



YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FROM
First Presbyterian Church
4437 Clinton Street, Marianna, FL 32446

850-526-2430
fpcmarianna@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER, 2018

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

A seminary professor was vacationing with his wife in Gatlinburg, TN. One morning, they were eating breakfast at a little restaurant, hoping to enjoy a quiet family meal. While they were waiting for their food, they noticed a distinguished-looking white-haired man moving from table to table, visiting with the guests. The professor leaned over and whispered to his wife, "I hope he doesn't come over here." But, sure enough, the man did come over to their table. "Where are you folks from?" he asked in a friendly voice.

"Oklahoma" they answered.

"Great to have you here in Tennessee." the stranger said. "What do you do for a living?"

"I teach at a seminary." he replied.

"Oh, so you teach preachers how to preach, do you? Well, I've got a really great story for you." And with that, the gentleman pulled up a chair and sat down at the table with the couple. The professor groaned and thought to himself, "Great....just what I need, another preacher story!"

The man started, "See that mountain over there," pointing out the restaurant window. "Not far from the base of that mountain, there was a boy born to an unwed mother. He had a hard time growing up, because every place he went, he was always asked the same question, 'Hey boy, who's your daddy?' Whether he was at school, in the grocery store or the drug store, people would ask the same question, 'Who's your daddy?'

He would hide at recess and lunch time from other students. He would avoid going into stores because that question hurt him so bad. When he was about 12 years old, a new preacher came to his church. The boy would always go in late and slip out early to avoid hearing the question, 'Who's your daddy?' But one day the new preacher said the benediction so fast he got caught and had to walk out with the crowd. Just about the time he got to the back door, the new preacher not knowing anything about him, put his hand on his shoulder and asked him, 'Son, who's your daddy?/Whose son are you?'

'Wait a minute!' he said. 'I know who you are, I see the family resemblance now. You are a child of God.' With that he patted the boy on his shoulder and said, 'Boy, you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it.'

(continued)

With that, the boy smiled for the first time in a long time and walked out the door a changed person. He was never the same again.

Whenever anyone asked him, 'Who's your Daddy?' he'd just tell them, 'I'm a Child of God.'"

The distinguished gentleman got up from the table and said, "Isn't that a great story? The professor responded that it really was a great story!

As the man turned to leave, he said, "You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably never would have amounted to anything!" And he walked away.

The seminary professor and his wife were stunned. He called the waitress over and asked her, "Do you know who that man was who just left that was sitting at our table?"

The waitress grinned and said, "Of course, everyone here knows him. That's Ben Hooper. He's the former governor of Tennessee!"

Someone in your life today needs a reminder that they are one of God's children!

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Our Church Website

www.firstpresmarianna.org

Remember to keep up with your Church on our new Church website. We WILL keep it updated — photos, calendar, recorded sermons, events, etc. There is also a “giving” feature where people can make an offering or donation to the church operating budget or designated to a certain need or ministry.

Weekly Prayer Meeting

People will gather in the Parlor every Monday (except holidays) at 2 p.m. to pray for healing and needs and to offer thanks and praise to God. We use the prayer cards and the prayer lists in your Sunday worship bulletin. It is an important ministry and should not put anyone out of their comfort zone.

Looking Ahead

The Volunteer Banquet for all of you **Food Pantry servants** will be held on Tuesday, October 16th at 6 p.m. You will get an invitation, but go ahead and mark your calendars now!



GOD'S PROMISE I AM WITH YOU

By Amy Poling Sutherlun
With Suggestions for Leaders by Brenda Bertrand

CIRCLES

Circle 1: Chair is Joy Hinton
Lesson Planner is Frankie Stewart
Meets 1st Monday at 10:30 a.m.
(Sept is the 2nd Monday due to holiday)

Circle 2: Chair is Dot Carpenter
Lesson Planner — Rotates
Meets 1st Monday at 4:00 p.m.
(Sept is the 2nd Monday due to holiday)

Circle 3: The Lunch Bunch
Chair is Peggy Peacock
Lesson Planner — Rotates
Meets 3rd Monday at 11:30 a.m. in homes
Sept. 20th is hosted by Joan Stadskev

Circle 4: Good News Women
Chair is Linda Wamsley
Lesson Planner — Rotates
Meets 2nd Monday at 5 p.m.

Circle 5: The Wildflowers
Chair is Merian Milton
Lesson Planner — Rotates
Meets 1st Wednesday at 6:30 in Homes
Sept 5th — LuAnne Law's Home
Oct 3rd — Amanda Hinson's Home
Nov 9th — *Family Farm Night* at
Lauren Lyons Farm
Dec 8th — *Brunch* — Habitat for
Humanity
Jan 2nd — Rebecca Dilmore's Home
*Please note that Kara's Shower is
On Oct 7th 1-3 p.m.*

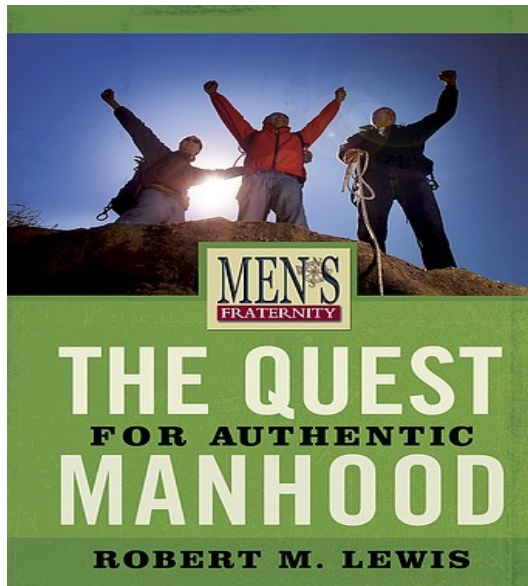
Curriculum for This Season

Circles 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be using the Horizons Bible Study this year: "God's Promise: I Am With You." Throughout the study, participants will reflect on how the promise of God's presence speaks beyond the pages of the Bible to their own circumstances. Individually and as a community, we will be encouraged to both see and seek God's presence with us in the extraordinary and the ordinary experiences of our lives. God has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). This study will confirm that God has indeed, made and kept that very promise again and again.

The Wildflowers choose their own Bible Study.

Each women's group has its own flavor and mission. Find the group that fits you.

Leslie Kelley was recently installed as vice-moderator for our Presbytery's Women's Ministry.



The Men's Group in our Church
is known as
"GOD'S WARRIORS"

Our Church's Men's Fellowship meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month; usually at 6 p.m. Our first meeting this Fall will be September 12 at the church. We will have a catered meal and ask that each participant contribute \$5 for his meal. Our Bible Study will be "The Quest for Authentic Manhood." We did a couple of these lessons last July and March and had a good discussion.

(www.mensfraternity.com)

All men are invited to come and bring a friend.

Lou Roberts and Barry Stafford are co-moderators of this group.

Roy Turner is treasurer and reminds us that a contribution of \$5 each meeting is encouraged so that we can accomplish our goals of supporting all church functions (fish-fry, rally day, trunk or treat, Christmas gifts for Jackson County orphans).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

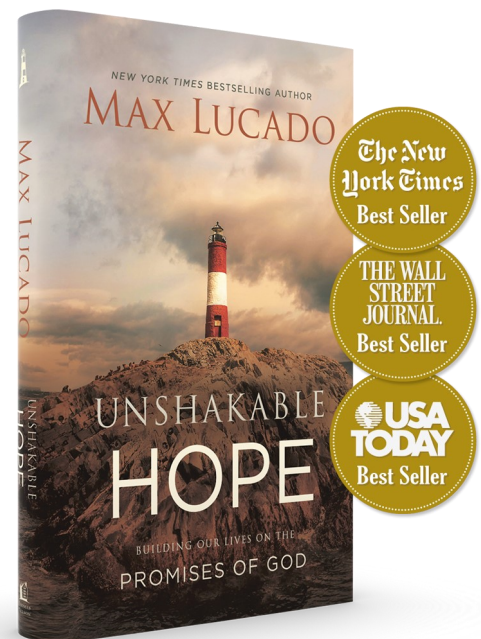
BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Adult Bible Study is usually on the 3rd and 4th weeks of each month.

Easter and Christmas studies sometimes break that pattern.

This September we will meet for dinner at 6 p.m. We will have a catered meal and ask that each participant contribute \$5 for his/her meal.

Our study this Fall (until Christmas) will be on "Unshakable HOPE—Building our lives on the promises of God." It will feature the book by Max Lucado and short video sessions with Bible study and discussion. This study will help us stand on the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God who governs the world according to His great and precious promises.



WILD WONDERFUL

WEDNESDAY

We start up on Wednesday

September 12th

After School

This has always been a great part of the life and ministry of our church. Like VBS, CE Moderator Mary Lu Andreu has worked hard to have something for everyone. This year we will again offer music with Flora Davis. Recreation, bible lessons, snacks, crafts and gift making are with Aggie Schack and Linda Wamsley. We will be sending out a schedule by email and snail mail soon.

MONTREAT

Tina Bigale is once again heading up the Montreat experience — luncheons, car washes, keeping those wanting to attend next June's conference connected and participating with worship and mission and the life of the church.

OUR YOUTH

We are blessed to have great leadership with our Youth. Merian Milton has a good group meeting on Sunday at 5:30. Youth from St. Luke's and other friends often attend. Several are going to "Rock the Universe" in Orlando September 7-9 which will feature the best in Contemporary Christian bands and singers.

The "Clinton Street Churches" are co-hosting "5th Quarters" after home football games. These events allow high schoolers to gather in a safe place and enjoy pizza, drinks, games, music and a Christian message. They start around 9:30 p.m.

The "Big Church Night Out" will be October 7th in Dothan. It features great music and worship and Pastor John's favorite illusionist. We will have a large group attending this and see how being a Christian can be fun. www.bigchurchnightout.com

"Whether it's the church around the corner or a church on the other side of the globe, we all connect to God in different ways. Big Church Night Out is a celebration of the beauty and diversity of the many different ways we worship while uniting behind the one thing that unites us all. It's a night of worship, entertainment, music, prayer, laughter, art, reflection and so much more." This night is for everyone!

BIG CHURCH NIGHT OUT



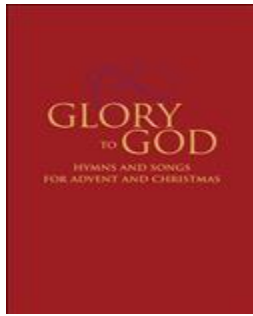


We Congratulate Geriann and Matt Milton on the birth of their Gift
From God: Mattox Brooks, born August 21st. Big Sister is Rilynn
(Picture to the left)

We also congratulate Great-Grandmother Betty Pettis on the birth of her great-granddaughter: Charlie Ruth Passaro born to parents Stephanie and Sean Passaro on August 27th. (Picture below)

Congratulations





NEW HYMNALS

We have had a successful campaign to secure and enjoy the new hymnal: “GLORY TO GOD.” We are replacing the Old Blue (1991) with this new hymnal that has more variety and more in number. They will be in the “pew racks” this Sunday, September 2. It is NOT too late to purchase one and to have it marked In The Memory Of or In Honor Of someone of your choosing. You may take a blue hymnal home with you if you like. We do have two Marianna churches that we are giving multiple copies to.



NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

The Church Officer Nominating Committee is preparing to get a slate of 4 people to nominate for the position of Elder. If you have a good person in mind to serve the church as an Elder, please contact one of the committee members:

Elders Beth Westmoreland and Lauren Lyons

At-large Members: Ginny Busby, John Milton V and Mary Bevis Schmidt.

A congregational meeting will be held in October to elect the 4 new elders.

(Every year 4 of the 12 Elders rotate off after a three-year term.)

Elder Betty Pettis



There are many, many wonderful Christians in our church — faithful, generous with their time and talent and treasure and just “good folk.”

But Betty Pettis has been so extraordinary we must single her out.

Betty held our office and church together between secretaries. She organized and had many of you filling in after Kathleen Evans retired. She was instrumental in securing our new office manager, Connie Butts, whom we are feeling very fortunate to have.

Much beautification and functionality of the Fellowship Hall is attributed to Betty.

If you haven’t seen our Church Office yet — well, it is the difference between night and day! And, getting the Pastor’s Office in shape is not an easy task! The entire office building is much lightened and brightened — starting from the front to the back.

THAN YOU BETTY FOR YOUR VISION AND
HARD WORK AND STICK-TO-IT-NESS.

We are grateful!

Committees

that make a difference

ADMINISTRATION

Elders: Betty Pettis (Chair)

Beth Westmoreland

Members: Chuck Morgan, Betty Hatcher, Roy Turner and Barry Stafford

Meets 3rd Thursday of the Month

5:30 p.m.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Elders: Mary Lu Andreu (Chair)

Ginger Green

Members : John V. Milton, Yvonne Melzer, Justin Lyons, Jim Gibbs and Frankie Stewart.

3rd Sunday of the Month

8:45 a.m.

EVANGELISM AND FELLOWSHIP

Elders: Muriel Turner (Chair)

Lauren Lyons

Members: Jim Gibbs, Joe Busby, Jennifer Stafford, Amanda Hinson, Glennis Wright

3rd Monday of the Month

6 :00 p.m.

SERVICE AND MISSIONS

Elders: Tina Bigale (Chair)

Betty Pettis

Members: Sharon Bannerman, Susie Barber, Mary Ann Gibbs, Kathy Milton, Marianne Lonsinger, Marsha Rodgers and Bud Wierman

2nd Sunday of the Month

8:45 a.m. in the Conference Room

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Elders: Ernie McNeill (Chair)

John W. Milton

Members: Stan Littleton, Kenneth Kelly, Joy Hinton, Linda Wamsley, Macky Gortemoller and Tom Stadsklev.

3rd Sunday of the Month

12:15 p.m.

BUILDING AND OPERATIONS

Elders: Scott Yant (Chair)

Sam Andreu

Members: Mary Lu Andreu and Chuck Morgan

Meeting Dates and Times Vary



Elders

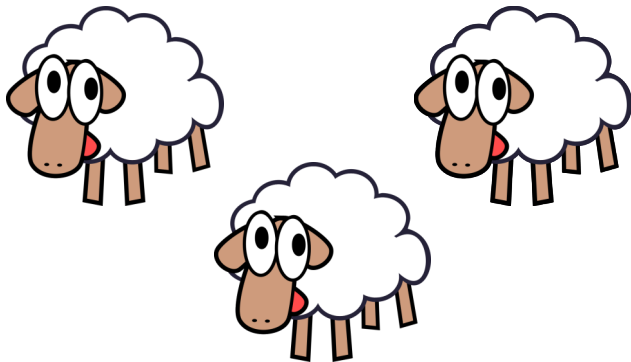
*Do you know who
your elders are in
your church?*

*Why do we need to
have elders in the
church?*

The Bible teaches the plurality of church leadership — the sharing of the burden of pastoral ministry.

Paul instructed the churches to have elders to help direct the affairs of the church.

Very simply put: it takes many to lead the sheep.



HAVING SAID THAT,
LET US NOT FORGET THAT
WHILE WE HAVE
GREAT LEADERSHIP
WE ALL HAVE
A RESPONSIBILITY TO DO
OUR PART TO SPREAD
THE GOSPEL IN OUR OWN
CORNER OF THE WORLD.

*You have twelve elders for the
year and the elders for 2018 are
listed below:*

Mary Lu Andreu

Sam Andreu

Tina Bigale

Ginger Green

Leslie Kelley

Lauren Lyons

Ernest McNeill

John W. Milton

Betty Pettis

Muriel Turner

Beth Westmoreland

Scott Yant



*Be sure to thank
your elders for
their service to
your church.*

*The Elders of the
Month are listed
each week in the
Sunday bulletin.*



Taking Care of Business

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE CHURCH EMAILS?

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please print your email address and return this to the Church Office or put it in the Offering Plate on Sunday. We want to be sure we keep you encouraged and informed via our emails.

Name: _____

Email: _____



WE WANT TO WISH YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ON THAT SPECIAL OCCASION, SO WE NEED TO KNOW:

WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?

Please print the name and birthdate of family members attending First Pres. Church. (No, you don't have to give the year — just the month and day.)
