

## Our Community

### 11TH AVE GALLERY

First Friday Art Opening featuring the work of Amanda Kopp on 1/2 from 7-11 pm. [www.myspace.com/11thavegallery](http://www.myspace.com/11thavegallery)

### Small Groups ...

\*\*Women's small group on "Lies Young Women Believe" every other Tuesday at 7:30 pm. Contact Mary Sares or Kristi Spitzer at [mpsares@aol.com](mailto:mpsares@aol.com) or [kristiannsawyer@hotmail.com](mailto:kristiannsawyer@hotmail.com)

\*\*Men's Bible Study on John "Bring Your Own Chair" Monday nights at 7 pm at 46 W. 1st Ave. Contact Josh Cook at 720.244.4020 or [jrcook1@gmail.com](mailto:jrcook1@gmail.com)

### More...

\*\*Woodworking Small Group  
Guys & Gals on Saturday mornings. Contact Jesse Heilmann at 303.902.1759

\*\*Moms' Group  
For young moms who'd like to hang out together with the kiddos! Contact Leonor Ortega Till at 720.838.9544

\*\*Study of John  
Co-ed at Sam and Sarah Booth's home. Contact Sam if you are interested at 720.936.2970

## SOTEC Staff News

Joshua Peebles and Liann Adamczyk are engaged. Congratulations to you both!

Tim Dunbar has found a new position and January will be his final month serving us at Scum of the Earth. When you see Tim please congratulate him and wish he and his family well. We will miss you!

### Scotland 2009

Sign up for Scum of the Earth Church's 2009 mission trip to serve the Homeless & Arts/Music Scene in Glasgow, Scotland is wrapping up over the next 2 weeks. If you're interested in more information, please contact Ben Mercer at [\[ben.mercer@scumoftheearth.net\]](mailto:ben.mercer@scumoftheearth.net) by 1/5.

### Building Update!

Scum of the Earth has been richly blessed by God! Through our Benefit Concert on 12/20 we received the rest of the funds to pay off the building. We own it folks! We now pray for God's guidance that we might be faithful people in using His gifts to us.

### Council Update

Two council members have finished their terms on Council. Tim Dunbar and David Rapp have "retired". Thanks to both of you for all your incredible work and service to our church.

Please welcome Sam Spitzer and Fran Blomberg to Council. They were voted in by our church and will start their three year terms on 1/1.

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### Devotion from Mike Sares:

*But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.*  
(Galatians 5:5 - New International Version)

*For we, in Spirit by faith, the hope of righteousness eagerly expect.*  
(Galatians 5:5 - The original Greek word order)

Hmmm... isn't this interesting. Just after coming down on those who try to get God to like them by "following the rules," the Apostle Paul writes the words above. He says that trying to make yourself okay with God by keeping God's laws is the same as cutting yourself off from Christ. (And he is writing to Christians, for crying out loud!)

Galatians 5:5 is a key verse for our "attempts" to be more like Jesus. We can expect God to do it. We cannot do it -- on the contrary, the Spirit does it in us according to our faith. We wait on God for the righteousness to come. When we try to do it ourselves, we actually push ourselves farther away from Jesus.

Expecting God, awaiting God -- one gets the picture of a child staring out the window looking for the mailman to deliver a present from Grandma. She knows it is coming without a doubt, but nothing she does can make it appear. But she looks for it, she hopes for it, and when it arrives she is ready by the front door.

The "eagerly expecting" righteousness is our part. The rest is God's part.

I'm expecting this truth will trouble more than a few of those who read eDevotions. It will seem I am saying we have no responsibility to live righteously. Of course we do -- in the same way that it is the child's responsibility to open the package when it comes to the house!

In Him who is the author and perfecter of our faith,

-Mike

