

DECEMBER, 2011



MATTHEW 2 : 1

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

PASTOR WALLY HOSTETTER

It just doesn't seem possible that Christmas is here. Our brief journey has been very rewarding over the last year. There is a joyful feeling that fills the sanctuary each Sunday. That joy is repeated with the many different gatherings that happen during the week. As I reflect on these realities, I see God's hand moving us slowly toward a unified goal. New faces are appearing almost every week in worship and the joy of the Lord continues to be our strength. We've made progress. Let's remember a few times we've shared. Think for a moment

about Easter. What a grand service we had to celebrate His resurrection. Remember when we drew names and prayed for one-another? What about the baptisms in the pool just outside the sanctuary? And who could forget the second annual campout on the grounds or the Night of Lights in the gym? A number of guest speakers blessed us this year and we added Josh to our staff! That ushered in a different Night of Lights worship service that repeats itself every month.

The year has been blessed as God has

added to the Church those who have been saved. Two membership classes have yielded several new members at St. Giles. Our future building plans were unveiled. Now, as we approach the end of this year, we believe God will provide all the finances we need to balance the budget and to enter the New Year ready to roll. In a few weeks you'll hear all the great plans we have for 2012. Till then, be blessed and have a wonderful Christmas that is focused on HIM.

Pastor Wally

READY TO IG-NITE ON WEDNESDAYS IN 2012?



Keep your eye out for our new brochure, giving you information on all the exciting Wednesday night programs for adults, youth, and children, beginning on Wednesday, January 18th.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



The Roman road is coming to an end January 8th when John Brown closes the journey with chapter 16. Starting January 15th Wally Hostetter will begin our new adventure with Ezra, followed by Percy Burns walking us through Nehemiah and Sara Jo Burns wrapping it up with Esther.

Come join us each Sunday at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for this new and exciting 12 week series into the Old Testament. To learn more, contact John Brown at jabrown1952@gmail.com.

GREETINGS FROM THE NEHEMIAH VISION

We want to update you on what's going on.

On October 23, Bill Monroe from WGM Architectural Firm, presented current and future plans for the St. Giles Campus. He did a superb job with his presentation on Sunday morning and then a recap with answering questions from the open meeting that Sunday night. Soon you will have access to the plans and phases on the website and boards in the narthex. We are moving forward in faith that God will provide and bless this wonderful and necessary project.



When the general budget comes in line, we will then begin fundraising. We are asking the congregation to join with us in faith and expectation as we take steps to fulfill the dreams and plans to enhance all the present and future ministries here at St. Giles, as well as make necessary improvements. To learn more, contact Bruce Andrews at Bruce.andrews@yahoo.com.

COMUNIDAD

St. Giles' latino church ministry, Comunidad De Las Nacione (Community of Nations), is going strong. We have some new faces and that means we have some new friends. Interestingly, we have some English-only people coming and we are accommodating them by having simultaneous translation of the sermons and also by doing some bilingual worship. We have formed a leadership team and they are beginning to work in their responsibilities. We are also forming a team of translators to do simultaneous translation using our translation equipment, which consists of a transmitter for the translator and headphones for the listeners. To translate in this manner requires a quick mind and the ability to both listen and speak at the same time. Our focus is – and has always been – to know God and to live in His Presence. We conduct periodic outreach events (complete with face-painting, balloon animals and a bubble gun!) to share the good news of the Gospel with people in different locations.

To learn more, contact Pastor Nick Bowen at nick@stgilesepc.org.

KING'S KIDS

The King's Kids at St. Giles are on the move!

December Happenings:

- Dec. 11: King's Kids Choir (2nd – 6th gr.)
- Dec. 11: Sunday Night - King's Kids Jr. Choir Dress Rehearsal (4yr. – 1st gr.)
- Dec. 11: Sunday Night - King's Kids (2nd – 6th gr.) Neighborhood Caroling
- Dec. 18: King's Kids Jr. Choir (4 yr. – 1st gr.) perform "To Bethlehem"
- Dec. 19: Battered Women's Shelter Outreach – King's Kids (4th – 6th gr.) will host a Christmas Party for the kids at the shelter from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.



New in 2012:

Beginning in January, The King's Kids will focus on a more excellent Sunday morning tailored towards helping kids grow into a more intimate relationship with their Lord! We already have a great Sunday School (9:30 – 10:15 am) with dedicated teachers who love the Lord and love their students. Beginning Sunday, January 15, children, ages K – 5th grade, will move directly from Sunday School to Kids Church for a special time of praise and worship designed with them in mind. The focus will be to help kids learn all about worship – Who? Where? Why? & How? What's in the Bible? A letter will be sent out to parents explaining our new focus, but we are excited about this change and believe if we offer an even more excellent Sunday morning for kids, more kids & families will be reached for the Gospel!

Also coming in January, Wednesday night "Ig-nite"! There will be a catered dinner and something inspirational for the entire family. Watch for more info. and sign-ups on Sunday morning, December 18th! Because of our focus shift on Sunday morning and the addition of the new Wednesday night "Ignite" programs, we will eliminate the Sunday night program for kids for the remainder of the year. If parents would like to attend the Sunday night adult prayer service, paid childcare will be provided in the Administration Building for their children. Please call or email Sharon Seward at sharon@stgilesepc.org to reserve your space.

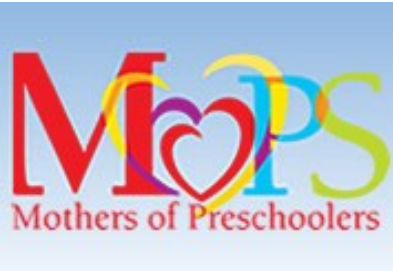
LOAVES & FISHES

Client Choice At Loaves and Fishes: What Would You Like to Eat?

More smiles are on the faces of people as they leave our pantry with food items they prefer. We recently implemented a "Client's Choice" procedure that enables everyone to select boxes and cans of food they desire, instead of us preparing bags of groceries to distribute. It takes a little longer as we assist our "shoppers" with this new approach, because we go over a list of our available items and inform them they can now choose their food, and so far it has been well received. Carolyn, who recently had several unexpected grandchildren abandoned with her, told us, "If I stretch it out I can feed the whole family for a month with food we like. I can now see a light at the end of the tunnel. God bless you!"

To learn more, contact Sharon Wohlfarth at WohlfarthJ@aol.com.

MOPS



During the fall semester, our MOPS group embraced the season of hope that comes through Jesus. We made advent wreaths to celebrate Christ's coming in our homes. Also, we prayed over 29 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child and spent an evening at the warehouse preparing the boxes for shipment. In addition, we encouraged each other through many table discussions on parenting. We really took root in our theme of MomSense and are discovering ways to be BOLD, LOVING and SENSIBLE.

Next semester, we look forward to making responsibility charts for our children and having a discussion panel where we can ask questions and get Godly feedback. We are also planning a field trip during spring break. We will continue to build our MomSense qualities and grow to be the Mom God has called us to be. To learn more, contact Lindsay Hodak at lindsayhodak@gmail.com.

WORLD MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Bible teaches us that our Father in heaven is preparing a bride for His Son consisting of people from every tribe, tongue and nation. The church at St. Giles has been deeply involved in this effort since our beginning, and today we support sixteen missionary families with prayer, communication and financial support as they proclaim the Gospel in various parts of the world. The World Missions Committee also wants to help the body at St. Giles increase their knowledge and opportunities to serve in cross-cultural outreach. There are many such opportunities in Charlotte. We would be excited to speak with you about working with international students or in immigrant communities. In addition, we are planning to offer three short-term mission trips in 2012. Perhaps this is the year you'll want to come with us and serve our missionaries. How exciting it is to play an active role in God's redemptive plan to prepare His bride! If you have questions about any of our mission opportunities, please contact Steve Seward at steve@steveseward.com or call 704-641-7277.

LOCAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE



Due to the time, resources and service of approximately 120 St. Giles volunteers in 2011:

- 42 homeless men were hosted at St. Andrews United Methodist Church
- lunch was provided to Montclair Elementary students and their families after a summer soccer clinic
- dinner was provided to neighborhood families one evening at St. Andrews this summer.
- St. Giles volunteers are THE BEST! Praise the Lord for one homeless man who prayed and committed his life to Jesus!

Plans for the beginning of 2012 include continued partnership with St. Andrews United Methodist Church and the Room in the Inn outreach. Be on the lookout for opportunities to participate in this outreach to Charlotte's homeless community.

To learn more, contact Robert Stasko at robert.stasko@piedmontng.com

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2012

When planning your schedule in 2012, please take into consideration these exciting events in 2012 that you will not want to miss:

January 18 - May 16: Wednesday Night "IG-NITE" Dinner & Meetings 5:30pm-7:30pm

February 22: St. Giles Seder

March 4, 11, 18, 25: Inquirer's Class

June 25,26,27,28,29: Vacation Bible School

August 26: Baptism on the Grounds

September 22,23: Camping on the Grounds

October 7,14,21,28: Inquirer's Class

November 22: Thanksgiving Service & Breakfast

December 24: Christmas Eve Service

MINISTRY OF HELPS

Greetings from the Ministry of Helps! Just a reminder to everyone that we have people who are available and willing to help you if you have some practical needs that you cannot do for yourself.

We will have a "ministry day" some time in the near future, and you will have a chance to sign-up to help, or receive help by this ministry. In the mean-time, feel free to contact David Evans at 704-904-3555, or email evans.david04@gmail.com. I will help to coordinate and find someone to assist you with your need.

Below is a brief listing of some things we can do to assist you:

Marriage Counseling
 Divorce / Separation Counseling
 Financial Counseling (non emergency)
 Helping people move
 Parental Counseling
 Checking on members who are not attending church
 Care for those with a death in the close family
 Care for those with a family member close to death
 Care and visitation to those in the hospital
 Care and visitation to those who are homebound
 Care and visitation for those in Nursing Homes
 Transportation help for those who cannot drive
 Help with an emergency home project where solving the problem by the individual is not achievable because of finances (be the lead for the project)

Job finding / Career changes

Emergency financial counseling

Emergency crisis help for:

___ House broken into ___ Stolen car

___ Domestic abuse

Care for those with a new child

Mentorship Program

Mentorship to single parents

Short Term Lodging

Legal Counseling / Conflict resolution

Lead person to set up meals for new moms and those with a death in the family

Spare vehicle to loan out for short term use

Inner healing / Prayer Support

Tutoring young children

Babysitting

Home purchase / find rental property

Computer Fix-up and repair work

Adopted Grandparents (to help out with practical needs and check up on)

If you want to have your name on the list of potential helpers in any of the areas above, contact David Evans at evans.david04@gmail.com

ALETHEIA MINISTRIES



Aletheia Ministries Leadership Team:

Gerry Edwards, Ellen Westover, Kathy Davis, Percy Burns, Carol DuPont, Marlise Newman, Sandy Stumpf, Roby Wallin

2011 has been an exciting year for Aletheia Ministries. We began the year by officially becoming a ministry of St. Giles Presbyterian Church.

In April, a team of 8 traveled to New Bern, NC to equip/minister to a group of 40 men and women. We were privileged to pray with many who needed a touch from the Lord. As God began to bring down walls, it was amazing to see hearts being mended, and people being released from such things as, unforgiveness, bitterness, shame and begin to experience the love of their Heavenly Father. Many lives were set free that weekend, and several received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and a dose of Holy Laughter!

Throughout the year, Aletheia Ministries (consisting of 19 team members from St. Giles and other churches), has continually given generously of their time to minister weekly to individuals here on the grounds of St. Giles. As a team, we have conducted 64 individual ministry sessions and prayed for more than 100 people in 2011. This year we have also launched our ministry website www.aministries.com in order to better serve those in need.

In November of this year, we held the “Transformed by Truth” conference here on the St. Giles grounds. The conference was held over two weekends and we had the privilege to train, equip & minister to approx 40 people. Below are a few pictures from the conference.



Training and Equipping Sessions



Personal Ministry - Baptism of the Holy Spirit



Testimonies shared after each session

To read more about what we are doing and see pictures from the conference, please visit our blog at www.aministries.com or “like” us on facebook. We rejoice over what He has done in 2011, and look forward to 2012 with great expectation!

Ellen Westover,
 Founder/Director, Aletheia Ministries

Y O U N G A D U L T S

The Young Adults Christmas Fellowship Dinner is December 17, 5:00-9:00 pm at Matt and Ashley Franklins' home. Join us at an open fire for an evening of fellowship, food, a personal testimony, worship and a time of ministry. For more information contact Rick and Karin Slate at 704-865-4656.

The Young Adults will conduct a Women's and Men's Bible Study/Discipleship Group beginning in January and continuing to May. The Women's study will focus on a topical study of Scripture and intercession through the week for one another. The Men will be studying a book in the New Testament along with memorizing a related verse per session. For more information contact Jane Burns for the women's study (704-814-9296) and Rick Slate concerning the Men's Study. Times and locations TBD. To learn more, contact Rick Slate at 704-865-4656.

L U K E 1 : 2 6 - 3 3

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."