

– Lifting up Word & Spirit in a life of whole-hearted worship

... Upward

### A New Season—by Pastor Steve Keller

2008 was a year of change with the transition of some of our staff members and some of our ministries. It by no means was easy or always smooth, but we have seen the Lord's goodness and faithfulness to us throughout the process.

2009 is not only a new year, but so far it is a year of new beginnings. We began 2009 by welcoming Meg Bowden on the staff as the Director of Ministries. The Deacons then presented us with the "Ministry of Helps" and are currently at work to help us minister to one another and the world by using our gifts, talents and resources.

We also launched a new venture called "God Stories" which involves practical ways and opportunities for us to share the Good News of Who God is and what He has been doing in our lives. As if that wasn't enough, the Lord then breathed new life into Sunday nights through the Love Works series. It turns out that the Love Works motto is true, it really is "an inner revelation for an outer

revolution."

We've made a change to our weekly Intercessory Prayer. Each Wednesday we gather from 12:00 noon — 1:00 p.m. in the Session room. For those who cannot attend but would still like to participate, we've created "E-Intercessors." An E-Intercessor is someone who receives the prayer requests and themes each week so they can pray along with the Wednesday prayer team. Contact the [church office](#) if you are interested. With all that's happening around us, this is definitely a season to come together to lift up one another, our community, our nation and our world.

It is an exciting time to see God calling, uniting and moving us forward as a church.

Be encouraged!

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## Remember in Prayer

### Our Expectant Mothers

Esther Franklin, March 7

Meredith Burns, March 25

Jessica Willey, April 14

Roz Brown, April 20

Karrie Crocker, April 28

Angelika Booher, July

Jennifer Carey, August 14

Sarah Norman, August 14

Andrea Myers, September 30

Leah Appleton, October 2

### Our Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- Jane Edwards and family on the loss of her mother, Sally Thompson Spence of Aurora, NC who passed away on February 28
- Elizabeth Brown and family on the loss of her grandmother, Lillian Beasley of Spartanburg, SC who passed away on February 28
- Peggy Drye and family on the loss of her father, John Halmans of Charlotte who passed away on March 4
- Marihelen Skiba and family on the loss of her sister, Katherine Ertel Plank who passed away on February 25, in Cleveland, Ohio.

*Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

- Discovering who we are in Christ and who Christ is in us

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MOPS

## St. Giles Women, Pursing Life Together

The 2009 Winter edition of "The Pursuit" newsletter was distributed during the worship service on March 8th! If you did not receive your copy, extras will be available in the narthex.

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Join us for our monthly Wednesday night meetings as we "load up" your tool belt and learn to advance as women of authority! (Caution: Warrior Brides under construction...)

- March 18: Take the Layers Off Baby!: God's heart for deliverance. Led by Kathy Davis and Ellen Westover
- April: Moving Heaven and Earth: Intercessory Prayer. Led by Jane Keller and Missy Evans
- May: Preparing for Revival: Loving Your Neighbor. Led by Pat Johnson

Note: The book table will be open each month, with books and CD's to help equip you.

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The March MOPS meeting dates are March 12th & 26th from 9:30—11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The "Believing God" connection group recently concluded. MANY thanks to Sara Jo Burns for her insightful and creative leadership of the group! It had a tremendous impact on the women who participated! "This study revealed to me that even when I think I am believing God, there are pieces in me that need to trust Him more! I feel challenged and equipped to go deeper in trusting God." - Lisa Johnson

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On March 13th & 14th, the Women's Council will meet together for a mini-retreat. Please be in prayer for these ladies as we seek the Lord for His plans concerning the coming year. The current council is Missy Evans - chair, Marlise Newman, Ellen Westover, Kathy Davis, Samantha Reed, Elizabeth Marx, Jane Keller, Jennifer Putnam, Jane Burns, and Marty Barkey. Please feel free to direct comments or questions to any of these ladies!

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## Men's Ministries

**March 18**

Men's dinner and Meeting at St. Giles.

**May 22-23**

*A Place for the Heart* Men's Retreat with Ken & Jonathan Helser, Sophia NC. This is a camping weekend, in which men from all denominations and walks

of life come together to do one thing, Celebrate JESUS!! Bring a hungry heart for incredible worship and teaching and a hungry belly for BBQ, pancakes and hot dogs! FREE Retreat, but will take up a love offering. Please register at: [www.aplacefortheheart.org](http://www.aplacefortheheart.org)

## Children's Ministries

### New Beginnings Nursery News!

We had a wonderful group of volunteers who recently came to clean and organize our 4 nurseries. A special note of appreciation to: Nora Blair, Peter Brown, Jane Burns, Sharon Bynum, Caleb Clarke, Jim & Debbie Jolly, Diane Martin and Steve Seward for a job well done!

\* \* \* \* \*

Beginning in the month of March we will have a New Beginnings Ministry Team which will be made up of teams of two (a Bible story leader & a music leader). They will rotate through the older nurseries each Sunday during the worship service. The Bible stories will be a follow up of the lessons taught during Sunday School! Please be in prayer for these leaders:

Bible lesson - Debbie Jolly, Coordinator; Elizabeth Brown, Rebecah Johnson, (one more leader is needed). Music - Amelia Bilyeu, John Clarke, Sheryl James, and Michael King.

### Upcoming Kids' Events!

**April 5:** Palm Sunday Breakfast – We will have our traditional biscuit breakfast and balloon lift at 9:30 am in the gym during Sunday School!

**April 18 & 19:** Paul Jobe Equipping Kids Workshop – All kids ages 8 and up are invited to come and learn more about using the gifts the Lord has given you. Look for more details in the mail!

Contact [Sharon@stgilesepc.org](mailto:Sharon@stgilesepc.org) for more information.

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## Young Adults (18-35)

April 4<sup>th</sup> 11:15 – 1:00 p.m.

The Young Adults Class will go to the Center of Hope – a shelter for homeless families, single moms and women sponsored by the Salvation Army. We will serve lunch, mingle with and minister to the residents and provide a brief service of songs and a message. Contact Rick Slate with questions:  
rslate@carolina.rr.com

## Life Matters

The Life Matters Adult Sunday School Class needs your help. If you would be interested in leading a discussion series for the “Life Matters” class, please contact Carol or Ward Sheffield at 704-634-9342.

ΤΕΛΕΙΟΣ

## Youth Events (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> )

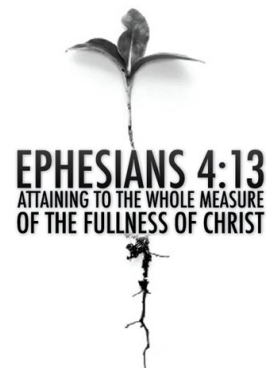
March 8 @ 5:00pm  
Mission Trip Parent Meeting in  
Youth Building

March 23  
Deadline for Mission Trip attendance Notification.

June 27 – July 3  
Mission Trip to Wade Center in  
Bluefield, WV

*Youth Director: Nate Horne*  
*nate@stgilesepc.org*

τελειος March Birthdays:  
Whitney Nelson – March 7<sup>th</sup>  
Chad Nelson – March 14<sup>th</sup>  
Katherine Drye – March 15<sup>th</sup>



- Recognizing our spiritual gifts & using them to reach our world for Jesus

... outward

## ΤΕΛΕΙΟΣ

### Youth Mission Trip

June 27—July 3

Mission Trip to Wade Center in Bluefield, WV

We have exciting news! ΤΕΛΕΙΟΣ will be traveling on a mission trip this summer to the Wade Center in West Virginia! The vision of the Wade Center is to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ to needy children and families in Bluefield, WV. We will be serving with their ministry this summer by helping with sports camps, completing

work projects for needy families, and spending time developing relationships with those whom God places in our path. Our great hope in this is that God would be glorified in all that we do and say and that Christ alone would be on display in our lives.

Our trip will take place from June 27<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon! In the meantime, please join us in praying that God would glorify Himself, bring forth His Kingdom and transform the lives of many through our time in Bluefield.

### Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes' mission is simple...to feed hungry people in our community. St. Giles is one of 16 pantry locations in Mecklenburg County. The pantry is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Contact Sharon Wohlfarth if you are interested in volunteering: WohlfarthJ@aol.com.

### Ministry to our Widows

**VISION:** James 1:27: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Our purpose is to minister to our widows in prayer, fellowship, and to be of assistance in and around their home when there is a need.

If you are a widow and would like to become a part of this group, please contact Margie or Steve Gladden at 704-841-8997 or margiegladden@carolina.rr.com

- Recognizing our spiritual gifts & using them to reach our world for Jesus

...Outward

## Missionaries We Support

### Alongside Ministries

Don & Gail Lilo (Albania)

### EPC

Paul & Elizabeth Branch (Argentina)

Jonathan & Fozia Young (India)

### Exciting Word Ministries

Steve & Cornelia Robinson (India)

### Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminar Chaplaincy

Percy Burns

### International Friendship Ministries

Raj & Cathy Aluri (South Carolina)

### Mission to Unreached Peoples

Corey & Angelika Booher (Poland)

Rick & Lisa Watkins

### The Obed Project

Franklin & Ree Linker (Israel)

### Rooted, Inc.

Michael & Esther Franklin (Scotland)

### Wycliffe

Ron & Marty Barkey

Bill & Sally Dyck

Rister & Esther Jenkins

Mark & Kirsten Jenkins

John & Bonnie Price

Mary Walker

### YWAM, Tyler TX

Glenn & Carol Price

## News from our Missionaries



**Corey & Angelika Booher** have just arrived in Charlotte from Poland and will be here until April 11.

**Bill & Sally Dyck:** “Praise God... Our assignments are finalized. Bill: Publishing Coordinator; Sally: Office manager for the Americas Area Office. We have so many opportunities to encourage others and to share about the work of Bible translation. Pray for Sally’s sister, Kathy, whose health is failing and we are becoming deeply concerned.”

### Glenn & Carol Price (Mercy Ships):

“Three of us traveled to Phoenix to interview Mrs. Cindy McCain who was eager to share about their experience in adopting a baby from Bangladesh 17 years ago. I was particularly moved by a couple of things she said—notably, that adopting Bridget was the best thing she and Senator McCain had ever done. Mrs. McCain said she has regrets that she didn’t do more and wants to get behind Hope for 100 in a very significant way. Plans are to air the TV interview on Mother’s Day.”

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**Pastor:**

Steve Keller

**Director of Hispanic Outreach:**

Alejandro Ruz

**Director of Ministries:**

Meg Bowden

**Youth Director:**

Nate Horne

**Children's Ministry Director:**

Sharon Seward

**Receptionist:**

Pat Andrews

**Elders**

Jeff Barhite

Norman Kaneklides

Eric Newman

Bob Poole

Rick Watkins

Robert Whitlow

**Deacons**

Chris Boyd

Peter Brown

Daniel Burns

David Evans

Paul Farish

Steve Seward

Ken White

We are on the Web at [stgilesepc.org](http://stgilesepc.org)

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## A Word From Your Session:

We are starting this section with the desire to better communicate with you, our body. Following are several areas that we have been discussing, developing and/or overseeing that we ask you to be praying for:

- We continue to seek the Lord regarding the position and hiring of an Associate/Assistant Pastor. We appreciate the input we have received (and continue to receive) from the body.
- Your Session is praying and seeking the Lord for direction as to the next steps for the Nehemiah Building Committee. We believe there was wisdom in many of the comments that came from the congregation at the last meeting in January.
- The Session and Staff are in a strategic planning process looking at the three pillars of our vision (upward, inward, outward) that will result in concrete goals and plans for realizing this vision. Our first step is defining what we want to look

like in each of these areas in 3-5 years.

- We are discussing how to better encourage and facilitate both individual and corporate outreach.
- We are continuing to improve our Men's ministry by praying for the Lord to raise up a team of men to oversee this.
- We are seeking the Lord as to how to better encourage our people to pray and intercede for the things on God's heart.
- The church budgeting process is now driven and managed by the Deacons. The Deacons are establishing a Finance Committee that will assist our staff in overseeing the finances of the church.

We appreciate any input, feedback, or questions you may have. As you pray, please feel free to communicate with us anything you believe the Lord reveals to you that would be helpful in these areas.