

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

ACTS

*O my people,
trust in him at all times.*

POUR OUT YOUR HEART TO HIM,
FOR GOD IS OUR REFUGE.

PSALM 62:8 NLT

LIVING THE VERBS

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to Jesus, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When the man heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

(Mark 10:17-22)

Every time I read this story which appears in Matthew and Luke as well as Mark, I think to myself, "Jesus didn't really mean what he said, did he?" There are times when Jesus used hyperbole to emphasize his examples. There are many times when Jesus used parables to hint at the point of a story. But this was a personal encounter, one on one, face to face between Jesus and this rich man. As much as I would like to massage Jesus' words, as much as I would like to bend Jesus' words into a palatable form that I can easily swallow, as much as I would like to brush off Jesus' words with a shrug of my shoulders, I cannot do so.

I think about how blessed I am: family, friends, a church family, shelter, 3 meals a day, transportation, clothing, technology, etc. I'm sure each of us could say the same. Even in a year when the world has been turned upside down by virus, violence, political bickering; even in a year when some of us have faced health problems; even in a year when we have been confined to limited interaction, we are still greatly and graciously blessed. Our church family has remained faithful and blessed as well.

The church has never closed during this time of

pandemic. We have continued to gather from afar to worship and praise God's name together. We will continue to do so in the days and months and years to come. We are all aware that the church has many financial obligations. If we have no income from tithes and offerings, we will not be able to remain strong and viable for our members, friends, and community. That's the bottom line and we all know what it means. It means that Jesus is calling us to live by the verbs!

The short 6 verses from the Gospel of Mark are filled with verbs, action words. Nouns simply name things. They are a static part of speech. But verbs! Verbs tell what we do with the blessings we have; how we live in the light of God's love. Jesus' call is to **go, sell, give, come, follow**. We need the people who love the Lord and who love this church to step up to dedicate money, time, and talent to the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. We need people to live the verbs that Jesus speaks to us. Then we will have treasure in heaven. And I believe we will find treasure here on earth too.

In Christ's Love, **Sharon**

GO... SELL...GIVE...COME...FOLLOW

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Below are the number of views from our online presence for March 15 – April 19, 2020:

SUNDAY WORSHIP

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF VIEWS</u>
	3/15/20	428
	3/22/20	524
	3/29/20	238
	4/5/20	174
Good Friday	4/10/20	164
	4/12/20	259
	4/19/20	208
TOTAL VIEWS		1,995
Average per service		285

*****Compare:**

Average Attendance in Worship = 60-70/week

MID-WEEK MEDITATION

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF VIEWS</u>
	Wed. 3/18/20	238
	3/25/20	140
	4/1/20	125
Holy Week:		
Mon	4/6/20	207
Tues	4/7/20	92
Wed	4/8/20	101
Thurs	4/9/20	97
Wed	4/15/20	419
	4/22/20	386
TOTAL VIEWS		1,805
Average per time		200

*****Compare:**

Average Bible Study/SS Class. = less than 20/week



Notes From Jackie Hails

Storms, especially Hurricane Sally, have consumed our thoughts and actions these last few weeks. Whether it's storms caused by weather or the storms of life in which we find ourselves, we have the calm assurance that our God is greater and we are more than conquerors because of Him Who dwells in us. I found this blog by **Barry Kauffman** that he posted on May 13, 2018 that expresses the thoughts I wanted to share with you. The gospel song '*Til the Storm Passes By* speaks to my heart and I hope you will receive a blessing as I did when reading these words.....

My heart breaks when I hear of and see pictures of the devastation that so many folks suffer from storms - tornados, hurricanes, mud slides, floods, lightening strikes volcanoes and so much more. I just can't fully understand the tragedy they are going through. Personally, I have been so very fortunate not to have gone through any of these, although we have had numerous tornados close to our home. We have watched on television as the storms approach us and then thank the Lord as they pass by and miss us. What a relief when the storm finally passes by. But there are serious storms in life of other kinds that we all often must face. Spiritual and emotional storms abound. Illness, financial loss, family breakups, loss of jobs and so many other unexpected storms hit us so hard. And I think those kinds of difficult storms may also be part of the focus of this week's choice, written by Mosie Lister in 1958. He may have been inspired by the story of Jesus who was with His disciples in a boat when a vicious storm hit them. In Mark 4:39 we read, "And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still. And the wind ceased and there was a great calm." The scared disciples were astonished and relieved when upon the command of Jesus, the storm passed by.

It is said that this hymn was actually written for Mahalia Jackson, but it never reached her. A friend asked Lister to write a song for Jackson

who at that time was well known for her rendition of the song "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". Lister said that because he grew up among minority groups, he had an idea about the background of Jackson and wanted to write a song that would be a prayer for a person who has undergone struggles in life. The song was never given to her but it was written and many other people have actually been blessed by it. Lister's hymn also echoes the promise of God to Israel in Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you". The best part of this promise is that God not only said they would make it through, but that He would go with them! There was no fear of loneliness!

And that is also His promise to us today for Jesus has said that He would never leave us or forsake us. And He hasn't. And He won't. He will go with you through your storm. He will hold you fast and let you stand in the hollow of His hand. And one day He will take His children to that place where the long night has ended and the storms come no more. And we will stand with Him on that bright peaceful shore. May that promise and truth be your encouragement as you experience His presence and peace while your storm passes by. (next page) —>

Love in Christ, Jackie

(You can enjoy similar inspiring articles at barryshymns.blogspot.com)



'Til the Storm Passes By

1. In the dark of the midnight
have I oft hid my face
While the storm howls above me,
and there's no hiding place
'Mid the crash of the thunder,
Precious Lord, hear my cry
Keep me safe till the storm passes by
Till the storm passes over,
till the thunder sounds no more
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky
Hold me fast, let me stand
in the hollow of Thy hand
Keep me safe till the storm passes by
2. Many times Satan whispered,
"There is no need to try
For there's no end of sorrow,
there's no hope by and by"
But I know Thou art with me,
and tomorrow I'll rise
Where the storms never darken the skies
Till the storm passes over,
till the thunder sounds no more
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky
Hold me fast, let me stand
in the hollow of Thy hand
Keep me safe till the storm passes by
3. When the long night has ended
and the storms come no more
Let me stand in Thy presence
on the bright peaceful shore
In that land where the tempest,
never comes, Lord, may I
Dwell with Thee when the storm passes by
Till the storm passes over,
till the thunder sounds no more
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky
Hold me fast, let me stand
in the hollow of Thy hand
Keep me safe till the storm passes by

Words and Music by Mosie Lister copyright 1958



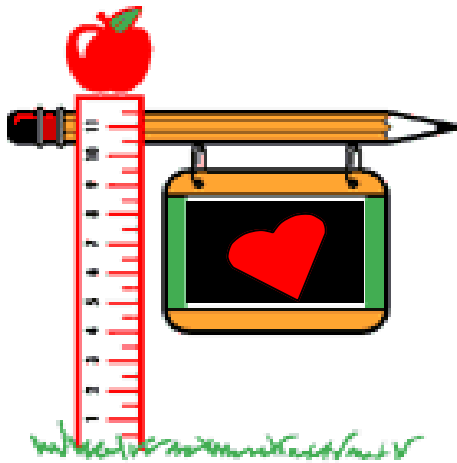
Jean Clemons is retiring after 28 years as a money counter!

The Clemons family moved to Mary Esther in 1992 to be near Jean's parents, George and Inez Pryor. FPC quickly became their home church and Jean and John served in many ways through the years.

Look up "lively" and you will find Jean: *"full of energy, active and enthusiastic."* Her milestone birthday adventures are proof of her lively spirit. Memorable adventures include parasailing, kayaking, seaplane flight, deep sea fishing, paddleboarding, and hot air balloon ride.

Jean is not a woman with idle hands! She has many hobbies, including genealogy, cross-stitch, and gardening. Volunteering at the USO was another of Jean's passions, spreading cheer each Tuesday morning at the busy Destin-Ft. Walton Beach Airport. Yet she still found time to come each week for the important task of counting offerings and preparing deposits with other volunteers.

Jean, we are thankful for you and appreciate your faithful service for 28 years.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR OUR TEACHERS

The Witness & Outreach committee is sponsoring a collection to help the two teachers in our congregation — Kim Moran & Elizabeth Noffsinger.

- ◆ Walgreens gift cards
- ◆ Office Depot gift cards
- ◆ Lysol cleaner
- ◆ Lysol spray
- ◆ Individually wrapped snacks (gummies, crackers, etc.)
- ◆ Kleenex
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Small 8 oz. water bottles
- ◆ Refill bottles of antibacterial hand soap

**WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

OCTOBER 4, 2020



World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.

NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, September 27, 2020 in the west parking lot, with masks and social distancing observed. The main order of business was to vote on selling to Sharing and Caring Food Pantry the parcel of land on which their facility is located. The property is located across the north parking lot from the sanctuary building and had been “leased to Sharing and Caring for \$1.00 per year for as long as anyone could remember. A unanimous vote approved the sale in the amount of \$155,000.00 with the purchasers paying all closing costs. If Sharing and Caring should ever decide to sell the property, the church would have first claim to buy it back.

The question of what to do with the proceeds from the sale brought a lot of debate from the church members present. It was finally decided to invest the \$155,000.00 in a Merrill-Lynch account separate from the Holbrook Endowment Fund for a period of one year. During the one year none of the money, including interest, can be spent by the church. This will give the congregation time to decide the proper way to disperse the funds in a responsible manner given the goals and needs of the congregation.

The Nominating Committee for Church Officers placed in nomination the following names for Elders for the Class of 2023: Barbara Blackburn, Susan Cook, Phyllis March, and Theresa Nicks. There were no other nominations from the floor and those four were elected by acclamation.

Many thanks to the Fellowship Committee of the Session who provided to-go box lunches for those attending the meeting.

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.



BIRTHDAYS

John Schuler.....	1
Jerry Black	2
Elizabeth Nicks	2
Linda Petteway	2
Bob Engelkens.....	3
Phyllis March	3
Fred Rhinehardt	7
John Drain.....	14
Jackie Hails.....	16
MG Moran	16
Mayrelizabeth Pryor	17
Joanne Hamilton.....	23
Clark Petteway.....	23
Helen Rigdon.....	23
Debbie Weatherbee	24
Janet Wiley.....	25



happy
Anniversary

Mark & Sherryl
Haller
October 21

Jim & Chris
Rollins
October 23

Richard & Shirley
Knight
October 24

Jim & Debbie
Weatherbee
October 24

Financial Statement

AUGUST 2020 YEAR to DATE

INCOME:

Offerings.....	\$14,077.60	128,482.08
Misc. Income	00	478.05
Other	8,000.00	28,000.00

TOTAL INCOME..... \$22,077.60 156,960.13

EXPENSES

Clergy Compensation.....	7,760.07	46,428.77
Worship	710.00	2,231.47
Christian Education	00	423.18
Witness/Outreach.....	941.66	7,433.28
Admin. & Finance	17,077.13	93,646.37
Property	6,330.82	22,700.49
Fellowship	52.40	394.30

Loan Interest Expense..... 300.59 2,365.89

TOTAL EXPENSES..... 33,172.67 175,623.75

Excess Income/Expense \$ -11,095.07 -18,663.62

Transfer fm Investment Acct..... 00 18,000.00

