



the
Visionary
 HARD CASES IN ETHICS

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Is There Such a Thing as a Christian Homosexual?

Pastor Dan Dodds

There are so many ways to begin to answer this question that it is hard to know where to start. What do we mean by Christian? Professing? Regenerate? New? Sanctified? What do we mean by homosexual? Practicing with no remorse? Self-justifying? Monogamous? Same sex urges with occasional falls? Same sex attraction but celibate? Are you suggesting that 'Christian' is a modifier to homosexual (making homosexual the primary identity)?

There is not enough time to qualify and address each of these. But let's at least agree to a couple of boundaries that readers of *the Visionary* will likely affirm. The Bible is clear that homosexuality is a sin. If you think you can avoid this truth by saying, "The Bible doesn't mention homosexual sin between two people who love each other, so that's ok," you are making a category error. (This is a very common response to biblical passages; but if *all* homosexuality is wrong, then all *particular* forms of it are as well. The Bible doesn't mention homosexuality in Kansas either. Does that mean if you live in Kansas it's exempt?) If you would like to read more on this issue I refer you to Kevin DeYoung's helpful book, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* DeYoung does a great job going through the biblical arguments as well as the objections raised by those who wish to push back against the biblical theme.

Probably of more interest to you is the question of same sex attraction in someone who is a Bible believing/confessing/practicing/intentional Christian. Let's add 'reformed' to that list as well so we bring the issue right into our own pews. How should we respond to one of our own who confesses to having same sex attraction? Should we counsel them? Admonish them? Excommunicate them?

Because this is likely to be an issue that will arise within our congregation at some time given the current culture, it behooves us to consider the issue sooner rather than later. DeYoung addresses this issue in his book as well. He suggests three categories to assist us. First is to be biblically faithful. DeYoung points out that in Scripture "desires are deemed good or bad not just by their intensity or sense of proportion, but based on their object." As such, we cannot excuse such desires for someone claiming to be a Christian – be it desires for someone of the same sex or opposite sex.

Second, DeYoung encourages us to be pastorally sensitive. Because the behavior or experience may be so alien to you, you might respond in revulsion rather than in encouragement and love. We need to be sensitive to the reality of sin in the lives of others and their struggles with it. Many already feel the guilt and shame of their sin and we don't need to pile on. But, at the minimum, we should begin with a heart towards desiring our brother or sister to be sanctified in their walk with Jesus and to pledge to help in any way we can.

Third, DeYoung encourages the reader to be culturally conversant. By this he means that we need to understand the terms of the broader cultural conversation; we must not read into the words' meanings that are not there or assume we know what the other person is talking about before we have asked them to define what they mean.

DeYoung's analysis is very helpful and I appreciate his doctrinal integrity and pastoral sensitivity. Let me add one more thought: It appears that within the church there is a dangerous trend to 'honor' those who have same sex desire but who do not act out their desire, as

if their abstinence from homosexual sin is more honorable than the brother or sister saying no to alcohol or sinful heterosexual temptations. But this is a mistake and should not be encouraged. We would not do the same (I presume, at least not yet) with someone who struggles with polygamy, pedophilia, or zoophilia. I believe this tendency to treat these brothers and sisters almost as celebrities reflects the sentiments of many in the church to demonstrate the relevancy of the church to the modern culture but it does more damage than good. The church is the place where we try to mutually encourage and deal with any and all sins. None of them are 'special.'

Finally, for those who see themselves in the category of homosexual but celibate, I would like to ask, what are you doing about it? May I suggest that just saying 'no' is not the only answer (though it must be part of the answer). In addition to saying 'no', you should begin to work

at building relationships with the opposite sex in a godly, biblical way. Rosaria Butterfield, the author of *Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*, was a lesbian professor at Syracuse University who became a Christian. After her conversion, she did not remain single. In time, Rosaria married a godly, reformed pastor and she now ministers alongside him. Are you moving in the direction of a healthy, godly, heterosexual relationship? Obedience is not merely avoiding the sin but pursuing godliness in all areas of life.

Pastor Dan Dodds
dan@woodruffroad.com



Men's Activities

Men's Retreat at Ridge Haven

The men of WRPC will meet at Ridge Haven (the PCA campground in Brevard, NC) February 10-12 (Friday night through Sunday). The speaker is Jack Campbell (PCA minister) who will speak on his Christian Discipleship Castle. In addition to the teaching, we plan plenty of free time (Saturday from lunch to dinner) for shooting, hiking, sleeping, or whatever else you like. Details will be presented soon but, at least for now, block off that weekend on your calendar! Younger men (boys) are welcome if they can sit quietly for the sessions (one Friday, two Saturday AM, and one Saturday PM). Individual or family rooms will be available and really good food is provided in the cost.

Men and Daughters' Campout

This year the dads are inviting their daughters to go camping with them in October. We are considering two different campgrounds and will have more details on this soon.

Men at the Gates

For a number of years, men at WRPC have met on Tuesday morning or Thursday lunch to discuss books on theology, biography, adventure (really!), and more. We plan to continue in 2017 - why not join us?

The Ethics of Singleness

Pastor Scotty Anderson

Over the last few decades this country has seen several different demographic groups grow measurably. The percentages are slightly higher for homosexuals, considerably higher for billionaires, and apparently higher for those voting republican. But more significant is the growing population of singles in this country and throughout the West. In 2014 the number of unmarried Americans began to outnumber those married. Whereas singles were only 4 million in 1950, today they have passed 30 million in this country. That is a seismic cultural shift. Attitudes toward marriage have changed as well. Ten years ago, half the younger generation (Gen X) said a successful marriage was among the most important things in life. For the current younger generation (Millennials), only 30% felt the same, and an astounding 40% think marriage is obsolete! It's a different world and you don't really have a choice as to whether or not you're going to live in it.

Speaking in broad terms, we ought to lament the trend away from marriage given that healthy families are so vital to national, community, and church health. But we should also acknowledge that singleness is a norm to ponder and to prepare to live with. Paul says in Titus 2:11-12, *"...the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age..."* In applying this, we need to ask what critical issues does the grace of God call singles to think about and what does it call the church to think about the single? Start by considering these:

Sexual Purity - Foremost on the list is the need for singles to buck the culture's tendencies to decouple sex from heterosexual marriage. Fornication will not stop being a sin any more than God will accept idolatry among His people

(2 Cor 12:21; Gal 5:19; Eph 5:3; Col 3:5). Swimming upstream is never easy and the current against the single's sexual purity has never been stronger. Regardless, Christians must approach sexuality with firm resolve to total purity and allow that the only honorable path for sexual expression is within the married relationship between one man and one woman (1 Cor 7:36).

Compromise with Unbelief - Another difficulty for singles is that the indifference and antipathy toward marriage means fewer willing covenant partners. The realistic struggle with aloneness means a frequent if not constant pressure to settle. Settling is no problem if it's merely a case of him not being that good looking or her not having a great education, but there's no hope of blessing in being joined to an unbeliever (2 Cor 6:14; 1 Cor 7:39). It will always remain a sin to choose to marry an unbeliever, however desperate the situation might seem. This means patience, even unto death, but a patience that will be rewarded (Rev 19:6ff).

Submission - The biblical notion of headship and representation is fundamental to reformed theology and, not surprisingly, is worked out in various ways among God's people. In the OT, Numbers 30 gives direction for a husband's headship over his wife and daughter with respect to each making vows. And yet there are other situations in which single women may, in the absence of a father or husband, look to their elders (Num 27, 36). The elders at WRPC are not unaccustomed to shepherding in such situations. Singles need to work into their minds that despite being independent from parents and unbound to a spouse, they are not unattached in the world. God has provided for them a place alongside the rest of the members of the body

under the authority of his ordained leaders (Heb 13:17).

Preoccupation with Diversion - The use of time is an ethical issue about which the world shows little concern but with which the Bible is very preoccupied. The alone time of singles has never been easier to fill. Escapism by entertainment or activity can absorb enormous amounts of time. Hobbies and pastimes can become central. Even good things like work can become all-absorbing as if the only thing. Without question, Paul indicates that there are circumstances in which singleness is preferable to marriage (1 Cor 7:26) and even advantageous (1 Cor 7:38) but be careful to note that the chief advantage he says must be "*devotion to the Lord*" (1 Cor 7:35). Singles must work harder at cultivating a view toward selflessness than do those married and parenting. Where those placed immediately in family units sense the constant demands for self-sacrifice, those who live alone or even with roommates can easily miss the needs around them. Paul's direction would remind singles to seek those opportunities for service, especially in the church of Jesus Christ.

Ecclesiology and the Lord's Day - Closely related to preoccupation with self is a contrary connection to the church. The singles community often harbors an unrealized tendency to be negligent at the very point Paul is most concerned. Mary Eberstadt (*How the West Really Lost God*) makes the profound observation that marriage and having children makes people (especially men) far more likely to be found in church. Conversely, the unmarried and childless tend to be far less religious. The motives behind the commitment may be complicated but the tendency is clear. Sabbath practices tend to be weaker as individuals "*forsake assembling together*" (Heb 10:25) and it easily becomes "*the habit of some.*" That's a concern, not just of the Sabbath, but of their view of the church. Being peripheral means feeling peripheral and becoming even more peripheral. It requires a conscious acknowledgment on the part of both

married members of the community as well as singles to obey the call into the lives of one another. And it means stepping toward each other even when the natural affinity is missing.

Continued Pursuit of Marriage - It must be remembered that, even though we're compelled to use the language, singleness is not a permanent identity; it is a particular state in life with its own benefits and limitations. Although we must accept that singleness is acceptable and beneficial in various circumstances and in different ways, we also accept that the biblically ordinary state for adults is marriage. In Gen 2:18 we read "*It is not good for the man to be alone.*" That's not just a male problem or a loneliness problem. The one flesh relationship is a major component of the fulfillment of the dominion mandate (both progeny and productivity) and obviously the design of complimentary seeks a fit. Marriage is a very real help to the individual in the world and the social structure of the family is a help to the world itself. The point here is that however slim the prospects might be, you should remain open to marriage unless firmly convinced, "*for the sake of the kingdom,*" you should not marry (Mt 19:12).

Maternity - A final concern is the issue of children for the single. For women, the draw to motherhood can be quite strong, married or not. The question becomes what is the required context for satisfying that desire. While complex, a few observations can give some direction. First, any attempt at conception outside the bonds of marriage is inappropriate. Insemination (artificial or otherwise) violates the creation order and mandate (Gen 1:26-28) and is its own form of fornication. The alternative is adoption. A single woman adopting an orphaned child violates no commandment or principle of Scripture. However, it must be acknowledged that it is irregular and carries particular difficulties given that fatherlessness is rivaled only by drug abuse as the greatest impediment to human flourishing.

(Continued on page 6)

For adoption to be wise, it requires a very supportive context (church, family, etc.). In such cases, adoption surely provides a superior situation to institutional care for an orphaned child and has much to commend it. Finally, while it could be argued that embryo adoption might also be acceptable, stronger caution is urged because of the complexities and potential difficulties of pregnancy, perceptions, and the support needed.

The Dignity of Singleness - With all of the emphasis on and the pervasiveness of marriage within the Christian church, it can be easy to feel like the church gives no place for the single. But that couldn't be more wrong. The unmarried state is front and center in two of the highest places we can consider. In the first place, our Savior, Jesus never married a woman. Matrimony was not part of his earthly existence and he would not know it until he betrothed the whole of the church (Rev 19:6ff) to himself. In his earthly life, he never had the comfort of going to sleep next to a spouse (Mt 8:20), the pleasure of sexual intercourse, the privilege of the deepest personal intimacy with another human being. And yet, His life was not without comforts,

affections, or intimate communication. Though singular, He was not alone. Though frequently alone, he had those whom He loved and who loved Him. So, at the heart of our faith, we find singleness exemplified, exalted, and rewarded in our Savior. And, at the end of our faith, we find singleness as the final state. The need for marriage in the world is subsumed by the act of glorification (Mt 22:30; Mk 12:25). Earthly dominion will be complete, the earth filled, and aloneness obliterated for all eternity. Procreation becomes passé and communion is complete. The blessedness of marriage (Pr 18:22) is swallowed up by greater blessedness (Mt 19:27-30). The point is that, while marriage between a man and a woman is featured at the beginning of the story, and it's prominent throughout, it is the limited metaphor and temporary condition. At the end of all things, marriage is reduced to a rich symbol, but the reality of our communion with Christ and with one another answers all the longings of this life.

Pastor Scotty Anderson
scotty@woodruffroad.com



*“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.
For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?
And what communion has light with darkness?”*

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”

1 P E T E R 3 : 1 5

WIC Update

As we come to the close of this year (2016), we are thankful for Danielle Roberts (President) and Melanie Murdock (Secretary) for their leadership and service over the last few years. For this coming year, we welcome Betty Smith as Vice-President and Penny Carlson as Secretary. Melissa Sicko and Tonya Scott are continuing to serve with me.

The new Women in the Church (WIC) Council is excited about the coming new year as we seek to serve our Lord by encouraging one another to grow in grace. There will be plenty of opportunities for the women at WRPC to use our talents and abilities to serve. We are planning a ladies' tea in the month of May. We will need volunteers to be responsible for decorating and hosting a table of our ladies. Also, to welcome ladies who have been visiting our church, Diana Bekins will be resuming her bi-annual Visitor's Tea. These are just a few things that we are working on for the coming year.

Looking ahead...

- ◆ We will be having a church wide luncheon on January 29.
- ◆ Ladies Conference will be the beginning of April.

May the peace of Christ abide in you,
Linda Lee Wade
For WIC Council

WRPC WIC Council:

Linda Lee Wade, President

Betty Smith, Vice-President

Penny Carlson, Secretary

Melissa Sicko, Treasurer

Tonya Scott, Historian

New Members & Baptisms



Jane Evelyn Todor

Sacrament of Baptism

December 11, 2016

Covenant child of John & Victoria Todor

With sibling Elizabeth

tyed, Covenant Children



Michael & Stephanie Underwood

Membership Vows

December 4, 2016

With children Max & Graham

Graham Underwood

Sacrament of Baptism

December 4, 2016

What They're Reading

Recommended Reading from the Pastoral Staff

Pastor Robbins

The two “sacraments of the secular culture” are abortion and homosexuality. You’ll immediately notice that neither can produce life. Whereas the Christian church’s sacraments (baptism and communion) celebrate life in Christ, both of the culture’s sacraments celebrate death.

I could (and will) say much more about abortion and the 64,000,000 children killed in the womb over the last 44 years. But, over the last couple months, I have been deeply immersed in reading the best books addressing the issue of homosexuality. If you want to understand the issues and be prepared to “Give a defense,” as you are commanded (1 Peter 3:15), these are the best three books for the money:

The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics, Robert Gagnon. Dr. Gagnon painstakingly surveys EVERY verse in the Bible that even hints at homosexuality and discusses content and meaning. This book is the “gold-standard” for Protestant evangelicals.

Unchanging Witness: The Consistent Christian Teaching on Homosexuality in Scripture and Tradition, Don Fortson and Rollin Grams. Fortson and Grams carefully walk the reader through the Church’s beliefs on sexuality for the last 2,000 years. They then do a marvelous walk through both the Old and New Testament’s teaching on the subject. They answer objections with careful history and exegesis.

We Cannot Be Silent: Speaking Truth to a Culture Redefining Sex, Marriage and the Very Meaning of Right and Wrong, Al Mohler. If you only get this book for Chapter 10 “The Hard Questions,” you will still profit greatly.

In that chapter, Dr. Mohler answers the 30 hardest questions thrown at evangelicals who refuse to bow to the cultural tsunami surrounding homosexuality.

Pastor Dodds

How to Be An Atheist: Why Many Skeptics Aren't Skeptical Enough, Stokes. Great mix of historical philosophy with modern atheism. Author shows how the skepticism of former atheists such as David Hume continue to present a problem for modern day atheists.

Dad, Here's What I Really Need from You, Watson. Book for dads on how to build your relationship with your daughters. Not through with this yet, but have found some useful material already.

Who Am I? Identity in Christ, Jerry Bridges. Read in preparation for my J Term class. Good, succinct book on the subject but should not be seen as comprehensive.

Pastor Anderson

On the theological side I’ve been reading the well-argued defense of the NT Canon by Michael Kruger, *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament Books*. He takes to task popular lesser arguments for what the Canon is and of what it consists, and Kruger compels the reader by the testimony of the Scriptures themselves to accept the divine origin of the Bible. His argument by theology is persuasive. It’s probably more of a seminary level book but for the person who wants to dig in or who has serious questions, you’ll find answers.

Personally challenging has been Emerson Eggrichs’ *Love and Respect: The Love She Most*

Desires, the Respect He Desperately Needs. Don't let the fact that it's a New York Times Best Seller keep you from it. The title says it all, but this is a biblical, funny, and highly convicting read on marriage communication and relation. You'll be hearing more from it.

And lastly, still Christian but not as much so, is a short and interesting book on parenting the strong-willed child by Cynthia Tobias, *You Can't Make Me (But I Can Be Persuaded): Strategies for Bringing Out the Best in Your Strong-Willed Child.* It's only 200 pages and is rightly called a tactical book. As a strong-willed child become adult, Tobias has good insights for those who have a hard time understanding, disciplining, and encouraging *that kind* of kid.

Practical tip:

Where do you get the finest books for the best price? At the WRPC Library, or on the web at www.heritagebooks.org



Let the Redeemed of the Lord, Say So! Psalm 54:10

A Personal Testimony from Sandy Robbins

Two great influences and blessings in my life as a child were my large, extended Christian family and my local church.

Some of my fondest memories are large family gatherings with sometimes over 100 people singing and reading God's word together, playing lots of basketball, and watching football. These godly, faithful, hardworking farmers and their wives were my role models.

Also, the local church was central to all of our life. We were one of the many stalwart families of First Baptist Church in Yukon, Oklahoma, faithfully attending Sunday school, worship, training union, youth group, church camps, girls auxiliary, youth choir, visitation, and anything else they had to offer. Earning perfect attendance pins, badges, and even a crown were high points in my young life. (I'd become quite a little Pharisee!) But, I loved and knew the local church and not the Head of the Church, Christ. I had no need for Christ. I really didn't think I was a sinner, at least not a very bad one! Although I had made several professions of faith and was baptized twice, no one (not even me) realized that I was trusting in my own works to get me to heaven.

Shortly after Carl and I were married, we attended a revival at our local church. The pastor spoke on Isaiah 64:6, "Our works are as filthy rags." The Lord used these words to convict me that I had indeed been trusting in MY good works and not the work of Christ. Finally, I repented of my sins and trusted in Christ's works and not my own! Ironically, within the year, all my earned badges and pins were stolen!

The last 35 years of my life have been spent as a wife, mother, and pastor's wife. The Lord did not choose to give our family great material wealth on this earth, but we have been blessed



with far greater treasures: Christ, His church, and our family.

That about sums it up for me. The local church is still my place. I'm so very thankful for the love of the church and godly faithfulness that was modeled to me in my early years. As a pastor's wife, my prayer has been to continue this love and service for Christ's Church and His people out of a heart of thanksgiving and praise. As parents, our desire was to model faithfulness and a love for Christ, His word, and his Church to our children and now to our grandchildren. My extended family is still a huge part of my life. We have no greater joy than to know that our children are walking with the Lord!

Over the years, Lamentations 3:22-24 have become my favorite verses. I indeed have seen God's faithfulness in my life. Despite my many, many failings the Lord has never failed. May the Lord always be my portion and may I always hope in HIM.

"The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I have hope in Him.'" (Lamentations 3:22-24)

Minutes of the Session

Elder C.F. Marcinak, Clerk of Session

In November and December, your elders met for regular monthly meetings as well as for called meetings to receive new members. In addition to our monthly meetings, we visited and shepherded members of WRPC, led the congregation in prayer, participated in Session and Presbytery committee meetings, and taught Sunday School classes. We are committed to serving you and building God's kingdom here at WRPC.

Administration

Received regular reports from the Treasurer on church finances. Approved the schedules for 2017 Sunday School, worship services, Wednesday night meetings, session meetings, and diaconate meetings. Approved payment of additional amounts toward the principal of the note for the 2014 building renovations

Christian Education

Approved the revised lesson plan for the Intro to WRPC class presented by TE Dodds, which will consist of teaching through the major doctrines of the Confession of Faith

Approved Dr. Michael Morales to teach Sunday School at WRPC

Approved dividing the junior and senior high children into separate classes on Wednesday night, with the junior high class to be taught by DE Witbeck and the senior high to be taught by TE Anderson

Approved Mrs. Jim Young as a teacher for Catekids

Presbytery and General Assembly

Received a report on the fall meeting of Calvary Presbytery

Received a report on the work of the PCA General Assembly's Ad Interim Study Committee on the Role of Women and prayed for the work of the Committee

Approved a budget request for \$5000 per annum for the Gospel Reformation Network, beginning with the FY 2017 budget

Men's Ministry

Approved a men's retreat to be held at Ridge Haven February 10-12, with TE Dodds leading the retreat and conducting morning worship onsite at Ridge Haven

Missions

Received a detailed report from TE Albert Kona and prayed for his labors

Approved a recommendation to make TE Kona an employee of the church and to revise his tax withholding accordingly

Approved increasing the number of time slots for sermon broadcasts on local radio stations

Approved Paul Northrop to be a member of the Missions Committee

Day of Prayer

Acceded to a request from the Governor of South Carolina to hold a day of prayer for the State

Membership

Received Mr. Isaac Sisk by profession of faith

Received Mr. and Mrs. Motte Brown, Mr. Henry Brown, and Miss Sophie Brown as communing members by reaffirmation of faith, along with non-communing members Grace, Luke, Oliver, and Olivia

Received Mr. and Mrs. Michael Leake by transfer of membership from Christ OPC, St. Charles, Missouri

Received Mr. and Mrs. Jon Chilton by reaffirmation of faith, along with non-communing members Reynolds, Mary Willis, Josiah, and Catherine

Dismissed Addie Carne Patterson to McLean PCA, McLean, Virginia

Removed Mrs. Ana Sheda from the roll upon her transfer to St. Andrew's Chapel, Sanford, Florida

Shepherding Matters

Requested a member to meet with the Session to receive an admonition for repeated non-attendance at corporate worship services

The Session also spent time in prayer for the flock at its regular meetings and thanked God for his blessings on our members.

Pulpit Planner for January-February 2017

AM Sermons

- Jan 1** Pastor Robbins continues the series of 1 Timothy by expounding 1 Timothy 2:8, *"Praying Men"*
- Jan 8** Pastor Anderson begins a series on The Wisdom Book, by preaching Ecclesiastes 1:1, *"Introducing the Preacher"*
- Jan 15** 1 Timothy 2:9-15 is in view as Pastor Robbins preaches on *"Women and Creation Order"*
- Jan 22** Pastor Robbins preaches on *"Qualifications of Church Officers"* from 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- Jan 29** *"The Pillar and Ground of the Truth"* is the focus of Pastor Robbins' exposition of 1 Timothy 3:14-15
- Feb 5** Pastor Robbins preaches 1 Timothy 3:16, *"Great is the Mystery of Godliness"*
- Feb 12** Communion Sunday; Pastor Robbins examines *"Apostasy by Asceticism"* from 1 Timothy 4:1-5
- Feb 19** Pastor Robbins expounds 1 Timothy 4:6-11, *"Exercise Yourself Toward Godliness"*
- Feb 26** Keynote Speaker Dr. Mike Kruger (President of RTS Charlotte) preaches 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, *"The Foolishness of the Cross,"* during our Spring Bible Conference

PM Sermons

- Jan 1** Pastor Robbins continues the series on The Life of Elijah by expounding 1 Kings 18:41-46, *"The Sound of the Abundance of Rain"*
- Jan 8** Communion Sunday; Pastor Dodds continues his exposition of the second Gospel by preaching Mark 12:18-27, *"The Sadducees Take a Turn"*
- Jan 15** Pastor Robbins preaches 1 Kings 19:1-18, *"Elijah's Depression"*
- Jan 22** Pastor Robbins focuses on ministry transitions as he expounds 1 Kings 19:19-21, *"Elijah Calls His Successor"*
- Jan 29** 1 Kings 20:1-21 is in view as Pastor Robbins preaches, *"The Arrogance of Worldly Men Crushed"*
- Feb 5** *"King Ahab Fails to Exercise the Justice of God"* is the subject of Pastor Robbins exposition of 1 Kings 20:22-43
- Feb 12** Pastor Robbins expounds 1 Kings 21:1-16, *"The Wicked Conspire Against the Righteous"*
- Feb 19** Pastor Robbins preaches 1 Kings 21:17-29, *"The Mercy of God"*
- Feb 26** Pastor Anderson continues his series in this vital wisdom book by preaching Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, *"The Fleeting Nature of All Things, Everything Passes"*

Treasurer's Report

WRPC uses a fiscal year for budgeting purposes that runs April through March. As part of our budgeting process, we plan on revenues increasing by 5% year over year. Our budgeted revenues and expenses for 2016 are \$1,145,000. The increase in expenses is driven by updating costs to reflect the actual anticipated costs in 2016 and salary adjustments approved by the Session. Other important numbers to report are that our total cash on hand is \$315,000 (three months of operating expenses) and our renovation loan balance is \$725,000.

Below are the Year to Date financials for November 2016.

WOODRUFF ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH					
November 2016					
Accounts	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining	Fav / Unfav	Total Year Budget
Total Revenues	\$ 796,312	\$ 763,333	\$ (32,979)		\$ 1,145,000
Total PERSONNEL	\$ 376,812	\$ 377,481	\$ 668		\$ 568,851
Total IN HOUSE MINISTRIES	\$ 64,079	\$ 69,640	\$ 5,561		\$ 100,335
Total FACILITY AND OPERATIONS	\$ 178,166	\$ 177,390	\$ (776)		\$ 266,085
Total MISSIONS	\$ 132,258	\$ 137,686	\$ 5,428		\$ 206,225
Total Expenses	\$ 751,315	\$ 762,197	\$ 10,882		\$ 1,141,496
Net Total	\$ 44,998	\$ 1,136	\$ (43,861)		\$ 3,504

The deacons have several ongoing and upcoming building projects and are always open to designated giving. Some of these projects are listed below:

- ◆ New playground equipment
- ◆ Kitchen remodel (*almost complete*)
- ◆ Paving or repair of parking lot
- ◆ Steeple repair
- ◆ Fascia trim-work repair above narthex entrance

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age...”

TITUS 2:11-12



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You can reach us at 2519 Woodruff Road, Simpsonville, SC 29681

Phone: (864) 297-5257 | Fax: (864) 987-9015 | Email: office@woodruffroad.com

and our website address is www.woodruffroad.com.

The radio program *The Presbyterian Pulpit* airs at 9:00 AM every Sunday on 106.3 FM and 1330 or 950 AM.