North Carolina an opportunity to become fully developing followers of Jesus Christ.

Inviting them to an intimate relationship with God,  
Connecting them in healthy relationships with other Christians,  
Guiding them toward an authentic commitment to God,  
Involving them in life-changing ministry and mission in our city and  
the world that they may...

*Honor God completely*

## ***LIFE @ SPC***

- **WORSHIP** – attend weekly worship services
- **C3-GROUPS** – join a C3 Group
- **SERVING** – volunteer to serve in the parish
- **LIVING FAITHFULLY** – with your time, talent and treasure

