

November



When the calendar turns to November my thoughts have always gone straight to Thanksgiving and family gatherings. There are lots of memories of our family, mom, dad and my brother, driving to Huntington, WV to be at

my grandparents' home and later after they had passed away to be with my aunt on Thanksgiving Day. The familiar place settings and decorations, the traditional foods along with being together as family were very special times. In recent years we now travel from different directions to my brother's home. That means that our children come from Ohio and we leave here and meet in Lewisburg, WV. Again, it's a time of giving thanks for family and the privilege of being together once more. Your memories of family gatherings may be similar and you too may be filled with gratitude for so many memories. We all give thanks to God for life, for family, for church family and for overwhelming blessings.

During this month, in the life of our congregation, we focus on our church family with a Women's Retreat on Saturday, November 2, that is organized by the Board of Christian Education. It will be a casual day where women find shelter at the **Cozy Mountain Lodge**. All of our church family is invited to be a part of the Stewardship Dinner on Saturday, November 9 as we all focus on how God blesses us with Gifts, the opportunity to Give and how we can be Generous because God is so Generous to us. **Gifts, Giving and Generosity**. I hope you will join in the dinner, planned with you in mind, as we learn about our gifts. Our worship themes each week this month will hone in on those special gifts mentioned in scripture and how we can unwrap those gifts and use them in ways that God intends. Each of us in this church family is gifted in special ways and as we combine our gifts, the body of Christ will grow in faith and the needs of others will be served. Join us each week and invite others to worship with you.

As you think of inviting someone to worship, take notice of the statistics highlighted in this illustration and see how important your conversation and your invitation can be. We may think that the ways that worked in the past still work for today, but personal relationships and personal invitations are the most effective way to reach people who need to be introduced to Jesus. Take the step and invite those persons you know who don't attend church and welcome them to worship with you.

I look forward to worshipping and sharing with you this month as together we give thanks.

How Do People Start Attending Church?

- ◆ A friend invited me – 86%
- ◆ Organized Visitation – 6%
- ◆ Invited by the Pastor – 6%
- ◆ Advertising – 2%

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Rev. Dan Taylor