

## Michael's Message

We have had a weird winter so far. We have been very fortunate as we have dodged some major snowstorms, but the temperatures have been bitterly cold. Fortunately, we have a warm church where people feel welcomed and supported. So even a cold weird winter will not cause us too many difficulties.

We will also give you an opportunity to warm-up with the chili cook off. Last year's cook off was extremely successful and brought some very good cooks to our attention. I will be interested to see the recipes and taste the chili there.

We also have food for the soul with our Bible study of Romans. We will be starting on chapter two next week, but you will have no problem understanding Paul's argument if you join us next week. He is basically telling us about the condition of the world and our need for a savior and God's mercy.

Our sermons are based on Old Testament passages this month. We start with the call of Jeremiah and Isaiah. Then Jeremiah explains all those who love God are blessed. Finally, we will look at the great reconciliation between Joseph and his brothers and how God turns bad events into ways of rescue.

I have decided to delve into the Old Testament because we cannot truly understand the New Testament without the Old. The God of the New Testament may appear to some as more merciful and loving than the Old Testament God. A close reading of the Old Testament reveals God showed love and mercy before the birth of Christ while a close reading of the New Testament reveals that God still judges the world in and through Jesus Christ.

In my sermons on the Old Testament, I hope that you will notice many of the same themes of the New Testament. I hope that you will join us as we discover both the continuity of the Bible and the richness of the Old Testament.

The outside weather might be frightening, but the church is warm. We talk about God's desire to love each of us and God's ability to redeem the most difficult events and turn them into blessings. Please join us for Bible study and worship so that you can experience the fullness of God's love, grace, and peace.

Michael

Rev. Michael Sydnor's home phone number (712-275-4691) and email address  
([mdsydnor@schallertel.net](mailto:mdsydnor@schallertel.net))