



San Saba

First United Methodist Church

February 2015 Newsletter

San Saba
First United Methodist Church
204 W. Brown
325-372-3120
www.sansabafirstumc.com

Rev. John Saint, Pastor

We bid you welcome
In the name of
Our Lord Jesus Christ.
Pray with us,
Sing with us, rejoice
with us

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.



Ministers:

Entire Congregation

Worship Leader:

Tracey Thomas

Accompanist:

Nettie Oma Carpenter

Choir Director:

Tracey Thomas

Church Secretary

Custodian:

Mario Mendiola

**Newsletter deadline is the last
 Wednesday of the month.**

From the Pastor's Desk.....



What Does the Lord Require of You?

*What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy
 and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

Last month I wrote about how our love for God moves us toward transformed lives; a process called “sanctification” or “going on to perfection.” Again this month, I want to consider how our lives are molded by our loving response to a loving God.

The verse above from the prophet Micah is one of my all-time favorites. When I read this verse it seems at first to be prescribing a list of three things: 1) Act justly. 2) Love mercy. 3) Walk humbly with God. But on further reflection I wonder if that is not a misreading of the text?

To read it as a list of three things would imply that justice, mercy, and humility are three separate things. But as God defines them, they cannot be separated. Without being tempered by mercy, justice tends to be harsh, legalistic, and even mean-spirited. Without being bolstered by justice, mercy is unfair; it is nothing but nostalgia and favoritism. If I ask you, “Is God just or merciful,” the only good answer is, “Both.” Walking humbly with God means allowing God’s justice-mercy, rather than our own desires, to guide our actions. Jesus is our perfect example of this. Walking humbly with God means imitating Jesus in the way he humbly shared God’s love with those around him, who were then empowered to humbly share that love with others, who humbly spread God’s love still further.

Micah is telling us that the Lord requires only one thing of us, not three. But this makes it seem so difficult and confusing! I would prefer three things, because then I could keep a little list where each day I could check off one act of justice, one of mercy, and one of humility. Job done! But this cannot be. So how do we do it? How do we act justly-mercifully-humbly? Unfortunately there is no simple answer, but here are some questions which may point us in the right direction:

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How and when should I seek justice for myself?
 How do I feel when others extend mercy to those who have hurt me?
 Am I capable of showing mercy to others?
 Can I be merciful without making those who have been hurt think I don't care about fairness?
 Do I believe that only God knows how to balance justice and mercy in any particular instance?
 Is God alone the only righteous judge?
 How do I nobly strive to follow Jesus' example, while admitting my own limited knowledge and ability?
 How has God forgiven me?
 Can I forgive others as I have been forgiven?

As you ponder these questions I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

Loving God,
 empower me and all your people to walk humbly with you.
 open our heart and give us the grace to temper justice with mercy,
 open our mind and give us the wisdom to bolster mercy with justice
 so that we might do your will here on earth;
 through Christ our merciful Judge and righteous Advocate. Amen.

Grace and peace,
 Pastor John

A Heart Felt Thank You



“Thank you” seems like hardly enough to say for all the cards, texts, hugs and kindnesses shown to us in the sudden and difficult loss of my brother, Scott. Most of all we are grateful for the prayers said on our behalf, as well as for my mom, sister, sister-in-law, niece and nephew. These will be especially difficult times for the family carrying on day to day in Alabama and we appreciate the continued thoughts and prayers for healing and comfort for the entire family. You all are a treasure to Mike and me, and your thoughtfulness has been a balm to our hurting hearts. God bless and keep you, dear family in Christ!
 With love~ Tracey

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES CITY NATIONAL BANK December 31, 2014

CHECKING ACCOUNTS		
General Fund		\$ 8,257.23
Capital Improvements Fund		16,585.49
St Stephens Fund		1,041.48
Youth Fund		4,655.02
Unrestricted	4,557.52	
Camp Scholarships	-	
VBS	97.50	
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS		
Memorial Savings Fund		4,295.18
Endowment Savings Fund		12,889.40
TOTAL CASH ASSETS		<u>\$ 47,723.80</u>



Many a prayer has been said for Travis Gage & David Gilger.

**YOU are Invited
to A
Baby Shower &
Covered Dish Luncheon
Honoring
Clara June Murray**



**Sunday February 15
Immediately Following
Worship Service
Fellowship Hall**

Suggested Gifts: 3 month old clothes & up, diapers, wipes.

Mid Winter Youth Retreat



February 20-22

HEB Echo Valley

Registration Forms Available
in the Church Office

Prayer Concerns

Amanda Jackson health
Elsie Millican health
Angela Scott health
Mike & Tracey Thomas Loss of Tracey's Brother
Brad Reeves (safety)
Mark Owens (safety)

Travis & Kathy Gage (back in Houston after Jan. 7th)
Nelda Weatherby (eye treatments)
David & Barbara Gilger (David is recovering from heart surgery)
Our Military Men, Women & Families
Our Church, Our Town & Our Nation

MYF Spring Schedule

Feb 8 Kay Thompson
Feb 15
Feb 22. No MYF Mid Winter Retreat
Mar 1 Barbara Gilger
Mar 8 No MYF Spring Break
Mar 15. No MYF Spring Break
Mar 22
Mar 29 No MYF Palm Sunday
April 5. No MYF Easter
April 12
April 19
April 26
May 3

If you would like to furnish a meal for MYF, please contact Carolyn McDowell. Meals can be home cooked or purchased like pizza or Subway sandwiches.. Any blank date is available.

Wanted: Song Birds

There is plenty of room in the choir loft as we strive to find ways to minister in voice and song. Please consider if this may be a calling on your heart. In addition, we are in need of someone to run the sound on Wednesday nights. This would be from 6:00-7:00. If interested, just come one evening and try it! We always love to welcome new folks!! =



Tracey Thomas

Our Church Family



It is a busy time of year for our youth. Lots of them were involved in the stock show and youth fair. Jaycie Everett is shown on the left with Sloppy, her hamp hog that placed 2nd at the stock show. Her cross named Rascal got 4th. Madison and Gracen Shahan entered the youth fair. Madison received 2nd and 3rd place with her sewing and 1st and 2nd place for her oil painting. Madison also won Grand Champion in the Art division. Gracen won 1st place in sewing and 1st in oil painting. Libby Mays was on the Honor Roll for the last six week period. Raley Kirk has been a busy girl. Her basketball team (SS High School) is 17-4 , 6-0 in district play right now and is ranked 12th in the state. She has been doing speaking presentations for her Texas Brigades program and was listed on the honor roll recently. The bug is going around and several of our church family

have come down with it. CK & Vickie Stevenson got it as well as Raley Kirk. Nettie Oma Carperter also got it. Jason Everett had an asthma attack and ended up going to ER. Debbie Pullen has also been under the weather. There are probably more people who got sick that I just don't know about. Brad Everett was out and about and wearing an orthopedic boot. His foot surgery was just before Christmas so I know he is ready to be well. Ann & Don McElroy are in Muleshoe and found time to go to see the movie American Sniper. We express our sympathy to Tracey & Mike Thomas on the loss of her brother, Scott. They flew to Georgia to attend the service and then came back by Weatherford to be with her mother. We send out to Karen Alexander well wishes for her future endeavors as she leaves the church secretary job. We have enjoyed getting to know and work with you. Come back and visit with us anytime. Travis & Kathy Gage got great news when they went back to Houston. Travis is cancer free and will have his voice box prosthetic device put in February 6. Since they had two weeks off with no doctor appointments they came home. Travis has been working in his garden. The next 6-8 weeks Travis will be doing speech therapy. Celia Bell really enjoyed having 8 kids at her Godly Play Sunday School Class recently. Way to go parents for getting them there!!!! Klela & Ted Red are back in Ben Wheeler. I wonder if she has got a garden started yet. Linda Parks was in Marble Fall getting ready for a bridal shower that she was giving. Bob & Debbie Millican were off to Tyler to spend the week-end with granddaughter Elise and Nicole & Darren Grant. Elise's school was having several activities for grandparents. Stacy & Mark Wise are on the run, literally. Even with a busy schedule of work and two kids, they still find time to exercise. Trish Warren's bible study, Experiencing God-Knowing and Doing the Will of God, is off to a good start. Fourteen women are participating and several say this is the best bible study they have done!!



Thanks goes out to Travis Smith & Cristy Thornton for feeding the MYF youth in January.