

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

ACTS

Rejoice in the Lord always,
again I will say,
Rejoice!



TREASURE THE GIFT

In his book, I Am a Church Member, Thom S. Rainer, church revitalization consultant, and former CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources, challenges church members to “*discover the attitude that makes a difference.*” Wasting no words on sentimental allowances, Rainer digs through the traps, excuses, and temptations faced by many churches today. His call for change is radical in an unexpected way: Come and rediscover God’s true intention for us as church members.

I Am a Church Member may be purchased through Amazon.com or many local bookstores, as well as Kindle edition. I encourage you to invest in the book, read, study, and pray about the information contained there as you discern how to live out your calling as a member of First

Presbyterian Church. I will be available to lead a short review of the chapters after worship on October 13, 20, and 27.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find more information about how we can grow in our church through our Stewardship season this year. I invite you on this journey of renewal and recommitment to be the “hands, feet, and heart of Jesus Christ in the world” and here at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Walton Beach. It is my prayer that we will encounter once more the treasure, blessing, and responsibility of being loved by the God who walks with us every day.

Blessings and Peace, *Sharon*

VISION STATEMENT: *To be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in the world.*
MISSION STATEMENT: *Guided by the Holy Spirit, to grow as disciples of Jesus and share the love of God with all.*

2019 STEWARDSHIP FOCUS: TREASURE THE GIFT

Based on the book, I Am a Church Member by Thom S. Rainer, Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2013

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...” Ephesians 2:8

Sunday, October 6	Communion with All God’s People Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Ephesians 2:8-22
Sunday, October 13 Chapter 2	Treasure the Gift: Unity Ephesians 4:1-6; Colossians 3:12-17
Sunday, October 20 Chapter 3-4	Treasure the Gift: Service Mark 9:33-41; Philippians 2:5-11
Sunday, October 27 Chapter 5	Treasure the Gift: Church Ephesians 5:21-33; Romans 5:6-11
Sunday, November 3 Chapter 1, 6	Treasure the Gift: Self Dedication of Financial Commitment Luke 11:33-36; Luke 17:11-19



Each week there will be a bulletin insert with a printed pledge reflecting the message of the theme focus for that week. Attendees will be asked to consider making this a personal pledge in their lives for the future.

Giving in the 21st Century

Our church is very excited to announce that, very soon, we will be offering **ONLINE GIVING** – an easy and convenient way to give your tithes and offerings using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service, which is hosted by the Presbyterian Foundation, will be easily accessed through the church website or through an App on your mobile phone or tablet. Additionally, you can rest easy knowing that the transaction is **SAFE** and **SECURE**.

ONLINE GIVING offers benefits both for you and for the church:

- You can save a trip to the ATM on Sunday morning and also avoid forgetting your checkbook or having to quickly fill out a check to make your gift.
- You can set up recurring donations to continue giving faithfully even on weeks you are not able to attend services.
- The church benefits from a more steady and reliable flow of gifts.
- Work to process checks and cash gifts is reduced when gifts are made online.

In the coming weeks, more information will be provided, both in the bulletin and from the pulpit, on how and when to sign up for **ONLINE GIVING**.

Sowing into God's Kingdom



Legacy Gifts

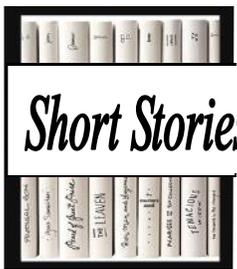
WAYS TO BENEFIT CHARITY LATER

- ◆ BEQUEST IN WILL
- ◆ CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST
- ◆ LIFE INSURANCE
- ◆ RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS
- ◆ REAL ESTATE

ESTATE PLANNING offers Presbyterians the opportunity to make an enduring statement of faith. This act of stewardship can leave an indelible mark on your church or a mission program of your choice. You may be surprised that even a small asset can be turned into a gift which will support your choices in perpetuity. You may even identify assets previously not considered that could be used to make a generous gift.

There are many ways to give. Although the choices may seem overwhelming at first, they are simply different options designed to fit various circumstances and meet individual goals. Only you will be able to determine how a charitable gift fits into your estate plan. We can offer resources to guide you. Contact Pastor Schuler.

New Bible Study:



Short Stories by Jesus

Wednesdays, 2:00 pm

September 11 — October 16

In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. She analyzes the "problems with parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.



Kerygma Proclamation!

Please join the Bible study group as we begin discovering new insights into the books of

the New Testament on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:00 pm, room 2.

This will be an in-depth study in which we will take our time to understand and discuss the scriptures together.

Please notify Pastor Sharon or Pam in the church office so a book can be ordered for you.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 6, 2019

World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. The tradition was begun in 1933 by Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr who ministered in the Shady-side Presbyterian Church.



Presbyterian Women

Circles resume in September and begin a new Bible study.

The 2019–2020 Horizons Bible study, "Love Carved in Stone," are lessons that help us reframe the way we look at and live in the world.

What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a "love letter" from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia A. Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world.

We have three circles that meet in morning, afternoon, and evening. Find one that fits your schedule and join us:

- ◆ Joy Circle — 1st Tuesday, 9:45 am
- ◆ Fellowship — 1st Thursday, 2:00 pm
- ◆ Shalom — 1st Thursday, 6:00 pm

DATES to REMEMBER:

Birthday Luncheon
Tuesday, September 17, 11:30 am
at Neighborhood Cafe

Birthday Luncheon
Tuesday, October 15, 11:30 am
at Bay Cafe

• • • **THE DIFFERENCE** • • •

Commitment to being the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus Christ at FPC

Based on our research of 557 churches from 2004 to 2010, nine out of ten churches in America are declining or growing at a pace that is slower than that of their communities. Simply stated, churches are losing ground in their own backyards.

Another way of looking at it is generationally. About two-thirds of the Builder generation, those born before 1946, are Christians. But only 15 percent of the Millennials are Christians. The Millennials are the largest generation in America's history with almost eighty million members. They were born between 1980 and 2000. And we have all but lost that generation.

We can blame it on the secular culture. And we often do. We can blame it on the godless politics of our nation. We do that as well.

We can even blame it on the churches, the hypocritical members, and the uncaring pastors. Lots of Christians are doing that.

But I am proposing that we who are church members need to look in the mirror. I am suggesting that congregations across America are weak because many of us church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ.

We join our churches expecting others to serve us, to feed us, and to care for us.

We don't like the hypocrites in the church, but we fail to see our own hypocrisies.

God did not give us local churches to become country clubs where membership means we have privileges and perks.

He placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to reach, to give, and in some cases, to die for the sake of the gospel.

Many churches are weak because we have members who have turned the meaning of membership upside down. It's time to get it right. It's time to become a church member as God intended. It's time to give instead of being entitled.

We may just discover that the reason our nation is in such bad shape is because our churches are so unhealthy. That lack of health is evident when nine out of ten churches are no longer reaching their communities.

**But that can change . . . With you
Beginning now.**

I am a church member.

Get ready for your life to change. Get ready for your church to change. And watch what an impact our church can have on the community and, indeed, the entire world.

Rainer, Thom S. [I Am a Church Member](#) Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2013.



Salad Potluck Lunch
Sunday, September 23

- ◆ Bring salads and desserts.
- ◆ Meat and drinks are provided.
- ◆ Invite friends to come with you!

Neighborhood "Trunk or Treat"

Saturday, October 26, 5:00 -7:00 pm



Each church will set-up in its own parking lot so that neighborhood children can walk from church to church for treats and games.

Please plan to participate in this fun event by decorating the trunk of your car (creative and fun, but not scary) and handing out treats or by hosting a game for children to play (bean bag toss, etc.). We will set up in the parking lot on First Street. This is a great opportunity to get to know people in our neighborhood.



Double spoon,
double cup -
Kyla doesn't
fool around!



Caught you, Jim!



Ice Cream Social & Hymn Sing



Singing old favorite hymns.



Having fun!



- Emily Hunt 02
- Kyla Brister 04
- Everett Raspberry 09
- Sharon Land 10
- Dorothy Daughtry 14
- Richard Knight 19
- Charlene Howard 20
- Steve Cahoon 22
- Chris Rollins 22
- Helen Edwards 27
- Jett Brister..... 30

*God Bless You
on your special day!*



- John Schuler 01
- Jerry Black 02
- Elizabeth Nicks 02
- Linda Petteway..... 02
- Bob Engelkens 03
- Phyllis March..... 03
- Fred Rhinehardt..... 07
- John Drain 14
- Jackie Hails 16
- MG Moran..... 16
- Mayrelizbeth Pryor..... 17
- Mert Wagner..... 20
- Joanne Hamilton 23
- Clark Petteway 23
- Helen Rigdon 23
- Debbie Weatherbee..... 24
- Al Eakle 25

September Anniversaries

- Everett & JoAnn Raspberry
September 12
- John & Ann Cahoon
September 17

October Anniversaries

- Mark & Sherryl Haller
October 21
- Jim & Chris Rollins
October 23
- Richard & Shirley Knight
October 24
- Jim & Debbie Weatherbee
October 24



2 cents-a-meal

Prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal to alleviate hunger and poverty. Participation is a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command in Mark 6:37: "YOU give them something to eat."

2019 goal: \$ 1,000; Given to date: \$ 276.00



COMMUNION SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 1st

Barbara Blackburn, Ann Sipos
Mayrelizbeth Pryor & Jim Weatherbee

OCTOBER 6th

Theresa Nicks, Steve Cahoon
Beth Crawley, Marlene Naylor

Financial Statement

JULY 2019 YEAR to DATE

	JULY 2019	YEAR to DATE
INCOME:		
Offerings	\$14,045.00.....	119,931.75
Misc. Income.....	130.00.....	684.50
Other.....	00.....	136.03
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,175.00.....	120,751.28
EXPENSES		
Clergy Compensation.....	7,206.38.....	43,633.86
Worship	125.00.....	2,204.02
Christian Education.....	19.95.....	977.91
Witness/Outreach	941.66.....	7,891.62
Admin. & Finance.....	8,284.09.....	73,258.58
Property	2,694.54.....	14,982.86
Fellowship	126.64.....	1,020.55
Loan Interest Expense	338.19.....	2,242.16
TOTAL EXPENSES	19,736.45.....	146,393.56
Excess Income/Expense	\$ - 5,561.45.....	-25,642.28
Transfer fm Investment Acct	00.....	10,000.00

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2019

Non-Profit Org.

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Permit No. 4

Ft. Walton Bch, FL 32548

Return service requested.

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Pam Haynes, Office Administrator
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Witness & Outreach sponsored a car wash fundraiser and weekly food collection in July to benefit Sharing & Caring.

Many thanks to all who worked at the car wash and all who generously gave.

Proceeds total \$1,110 in monetary gifts and food value.

Lord
Teach
us to
Pray
Luke 11:1



Learning about Labrinths during the summer sermon series on prayer.

