



Sooty Stokers

By Mr. Alexander S. Brown, Minister

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2012! I hope that you all enjoyed a very good time over Christmas and New Year, and that you are looking forward to what 2012 holds for you and your families.

A new year in front of us just seems to be pregnant with possibilities, and we wonder where we will be this time next year – we wonder what our families will look like, what our jobs will look like, where we will have gone and what we will have seen. I hope that for many of you this anticipation and excitement includes the life of your church – wondering what our church will look like this time next year.

As we look with excitement and anticipation at what 2012 holds for Golden Isles, our first work has to be to resolve to pray. We have no right to expect any growth, or any development, or even any health in our church unless we are coming to the Lord and asking Him for it. If we are to see any change in our church over the course of the coming year, we must begin this year by committing ourselves to prayer.

I was struck again recently by the power and the primacy of prayer when I read this by Douglas Kelly:

Prayer changes the world: it makes good things happen because it gets God's will done and thus brings down His best blessings. This is the message of the Old and New Testaments, as well as the experience of God's people throughout the ages. The God of the Scriptures has great blessings stored up for His people, but He has so planned it that those blessings can only be released by the prayers of His people.

Our natural temptation is to look to programs, or to events, to produce growth within our church. There is a whole sub-industry of books devoted to the next great program that will build your church, telling us that if only we do the right things in the right ways we will see growth produced in the church. However, these multi-step programs are more influenced by the business world than by the Bible, and can come frighteningly close to superstition – believing that we can force the hand of God, as it were, by doing certain things. The Bible is clear that it is God who builds His Church, and we must depend upon Him to do so.

(Continued on the next page)

“Our first work has to be to resolve to pray.”

January Calendar

Sun	1/1	Communion (AM Worship)
Wed	1/4	Midweek Prayer Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
Thu	1/5	Mission Team Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
Tue	1/10	“Beyond the Pages” Book Club for Women (6:00 p.m., Taylor home)
Wed	1/11	Midweek Prayer Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
Sat	1/14	Men’s Monthly Breakfast & Bible Study (8:00 a.m., Brown home)
Sun	1/15	Fellowship Lunch (Potluck) & Annual State of the Church Meeting (Sign up in the foyer.)
Tue	1/17	Stated Session Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
Tue	1/17	Bible Study for Women resumes
Wed	1/18	Midweek Prayer Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
Fri/Sat	1/20, 1/21	Savannah River Presbytery Meeting (Statesboro, GA)
Wed	1/25	Midweek Prayer Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
Children’s Church, Nursery available

In this issue

January Calendar.....	1
Committee Updates.....	2
Bible Reading Plan.....	3
January Fighter Verses.....	4



Sooty Stokers

(Continued from the previous page)

C. H. Spurgeon famously used the vivid illustration of an ocean liner to describe the importance of prayer in the life of the church:

*Go on board a great ocean steamer, bound for New York. You say, 'I have been in the saloon. I have seen the wonderful luxuries provided for the passengers. It is a marvelous vessel.' Did you look at her engines? 'What! Go down that ladder? I saw some black fellows below, stoking great fires; but I did not care for that.' Talk not so. If it were not for those sooty stokers, the grand saloon and the fine decks would be of no use. **Prayer is the engine of the church; it supplies the force.** I like to see the engines going: praying, praying, praying, praying!*

Prayer is our first step in our entire ministry. Whether it be the financial needs of our church, or the growth of our congregation, or the effectiveness of the weekly services, we must be resolved to commit it to the Lord and look for His blessings to be released by our prayers.

I hope that 2012 is a year where we devote ourselves to the engine-work of the church. Let us ever be found in the engine-room praying, praying, praying, praying. Let us look to the Lord for the growth that we so long to see in our church. Let us come, confessing our weakness and our inability, and looking to God to beautify His bride, and to glorify Himself in His church. Let's take Psalm 127:1 as our motto the coming year, and look and see what God will do:

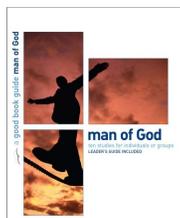
***"Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain."***

Men in the Church

Monthly Breakfast and Bible Study—

**Saturday, January 14th
8:00 a.m.**

All men are invited to gather for fellowship at the Brown home on Saturday morning, January 14th. The current topic of discussion is *biblical manhood*. (Led by Mr. Brown.)



*Study guides
are available.*

Women In the Church (WIC)

Bible Study

The Bible Study for Women will resume on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Details will be announced in the church bulletin.

"Beyond the Pages" Book Group

For January the Book Group will read "Corduroy Mansions," by Alexander McCall Smith. We will meet on the second Tuesday in January, the 10th, rather than our usual first Tuesday. A recommendation for the book:

"A wonderful world of realistic characters getting up to real mischief in McCall Smith's velvety prose and vivid imagination." ~ USA Today

Hope to see you there!

—Sue Taylor, Book Group Chair

Finance Committee

The budget proposal for 2012 was submitted to the Session and has subsequently been approved. Details will be shared at the Annual State of the Church Meeting on Sunday, January 15th, immediately following the Morning Worship Service.

GIPC Monthly Update— Loan Balance

Loan Balance 1/1/11	\$874,729
Principal Paid YTD through 11/30/11	\$ 26,841
Loan Balance 11/30/11	<u>\$847,888</u>

November Monthly Payment:

Interest	\$2,901
Principal	<u>\$2,348</u>
	<u>\$5,249</u>

Significant Sessional Actions

- Approved Annual State of the Church meeting to be held on Sunday, January 15, 2012.
- Approved 2012 General Fund Budget.
- Approved 2012 Faith Promise Budget.
- Approved vacation for Alexander Brown, 26th-30th December, 2011.
- Approved use of Heidelberg Catechism as the Confession of Faith in AM services during 2012.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17th, at 6:00 p.m.

Connect with us!

Church Office

Ph: 912.638.2563

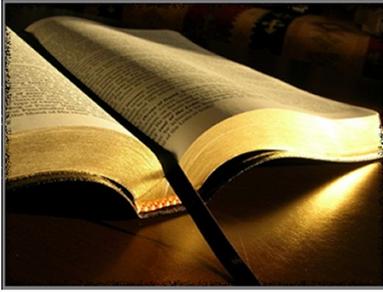
E-Mail: office@gipc-pca.org

48 Hampton Point Drive
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

Missed a Sunday?

Sermons, bulletins,
and monthly newsletters
are available on the web:

www.gipc-pca.org



Bible Reading Plan

Robert Murray McCheyne's calendar for daily readings is a concise course whereby one can read through the whole Bible once a year—the Psalms and the New Testament twice.

Instructions

Please note the four cut-outs below (based on M'Cheyne's calendar) to be used as Bible place-keepers: two for daily family worship and two for secret (private) readings, corresponding to the day of the month.

- 1) The head of the family should previously read over the chapter indicated for the family worship and mark two or three of the most prominent verses upon which he may dwell, giving a few explanatory thoughts, and asking several simple questions.
- 2) The portions read, both for family and private reading, would be greatly illuminated if they were preceded by a moment's silent prayer: *"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law,"* (Psalm 119:18).
- 3) Let the conversation at the family meals frequently turn upon the chapter read; thus every meal will be a sacrament, being sanctified by the Word and prayer (1Timothy 4:5).
- 4) Let our private reading precede the dawning of the day. Let God's voice be the first we hear in the morning. Mark two or three of the richest verses and pray over every word and line of them.
- 5) As you meet believers through daily activities, when an easy opportunity offers itself, refer to the chapters read that morning. This will be a blessed exchange for those idle words which waste the soul and grieve the Holy Spirit of God.
- 6) Above all, use the Word as *a lamp to your feet and a light to your path*—your guide in perplexity, your armor in temptation, your food in times of faintness.

JANUARY

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." (Matthew 17:5)

Family Worship

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Genesis	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		9, 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		28	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		29	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		32	<input type="checkbox"/>

JANUARY

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." (Matthew 17:5)

Family Worship

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Matthew	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		28	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Mark	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		3	<input type="checkbox"/>

JANUARY

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." (Matthew 17:5)

Private

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Ezra	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Nehemiah	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Esther	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		8	<input type="checkbox"/>

JANUARY

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." (Matthew 17:5)

Private

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Acts	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		28	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Romans	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		3	<input type="checkbox"/>



Fighter Verses

“I have stored up Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

—Psalm 119:11

Fighter Verses are short passages of Scripture selected to equip the believer in the fight of faith. Golden Isles Presbyterian Church is dedicated to memorizing a Fighter Verse each week because memorizing together adds accountability and encouragement.

Why Memorize the Bible?

Memorization works on our hearts to cultivate Christ-like character. It helps us to resist temptation, and it enhances our prayer and worship. Here are a few more reasons—straight from Scripture:

Memorizing Scripture. . .

- is one of the most effective ways to “meditate” on the Word of God “day and night” (Joshua 1:8).
- helps us treasure God’s Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11).
- allows us to meditate on the Lord in the “night watches” (Psalm 63:6) so that we can regard all His ways (Psalm 119:15).
- helps us in evangelism, making the Word of truth readily available to build our own and others’ faith—since “faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Source: The “Fighter Verses” program of intentional Scripture memory available through Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN; Rev. John Piper, Pastor for Preaching and Vision. All Scriptures are from the English Standard Version of the Bible (ESV).

Memorization Tip: Read the verse aloud ten times. Recite it (without looking) ten times. And it’s memorized!



Cut out the Scripture Memory Verses below. A key to memorizing is “Review, Review, Review.” Be sure to state the reference before and after.

Week beginning JANUARY 1

Jeremiah 29:11-14a

‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me. When you seek Me with all your heart, I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD.

Week beginning JANUARY 8

Jeremiah 32:40

I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of Me in their hearts, that they may not turn from Me.

Week beginning JANUARY 15

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Week beginning JANUARY 22

Romans 10:13-14

For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Week beginning JANUARY 29

Psalms 79:9

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for Your name’s sake!