



Keeping You Informed

*An Occasional Letter from Pastor Nelson
July, 2006*

In this letter are short notes on the following:

- Staff Changes, page 1
- Adjunct Staff, page 1
- Office Staff, page 2
- Baptism, page 2
- Doctrinal Statement Change, page 2
- Describing worship at SGC, page 2
- Finances of SGC, page 3
- Missionaries' update, page 5
- Background checks, page 5
- Coming Events, page 5
- Doctrinal statements (old and new), page 5

We would like to send this newsletter to as many homes as possible by e-mail to save cost. If you would be willing to receive it by e-mail in the future please send a note to cirving@sgc.org. Thank you

Student Ministry Staff Changes:

Tim Vincent will be finished leading our EDGE Jr. High Ministry as of July 31st. We are very grateful for Tim's work with our students over the past two years. He will be pursuing other interests that will be preparing him and his wife, Kasia, to be missionaries in Poland.

Pastor Dan Luebcke will be assuming leadership of the EDGE Jr. High ministry and leading the Tuesday night program. EDGE leaders and some of the pastoral staff will be filling in on Sundays. We are accepting resumes for a new Jr High Director and already have a great lead on a potential replacement.

When Kristen Bateman moved to southern Colorado, Carey Cecil accepted and started working as the administrative assistant (secretary) to student ministries and Kelly Green began as the student ministry assistant on July 24. Carey grew up here and has a heart to see this ministry grow deeper and provide the necessary help that is required to make sure our student ministry continues to operate at a high level. Kelly also grew up here at SGC and will be working in the areas of discipleship and leadership development among our women students and leaders.

SGC Adjunct Staff:

"Adjunct staff" is the name we give to several mature believers of our church who commit to serving 20 hours per week in the ministry without pay. We are deeply indebted to these men and women for the valuable service they provide.

Our thanks to:

Jim Vincent, Information Technology
Doyle Weathers, Congregational Care
Biji Kiker, Women's Ministries – teaching, mentoring
D Thompson, Women's Ministries – teaching, mentoring
Kathy Mahler, Missions, Prayer
Johnny Hein, Congregational Care
Gerry Neel, Facilities
Bob Wilbraham, Evangelism

Keeping You Informed

SGC Office Staff

I'd like to introduce you to our dedicated and effective office staff:

- Julia Grauberger – Office manager and Jerry Nelson's administrative assistant.
- Phyllis Sittner – assistant to Rich Peterson (Adult Ministries) and Trevor Lee (Young Adults)
- Joyce Goddard – assistant to Jim Kimbriel (Missions); Scott Naden (Music Ministries).
- Christy Irving – receptionist and assistant to Dori Sear (Women and Records)
- Carey Cecil – assistant to Dan Luebcke (Student Ministries)
- Taking applications for assistant for Than Baylor (Children's Ministries)
- Cynthia Peterson – Accountant (Tuesdays and Fridays)
- Elsie Peterson – Contributions secretary (Mondays)

Our thanks also to the many volunteers who assist in the office and accounting.

Baptism at SGC

We believe strongly in the importance of baptism for those who are trusting Jesus Christ as saving-Lord. Those wishing to know more about baptism and parents with questions about the baptism of their children should see several informative articles and tools available on our church website, www.sgc.org. SGC policy is that baptism is for believers 12 years of age and older. Parents of children under 12 years of age should see the special materials available to prepare their children for baptism.

Doctrinal Statement

The Evangelical Free Church of America (our denominational affiliation) is currently undergoing a three or more year process of reviewing our doctrinal statement to make it more reflective of and responsive to the needs of our churches. It is not so much that our doctrines change over time, as it is that our expressions of them change. **The present and proposed doctrinal statements are included at the end of this letter.** Your comments to the Elders are welcomed.

Describing worship at SGC

What "style" of worship does Southern Gables Church have - contemporary, traditional, or historic; organ, drums, orchestra, guitars, choir, or worship teams? The short answer is "yes" but we think it deserves more explanation. We begin with a simple but important reminder: **Worship is about and for God not about and for us.**

"As soon as we come to worship looking for and expecting an experience (for ourselves), we have violated the most basic principle of (worship). We easily become religious aesthetes capable of judging the entertainment value of a church service while remaining unaware of the reality it can open us to. Unfortunately for us, when our worship becomes self-conscious rather than God-conscious, it points not to God's reality but (only to) our own."

(Mark Horst as quoted in Anderson p76)

We want every aspect of the worship to focus on God – who he is, what he has done, and our response to him. So we don't think in terms of how the worship makes us feel or even "what we get out of it" but what God gets out of it – our desire is to worship HIM!

There are two words we use to describe our worship of God: "**Unified**" and "**Blended.**"

"Unified" - We are guided by a principle that says worship will not be about Builders, Boomers, Busters or Millennials but about the people of God, of all ages, called Southern Gables. Affinity groups are appropriate, but where do we meet together as the diverse yet unified people we are by God's grace? Where do we experience the young and the old, men and women, married and singles, new believers and mature believers coming together? When the people of God are seen worshipping in both the Old and New Testaments, it is not by age grouping, marital status, spiritual maturity, or any other division – it is all of God's people, regardless of differences, coming together to worship the Lord. Unity amidst diversity is one of the results and marks of God's grace. We want to reflect the unity of the body of Christ in our worship. Psalm 148:12-13 "Young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted."

Keeping You Informed

“Blended” - Our God is so original and so infinite! When we think of the variety God has given his universe, the colors, textures, sounds, and creatures, we begin to capture something of the infinity of our God. Such a God calls forth creativity in our worship. No one music style or even several music styles, can possibly express all the glory of our God. Is God more pleased with hymns than choruses or more pleased with Charles Wesley than Michael W. Smith or Matt Redman? No. This is why we use everything from historic to contemporary music, organ to drums, and creeds to testimonies. Our worship is anchored in the church’s rich historic expressions to God and seasoned with the fresh winds of the Spirit’s movement in the present.

Finances

There are three funds that provide the money for the ministries of SGC:

- **General Fund** (Personnel, facilities operation, ministry and budgeted missions) \$1,771,900 income in 05-06.
- **Building Fund** to pay for the Welcome Center expansion. Nearly \$500,000 was contributed in 05-06.
- **Designated Fund**, when people designate how the contribution shall be used (\$435,000 in 05-06). Over \$300,000 of this is for missions (in addition to the amount in the General Fund budget).

The first chart below shows the activity in all three funds for the past fiscal year (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006). The second chart (next page) anticipates income and spending for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007) in all three funds.

Southern Gables Church Financial Activity for July 1, 2005– June 30, 2006

| | General Fund | Designated Funds | Building Fund | Totals |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Balance on hand 7/1/2005 | 33,000 | 146,000 | 17,000 | 196,000 |
| Income | 1,818,000 | 476,000 | 509,000 | 2,803,000 |
| Spending | (1,726,000) | (490,000) | (301,000) | (2,517,000) |
| General Fund used to cover Designated Funds deficits | (13,500) | | | (13,500) |
| Balance on hand 6/30/2006 | 111,500 | 132,000 | 225,000 | 468,500 |

Keeping You Informed

Southern Gables Church

Budget Fiscal year 2006-2007

| | General | Designated | Building | Total | % |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------|
| Resources: | | | | | |
| Balance on 7/1/06 | 111,500 | 132,000 | 225,000 | 468,500 | |
| Offerings | 1,640,000 | 489,000 | 132,000 | 2,261,000 | |
| Rental | 73,000 | | | 73,000 | |
| Interest / Misc | 15,000 | | | 15,000 | |
| Total sources | 1,839,500 | 621,000 | 357,000 | 2,817,500 | |
| | | | | | |
| Budget for 2006-07 | 1,808,000 | 489,000 | 132,000 | 2,429,000 | |
| | | | | | |
| Balance on 6/30/07 | 31,500 | 132,000 | 225,000 | 388,500 | |
| | | | | | |
| Spending: | | | | | |
| Personnel | 1,026,000 | | | 1,026,000 | 42.2% |
| Operations | 334,000 | | | 334,000 | 13.8% |
| Debt Funding | 279,000 | | 132,000 | 411,000 | 16.9% |
| Missions | 96,000 | 340,000 | | 436,000 | 17.9% |
| Ministries | 73,000 | 66,000 | | 139,000 | 5.7% |
| Other designated | | 83,000 | | 83,000 | 3.4% |
| Total Expenses | 1,808,000 | 489,000 | 132,000 | 2,429,000 | |

2006-2007 Budget

We anticipate spending \$1,808,000 from the General Fund and having another \$300,000 for missions from the Designated Fund and an additional \$132,000 for debt service on the Welcome Center from the Building Fund.

The untold story:

While this is a large budget (\$1,808,000) it does not address several ministry opportunities we wish we could. The congregation's increased giving in 06-07 could also make possible the following:

- \$3,000 for children's outreach events (Easter and Family Fun Night)
- \$4,000 for volunteer staff expenses and outreach events for student ministries.
- \$9,000 for music ministries toward improving the sound system
- \$5,000 for marriage ministries and young adult outreach
- \$20,000 for staff conferences, bonuses, unreimbursed business expense, etc. We have been able to give only 2% salary increases for the past two years.
- \$35,000 for Missions: Additional missionary support, staff missionary retreat, short-term trips assistance, internship assistance, promotion, etc.

Building Fund

\$11,337 Mortgage payment per month on Welcome Center

\$10,000 Average income per month to building fund

Keeping You Informed

Missionaries

Set aside the Sunday evenings in October. We will be hosting a five-week Perspectives class taught by our own missionaries. If you have never taken this course, we highly recommend it for every Partner. If you have already taken this class, we invite you to come back for free and be encouraged through this experience.

Background Checks on some Volunteers

To protect our children as much as we can, it is the policy of SGC's Children's and Student's ministries to do background checks on both staff and volunteers. We use a company recommended by our insurance company to do a national search of criminal and sexual offenses along with social security identification.

To protect privacy, the reports are received and securely stored by Julia Grauberger (office manager) and read only by the pastoral staff member responsible for the particular ministry. Any staff member or volunteer is allowed to see his or her own file upon request.

Coming Events:

Children's Musical – "Holy Moses" 6 p.m. on Sunday, August 6

Immediately following the musical presentation will be a reception on the patios featuring ice cream sundaes. If your last name begins with A-N, please bring your favorite ice cream, O-Z your favorite toppings. Please drop these off in the Welcome Center when you arrive.

Discovery – Sunday, August 13 at noon

"Discovery" is the best way to learn about SGC. All of our pastoral staff are present to give quick overviews of the ministry, answer questions and just get better acquainted. Lunch is served and a child's version of "Discovery" is provided.

Family Camping Trip -- Thursday to Saturday, August 17-19

Have your family join other families as we hang out in God's creation for two nights. Arrive anywhere after 2:00 pm on August 17 and stay through Saturday afternoon. Sign up early because space is limited at the Printer Boy Campground at Turquoise Lake outside of Leadville, Colorado (Sign up in the Welcome Center).

Church Picnic – August 20 right here at SGC

Everyone is invited to stay following the 2nd service and join us for a picnic lunch. The meat, drink and dessert are provided; you bring a salad and/or vegetable to share. Inflatable bouncers, slides, and more are available for children along with volleyball and other games for all ages.

Taste of Gables – Sunday, September 10.

This ministry fair is a fun and informative look at the breadth of ministries of SGC. Come early or stay late and join us for a continental breakfast.

Doctrinal Statements (old and new)

Current Doctrinal Statement of the EFCA and Southern Gables Church

1. WE BELIEVE the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for Christian faith and life.

2. WE BELIEVE in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Keeping You Informed

- 3.WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the Cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.
- 4.WE BELIEVE that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
- 5.WE BELIEVE that man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
- 6.WE BELIEVE that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and that only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become the children of God.
- 7.WE BELIEVE that the Lord's Supper and Water Baptism are ordinances to be observed by the church during this present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.
- 8.WE BELIEVE that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the Head.
- 9.WE BELIEVE that only those who are members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
- 10.WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church, and that every local church has the right, under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.
- 11.WE BELIEVE in the personal premillennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
- 12.WE BELIEVE in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

Proposed Doctrinal Statement of the EFCA (second draft):

We believe in God's Gospel

Our identity as the Evangelical Free Church of America is centered on God's evangel, the gospel of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to give us eternal life. To God's glory, the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. Our fundamental theological convictions are aspects of this gospel.

We believe:

1. God's gospel originates in and demonstrates the holy love of the eternal, triune God—

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This one God, all-knowing and all-powerful, has, in love and grace, purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to restore His fallen creation for His own glory.

2. God's gospel is authoritatively announced in the Scriptures—

We believe that God has spoken through the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments. They are the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority that stands over every realm of human knowledge and endeavor. Therefore, the Bible is to be believed in all that it affirms, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

Keeping You Informed

3. God's gospel alone addresses our deepest human need—

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned through the temptation of Satan, corrupting that image. As a result, all humanity is alienated from God and under His wrath and can be rescued, reconciled, and restored only through God's gracious work in Jesus Christ.

4. God's gospel is revealed in history supremely through the Person of Jesus Christ—

We believe that Jesus Christ, Israel's promised Messiah, is God incarnate, one Person in two natures, fully human and fully divine, having been conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of God the Father, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.

5. God's gospel is accomplished through the work of Christ—

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, died on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His shed blood and resurrection are the only ground for salvation, and it is through faith alone in Christ that anyone is justified before God.

6. God's gospel is applied and empowered by the Holy Spirit—

We believe that the Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ by convicting the world, by regenerating sinners into union with Christ, and by indwelling, guiding, instructing, equipping, and empowering believers for Christ-like living and service.

7. God's gospel is now embodied in the new community called the church—

We believe that the true church is composed of all those who have been saved by God's grace through faith and regeneration by the Holy Spirit and are thereby united together in the body of Christ of which He is the Head. This church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of members of the true church. The two biblically-mandated ordinances of the church, baptism and the Lord's Supper, visibly and tangibly express this gospel, strengthening our faith. They are to be celebrated by the church in obedience to Christ, but are not a means of salvation.

8. God's gospel compels us to Christ-like living and witness to the world—

We believe that God's justifying grace in the gospel must not be separated from its sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, acting with compassion toward the poor and needy, seeking justice for the oppressed. In fellowship with one another, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil, especially with the Word of God and prayer. In all that we do, we are to bear witness to the gospel in word and deed, making disciples among all people.

9. God's gospel will be brought to fulfillment by the Lord Himself at the end of this age—

We believe in the personal and glorious coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with His holy angels, when He will establish His kingdom fully and exercise His role as Judge of all. This coming of Christ at a time known only to God requires constant expectancy and should motivate the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission. This is our blessed hope.

10. God's gospel calls for a response which determines the eternal destiny of every person—

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel, turning to God in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the unbeliever will face judgment and eternal conscious punishment, while the believer will experience eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.