

Baptisms

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Bethany & Beau Somers

Began ministry in April 2007

Mount Vernon

New Nazarenes

6



Mount Vernon Nazarene

Organized 1953

It seems eerily appropriate that the pastor's report for WAPAC is always due in the discipline building and repentance laden days of Lent. Trying to reduce the experience of a community of faith from 12 months of living, dying, birthing, sacrament taking, worshipping, ministering, and praying into a few paragraphs is truly discipline building and repentance laden.

But difficult as it may be, it is also a joy to reflect on the Goodness of our God through every moment of the church year. The 2009 church year has been an exciting one for Mount Vernon Nazarene. A microcosm of the highlights of the year can be communicated through the words of one of our ladies just yesterday. After a Primetime fellowship luncheon at our local Royal Fork Restaurant (what is it about buffet restaurants & Primetimers?), this woman, with tears in her eyes said, "I love this church. Everyone is so loving and accepting and kind. At this church I don't ever feel like a nobody."

This instance and many others like it point to our church's mission, that nobody would feel like a nobody. The mission that the board crafted this year reflects the heart of the church. It reads, **The Mount Vernon Church of the Nazarene is a community of faith committed to love God with all that we have and to allow God's love to pour forth from us through our devotion to God, our service to those in need, and by showing hospitality and love to all, recognizing that all are made in the image of God.**

Our church is not the largest of churches, we do not do everything right, we are not the most well equipped, but we are passionate about loving God and loving neighbor. We are Kingdom people and will continue be about the work of the Kingdom – pointing to the cross of Christ as our hope and our redemption (inevitably with a few stumbles and foibles along the way).

Some highlights of 2009 include the following. We have continued to foster key relationships within the community with non-profits and different ministries that serve the needy so that, small a church as we are, we can be participating in the healing of our community through Christ's love. We have served at soup kitchens, domestic violence safe houses, non-profit farms, ministries for illegal immigrants, homes for unwed mothers, homeless shelters, food banks, foster care ministries, sexual assault support groups, widows associations, and after school ministries for at risk youth. We have decided to utilize more of our 5 acres through the opening of a community garden. This year we will have carrots and zucchini where only tall grass used to be. We pray that God would bring the harvest for the needy and hungry in our community. We have pursued deep worship within our community of faith this year, celebrating communion together, walking through the wonder of the church calendar, studying God's Word as a community, fellowshiping together and serving together. We are blessed indeed.

In other, more personal, news - the last couple of years has been a time of new life literally and figuratively with a boom of new babies keeping our nursery to overflowing and our quilters busy making crib quilts. Beau and I have decided to get in on the action and are expecting our first child – a girl – on June 20th. That alone explains my belly; please do not blame our monthly scheduled potlucks.

May God bless you, WAPAC District with His Love and Vision. It is an honor to serve the Almighty with you.

—Bethany Hull Somers

STATISTICS	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Membership	194	208	208	211	201	205	205	212	145	98
Weekly Worship Attd.	152	157	142	121	128	134	116	109	107	112
Sun. Schl & Discipleship	101	101	96	90	97	105	85	141	194	96
New Nazarenes	4	12	1	0	15	4	0	7	18	6
Total Income	\$218,116	\$216,176	\$202,645	\$189,023	\$192,675	\$212,259	\$174,765	\$164,592	\$172,915	\$170,554
All Shares Paid in Full	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N