



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

850-526-2430  
fpcmarianna@gmail.com

DECEMBER, 2018

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR**

*The following is what our Office Manager, Connie Butts, gleaned from a talk she heard given by Guy Tatum, a local contractor, missionary and bible study teacher. I have great respect for Guy Tatum and believe his thoughts on our current situation are very applicable. He is not denying the reality of the severity of devastation and grief; he is only offering positive suggestions and hope for a long-term positive outcome. I trust you will receive some encouragement.*

*To begin with, this is our norm right now. Things are different and they are going to be that way for quite some time so we might as well get used to it — accept it and be patient. God is still here; He is right in the middle of this mess with us. He has not abandoned us.*

*Here are some practical suggestions for you to think about while you go about the task of putting the pieces of your life back together.*

- 1. Do not get upset and immediately pay money for an attorney or one of those companies that wants you to hire them to “go after” your insurance company. Many of the adjusters that are coming into the area have never seen the likes of this. There are going to be miscalculations and the insurance companies know this. They know they will be mailing supplemental checks as people discover things are costing more than anticipated and are discovering some damage that was not originally listed. Your claim is not closed just because you deposited that first check. Try working with your insurance company before you spend part of your money paying someone else to get more money.*
- 2. This is a long-term process. It is not going to happen quickly — some things will take a few years. Jackson County lacks the work force to do this construction work that needs to be done so the local contractors were already busy and now their schedules are even fuller — extending out into the future — not tomorrow.*
- 3. Therefore, you need to be aware and wise about who you hire. The “outsiders” are coming and that is a good thing since we lack the work force. However, be diligent and make them provide you with proof of Worker’s Comp and Liability Insurance. Some will try to show you a Worker’s Comp exemption but that only applies to up to 3 officers in the company — not the entire staff. Make sure the documents they give you show their limits of insurance and have accurate, current dates of coverage. (Look for attempts to change dates or amounts on the forms...yes, this does happen.) You can always check them out on line. Don’t react out of panic and hire the first person who says they can do it now. Take the time to do it right!*

*Look for the Positive:*

1. *This was a major event but very few lives were lost in Jackson County due to the storm itself. It could have been much worse.*
2. *Neighbors are talking to neighbors because they need help AND because they can see each other since the trees between them have been knocked down.*
3. *Encourage one another.*
4. *Be thankful and grow through this experience. Every experience we have in life builds one upon the other to make us who we become over the years. Some years down the road you can look back and see how you made it through this.*
5. *We will survive!*
6. *Have you noticed the green leaves on trees? There is new life right in the middle of the devastation. There is new life for us — a fresh start!*

*Lamentations 3 says: "The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall. My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him."*

*God is still here and the blessings far outweigh the inconveniences!*

## ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Author Unknown

**"He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.**

**He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never traveled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.**

**He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave.**

**Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and leader of mankind's progress.**

**All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the king that ever reigned have not affected the life of man as much as that One Solitary Life."**



# 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.

DECEMBER:

Christmas Salad Lunch  
10:30 am at the Church on Dec. 3rd

\*\*\*\*\*

**Circle 2:** Chair is Dot Carpenter  
Lesson Planner — Rotates  
Meets 1st Monday at 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER:

5:00 pm at Jim's Buffet on Dec. 3rd  
Meal is Dutch — Bring Gift to Exchange

\*\*\*\*\*

**Circle 3:** The Lunch Bunch  
Chair is Peggy Peacock  
Lesson Planner — Rotates  
Meets 3rd Monday at 11:30 a.m. in homes

DECEMBER:

Peggy Peacock's House

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

DECEMBER:

5:00 pm at Jim's Buffet on Dec. 4th  
Bring gift to exchange.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Circle 5:** The Wildflowers  
Chair is Merian Milton  
Lesson Planner — Rotates  
Meets 1st Wednesday at 6:30 in Homes

DECEMBER:

*Annual Mission Christmas Brunch*  
*Dec 8th, 10:00 am at the Church*  
Jan 2nd — Rebecca Dilmore's Home

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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."

Due to the Hurricane, some Circles met and some did not during October and November.

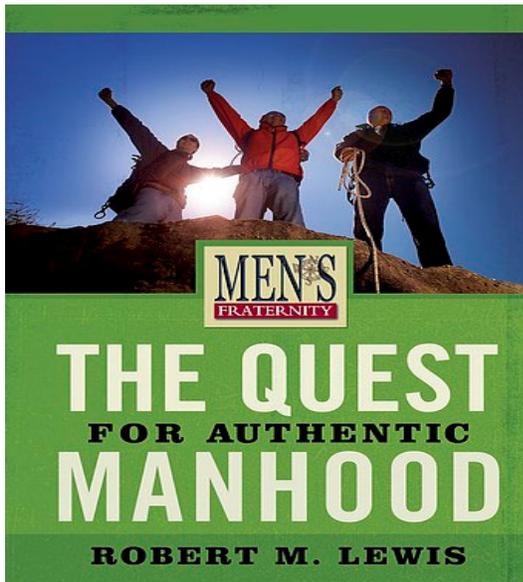
December Lesson: "God With Us When We Seek God" God summons God's people, and especially God's leaders, to walk in God's ways and to seek God.

(The Wildflowers choose their own Bible Study.)

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

It is not too late to join in.

\*\*\*\*\*



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 Bible Study will be "The Quest for Authentic Manhood."

([www.mensfraternity.com](http://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).

NEXT MEN'S MEETING will be the 2nd Wednesday in January (9th) at 6pm. We will enjoy Linda Wamsley's gumbo and watch a video, *Fellowship of Christian Athletes*.

\*\*\*\*\*

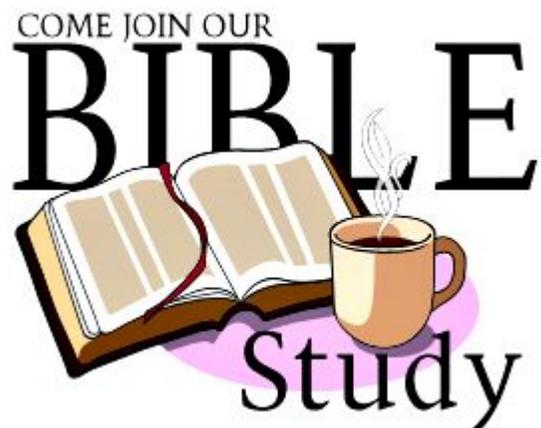
## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

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 coming January, 2019, the focus will be on Evangelism.

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." *1 Peter 3:15*



# WILD WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

## 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.

## BELL CHOIR

We have a Bell Choir that practices at 5:45 to 6:45 on Wednesday evenings. In spite of interference due to Hurricane Michael, our Bell Choir Director, Karen Smith, as kept things going and we are looking forward to a performance by the Bell Choir on December 16th at the morning Worship service.

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

**The Youth Group will be meeting every Sunday in December with Merian Milton. Please remember to take advantage of the Advent devotionals that Merian provided**



# CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year's Confirmation Class participants are: Ryan Law

John Lawson

Cooper Milton

Carolena Payne

Cole Payne

Eva Marie Stafford

These young disciples will meet with their mentors on Wednesday, December 5th at 6pm. They will meet with the Session on Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 and have a brief exam.

These Confirmation Class participants will be received and celebrated at the December 16th Worship Services.

Their corresponding mentors are: Jason Law, Travis Lawson, John Milton V, Danielle Payne, Chris Milton and Sam Andreu

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**Thanks to Amanda Hinson..... Our children's Christmas Pageant is always perfect, — super cute and the music is great!**

**This year's title is: "Sing a Song of Christmas".**

**The children will stay after church for their final practice on Sunday, June 9th. Meal provided.**



### NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

On, Sunday, November 25th at a Congregational Meeting, the following persons were elected as incoming Elders:

Janet Howell, Travis Lawson, Larry Spivey and Barry Stafford.

We are grateful they said “YES” to the call to serve their church in this way.

These four will share their faith and have a brief ‘exam” after church on Sunday, December 16th. They will be installed/ordained on January 13th.



Congratulations to Kara Michelle Roberts and Elliott Allen Payne who were married in our Sanctuary on Saturday, December 1st.

Eli and Kara used the Cross Ceremony to express their unity and faith. The song “Spirit” was sung by a guest vocalist.

They will be living in Dothan.



We are grateful for the following for continued work for our church during the aftermath of Hurricane Michael: “Point Person” for insurance, adjusters, contractors, Mary Lu Andreu; Church Treasurer, Chuck Morgan and Church Office Manager, Connie Butts. Many of you went way above and beyond the call of duty — we will have a more complete list at a later date. (We have applied for a FEMA grant but one requirement was that we apply for SBA Loan first — that has been done.)

The Wildflowers Christmas Brunch is sold out and their offering will be given to support our church’s recovery. This Brunch is always such a beautiful and well-attended event.

The Men of the Church (God’s Warriors) will be taking up an offering on Sunday, December 9th for our Christmas Fund for the foster children in the Anchorage Home for Children. Jason Lyons is the point person.

Scott Yant was unable to attend his high school class reunion (due to Hurricane Michael) so his classmates very graciously sent a donation to be used for local children for Christmas toys.

### BAPTISM

**Mattox Brooks Milton will be baptized in our sanctuary on Sunday, June 9th. Parents are Matt and Gerian Milton. Grandfather Albert Milton will assist with the Sacrament.**



**December 1st**

Sandra Daffin

**December 2nd**

Lu Anne Law

**December 3rd**

Bob Pitman Jr.

**December 4th**

Joan Andrews

Justin Schutkovske

Mary wierman

**December 5th**

Ronnie Myers

**December 6th**

Jean Boyenton

**December 8th**

Beverly Hinson

**December 9th**

Catherine Hester

Jonathan Taylor

**December 10th**

Jackie Parramore

**December 12th**

Jeff Allen

**December 14th**

Stephen Stafford

**December 15th**

Kara Roberts

**December 16th**

Stanley Littleton

Don Morris

**December 18th**

Ginny Busby

Emma Smith

**December 19th**

Meg Garraway Brown

**December 21st**

Billy Sherrel Jr.

**December 22nd**

Virginia Watford

**December 23rd**

Don Hunter

**December 29th**

Hunter Hutton

**December 31st**

Meghan Austin

\*\*\*\*\*

*These are the birthdays that we are currently aware of. If your December birthday is not listed, please contact the Church Office so we can update our list.*