



The title is taken from a book that I just read by Thom Rainer, the President and CEO of Lifeway Resources. Thom offers some unique insights on what it means to be a church member. Please allow me, over the next couple of months

to share some excerpts from the book. Here goes:

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 slower than that of their communities. Simply stated, churches are losing ground in their own backyard. 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 80 million members. They were born between 1980-2000. 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 places us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to teach, 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.

I'll say Amen to that! Merry Christmas!
More to come next time,
Pastor Godfrey

The School Scoop

by Wydette Ackerman



Thanksgiving celebrations have come and gone. We are now anticipating the most wonderful time of the year...CHRISTMAS! Celebrations of the birth of the Baby Jesus are in the minds of NWCA staff and students. We also recognize the beauty of what God did for mankind on that most special birthday.

The Christmas play this year is "A Charlie Brown Christmas". You might ask, 'Now what has Charlie Brown to do with a Christian Christmas play'? Well, come to North Walterboro Baptist Church on Thursday, December 8th at 7:00pm and watch the NWCA students perform. Mrs. Smoak has written this play and has done a great job. We hope to see you as we celebrate with our students. They have surely worked very hard on this play.

We are still working on our accreditation. Thank you to the school and church workers who are helping us with this. WE are planning for a SCACS team visit in January.

Exams for students are December 13 - 15th. Then... the Christmas Holiday begins!!

We wish a very merry Christmas to all of you.



December 04	8:45	Deacon Meeting
December 04	7:00	Church Council Meeting
December 05	6:30	WOM Meeting
December 07	7:00	Mission Study
December 08	6:30	Deacon Visitation
December 08	7:00	NWCA Christmas Musical
December 11	12:30	Widow/Widower Dinner
December 12	7:00	Men's Ministry Meeting
December 15	6:30	Deacon Visitation
December 18	11:00	Christmas Cantata
December 18	6:00	Children's Christmas Program Finger food Fellowship
December 19	2:00	Victory House Sing

December 21	7:00	
December 24		
December 25		Breakfast & Christmas Message



Jan. 01, 2017

From the Associate Pastor...

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! That's right folks. The Christmas season is officially here and I for one am absolutely excited. There are a ton of opportunities for service in December 2016, so don't you dare miss out on anything the Lord has for you this Christmas season.

Music

Our Christmas Cantata is scheduled for December 18th at 11:00am and you will be blessed by the message of "The Christmas Shoes." The choir and drama teams have been working hard and are excited about this presentation. Also, on December 18th at 6pm, K'Motion is presenting their Christmas program followed by a Happy Birthday Jesus fingerfood fellowship. Our kids and leaders have been working extremely hard on this and it's such a blessing to see the excitement and anticipation in their eyes. Don't miss these opportunities to enjoy these programs.

Also, on December 21st, we are going Christmas Caroling. This was a wonderful time of ministry for us last year as we set up two hayrides through town to sing Christmas songs to some of our shut-ins. Don't miss this opportunity to serve. We will have a short dinner and plan to leave the church at 6:30pm. This will take the place of our regularly scheduled Wednesday night services. Don't forget to dress warm!!



Driven Youth Ministries

We are headed to the Big God Conference at the end of the month. What a wonderful way to bring in the new year by praising the Lord in song and word. Pray for our young people as we make this trip. Pray that they will be ready to receive the blessings that God has in store for them. Hopefully, we are going to be able to fit in a trip to James Island to view the Christmas lights before the conference. Stay tuned for more information.

Folks, Christmas falls on Sunday this year so we are going to change our schedule just a bit for that day. The men's ministry is going to provide a full breakfast for the entire church body. We will start serving at 9am. So get up early and take care of what Santa Clause has brought and then come to church at 9am for the best breakfast in Walterboro followed by the best worship service in Colleton County at 10am. Please join us as we celebrate Jesus Christ!!

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call on me.

I love serving the Lord and I love serving Him with you!!
Pastor Steve

Widows and Widowers Christmas Dinner

every time we love every time we GIVE, it's Christmas.

On Sunday, December 11th following the morning worship service, the Deacon's will be hosting a special Christmas Dinner for the Widow's and Widower's. All deacons, past and present are invited to attend.



Week of Prayer (Lottie Moon Christmas Offering)
Dec. 4th – 11th Goal: \$1,200.00
On Wednesday, December 7th, the WOM will have a Mission Study and Supper to promote the Season of Giving for the Lottie Moon Offering.



North Walterboro Baptist Church
2177 Jefferies Hwy.
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 538-8080
www.northwalterborobc.org

The Communicator