Baptisms

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Seattle First

New Nazarenes

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Mark & Christa Woodward
Began ministry in October 2003

Seattle First Nazarene
Organized 1907

It is a privilege to write my sixth report as pastor of Seattle First Church (SFC). A privilege, that brings a challenge of communicating all of the things happening for the Kingdom through the ministry of this local body of believers.

About five years ago I went to a conference where a question was asked of each of us: "what hole would be left in your community if your community of faith did not exist tomorrow?" I really could not come up with a good answer. I began to be challenged and repentant of this realization. Yes, we had a great history. Yes, we had folks that loved Jesus and were living that out, but what would our neighbors notice if we no longer existed—other than freed up parking in the community.

I can say five years later I have a completely new story to tell. Our community would notice if we were gone! Our community would not react from the outside if we no longer existed, but their very lives would be affected if our doors were no longer open. We have become so infused with our local Wallingford community – they are an integral part of who we are. There is no longer an "us" and "them" there is just the collective community that is "**US**".

We continue to reach out to our community through Mosaic, A Community Coffeehouse. Tim and Bree Smith bring their passion and leadership to this great gift of love to our neighbors. We continue to rejoice, weep and live through the moments that comprise this confusing thing we call "life". The bowl of soup to the hungry, the kind word to the weary, and the understanding ear to the newly unemployed continue to be extended. In the two years of our operation we have so many we now call friends.

I am thankful for a parish that embraces the idea we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. I am thankful to my partners in ministry: Tim and Bree Smith, Carolyn and Michael Biggs, Rhonda and Dave Bare, Johnny Wakefield and my wife Christa. We have four that are on the journey to ordination and we are glad to be walking the path with them.

We continue to follow the winds of the Holy Spirit where they are blowing, the same winds of love and change that have guided this parish for over 100 years.

—Mark Woodward

STATISTICS	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Membership	365	335	330	316	315	314	316	317	318	317
Primary Worship Att.	99	89	82	69	67	77	81	87	92	92
Sun. Schl & Discipleship	70	51	66	43	57	45	44	42	98	100
New Nazarenes	8	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Amount Raised	$249,555	$276,992	$243,098	$203,821	$188,715	$172,910	$217,012	$303,272	$214,120	$220,289
All Shares Paid in Full	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y