

# THE COMPASS

Current Series:



December 27, 2015



THE  
ASCENT  
CHURCH

# Get Connected

If this is your first visit, thank you for joining us. We hope your visit is meaningful! Please fill out a Connection Card and drop in the offering or at the Welcome Areas so we will know you were here. For all guests and attenders, below are steps you can take to engage in our community.



## Explore I

Learn more about our church, meet our Campus Pastors and others on our leadership team. Woodmoor Campus: every 2nd Sunday at 11:00 am in Room 214. Northgate Campus: every 3rd Sunday at 10:45 am in the lobby. *No pre-registration required.*



## Explore II

Go deeper into the vision and mission of our church. Become an active part of our church community, learn our trail map for each person, ministry values, doctrine, and connecting with a Base Camp. Held quarterly at 10:45am at both campuses.



## Base Camps

Base Camps are neighborhood-based groups that meet regularly around our community. To build deeper relationships with your neighbors, visit our website at [theascentchurch.com/basecamps](http://theascentchurch.com/basecamps).



## Serving

Use your talents and interests to serve with others in your church, accomplishing common ministry goals. There are always teams you can join! Contact Joel Witzel at [joel@theascentchurch.com](mailto:joel@theascentchurch.com).



## Equipping

Our Equipping Classes are designed to help further your walk with Christ. There are many short-term classes offered at both campuses, as well as ongoing women's and men's bible studies. For more information, visit our website or contact Joel Witzel at [joel@theascentchurch.com](mailto:joel@theascentchurch.com).



## Worship Team & Technical Arts

Join our Tech Team or Worship Team. For more info, contact [carson@theascentchurch.com](mailto:carson@theascentchurch.com).



## Sunday Morning Team

Serve as an usher or host with the welcome team. Meet new people, serve together and grow in Christ as you serve our community. Contact [joel@theascentchurch.com](mailto:joel@theascentchurch.com)

# Community Life

## Guatemala Missions Trip

July 16-23, 2016



Ascent Student Ministries

For more information about  
the missions trip, contact:  
[ASM@theascentchurch.com](mailto:ASM@theascentchurch.com).

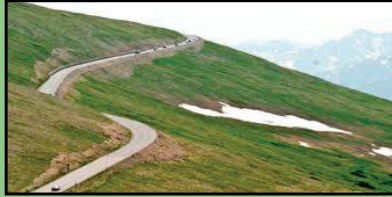
## End of Year Giving

The church office will be closed Dec. 24 - January 4. In order for year-end gifts to be credited in 2015, please make sure your checks are dated and postmarked no later than December 31. Online transactions need to be completed by midnight December 31. Questions, please contact Tara Kuntzsch at 955-2509.

## EXPLORE I

An Orientation of The Ascent

Woodmoor Campus: 2nd Sunday  
Northgate Campus: 3rd Sunday  
Join us for an introduction to  
The Ascent Church!  
*No pre-registration required.*



Explore II is a workshop for those ready to make The Ascent Church their church home and be involved in God's mission and vision in our region. Explore II includes why and how to become a member, our trail map for each family member, ministry values, doctrine, and connecting with a Base Camp. This is a follow up to Explore I; however, Explore I is not a pre-requisite.

- January 24 at 10:45am at both campuses

## January 10, 2016

Transition Update Meeting: 4:00-5:00pm

# Response Time

Each Sunday service, after the message, we have a time of response to God. We invite you to engage in worship through some tangible ways throughout our worship space.

- Communion: Available to all who profess Jesus Christ
- Prayer: Pastors or Prayer Partners available in the room
- Song: Engage in singing and expression to God
- Offering: Offering boxes and kiosks are available for giving
- Other: At times we will offer artistic/tactile worship stations

We invite you to move around the room at your own pace and in freedom to worship and respond to God as you feel led. You may engage these areas of worship in any order and at your own pace.

## Financial Update

**Last Week's Offering: \$28,846.96**

As of 11/30/2015:

YTD Giving: \$355,716  
YTD Actual Expenses: \$382,608  
YTD Budget: \$480,942

Fiscal Year 2015-16:

Avg. Weekly Giving: \$31,179  
Avg. Weekly Budget: \$36,995  
Min. Weekly Need: \$34,000



**Giving @  
The Ascent**

- (1) Offering Boxes: cash/check (in our worship service)
- (2) Online from our website
- (3) Kiosk: In the lobby
- (4) Mobile/Text: The Ascent Church App (download from your App Store)

# Connection Opportunities *This Week*



## Ascent Student Ministry (ASM)

(Middle & High School)

Please note: ASM will not meeting from Dec. 21-Jan. 4. After break, the next Tuesday meeting is Jan. 5.

- Middle School: 5:30-6:45pm
- High School: 7:00-8:30pm

**ASM does not meet this Sunday!** Future dates: Jan. 10, 17, 24. See you all in the New Year!

Email Micah, Rob & Taylor at [asm@theascentchurch.com](mailto:asm@theascentchurch.com) for any questions.

## Children's Ministry (Birth—6th grade)

Family services will be held on Dec. 27.

**Tiny Town** is available for birth - PreK:

**Adventure Quest** is available for K - 4th grade:

**Elevate** is available for 5th & 6th grade:

- Woodmoor Campus: 9:30 & 11:00am
- Northgate Campus: 9:30am

For more info, go to [www.theascentchurch.com](http://www.theascentchurch.com).



## Ascent Missions

The Guatemala Missions Trip is scheduled for July 2016. For more information, email [asm@theascentchurch.com](mailto:asm@theascentchurch.com)

## Equipping, Women's and Men's Ministries

**Catalyst Equipping Class:** Catalyst is for those seeking to get connected with others and be equipped for Biblical community. Catalyst meets Sunday mornings, 11:00am at the Woodmoor Campus in room 212.

**Parents of Teens Equipping Class:** The Parents of Teens Class meets Sunday mornings, 11:00am at the Woodmoor Campus in room 210. Join other parents for support and to help one another with raising our teens.

**Men on the Ascent Bible Study:** *Gospel of Mark* study, Tuesdays at 6:15am; will resume Jan. 5 after the Christmas break.

- Woodmoor Campus: room 213
- Northgate: Cafe Communitas at Marcos Pizza

**Women on The Ascent:** The winter session of Bible Studies will start on Jan. 12. Please visit the website for an updated list of Bible Studies. Neighborhood studies are also available. For more information, contact [joel@theascentchurch.com](mailto:joel@theascentchurch.com).





## Message Notes

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Sermon Passage: 2:13-14 (ESV).



## **Shared Engagement and Preparation**

The Compass is a daily devotional and study guide for individuals, families, and Base Camps. The Compass begins devotions on Monday and leads up to the Sunday which will focus on the week's passage. In this way, the whole of the church engages in God's Word and prepares for our time of worship and preaching.

## **Deep Engagement and Doable Application**

In order to allow for deep impact by God through His Word, The Compass centers on one passage in three ways — as individuals, with others, in our corporate gatherings — and focuses on applying what God is showing us, not biblical information itself. Life transformation happens when God's people depend upon and live out what He has revealed to us in His Word.

## **Consistency Over Time**

With a tool such as The Compass, we can mistakenly measure personal spiritual success or failure based on whether we've completed a given day's devotion. Rather, use The Compass as a resource for individual and community growth. If you miss a few days, move on and seek growth; God will honor this.

*Our prayer is that God will bless you as you seek to connect intimately with Him, intentionally with His people, and influentially in His world.*

**The Compass Passages for 12/28/15–1/2/15:** Luke 2:13-14 (ESV):

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

# Monday, December 28, 2015

**Read:** Luke 2:13-14.

**Reflect:**

In the angels' praise, they proclaim peace. What did this "peace" mean to the shepherds and the people of that time?

List ways in which Christ brings peace.

Record several areas (times, places, issues), where peace is elusive or hard to find in your life.

Why is peace elusive in these areas?

**What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?**

The angel's proclamation of peace was for those "on whom His favor rests." Those who enjoy the peace of God are set apart from others (exiles) in this world—but on display. Those not in God's favor may be interested in the peace you have. **How would you share with others the source of your peace?**



## Tuesday, December 29, 2015

**Read:** Luke 2:11, 13-14.

**Reflect:**

Luke 2:11 names Jesus as Savior, Messiah and Lord. For each term below note how He means peace to you as:

Savior -

Messiah (Anointed One) -

Lord -

What peace are you seeking? Where does Jesus bring peace to your life?

**What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?**

What would be an appropriate response to Jesus as Savior, Messiah and Lord?

## Wednesday, December 30, 2015

**Read:** Luke 2:13-14 and Romans 8:31-32, 35-39.

**Reflect:**

The angels proclaimed that Jesus brought peace, and Paul stated, “we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Yet, the Jews suffered serious turmoil shortly after Christ’s time on earth, and we, today, have daily challenges.

How, then, are you “more than a conqueror?”

How do you claim or lay hold of peace in the midst of turmoil?

How is your peace related to your identity “in Christ”? (Ref. Romans 8:39b and 2 Corinthians 5:17)

What does it mean to be “in Christ?”

How do you become or remain “in Christ?”

**What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?**

Great peace may come from the assurance that nothing can separate you from the love of God. How could you outwardly show this great peace to others?

## Thursday, December 31, 2015

**Read:** Luke 2:13-14 and Matthew 2:1-12..

### **Reflect:**

This Sunday is traditionally called “Epiphany Sunday,” celebrating Jesus’ first appearances as Messiah, Savior, and Lord—the One who brought the peace proclaimed by the angels.

Consider the Magi and their response to Jesus. They were non-Israelites, but were “overjoyed” to see His star and worship Him. They knew and quoted the Jewish prophet Micah.

What is the significance of this story to you today—of the wise men who visited Jesus? How is their example applicable to you?

In many of Jesus’s first appearances (and throughout His life), people did not correctly understand who He was. Many Jews were waiting for a conquering warrior king.

Were the wise men seeking Jesus as Savior of the world and “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)?

Meditate on who Christ is (and isn’t) and ask God for clear understanding of His son. Record your thoughts.

**What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?**

The Magi traveled a great distance, risked the wrath of King Herod, brought gifts, and worshipped Jesus. Name actions in your life that would be similar to the actions of the Magi.

## Friday, January 1, 2016

**Read:** Luke 2:13-14, Isaiah 9:6-7 and John 14:27.

**Reflect:**

There are many prophecies about the Jewish Messiah. Yet Jesus was, and still is, misunderstood—as Prince of Peace and Ruler over David’s throne.

How is Jesus’ peace “not as the world gives?” (ref. John 14:27).

Consider the lists from earlier in the week—areas where peace is elusive and the type of peace you are seeking. How might you revise those lists?

**What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?**

Who do you know seeking peace from something that will never bring true peace?

How could you share the “peace that passes understanding?”

Be sensitive to His prodding in this area.

## Saturday, January 2, 2016

**Read:** Luke 2:13-14 (focus on 14b), and Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Reflect:**

The proclamation of peace here is for “those with whom He is pleased” (ESV), or “men on whom His favor rests” (NIV).

Is the peace of Christ only for those whom God favors or those who are saved? Why or why not?

Why is this an important part of the angel’s proclamation?

In what way are you one “with whom He is pleased” or “on whom His favor rests?”

How did you become one who is “favored?”

**What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?**

Consider the concept of “on whom His favor rests.” Consider how you receive God’s favor and the peace which comes with that favor.

How can your words and deeds testify to God’s favor and the peace He gives?

## Building Our Base Camp Family

This is week one of our suggested four-week pattern for Base Camps: intergenerational, adult study, mixed, invitation/service. Each week will have an intergenerational element (such as the meal); then there will be a focus for the meeting that follows the pattern and is attentive to God's Word and the age mix.

**Prepare:** Cut out articles from a magazine or newspaper about issues in your community or world that are not peaceful. Be careful with your selection of articles since children will be included in this discussion.

**Intergenerational:** Begin your discussion with families, using the articles selected. Talk about the lack of peace in many areas of your lives. Ask the children and teens to give examples of times when they have not felt peaceful.

Ask the following questions:

- Have you ever felt worried about a problem at school with a friend, a teacher, or your schoolwork?
- What are some things that make you scared?
- When is peace not in your heart? What causes this feeling?
- Give the adults time to share experiences from their own childhood; times that were not peaceful. (Children love to hear what happened to their parents as children).

You are in the wonderful Christmas season of celebrating Jesus. He came to bring peace. He can calm you when you are worried or scared. If you look to Jesus and trust Him fully, He will bring a peace to you that only He can provide.

End this discussion reading Isaiah 9:6-8 together. Christmas is a time of peace. You need Jesus as your Savior.

# Contact Us

Church Office 719.481.3600

*(WM-Woodmoor, NG-Northgate, CS-Central Support)*

## **Executive Leadership Team**

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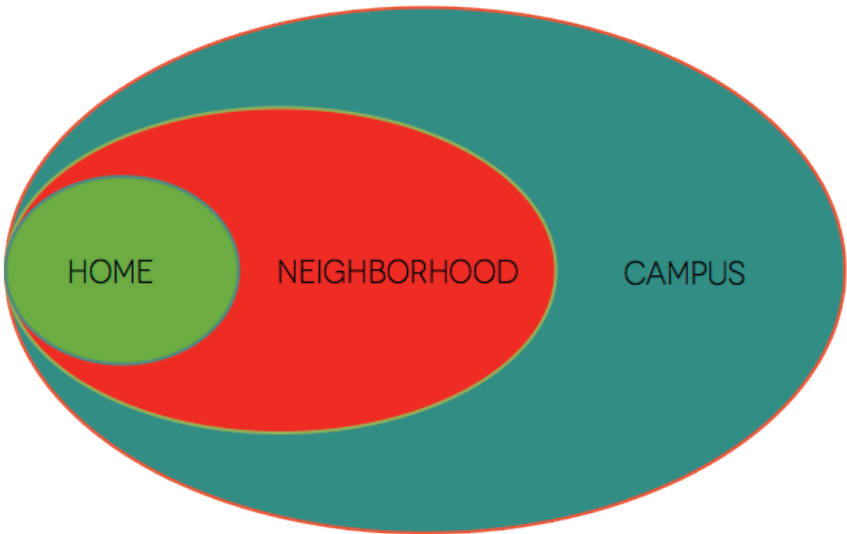
Ric Sieben, [Ric.Sieben@gmail.com](mailto:Ric.Sieben@gmail.com)

# Mission and Vision

The mission of THE ASCENT CHURCH is to help people connect: *Intimately* with God, *Intentionally* with God's family, and *Influentially* with God's world. Our vision is to develop genuine Biblical communities on every street in our region.

Our community lives out its vision and mission within three environments:

- Home - The best place for formation and nurture.
- Neighborhood - The best place for application and outreach.
- Campus - The best place for equipping, inspiration and celebration.



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Special thanks to all who contributed to The Compass.  
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