

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

ACTS



CHILDREN OF GOD

It's a rather dreary Sunday afternoon, December 20, 2020 to be exact. I've come home from recording the Christmas Eve service with the Rollins family. (If you did not watch it on December 24, go watch it now; trust me they were fabulous!) John and I immediately set up to record from here at home for First on Faith on Dec. 23 and a message for Christmas Day. So I'm pooped. After making sure everybody has been fed, I crawled in the bed for a nap. I tuned the TV to the Hallmark Channel – those sappy holiday movies are sure to put one to sleep. But to my dismay, I got caught up in the plot (you know there is only one plot for all those flicks) and watched through droopy eyes. Then as the hero and heroine were dramatically expressing their love for one another, they dropped a line of dialog that really caught my attention: ***“You should choose to be the person you truly are.”***

We have each been made in the image of God, although we have our own unique gifts and faults. I think the idea is to make sure the gifts are greater than the faults. It's that simple. We spend a lot of time wheeling and dealing, fretting and worrying, jumping through hoops, and keeping track of the neighbors' new toys in hopes that we can afford bigger and better toys than they have by the end of the year. Since I am writing this at the end of 2020 for the January/February publication, I'm aware that this year is running out very quickly.

Of course, most of us would like to forget the craziness of 2020: pandemic, election, pandemic, abbreviated sports offerings, pandemic, online schooling, pandemic, etc. If there has been any saving grace from this year, and everything has some saving grace, it is the gift of time to reflect on who we are. We have been given the chance to be the person we truly are. I'm not convinced I have accomplished such a profound feat.

You see, I always feel that I am a work in progress. I hope you feel that way, too. I think that's the way we are supposed to feel. I think that's the way God wants us to feel, especially as the new year begins. As we hang up the new calendar on the refrigerator door, we face a whole new chance at growing and learning and understanding. If we are truthful, we are a bit hesitant about facing those looming days and months ahead all by ourselves. We need someone. We need something. We need God. We need God in order to discover who we truly are. God chose us before the world began. Now it's our chance to choose who we will be this year. We should choose to be the persons we truly are: **children of God.**

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” (I John 3:1)

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.



January Birthdays

Roger Huson 07
 Dotty Burdick 10
 Jim Rollins 11
 Susan Bayne 13
 Barbara Blackburn 24
 Miriam Schuler 27
 Helen Seagrave 29

*Helen Seagrave
 will celebrate her
 101st Birthday!*



Birthdays

Pat Hansen 05
 Carole Arrick 12
 Mattie Trigg 15
 Marilyn Ankeney 17
 Brittany Cahoon Thompson 23
 Doris Williamson 23
 Jim Weatherbee 24
 Chris Cook 27

*Happy Birthday,
 God Bless You!*

*Pray for our church officers as they serve God as
 leaders in this church; that God will guide and
 bless them in their service.*

CLASS OF 2021: BETH CRAWLEY, NANCY HILLERS,
 JIM MARCH, MARLENE NAYLOR

CLASS OF 2022: STEVE CAHOON, MG MORAN,
 DAVID NOFFSINGER, CHRIS ROLLINS

CLASS OF 2023: BARBARA BLACKBURN, SUSAN COOK,
 PHYLLIS MARCH, THERESA NICKS

Anniversaries



January
 Wil & Jackie Hugli
 January 28

February
 Mark & Melissa Burson
 February 25



Financial Statement

INCOME:	Nov. 2020	Year to Date
Offerings.....	\$19,794.32	178,,138.78
Misc. Income	15.00	493.05
Other Income	250.00	28,640.32
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,059.32	207,272.32
EXPENSES		
Clergy Compensation.....	\$8,503.09	66,610.16
Worship Committee	406.86	3,505.07
Christian Education	60.38	546.21
Witness & Outreach	2,841.66	11,971.01
Admin. & Finance	10,637.12	124,491.82
Property Committee	1,918.11	30,606.14
Fellowship	20.00	944.23
Loan Interest Expense.....	287.86	3,241.19
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$24,675.08	241,915.83
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	-4,615.76	-34,643.68
Transfer fm Investment Acct.....	5,000.00	33,000.00

JANUARY FEBRUARY 2021

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 4

Ft. Walton Bch, FL 32548
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Jackie Hails, Music Director
music@firstpresfbw.org

Pam Haynes, Office Administrator
office@firstpresfbw.org

IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT
ON YOUR CALENDAR

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION
OF NEW OFFICERS
Sunday, January 3, 2021
(online)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION
Sunday, February 7

- Review 2020 Annual Report
- Vote on Pastor's Terms of Call
- Elect Treasurer
- Elect Assistant Treasurer



ASH WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2021
Service TBA