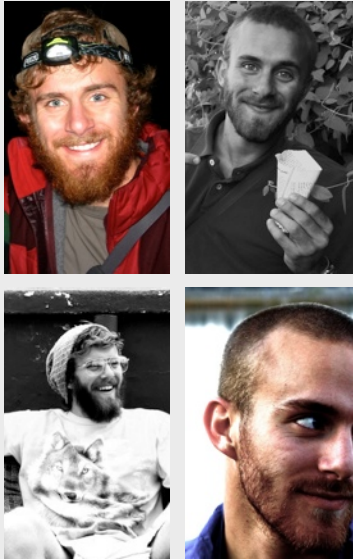




THE PARK JOURNAL

THE LIFE OF A CHURCH very often mirrors our experiences in life. There are seasons and movements in how a church grows – both in depth and breadth. Learning to lead & pray in rhythm with these movements is one of the more challenging aspects of planting a new church. Over the last four months we have experienced the most exciting season of growth since Park Church started in 2008. We hope that in the next few pages you can get a little snapshot of what we're experiencing right now as a young church in the heart of Denver and can learn how you can pray for us and even join us in this work.

PERSONAL STORY : BJ BRAWNER



BJ is one of many young leaders God has blessed Park Church with. He is currently serving as a pastoral intern.

"After graduating high school, I moved from Dallas to Denver to study theology at Colorado Christian University. Everything has changed: I no longer live under my parents' roof. I go to a school that teaches theological ambiguity. And I live in a city where anything and everything goes, where creation is loved over Creator.

I've found that Denver isn't necessarily lacking churches that play cool music and look hip; however, this city lacks truth – churches that constantly and unashamedly preach the gospel.

Park Church constantly and unashamedly preaches the gospel.

Some friends and I from CCU have been going to Park for a little over a year now. There is nothing like being poured into by a church whose life is centered on Christ and Him glorified. And I'm changed because of it.

Not to mention that they play really cool music and look super hip..."

GROWTH : DEPTH & BREADTH

I stood in the back of our main gathering room a few Sundays ago and just listened and watched for a few minutes during worship. I couldn't help but be amazed by God's mercy towards our young church. Here was a sanctuary full of people singing to God and I spotted all around the room, not just faces but stories. I saw Stephanie, whom we baptized just a month prior after she wept and confessed that she'd never heard of God's grace and the cross prior to meeting some friends from Park Church. I saw a young man singing about the Cross who has gone from a skeptic to a young believer over the past year. And I saw in that room the fruit of God's grace poured out in individual lives and in a community gathered to celebrate God's grace and the glory of Jesus.

One of the more noticeable changes we've seen in the last few months is growth. We've grown from just under 100 people worshipping with us on Sunday nights to over 200. Most of these new people have quickly connected to our Community Groups which meet throughout the week in peoples' homes. The growth hasn't simply been numerical though. As people begin to join us on Sunday nights for worship they are asking again and again, "How do we serve? Where can we get involved?" A clear process of moving into Park Church, not simply as attenders, but as partners in mission and ministry to one another and our city is taking root in our community. Looking forward, we continue to plan and ask what it means to be a gospel-driven community that impacts our city deeply with the grace and goodness of God through Christ.



sunday worship



community group



church campout



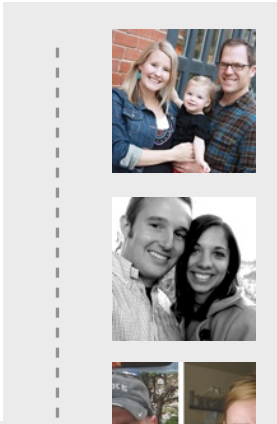
women's retreat



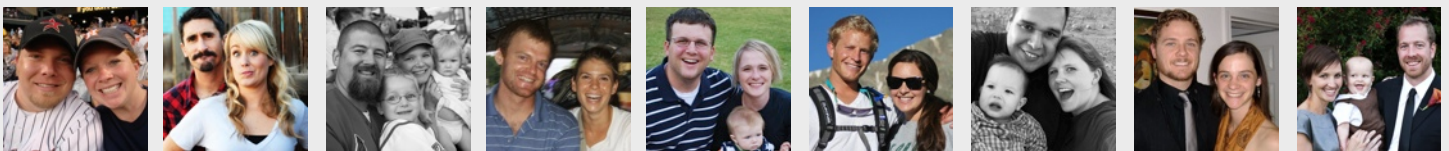
SUNDAY GATHERING AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

We've spent the last four months working our way through Ephesians both on Sundays and in our Community Groups. Through this book, we have celebrated the glories of the gospel – from God's gracious intentionality of eternity past to the merciful present reality of new life found in Christ. Paul's teaching got practical as we wrestled together

through what the gospel means for our marriages, our years of child-raising, and the daily call of our work. During these last few months, our Community Groups have swelled and new Community Group leaders have emerged. What began with three Community Groups in 2008 has now multiplied to twelve groups meeting throughout the city. To support and train these new leaders, we have implemented strategies to ensure that groups develop healthily and that the people who go to them are cared for well. In the upcoming winter and spring, we will work our way through Ecclesiastes – a timely book for both our city and our season as a young church. We are excited to spend some time at Solomon's feet, learning about what the good life really looks like.



group leaders



PARK CHURCH BAPTISMS

The summer and fall of 2010 saw our first two baptism celebrations. We currently rent our Sunday facilities from a Lutheran church who does not have an adult-sized baptismal. We overcame this obstacle by renting a large horse trough. In all we baptized nine people who had come to believe in Jesus and the Gospel. It was a great time to celebrate God's mercy in saving us, hear stories from these believers and watch them get a little chilly in the water. Included in this bunch were two students from North High School where our people have been heavily involved in providing meals, tutoring and serving through Young Life.





PARK CHURCH PEOPLE

MOVING FORWARD >>>

We are at a critical moment in the life of our young church. The vast majority of church plants never get to our current size and even fewer are able to maintain gospel fidelity and continue to grow. We see a few significant changes happening in the coming months that will be key to us continuing to grow with faithfulness and impact our city with the gospel.

We will need to relocate soon. Our current space holds approximately 230 people. We've had a great relationship with the church we currently rent from and have enjoyed extremely low rent (when compared to other church's who rent space.) We are looking for a location that will seat 400-500 people and allow us to continue to meet on Sunday evenings. Based on our research, our monthly rent is likely to triple (from \$800 to around \$2400.) We need prayer and options. Also, until our internal giving can catch up with the growth we are experiencing, we need ways to supplement our current income.

We will soon need to add more staff. It has become clear that we will need an additional staff pastor in the next 6-12 months (likely one who will work with musicians and on our liturgy in addition to other responsibilities like pastoral counseling.) In addition to this, we need more support staff for the day-to-day work of a growing urban church. We will be launching a formal internship program in the Spring that will help out in this regard, but we are already seeing some clear areas where we need some faithful part time staff.

Internships. We have started noticing a significant number of ministry-interested college students and seminary students in our midst. Desiring to love them well and steward their gifts, as well as train them for ministry with either Park Church or other churches, we will begin a multi-tiered internship program in the spring for interested individuals. It will involve mentoring, a lot of practical service to the church and a fairly intense amount of theological development. It is our hope that God would use this to raise up many young pastors in our church and many who could be sent out to serve elsewhere in our city and the world. We intend to start small this spring and develop it further each year.

Please be praying for all of these things. God is at work here in significant ways. We're excited to get to witness the gospel doing its work in people's lives as we continue to worship Jesus in Denver. If you would like to partner with Park Church financially, right now is an exceptionally important season in the life of our church. You can give online at WWW.PARKCHURCHDENVER.ORG/GIVE.