



San Saba First United Methodist Church February 2016 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
Accompanist:
Nettie Oma Carpenter
Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary
Kristi Owens
Church Treasurer
Kevin Shahan
Custodian:
Mario Mendiola**

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

From the Pastor's Desk.....



Gentleness

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.*

Isaiah 11:3-4

*The meek shall inherit the land,
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.*

Psalm 37:11

This month we continue our consideration of the Beatitudes.

Beatitude 3: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Ask a random person on the street what it means to be meek, and you will get a predictable answer, something along the lines of: a person with no backbone, someone who allows themselves to be used as a doormat, a pushover. In our day "meekness" has become a synonym for "weakness," but this is far from its original meaning, and far from the way translators use it in the Scriptures. The original Greek word means "strong but accommodating." I imagine a great horse, with the strength of many men, but gentle like a child. Perhaps it would be better to translate the phrase as, "Blessed are the gentle." We explored gentleness as a fruit of the spirit last August, which is key to understanding this and all the Beatitudes.

The meek are not controlled by ambition; they do not use their strength for their own advancement. The meek do not earn, they inherit; the earth is promised to them as their heritage, not their wages. In fact, all the traits commended to us by God are given as gifts. God does not judge by what our eyes see or our ears hear, but turns our usual societal values upside down. Happiness is not promised to the wealthy, the powerful, the glamorous, the hard working, or the independent. As strange as it may seem, the Beatitudes teach us that when we reverse our usual expectations, we find fulfillment through gifts from God.

How should this biblical approach to what is important change your own values? Based on the Beatitudes, how would you define "success"? How successful do you suppose Jesus was considered to be on the day he was crucified?

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Valentine's Day Covered Dish Luncheon

Sunday, February 14th
Following the
Worship Service

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This month as you consider the third beatitude, I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

Mysterious God,

your thoughts are not our thoughts,
and your ways are not our ways.

We confess that we do not completely understand
the strange values you treasure.

Transform us so completely that we are able to embrace your ways
without fear or embarrassment.

Enable us to judge beyond
what human eyes can see
or ears can hear,

that we may become meek in your eyes
worthy to inherit your mercy;

through Jesus Christ, in whom is true happiness.

Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John



Prayer Concerns

Stan Burnham

Amanda Jackson (Pecan Valley Nursing Home & Rehab)

Brad Reeves & Mark Owns (safety)

Shannon Hampu (spiritual strength)

Travis Murdock (Kelly Murray's brother in service)

Zolly Jones (former member now in Windcrest Nursing Home)

Our Church, Our Town & Our Nation

Colt Barker

Henry Addington

Jennifer & Josh Blocker & baby

Janet Tackett

Wanda Davenport

George Kidd

Our Military Men, Women & Families



Left: The Senior High Youth gathered on January 9th to assist Scott & Abby Snyder with their move to the newly remodeled house. The youth did a great job and were treated to a lunch at the church.

Right: Travis Gage and Roland Hawkins are rebuilding the church's playground equipment.

The Twenty Third Pound



My appetite is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 It maketh me to sit down and stuff myself.
 It leadeth me to my refrigerator repeatedly
 It leadeth me in the path of Burger King for a whopper
 It destroyeth my shape.
 Yea, though I knoweth I gaineth, I will not stop eating
 For the food tasteth so good.
 The ice cream and cookies, they comfort me.
 When the table is spread before me, it exciteth me,
 For I knoweth that soon I shall dig in.
 As I fillith my plate continuously, My clothes runneth smaller.
 Surely, bugles and excess weight shall follow me all the days of my life.
 And I shall be fat forever.

Submitted by Suzanne Walters

Our Church Family

Nancy Bannister enjoyed having her family in during the Christmas holidays. Her son was here and enjoyed spending some time at the ranch. She also enjoyed having her granddaughter and grandson-in-law in to visit with her. Her granddaughter cooked a delicious Christmas Day meal for everyone. Lawson McElroy, grandson of Don & Ann McElroy spent some time in the hospital but is doing better. Henry Addington, grandson of Sam & Llaina Murray has also not felt well. After some testing he was diagnosed with epilepsy that can be treated with medicine. He could outgrow it. Colt Barker has also been on our prayer list. He is the great grandson of Owen & Linda Parks. He was diagnosed with celiac disease and will be on a gluten free diet. Stan Burnham has been in the hospital. I am happy to report that he is back in San Saba and temporarily at Pecan Valley Nursing & Rehab. Their son Ron from New Mexico has been in to help. The Physical Therapist at Pecan Valley is certainly bragging on Amanda Jackson. The last count I heard was she had walked 250 steps and is increasing her number of steps each day. Danna Smith received good news on her thyroid test. Brad & Braylee Reeves celebrated birthdays in January. Braylee invited her school classmates to her first "kid" birthday party at a bowling alley. Jennifer surprised Brad with an overnight trip to Fredericksburg. Brad spent his birthday week-end with Grant Mays and another friend staying up all night for a varmint calling contest. Madison Shahan celebrated her birthday by taking some friends to a University of Texas basketball game. Polly Patterson, former member of our church and daughter of church member Bess Patterson, brought her grandchildren to our church one Sunday to show them where she used to go to church. Thanks goes out to Cindy Hawkins for assisting with the worship service while the Saint family was on vacation and to Jennifer Reeves to leading the music that Sunday. Ian Saint got a good report from his doctor following his heart procedure. Scott & Abby Snyder are enjoying their newly remodeled house on Storey Street. Read Saint and three other team members of his technology team's picture was on the front page of the San Saba News & Star for winning the technology division of the San Saba County Youth Fair. Raley Kirk and the rest of the San Saba High School cheerleaders traveled to Arlington for State UIL Spirit Championship. Although they didn't place in the finals, they did an excellent job representing their school. Madison and Gracen Shahan placed in the Youth Fair with their oil paintings. Ian Saint placed several in the photography category. Read Saint and his partner also placed in the movie category of the technology division. The junior high girls participated in their own tournament here in San Saba January 9th. Jayden Owens helped her team by scoring two points. In another game, Jayden had the most steals. Jason Everett, Taylor Wise, Libby Mays, Gracen Shahan made the "A" honor roll the 3rd six weeks at San Saba Elementary. Congratulations!! I am happy to report that Nelda Weatherby is feeling better. It sure was nice to have Bruce and Martha Schanhals worship with us last Sunday. We have missed you!! Del Sears has decided to re-open his dentist office. Pat Reavis enjoyed lunch with her daughter one day and then doing some errands together. Hollee Ragsdale, niece of Nettie Oma Carpenter, has signed to play golf at Howard Payne University in Brownwood.



Confirmation Class

During the six weeks of the season of Lent, pastor John will be leading a confirmation class for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. During this course, students will learn our Christian story, confirm their faith, and live their commitment. At the conclusion of the class, participants will make their decision to become full members of the church. We will celebrate their decision by welcoming them as professing members on Easter Sunday. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour beginning on February 14, running through Sunday, March 27. If you have questions please contact Pastor John.