



# The Bethany Banner

Bethany Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church  
1454 Highway 161N Clover, SC 29710  
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August 2018

## ***A Word From the Pastor's Study***

In the opening verses of Exodus 34 one of the first things Jehovah God says to His servant Moses is to “come in the morning”. In that call he also tells him to make two tablets of stone, by his own, and then go up the mountain, also, with no other traveler in tow. In that simple overture you see the LORD asking Moses to do something that seems quite difficult. I’ve never “hewn” stone, but it doesn’t look easy, let alone for someone of Moses’ “vintage”. Yet how do we see this man respond to God’s word? Verse 4 shows us. It says, “So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him.”

Not only does Moses respond in full obedience to what God has asked of him, we see him do so with vim and vigor. He cannot wait to be in the presence of the LORD and as the text notes he left “early in the morning” to head up the mount in

order to go to the current dwelling place of the God of his Salvation.

Now, it may seem obvious where this word from the Pastor’s Study is going. That we should likewise approach the worship of the LORD with similar joy and excitement, and also should follow without change the law of God as He has presented it, and you would be right. But let me for a moment take a slightly different zig to this zag. Remember what is going on here. Moses in Exodus 33 had interceded on behalf of the Golden Calf worshipers of Exodus 32. He already had in his heart and mind the love of God. Read Ex. 33:17, “So the LORD said to Moses, *‘I will do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know your name.’*”. This is why Moses so quickly, and fervently, rushes up the mount to be with His LORD. His joy is grounded in the immensity of His God’s grace and love. This is the same reason why we come to worship together.



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### Sunday Preaching Schedule

August 5 Exodus 34:10-16  
August 12 Missionary Drew Goodman  
August 19 Exodus 34:17-28  
August 26 Exodus 34:29-35

### Bible Reading Plan for Month

July 29 – August 4 1 Thess. 1-5  
August 5 – August 11 2 Thess. 1-3  
August 12 – August 18 1 Tim. 1-6  
August 19 – August 25 2 Tim. 1-4  
August 26 – Sept. 1 Titus 1-3

### Important Dates for August

Deacon Meeting Aug. 5  
Appalachia Report Aug. 5  
Session Meeting Aug. 9  
Mugs and Muffins Aug. 12  
Missionary Visit Aug. 12  
Bethany @ Bonclarken Aug. 24-26

### Larger Catechism Question

#### **WLC Question #17**

#### **Q. 17. How Did God Create Man?**

A. After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female; formed the body of the man of the dust of the ground, and the woman of the rib of the man; endued them with living, reasonable, and immortal souls; made them after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, having the law of God written in their hearts and power to fulfill it, with dominion over the creatures; yet subject to fall.

### Missionary of the Month

Christ's Church is a missionary church, seeking to grow the Kingdom by the means of grace. This month we would like to highlight the work of Dr. Kieth Ackerman, Director of the Christian hospital in Sahiwal, Pakistan. Dr. Ackerman supervises, on behalf of the ARP, the work being done training nurses and the care of the sick through the work of our mission in Sahiwal.



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## Youth Corner Announcements

Our Appalachia mission team will be sharing our week with all of you on **Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**. We will have a covered dish in the fellowship hall and afterwards we will have our presentation.

- Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday David! (on the 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Happy 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday Hunter! (on 25<sup>th</sup>)

Operation Christmas Child shoebox items for the month of August are **sunglasses**. Please place donations in the box upstairs beside the bulletin board.

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

Psalm 119:105

## Session Report

The session met Thursday July 12<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda was Rev. Glaser's pastor's report for June, heard details from fall planning by the Christian Education committee, Elder shepherding groups, and held prayer for several situations in the life of the Bethany congregation.

## Deacon's Report

The Deacon's had their meeting July 1<sup>st</sup> before Sabbath School. They received the Treasurer's report; spoke about several projects on tap for the summer including new speakers for the nursery, basement water issues at the manse, and a possible fence for the playground.

## Christian Education Report

In July, the Christian Ed committee had their regular meeting and had conversations as how to best meet the needs of the congregation on Wed. Night and Sunday evenings. If you have not, please fill out the questionnaire!

## Wednesday Prayer Meeting

In August we will continue to meet for Wednesday night prayer meeting and bible study at 6:30pm. We continue our time this month with chapter reviews of Revelation. All members, young and old, are invited for a time of refreshing and learning about God's Blessed Word and enjoying opportunities to pray for one another in the mercies of Jesus Christ!



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## Monthly Prayer Requests

We will continue to be in prayer for a presbytery and nation that we will covenant to prayer for through this month. We are going to highlight Northeast Presbytery, and the nation and people of Norway.

### **Prayer Needs:**

Dollie Douglas, Hayes Faulkner, Sarah Faulkner, Janice Patterson, Betty Campbell, Winifred Callister, Peggy Wells, Theodore McClure, Garland Davidson, Geneva Smith, Bible Release Time, Appalachia mission and the children of Sneedville, TN, Good News Club, Andrew Brunson, Rose Knight, Kenneth Moses, Bonni Lee, Holly Keyes, Vickie McDaniels, John Bailey, and Samantha Johnson. Spiritual warfare, the President, end to abortion, missionaries, church planters, and all our friends.

## Devotional Verses

“O LORD, You know; Remember me and visit me, And take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In Your enduring patience, do not take me away. Know that for Your sake I have suffered rebuke. Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.” – Jeremiah 15:15-16

## Psalm of the Month

“You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it. You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth. You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance. They drop the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; The valleys also are covered with grain; They shout for joy, they also sing.” – *Psalm 65:9-13*

## FAMILY RETREAT NEWS!

Our committee which oversees the Fall Family Retreat is glad to report that we have a speaker and theme ready for our time of spiritual growth & rest at Camp Cherokee in Kings Mountain State Park!

This year's speaker is Rev. Mark Miller, Pastor of Clover ARP Church.

This year's theme is “Running the Race of Faith: the Means of Grace in the Life of the Believer” and the four sessions will cover: the Word of God, Prayer, Praise, and the Daily Walk of Faith.

**Date - November 9-11<sup>th</sup>**



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## Reflections on Music Conference

“This year at Music Conference, I sang in the adult choir under the direction of Rollo Dilworth. We learned music that was directly correlated with the overall conference theme, Go Into All The World. The speaker, Alex Pettett, spoke to us daily about World Witness and some of the ways the church can be helping out with missions. We all had a really great week!” – *Bethany McGill*

“We like to say that as soon as we pull out of Bonclarcken on Friday after Music conference, we start the countdown to next summer. So many memories have been made over the years for me during the week, and I always count it as a time of huge growth in my faith and great growth between me and my church family. In the words of Owen Seay, “I just don’t understand why more people don’t come to Bonclarcken. Music Conference is awesome!” I couldn’t agree more.” – *Anna Rhyne*

“Music Conference week, is very busy, for everyone involved. The planning starts well in advance to the week. Mrs. Donna and Mrs. Margaret do so much including planning and preparing the meals, making sure that the kids make it to rehearsals on time, and much more! Bethany ARP has a lot to be proud of.

The work that the students put into rehearsals and the concert. Our Bethany families provide much food, support and love. Watching and listening to our children, sing praises to the Lord ends the week of Music conference. It’s all of this that makes the week of Music conference great and keeps me going back. Thank you to all the people of Bethany ARP Church for supporting this conference.” – *Ronnie Smith*

“The Bonclarcken Music Conference is an annual event that is very dear to my heart. The Music Conference allows me to have a relaxing week of praising the Lord through music, catch up with friends from other churches, and relax in one of my favorite places on Earth.”  
– *Grier Jones*

“Although it is a lot of work and not a lot of sleep, Music Conference is such a great week for our youth. It is always rewarding to see those of every age spend the week together in Virginia Cottage, our home-away-from home for one week every summer. The cottage has presented its challenges over the years, but the kids' faces light up each year when they return for a week of music, chapel, swimming, Nibble Nook and more. Though we have our own



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challenges and bumps on the road during the week, we usually avoid "removing one from the island." The kids, no doubt, have shared the stories about "the island." If not, be sure to ask them about the mean island master!"

-- *Margaret Rhyne*

"We had a lot of fun at Bonclarken. This was our first time and we can't wait to go back next year. The singing and the swimming was the best part." – *Lily and Mackenzie Glaser*

"It was a great week at the Music Conference. I liked the songs and love to sing" – *Marissa Smith*

"I loved the rehearsals and the children church sessions was my favorite this year. I enjoyed singing with all my friends." – *Christy Smith*