



The Bethany Banner

Bethany Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
1454 Highway 161N Clover, SC 29710
Pastor's Study (803) 222-9897 Cell: (601) 577-1359
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January 2018

A Word From the Pastor's Study

You ever wonder what the nation of Israel was up to when they began to grow apart from the living and true God? What was their goal in seeking after the gods of the surrounding nations? Did they not see that all they had came from the Almighty and He alone should be praised for this? It is of course easy for us to be the Pharisee to their Tax Collector, thanking the Lord that we are not like them. Obviously any time spent in self-reflection has the words of Nathan to David come into stark relief to our souls saying, "Thou art the man!"

In the morning worship service, to begin this next Lord's Day January 7th, we will start a sermon series on the book of Micah. Now at first it may seem that this particular prophet writing as he was in the latter stages of 8th Century B.C. Judah does not have much to say to 21st Century A.D. America. However, as we launch into his teaching in the weeks ahead we will see there are quite a number of parallels in the lives and issues facing the southern kingdom and those in our own day, both inside and outside the church of Christ.

The prophecy of Micah of Moresheth can be found in your Bible between Jonah and Nahum. You can read more about the historical era of his preaching by turning to the 2nd book of the Kings 15:32-20:21. Micah is one of the only prophets quoted

by another prophet in the Bible. Jeremiah turned to him in his own warning to the people of Judah. (Jeremiah 26:18).

I think as we get into the text we will discover that the book of Micah is not as distant to our minds as it may at first seem. Micah has among his many sermons two well-known passages, the first being his prophecy of the birth of Jesus Christ (Micah 5:2):

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me, the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from old.

And the second, a testimony to what the believer should exemplify (Micah 6:8):

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

The prophecy of Micah is at its core a question of the place of the LORD in the lives both of His people and the world at-large. The great problem facing Judah was complacency in religious life as their material wants and needs were met by the financial blessing of economic growth. This bounty had come at a cost. In order to have this, the law of God was put aside, not just when it came to the land, but in worship. Micah will show us that only through faith in the LORD and ultimately in Christ Himself will true peace be found.



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Sunday Preaching Schedule

January 7	Micah 1:1
January 14	Micah 1:2-7
January 21	Micah 1:8-16
January 28	Micah 2:1-5

Bible Reading Plan for Month

December 31-Jan.6	Matthew 1-5
January 7-13	Matthew 6-10
January 14-20	Matthew 11-15
January 21-27	Matthew 16-20

Important Dates for January

Deacons Meeting	Jan. 7
Session Meeting	Jan. 11
Christian Ed. Meeting (7pm)	Jan. 9
Women of the Church (4pm)	Jan. 14

Larger Catechism Question

WLC Question #182

“How Does the Spirit Help Us to Pray?”

A. We not knowing what to pray for as we ought, the Spirit helps us in our infirmities, by enabling us to understand both for whom, and what, and how prayer is to be made; and by working and quickening in our hearts (although not in all persons, nor at all times, in the same measure) those apprehensions, affections, and graces which are requisite for the right performance of that duty.

Missionary of the Month

The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a missionary church, seeking to grow the Kingdom by the means of grace. This month we would like to highlight the ministry of Jeff and Lisa King in Spain. Jeff and Lisa are currently engaged in labors in the city of Madrid. Their particular ministry concentrates on the Evangelical Christian Academy, which provides elementary education to kids with a Christian focus. They are asking particularly for prayer for their children and for other opportunities to share the good news of Christ to their neighbors.



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Youth Corner Announcements

- Youth groups will begin to meet again on Wednesday January 10th at 6:30pm. Come join us!
- Happy 22nd Birthday to Grier!
- Happy 8th Birthday to Owen S.!
- Be on the lookout for more information on Ice Skating soon!
- Remember that we will continue to collect for Operation Christmas Child items throughout the year! Each month a different item(s) will be requested. Please place donations in the boxes upstairs beside the bulletin board. The items for January are **bar soap** and **washcloths**.
- Thank-you again to all those who gave gifts, prayed for, and went up to Sneedville to hand out the gifts for our annual mission. Please continue to be in prayer for the good folks in Appalachia.

Our verse for this month is:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!"

– 2 Cor. 5:17

Session Report

The session met Thursday December 7th at 7:00pm for their regularly scheduled meeting. Items taken up included the Treasurer's Report, Deacon's Report, went over pastoral and prayer needs in the congregation, and held discussion on some potential new members.

Deacon's Report

The Deacon's met December 3rd before Sabbath School. They discussed the new floor in the Fellowship Hall, the need for a new deep freezer in the kitchen (since purchased), a new A/C unit for the pastor's study (since put in), & approved the 2018 Bethany ARP Budget to be sent to the Session for vote and discussion.

Christian Education Report

The Christian Education Committee will meet at the church on Jan. 9th at 7pm.



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Wednesday Prayer Meeting

In January at 6:30pm we will continue using "The Bruised Reed", sermons by puritan author & pastor Richard Sibbes, as the starting point for our devotional.

We cordially welcome all to come!

Monthly Prayer Requests

This January we have many particular prayer needs before us. 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 First Presbytery, and the nation and people of Portugal.

Prayer Needs:

Chuck Walker, Dollie Douglas, Hayes Faulkner, Sarah Faulkner, Janice Patterson, Kelly Fowler, Winifred Callister, Peggy Wells, Theodore McClure, Crystal Costner, Geneva Smith, Bible Release Time, Good News Club, Andrew Brunson, Rev. Gentry McCole, Rev. George Bush, Lois Moody, Alex (Grier's friend), John Bailey, and Samantha Johnson.

The President, end of abortion, our nation, our military, and the Persecuted Church.

Psalm of the Month

*Give ear, O my people, to my law;
Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We won't hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.*

Psalm 78:1-4

Communion Schedule for 2018

February 4th

April 1st

June 3rd

August 5th

October 7th

December 23rd



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