

NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S CORNER

THE ROCK

Church membership is important in the Christian's life. Yet, it is often neglected. Statistics have shown us over the past 25 years that church membership is dwindling across our nation. We often hear that church is just not relevant in our culture today. I don't believe that for one minute. What I do believe is that our culture is trying to dictate who the church is and what the church should believe. But we at Sandusky Baptist Church know that the church is defined by what the Bible says the church is, not culture. We also know that the Bible is relevant for every age and generation.

I have been grappling with the issue and dilemma of declining church membership in the United States for over 25 years. What I have discovered is that for people young and old, there is a growing fear of commitment to established institutions. I have also discovered that those fearful people express their fear as a distaste for "this or that" that the church believes and practices as an organized institution.



What they fail to see is that the church is not an organization or an institution. Folks, the church is an organism!!! The New Testament is clear about that. The church is THE BODY OF CHRIST!!!

During my ongoing research regarding the declining church I came across an interesting article on the biblical perspective and truth about the importance and relevance of church membership. The article is actually an extrapolation by the author, Jonathan Leeman, who wrote [Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus](#) from Crossway Publishers, 2012. Below is the article:

"Twelve Reasons Why Membership Matters

- 1) **It's biblical.** Jesus established the local church and all the apostles did their ministry through it. The Christian life in the New Testament is church life. Christians today should expect and desire the same.
- 2) **The church is its members.** To be "a church" in the New Testament is to be one of its members (read through Acts). And you want to be part of the church because that's who Jesus came to rescue and reconcile to himself.
- 3) **It's a pre-requisite for the Lord's Supper.** The Lord's Supper is a meal for the gathered church, that is, for members (see 1 Cor. 11:20, 33). And you want to take the Lord's Supper. It's the team "jersey" which makes the church team visible to the nations.

KLOTHES 4 KIDS

Our Church has been assigned Girls Size 4/5

- Size 5 Jeans
- Size 5 or 5/6 Shirts
- Size 4 Underwear

Please Do Not Buy:

- Tank tops/spaghetti strap tops/sleeveless shirts
- Shorts or dresses
- Long sleeve shirts or jackets
- Winter clothing
- Plain or solid color tee shirts - please buy ones with some design on them (this is for outerwear tee shirts, not underwear tee shirts)

School Supply List

Notebook paper - wide rule only

Crayons - Crayola only (No Rose Art) Boxes of 24 colors or less

Blunt Scissors

Glue Sticks or Elmers Glue

Erasers

#10 Pencils

Pens

Pencil Boxes/Pencil Pouches

Black & white composition books

Spiral Notebooks

Colored pencils

Rulers

Protractors

Compasses

Pocket folders

Backpacks



MAY 13TH

Mother's Day

MAY 14TH

WMU Meeting

10:00 a.m.

MAY 16TH

Church Business Conference

6:30 p.m.

MAY 20TH

Deacon Meeting

MAY 28TH

Memorial Day

JUNE 12TH

WMU Meeting

10:00 a.m.

JUNE 17TH

Father's Day

Deacon Meeting

12:00 p.m.

JUNE 20TH

6:15 p.m.

Fellowship Meal





SERENADE

National Music Week is May 6-13 and to participate, the adult choir is going to visit Heritage Green. We will sing several anthems and cookout after. It will be a blessing to bless these folks!

-Sarah

MAY

- 7 Micah Stephen
Ed Vogt
- 10 Ann White
- 12 David Smith
- 18 Mel Anderson
- 19 David Pruett
- 31 Sara Cofflin

JUNE

- 3 Teresa Eubank
- 8 David Marsh
- 9 Paige Myers
- 14 Andrew Elliott
- 17 Steve Trask
- 18 Pete Powell
- 19 Betty Powell
- 22 Jose Rivera
- 30 Ben Smith



Please Keep Our Mission Team
In Your Prayers as they travel
to Wise, Virginia:
Reverend Ed Vogt • Pam Gallaher
Christopher Gallaher • Nikki Smith

*Making & Maturing
Disciples of Jesus Christ!*



We Welcome
Belinda Honnen to
our church family!

- 4) **It's how to officially represent Jesus.** Membership is the church's affirmation that you are a citizen of Christ's kingdom and therefore a card-carrying Jesus Representative before the nations. And you want to be an official Jesus Representative. Closely related to this . . .
- 5) **It's how to declare one's highest allegiance.** Your membership on the team, which becomes visible when you wear the "jersey," is a public testimony that your highest allegiance belongs to Jesus. Trials and persecution may come, but your only words are, "I am with Jesus."
- 6) **It's how to embody and experience biblical images.** It's within the accountability structures of the local church that Christians live out or embody what it means to be the "body of Christ," the "temple of the Spirit," the "family of God," and so on for all the biblical metaphors (see 1 Cor. 12). And you want to experience the interconnectivity of his body, the spiritual fullness of his temple, and the safety and intimacy and shared identity of his family.
- 7) **It's how to serve other Christians.** Membership helps you to know which Christians on planet Earth you are specifically responsible to love, serve, warn, and encourage. It enables you to fulfill your biblical responsibilities to Christ's body (for example, see Eph. 4:11-16; 25-32).
- 8) **It's how to follow Christian leaders.** Membership helps you to know which Christian leaders on planet Earth you are called to obey and follow. Again, it allows you to fulfill your biblical responsibility to them (see Heb. 13:7; 17).
- 9) **It helps Christian leaders lead.** Membership lets Christian leaders know which Christians on Planet Earth they will "give an account" for (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2).
- 10) **It enables church discipline.** It gives you the biblically prescribed place to participate in the work of church discipline responsibly, wisely, and lovingly (1 Cor. 5).
- 11) **It gives structure to the Christian life.** It places an individual Christian's claim to "obey" and "follow" Jesus into a real-life setting where authority is actually exercised over us (see John 14:15; 1 John 2:19; 4:20-21).
- 12) **It builds a witness and invites the nations.** Membership puts the alternative rule of Christ on display for the watching universe (see Matt. 5:13; John 13:34-35; Eph. 3:10; 1 Peter 2:9-12). The very boundaries which are drawn around the membership of a church yields a society of people which invites the nations to something better."

-Ed

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

We are collecting items for the 2018
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.
This is a year-long, church-wide effort.

Item suggestions include:

- Little Stuffed Animals
- Crayons
- School Supplies
- Socks
- Combs
- Brushes
- Crafts
- Bracelets
- Toothbrushes
- Bar Soap
- Wash Cloths
- Balls
- Little Dolls
- Puzzles
- T-shirts

*No Toothpaste, candies or liquids please.

The bin is located in the Welcome Center. Thank You!