



st. simons
community church

2009 Annual Report

St. Simons Community Church

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Thank you for taking the time to review this annual report from SSCC covering the year 2009 and looking ahead into 2010. In these pages you will find the SSCC 2010 budget as well as highlights from our different ministry areas. I pray these pages will provide you with a great knowledge of what is happening at SSCC as well as help fuel your desire to pray for SSCC as we continue to lead people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

As I think about 2009, I believe the Lord began a process of trying to align our staff and team for greater effectiveness as we move forward. We have been looking at how our staff can best be aligned for the maximum impact in God's kingdom. Our elders have also entered into good discussion and dialogue about how to best lead in their role as an elder board. I believe there has been good fruit from these evaluations and discussions. Many of these discussions will carry forward into 2010 as we continue to seek to become more effective as a team of people.

There were many highlights throughout the year. I truly believe we had some of the most powerful baptism services that I can remember. We saw many new people confess Jesus as Lord and submit to baptism as a sign of their faith in Him. Perhaps the most memorable moments for me though were this fall during our "GO" series on living a missional life. During that time, many of us went down to O Street together and served this part of our community. At the end of the day, we helped fix up 23 houses as well as worked at Manna House and O Street Church. We also collected over \$10,000 worth of groceries and canned goods to share with Victory Assembly Food Bank. Those were some pretty powerful moments. In addition, we have close to 100 children sponsored through Compassion International. I felt like these opportunities reminded us together that church is not just about coming to the nice building God has given us. We are the church, and God has called us to be his hands and feet in the community.

As we move into 2010, my prayer is that we definitely have our best days ahead of us as a church. Please pray with us and look forward to the following areas of focus:

- 2010 is the Year of the Family. We have already initiated several successful attempts in this area including JumpStart 2010, and a number of electives for singles all the way up to married and those recovering from divorce. More than 200 people have signed up for these classes and are being encouraged in the area of marriage and relationships. We also hosted the Focus on the Family Marriage Simulcast with close to 275 people in attendance. This was a powerful time of teaching and equipping for those who came. Look for more marriage and family opportunities as the year continues.
- We also are seeking to emphasize personal spiritual growth during 2010. Our 21 day fast at the beginning of the year was a great kick off to the year in helping people get into God's Word.
- Alignment of SSCC staff – We are in the process of realigning some staff positions to help us become more effective and efficient. Our prayer is that this will improve our ministry efforts in greater ways. Please pray as we seek to make some transitions in our staff team.
- Groups and Discipleship continues to be an area we seek to grow in and improve upon. We are in the process of seeking to implement some change in these areas for the sake of helping more people at SSCC truly connect with others and grow in their faith. This continues to be a challenge and honestly an area for much needed improvement. There are many rich ministries and programs at SSCC but we need to do a better job in this area. We truly want to see people become mature followers of Jesus Christ.
- Financial growth and stewardship – Due to the economy over the last several years, we have sought to become better stewards than ever. I truly believe we are seeking to maximize our ministry dollars and work well within budgeted guidelines. My continued prayer is that the body of SSCC would continue to grow in our faithfulness to God through our giving and generosity. I truly believe God's Word is good even in tight financial times. If we honor Him in our finances and learn to be good and generous stewards, we will never regret it. I truly pray as a leader that I can become more effective in leading people in this area as an act of worship, faith, and obedience to our Heavenly Father. And I pray for a body of believers that are as faithful and generous as the world has ever known. Be blessed.

David Yarborough and the Elders of SSCC, Hank Ash, Curt Coleman, Joe Fendig, Charles Reeves and Larry Wade

Financial Summary

2009 Highlights

- Once again, God has provided for all of our needs at SSCC.
- During 2009 we were able to reduce our debt by \$1,200,000. The total debt owed as of December 31, 2009 was \$8,485,000.
- Operating expenses were down 16% from 2008.

2010 Notes

- The Finance Committee has experienced wonderful cooperation from the entire staff in the budgeting process.
- The Elders have reviewed the proposed budget for 2010 as presented herein and approve the same, as well as the additional recommendations as follows:
 - A Capital Budget has been established. All pledges and gifts designated for the building shall be used to pay down the principal debt on the loan.
 - The proceeds from the sale of any of SSCC's real estate assets (the old church facility and the two lots we own in Frederica Oaks) will be used to pay down principal debt on the loan.
 - The Finance Committee shall review the church finances monthly and a summary update will be in the bulletin each month.

Highlights of the Approved 2010 Budget

- Wages and Salaries for all personnel have been frozen at the 2009 level.
- Insurance premiums for property and casualty, liability, and health insurance remain under continuing review.
- As has been the long standing policy of SSCC, we continue to trust in God's faithfulness to provide the necessary funds and for the people of God to respond to His gracious provision by placing their tithes and offerings in the giving boxes located at the church.

Finance Committee Members

- Joe Fendig
- Dick Lefeber
- John Ludwig
- Joan Harris
- Jerry Harper
- Jim Kay

Operating Budget

| | 2009 Actual | 2010 Budget |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Giving | 2,524,394 | Trust & Tithe |
| Expenses | | |
| Interest on the Loan | 248,126 | 375,000 |
| Building Expenses | 170,462 | 161,861 |
| Children's Ministry | 15,406 | 19,080 |
| Educational Ministries | 981 | 1,000 |
| Elevate | 779 | 1,200 |
| Employee Benefits | 140,173 | 162,200 |
| Family Ministry | 135 | 6,300 |
| General Expenses | 50,449 | 53,950 |
| Small Groups | 3,873 | 4,900 |
| Hospitality | 28,000 | 39,765 |
| Insurance | 58,327 | 63,433 |
| Men's Ministry | 525 | 950 |
| Missions | 165,074 | 163,600 |
| Church Resources | 1,352 | 750 |
| Staff Development | 10,153 | 4,000 |
| Pastoral Care Ministry | 0 | 3,300 |
| Technology | 11,987 | 17,420 |
| Wages & Salaries | 902,763 | 982,063 |
| Women's Ministry | 923 | 5,850 |
| Worship | 18,247 | 26,164 |
| Youth Ministry | <u>19,018</u> | <u>28,990</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$1,846,752 | \$2,121,776 |

We have received 77 Pledge Cards for a total of \$277,584 in pledges for the building fund for 2010. This is over and above regular giving.

Small Group & Adult Discipleship Ministries

Submitted by Steve Temmer

Current Spring Family Electives

149 participants in 10 small groups – Love Talk, Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts, Resolving Conflict in Marriage, 5 Lies that Ruin Relationships, Managing Money God’s Way, Divorce Care, Young Adult Relational Issues.

Small Groups

We currently have 33 Home Groups with approximately 500 people regularly attending.

This year of 2009-10 saw the following numbers in the different groups:

- Men’s Fraternity 75 men
- Elevate: 35-45 people
- Celebrate Recovery 15-20 people
- Single Purpose 20 people in studies and 40-50 at each event
- Community Bible Study 130 women
- Island Bible Study 60-70 women
- Grief Recovery 8-12 people
- Divorce Care 4-7 people

Golden Isles Women’s Connection

Lisa Harper spoke to 500-600 women here at SSCC for the community outreach and over 20 women came to Christ.

Discover Classes

SSCC has developed a new series of classes called “Discover” to help our body learn more about membership, spiritual growth, and personal growth as listed below. There have been 14 classes with 219 participants.

Class 101: Discover SSCC – Learn about the history of SSCC, our doctrines of beliefs, our philosophy of ministry and what the role that you will play by being a part of this church. This is a four week class.

Class 201: Discover Spiritual Maturity – Learn how to get a grasp on reading your Bible, how to work prayer into your everyday life, understand the practice of giving and enjoy God’s family through fellowship. This is a five week class.

Class 301: Discover Your S.H.A.P.E. – Learn the five personal factors of your S.H.A.P.E. (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality & Experience). Find out how God has shaped you for ministry. This is a four week class.

Class 401: Discover Your Life Mission – Learn that your life mission has both universal elements (what God calls every Christian to do) and unique elements (what God has custom designed you to do). Find out how to use your time, talents and treasure in your church, community and the world. This is a four week class.

Family Life Ministry / Counselor Report

Submitted by Barby Westmoreland

Barby Westmoreland continues to serve as our counselor on staff as well as the head of our Real Life Marriage Ministry. In this part time position, Barby keeps a full schedule of counseling appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She continues to be a valuable resource in this area.

Good Grief

The Good Grief Care group continues to meet on Thursdays at noon and successfully ministers to those who are in the midst of the grief process. This group is led by Betty Smith and Lina Paulson.

Real Life Marriage

The Real Life Marriage Ministry continues to move forward in making a greater impact upon the marriages of SSCC. Throughout the year, RLM offers two date night events that serve as an opportunity to encourage couples in one area of their marriage. These continue to be well attended with a great response from those who attend.

Real Life Marriage continues to train marriage mentors as well. These trained couples are able to work with a mentoree couple for the purpose of maximizing marriages in our congregation. We believe we are seeing the impact this ministry has upon marriages here at SSCC. Real Life Marriage has already trained and commissioned a new class of mentor couples in 2010.

In 2010, Real Life Marriage will be a key partner for the overall emphasis of the Family as we develop marriage and family opportunities and electives (such as the Marriage Simulcast that was held in February). Jump Start 2010 was our first elective that ministered successfully to more than 50 couples.

Tiny Town (Infants - Kindergarten)

Submitted by Pam Scoggins

Tiny Town Attendance

- Sunday morning averages 110 children for both services
- 265 children on the Tiny Town kids roster
- Consistently average 2 visitors per Sunday

Tiny Town Growth

- 20 babies have been born this year
- 14 babies have been dedicated

Tiny Town Volunteers

- 143 adult volunteers including storytellers and worship leaders
- 12 Student Impact volunteers
- Approximately 25 new volunteers added to the rotation schedule

The second half of this year has been a season of transition in the area of volunteering. Several volunteers have had to step down from serving either because of personal reasons or being re-located. This has caused the need to be in a constant state of recruiting and training.

Highlights, Changes and Challenges

After the busyness and craziness of 2008 and the move into our new church home, 2009 was a year of evaluation and simplification. With the need to scale back our budget came the need to be creative in a cost effective way. The necessary cut-backs were made and the ministry did NOT suffer. Overall, Tiny Town had a great year as we sought to teach and introduce the love of God to our Tiny Town kids.

As stated above, recruiting volunteers is always a constant. But, God has been faithful in providing!

As in the previous year, we participated in Project Backpack in July and August. This year our church collected almost 200 backpacks to be given to needy school-age children in the Glynn County area.

Kid Jam/Fam Jam (1st – 5th grade)

Submitted by Deb Kay

2009 Ministry Overview

- Held our first “Jump In” class where the Gospel was presented to families in a fun and creative way by David Yarborough and Jon Blankenship. The meaning of communion and baptism was also explained during this time in a great atmosphere that was engaging for parents and children alike. Our prayer was to hopefully have 20 or so people attend. God brought over 100 people to the Clubhouse that day. Of those, 14 children accepted Christ. 30 children that had previously accepted Christ now want to be baptized. We will have two more of these classes next summer.
- Tremendous team of volunteers in both large and small group atmospheres that have devoted many hours to the children of SSCC.
- Many children were baptized over the course of the summer
- Jingle Jam- Held our second “Reach Out” event. Had a great turnout, around 700+ people, and a fun time.
- Held a “Chicks Night Out” where 117 girls and their moms (or other significant woman in their lives) attended to hear about Godly Beauty from former Miss America Heather Whitestone McCallum.
- Service projects such as the Food Drive, Angel Tree and Project Backpack allowed the children to reach out to other children in our community.

Total Children (1st-5th grade) - 287

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Avg. Weekly Visitors | 14 |
| Avg. children in Kid Jam on Sunday | 119 |
| Avg. children In Breakfast Club | 20 |
| Avg. People/Families in Fam Jam | 215 |

Total Volunteers

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Small Group Leaders | 38 |
| Large Group Volunteers | 22 |
| Breakfast Club Volunteers | 9 |
| Greeters | 16 |
| Resource/Props | 5 |

Curriculum

252 Basics. Family Wise by Reggie Joiner

2010 Ministry Vision

Simply... that every child that we come in contact with enters a knowing and growing relationship with Jesus Christ. If we miss that we have missed everything.

Student Ministry

Submitted by Jon Blankenship, Youth Pastor

Our student ministry exists to help lead students in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Inside Out

Inside Out is our High School Student Ministry. The main environment meets on Wednesday nights in the Rooftop for worship and teaching. We also have small groups for discipleship and leadership training that meet at other times during the week. There is also a lot of relational ministry that takes place throughout the week as youth ministers visit schools, games, etc.

Growth of Inside Out

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Inside Out (Wednesday nights) Roster | 244 |
| Average Weekly Attendance | 82 |
| Student Leadership Team | 18 |
| Adult Leaders | 10 |
| Parents on email list | 148 |
| Visitors | 70 |

Highlights

- Students accepting Christ and being baptized
- Completed our third annual Fusion retreat. 11 churches participated with 175 students. SSCC had 115 youth participate in the Fusion Retreat.
- Winter Retreat in Covington with over 110 SSCC students and leaders participating. Many made decisions for Christ and/or were challenged to go deeper with God.
- Implementation of parent night and consistent communication with parents via email
- Unleashed mission theme where an average of 30 students gathered together two days a week for 6 weeks to make a difference in our community by serving at Salvation Army, Dixville Project, and MAP International to name a few.
- Special events- Open Mic Nite, concerts, Christmas Party, rising 9th graders pre GP, Grad. Night
- Student leadership team took the last 3 months of 09 to replace worship practice with prayer and fasting.
- Series: Road Signs, Doubt, Shift, Reach Up, In and Out, A Christmas Story
- Took Bus of 7th thru 12th grade to Student Life Camp - Amazing!!
- Youth pastors took active Coaching role with Gathering Place 707s

2010 Vision

- Stronger focus on developing student and adult leaders
- Utilize parent base to better meet ministry needs through volunteers
- Encourage and Equip 707 and small groups leaders to take kids deeper
- Develop a youth council for Students of Inside Out
- Call to Students and Leaders to deeper place of prayer

Rush Hour

Rush Hour is the middle school ministry of SSCC. The main environment meets on Sunday mornings at 11 am in the Roof Top. This time consists of games, worship, and teaching. There is also a lot of relational ministry that takes place throughout the week as youth ministers visit schools, sporting events, etc.

Growth of Rush Hour

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Rush Hour (Sunday Mornings) Roster | 203 |
| Average Weekly Attendance | 76 |
| Student Impact Team | 18 |
| Adult Leaders on Sunday Morning | 8 |
| Registration team | 19 |
| Visitors | 73 |
| Parents on email list | 204 |
| Adult small group leaders | 20 |

Highlights

- Students accepting Christ and being baptized
- Attendance has reached new highs.
- Had our second annual Fusion retreat. Two more youth groups were added this year making a total of nine churches represented by 175 students. SSCC had 115 youth participate in the Fusion Retreat.
- Continuing to develop and improve a strategy for registration and system to utilize volunteers to serve
- High school students serving at Rush Hour made some strong relationships through serving and other student impact areas.
- Winter Retreat in Covington with over 110 SSCC youth participating. The students were greatly challenged in their walk with God.
- Student Life Camp – Took bus of 7th through 12th grade students.
- Continuing of consistent communication with parents and leaders via email
- Special events- Movie nights, rising 6th grade luncheon, middle school Pre GP, Prayer Night
- Teams of quality worship leaders for middle school students.
- Series: A Christmas Story, Andy Stanley's "The Battle Within", Road Signs, Doubt, Pause, Shift, We
- Started "coaches" model for 707 groups through leaders in SSCC.
- Started 707 on Thursday mornings at SSCC for leaders, providing breakfast, meeting space, and small group questions to 50-60 middle school students.

2010 Vision

- Implement Parent night for middle school parents and students
- Provide more prayer nights
- Increase by at least 6 adult male leaders and 3 females
- Stronger focus on developing student and adult leaders including Student Impact
- Utilize parent base to better meet ministry needs through volunteers
- Practicing principle of less is more
- Recruitment of leaders for 707 groups and getting middle school students in a 707

Missions Update

Submitted by the Missions Sending Team

The Missions Sending Team was formed in 2003 to help us become more effective stewards of the resources God has provided us here at SSCC and also to develop strategic partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally with Christian organizations and missionaries. We seek to financially support these partnerships and in some cases, send short-term teams to work alongside of them. We would rather seek to invest heavily in a few individuals and organizations than to use a shotgun approach. Our philosophy is to narrow our focus with like-minded organizations and individuals so as to maximize our investment dollars for the sake of God's kingdom.

In 2009, we were able to send teams to Romania, Nicaragua, Kenya, Haiti, and Bolivia. A portion of the funding for these trips came from the Annual Mission Golf Tournament fund raiser, which raised \$14,000.

The following is a list of our monthly commitments and one-time gifts during the year 2009. In addition, \$18,000 benevolence dollars went to meet the needs of individuals within our congregation and community. These monies went to help families and individuals who were in need of assistance. Praise God that we have been able to be the hands and feet of Jesus to many who have found themselves in a place of need. Be assured that these were legitimate needs and were received with much gratitude to God and our church family.

Monthly Commitments - Individuals

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Boniface Mosati | Kenya | \$700 |
| Jen White | Mailbox Club | \$400 |
| Beaver & Kathy Brooks | Much Ministries | \$300 |
| Ted & Ticiana Gordillo | Campus Crusade for Christ | \$700 |
| Travis Todd | Campus Crusade for Christ | \$700 |
| Matthew Anderson | Campus Crusade for Christ | \$500 |
| Dave & Nancy Johnson | Worldwide Discipleship Association | \$300 |
| Matei Branistareanu (Dragos, Marian, & Florian) | Romania | \$1,300 |
| Sherrie Fausey | Christian Light Foundation | \$700 |
| Emory & Mary Wilson | Christian Light Foundation | \$500 |
| Miguel & Edly Zucchetti | Baptist International | \$500 |
| Tammy Hutchins | Kirubai Homes | \$700 |
| Charles & Martha Schuman | Messianic Military | \$500 |
| Hurley McGahan | International House of Prayer | <u>\$300</u> |
| | Total | \$8,100 |

Monthly Commitments - Organizations

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Fellowship of Christian Athletes | Brunswick, GA | \$300 |
| CareNet Pregnancy Center | Brunswick, GA | \$500 |
| The Gathering Place | Brunswick, GA | \$500 |
| Living Well Ministries | Brunswick, GA | \$500 |
| Sparrow's Nest | Brunswick, GA | \$300 |
| Mary House | Brunswick, GA | \$200 |
| Manna House | Brunswick, GA | \$200 |
| Children In Action Sports | Brunswick, GA | \$200 |
| | Total | \$2,700 |

One-Time Gifts - Individuals

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Boniface Mosati | Kenya | \$8,500 |
| Cierra Loftin | Cafe´ 1040 | \$250 |
| Stephanie Ditmer | Uganda Medical Mission | \$500 |
| Louis & Wendy Sanchez | Campus Crusade for Christ | \$500 |
| Amber Rahn | Alliance for Smiles | \$250 |
| Father Jack | Los Amigos de Padres | \$3,500 |
| Erica Kaufman | Campus Outreach Charleston | \$250 |
| | Total | \$13,750 |

One-Time Gifts - Organizations

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Victory Assembly Food Bank | Brunswick | \$1,985 |
| Mtn2Sea Outfitters | Brunswick | \$2,000 |
| Faithworks | Brunswick | \$1,000 |
| Kairos Prison Ministry | Brunswick | \$1,000 |
| Nacer | Bolivia | \$6,900 |
| | Total | \$12,885 |

Staff and Elders of St. Simons Community Church

Full Time Staff

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| David Yarborough | Pastor |
| Steve Temmer | Discipleship Pastor |
| Jim Kay | Administrative Pastor |
| Jon Blankenship | Youth Pastor |
| Justin Davidson | Associate Youth Pastor |
| Fred McKinnon | Worship Pastor |
| Travis Paulding | Director of Technology |
| Chris Moncus | Associate Technology Director |
| Brandon Edwards | Production Intern |
| Deb Kay | Director of Children's Ministry |
| Pam Scoggins | Director of Tiny Town |
| Jenifer Phillips | Director of Hospitality |
| Laura Bird | Administrative Assistant |
| Anne Ditmer | Receptionist |
| Shannon Winters | Administrative Assistant |
| Ron Hannon | Facilities Manager |
| Jamie Goldstone | Facilities Assistant |

Part Time Staff

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Barby Westmoreland | Family Life Coach/Counselor |
| Paula Phillips | Children's Resource Coordinator |
| Amber Yarborough | Kid Jam Small Group Director |
| Shannon Lewis | Associate Worship Pastor |

Elders

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| David Yarborough | Larry Wade |
| Joe Fendig | Curt Coleman |
| Charles Reeves | Hank Ash |