

# Let Me Just Say This By Walker Gauld



FFOP is in the books now, and I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that I think it was a great success.

From the home-made cake on Saturday night forward, this place was filled, and a large percentage of those folks were either recent additions to our church family or first-timers checking out things. Earl Cox and New Creations brought serious enthusiasm to the house Saturday night with great gospel music presented with excellence and flair! Gary Figgins brought his laid-back Kentucky style to a message that was anything but laid back. First time I've ever thought of the church as an NFL ref though . . .

Sunday morning saw over 520 folks in attendance, and The Dock band ("Rooted") knocked it out of the park again. I am honestly so impressed with the musical excellence of our newest and youngest worship team. Gary's "Ready or Not" message was exactly what was needed, and the baptism of Kim Blasko was the icing on the cake. And she was immersed by a member of our church who HIMSELF was only baptized 3 weeks ago . . . wow. Can anybody deny how God is working in this place?

Almost as an aside, we had our "One & Done" offering,

where we specifically asked our guests to NOT contribute. The goal was to receive an offering that would be large enough to pay our mortgage for an entire YEAR. (\$76,000). People said we were nuts, but they've said that before. When the offering was counted, there was \$78,572 to pay our mortgage until October 2018! That would be crazy, if God weren't so on time. Our God . . . and this congregation, never cease to amaze me.

There's no slow down after FFOP though. Our mid-week groups are continuing on Wednesday nights through November 15<sup>th</sup>. (After a holiday break, we'll resume in late January.) We have our annual congregational vote on November 19<sup>th</sup> (budget + new elders and deacons), and don't forget to mark your calendars for the adult Christmas comedy December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, and kids' choir December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.

On a totally different note, please pray for me as I'll be returning to Haiti in November and again in January. The long-term result of what is going on there will not be known this side of heaven! Finally, "Let me just say this": After 30+ years as the Senior Minister of RCofC, I will be taking my first sabbatical in 2018. It will be a working sabbatical, since about half of the time will be spent teaching in Port Au Prince, Haiti. But the rest of the time, I plan to do some long-overdue writing.

While I'm gone, the pulpit will be filled with high-caliber guys, including some from our staff, and none other than the great Brett Andrews from New Life Christian Church in Centerville, Virginia. I kind of hate to miss those sermons! But I'll be listening to sermons in Haitian Creole. I've been studying the language for some time now, but I'll consider myself lucky if I understand 25% of it. "Yo pale twa veet pou mwèh." (They speak too fast for me!) And that's all I've got to say about that!

*Walker*

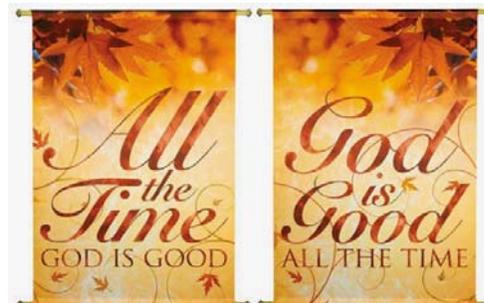


I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. JOHN 14:6

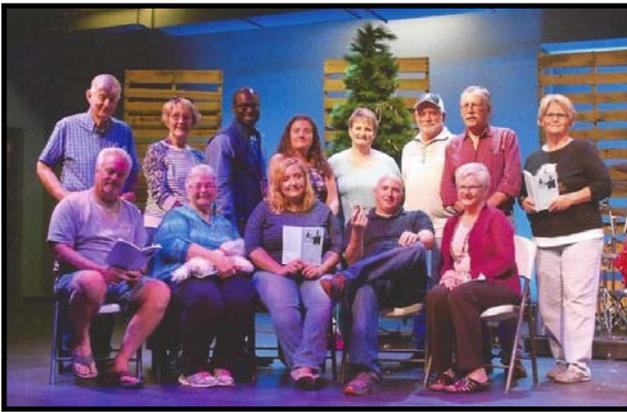
# RCofC Newsletter

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# Christmas Comedy: Chapter Seven Christmas



Have you ever seen the television show “What Would You Do?” Suppose both sides of your family were planning to spend Christmas at your house, but you’ve lost your job and home, and are facing a possible bankruptcy?

If you are Melvin Maldaput, you borrow an \$8-million estate from your

real estate buddy, and pretend to be a successful music mogul! Melvin and his wife, Miranda, start telling one lie after another to keep the ruse going. The last thing Melvin wants is for his parents and in-laws to discover that he is a failure.

Melvin’s rich hillbilly neighbors come to the rescue when they agree to pose as his servants for the Christmas weekend. Once the family members begin to arrive, it is impossible to keep this \$8-million dollar home in pristine condition. The situation quickly escalates from bad to worse.

But as with every good Christmas comedy, you can expect a happy end-

*Showtimes:*  
**Saturday, December 2, at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m.**

ing. Melvin and Miranda finally understand the real meaning behind the popular saying, “Jesus is the reason for the season.”

In “Chapter Seven Christmas,” the message of the manger and the cross comes from a most unexpected source. A debt needed to be paid, and 2,000 years ago God sent his only Son to this world to pay the debt — a debt that has been paid in full.

We don’t want you to miss this wacky, yet touching, comedy. Mark your calendars now! Note: We will have a special guest with us for the Saturday night debut. Who, you might ask? Sorry, our lips are sealed!

## From the heart...

I would like to thank everybody for their prayers, cards, visits, food, and phone calls. I am still having a lot of pain, so please keep me in your prayers. I have lost the strength in my right hand. They seem to think it is coming from the C5 and C6 vertebrae. Thank you all again. God Bless you.

Love,  
Garnett and Virginia Walker



We would like to thank everyone that prayed; sent texts, phone calls, cards, and food; sat with us at the hospital; asked about Shawn’s condition; gave us the beautiful quilt; and for all your love and support. Thank You God for us being part of a caring, loving congregation. Thank you RCofC church family. We love you.

Shawn and India Bennett

## Safety/Security Bulletin



Please keep in mind that with Christmas approaching, so will a rise in thefts. As the shopping season gets underway, there will be a major rise in thefts from vehicles. It happens in the Northern Neck right along with the cities. Don’t leave items visible in your vehicle. Put them out of sight as much as possible. The trunk is best, but, at a minimum, cover items to hide them from view. I know this statement should go without saying, but

please lock your vehicle. Most thefts are from unlocked vehicles.

Packages left at the front door or are otherwise visible from the street are being stolen more and more. Criminals are going as far as following the UPS/FedEx trucks, and waiting for them to leave a package. Making delivery times when someone is home or a neighbor is home, or having a lockable box the package can be put in, are just some ideas to reduce theft.

Burglaries will also increase. It’s simple: If what you have inside can be seen from the outside, then it may become a target. Report suspicious people and vehicles. Try and get a good description and

tag numbers if possible. Do not put yourself in danger.

Start getting your income tax information together as soon as possible. There is a major rise in fraudulent tax return filings. People are filing their returns only to have the IRS inform them that they had already filed and payment was already made to them. About all the IRS will say is “get your return in early.” Stay safe, and stay secure.

Dep. Roger Briney  
Westmoreland County Sheriff’s Office

## Ministries' Corner

### FaithWALK by Tracy Winegar

Hello church family! As a new member, I have so many of you to get to know! My husband, Walter, and I have enjoyed attending RCofC this summer. He is a retired Presbyterian minister, and is currently pastoring a church through the end of the year, so you won't be seeing him for a while. It didn't take long, however, for me to know that THIS is where I wanted to worship, to grow, and be of service. So... I jumped right in to an area of ministry that really calls to my heart.

I am coordinating a wonderful team of people that have committed their time and hearts of service to what is now called the FaithWALK Ministry. This ministry combines the two former ministries known as Baptistery and Prayer & Invitation.

Why the new name? Well, we were looking for a name that would combine the essence of these ministries as we grow into a greater level of service, supporting the mission of the church.

There are three primary areas under the FaithWALK Ministry: Prayer, Invitation, and Baptistery. The prayer ministry,

I must share with you, is SO exciting to me! How awesome it is to have the opportunity to be behind the scenes in prayer during the message each Sunday—the opportunity to lift Walker as he shares his message and pray that his inspired words will fall as seeds, planted in fertile soil... touching hearts. This ministry spoke to me personally, as a prayer warrior, understanding the power of prayer and the call of believers to lift our voices in these days. So as you pass by the darkened baptistery changing rooms during the message, know that someone is in there on your behalf, on the behalf of our church and its mission...voicing it to our Heavenly Father.

The second area is the invitation ministry. These folks are ready during any given service to warmly embrace those coming forward during the invitation to join our church family, rededicate their lives, and/or be baptized. What a huge moment in time that is for them...to make the decision to welcome Christ into their hearts! What a huge moment that is for us as their brothers and sisters in Christ to witness! The invitation team

warmly greets them as they bravely make the walk to the front of the church, gathering some information and leading them forward in the profound process that awaits.

The third area is the baptistery team. They are also ready to receive these beautiful people as they make their way through the process of changing clothes and preparing for that special moment. Taking them by the hand each step of the way until they are at the water's edge, ready to be immersed into their new life in Christ. Therefore, I am passionate about our church, our many ministries, and areas of service, but especially for me...the FaithWALK Ministry. We would love to have you join our team if it sounds inspiring to you as well.

Oh, and the name: Prayer...our faithful response to spread the Word and grow God's Kingdom. Invitation & Baptistery...acknowledging their WALK in faith in a new life in Christ.

Contact Info:  
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## Quilting

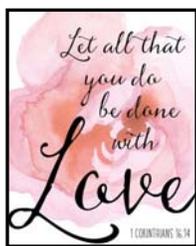
The Quilting Ministry is having a Christmas tree wall hanging (paper piecing) and a micro-safe hot holder sew-in on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There are no class fees. The Christmas tree cost is \$6.00 per pattern (participants need to provide their own materials for this project.) The micro-safe hot holders (materials) will be provided by the Quilting Ministry. The class is limited to 20 participants.

If you do not have a sewing machine and would like to attend, please contact Bea Jackson at 804-313-1874 for the supply list.



## Love in Action: Bridgett Landess, Meri Rosser, & Desi Harley

### What is in a ministry?



I recently attended the first meeting of the growing FaithWALK Ministry team with Tracy Winegar, the new team leader, and all the wonderful people who have been part of this group! The

meeting was so well planned and organized, and Tracy even had lunch ready for everyone! Walker opened the meeting with prayer, and as Tracy led the meeting, it became evident the *love* she has for the Lord and the *genuine desire* she has for people to come to know Him. The majority of the time was spent in open discussion where everyone was encouraged to share their advice on what would work best to prepare the ministry to be

the most successful as possible. Throughout the discussion, there was *laughter* and *fellowship*, and it became very evident of the *love* that this group of people have for the Lord and one another and how serious each of them take their responsibility.

Continued on p. 5

## Grace and Peace by Jim Ward



I grew up watching a long-running television game show call "Truth or Consequences." Wikipedia explains that contestants received roughly two seconds to answer a trivia question correctly (usually an off-the-wall question that no one would be able to answer correctly) before a buzzer sounded. If the contestant could not answer the question correctly to complete the "truth" portion of the game, there would be "consequences," usually a zany and embarrassing stunt for the contestant to fulfill. From the start, most contestants preferred to answer the question wrong because they wanted to perform the stunt. In many broadcasts, the stunts included a popular, but emotional, heart-rending surprise for a contestant, that being the reunion with a long-lost relative or with an enlisted son or daughter returning from military duty overseas. Fun was had by all, and Ralph Edwards (the originator of the show on radio in 1940), and later Bob Barker (on television from 1956-1975), were particular favorites with fans. Bob Barker always ended the show with "Hoping all your consequences are happy ones."

As I grew up, I began to understand that in life our actions do indeed have consequences. Some consequences are good, and some are bad. Most of the bad consequences we suffer in life are because of our own poor choices or willful disobedience—overeating, drugs, alcohol, speeding, etc. And sometimes we are even hurt by the consequences of other people's actions. Every action has a consequence. Or another way to put it is: no behavior happens in a vacuum. No one has the right or the privilege of saying, "I can do what I want as long as it doesn't affect anyone else." When we do bad things, when we sin, we will suffer the consequences.

We see example after example in the Bible where people made poor choices or purposely disobeyed God, and they suffered the consequences of their actions.

Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, and were expelled from the garden that was created for them, and through their actions brought about death for all creation. Moses refused to follow God's specific instructions, and God did not allow him to enjoy the land that had been promised to his people. King David chose to engage in adultery and murder. He cast a dark moral shadow over the entire nation of Israel, and would not be allowed to build the Temple he himself had designed. Jonah decided to travel in the opposite direction from where God had told him to go. He ended up being fish food.



The point is all of us suffer the consequences of sin. But wait! What about grace? Where is mercy? Didn't Christ die for our sins? Why, yes, he did! In fact, it is because of our sin Christ suffered the consequences of our sin. In Romans 6:23, the Apostle Paul tells us that "the wages of sin is death." Death is the consequence of sin, and Christ suffered that consequence. Then he tells us that the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. But we know all that right? We are saved from death by grace through faith, right? Yes, that is correct! But, sadly, there are still consequences for our actions.

The easiest way to explain this conundrum is to look at our nation's judicial system. We are a nation of laws. If you break one of those laws, you will pay the fine; you will pay your debt to society. As a born-again Christian, Christ paid your debt to God—your sin is forgiven. However, as a United States citizen, you will have to pay your debt to society, which may include the loss of some of your basic rights. If your crime culminat-

ed in the loss of a limb, you will live the rest of your life without that limb. You may have to regain trust from your friends and family. You may also lose many years of your life to incarceration. Your actions have consequences.

Now, how does that apply to us in our daily walk as Christians? You may be saved from your sin—meaning you are promised eternal life with the Father. But, your coarse words or uncaring actions may hurt others. You may be baptized, sanctified, and redeemed by the blood of Christ, but your lack of study of God's word will leave you "ineffective and unproductive" making you an impotent Christian. In other words, your life will have no spiritual *consequence* to anyone. On the other hand, you may pray regularly, study your Bible, go to church, serve on several ministries, and tithe your income. But, hanging on to grudges and gossiping about those grudges will destroy the very congregation you want to grow and support. (Pay attention here.) ***Our sinful actions will have negative consequences apart from our salvation.*** A cursory glance through the book of Proverbs will support that statement.

The good news is that ***our Christ-like actions will have positive consequences because of our salvation*** (see Ephesians 2:10). Paul tells us in Ephesians, Chapter 4, that we should only speak what is helpful for building others up according to their needs. He goes on in Chapter 5. "Be very careful then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is . . . be filled with the Spirit. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Again, our positive, Christ-like actions will have positive consequences for your life and for others. So, I will say with Bob Barker, I'm "hoping all your consequences are happy ones."

*Jim*

## New Sermon Series

Pete is the average guy next door. You work with him, shop with him, hunt with him, go to the gym with him, hang out with him, go to school with him, and live near him. Maybe it's not Pete at all, but it's the average gal next door. Same scenario, but the name's Petula! What's our responsibility to Pete and Petula? We know we're supposed to love them . . . but HOW really? Come find out in our new sermon series: **FOR THE LOVE OF PETE!**



## Ministries' Corner (continued)

### Love in Action From p. 3

I heard Tracy say “the most important thing that we need to be able to do is to show the people that respond to the message that we *care about them* and that we’ve *got them*, and we are here to help!” She actually said that we need to show them that we’ve “*got them*” several times, and each time she said it, she expressed so much love and concern that it felt like a real “hug” around my heart!

Everyone left with a clear picture of the mission of the ministry, where they fit, the importance of the commitments they made to do their part, and the next steps needed to move the ministry forward. Tracy also left with more work to do, organizing, planning, and following up. As I walked her to her car, I could see that all of the information from the meeting was “swirling” around in her head, but what I heard from her was the gratitude that she had towards the Lord for leading her to us here at RCofC, how wonderful all of the people were who are a part of this ministry, and how thankful she is in being given this opportunity to serve Him and them!

So what is in a ministry? It simply starts with genuine *love* for the Lord; a lot of *laughter, fellowship, and love* with and for each other; a *willingness and desire to love* and lead whomever we are ministering to Him; and to make sure that when they are with us here at RCofC that it is the *very best experience* they could have!

Here is the update on our current & future open *ministry* opportunities:

- **Elementary & Preschool Check-In Team:** We now have 15 commitments toward the team of 20! **ONLY** 5 more commitments are needed! Again, this opportunity is one of the more flexible. Once the team is in place, there will only be a one Sunday a month commitment needed. Let’s help make sure that our children are safe and secure!
- **2018 Nursery Schedule** (birth to 2 years old): We are working on getting a team of 3 people for both services to commit to at least 1 month of service (or more) in this coming year! Yes, 72 people are needed on a yearly basis to help make sure that all the wonderful babies that are coming our way are *loved* and cared for each Sunday! This ministry is going to take all of us working together as a church family to fill these commitments! If you are personally unable to volunteer, that’s okay, but please talk to and encourage others who can!
- **Offering & Communion Ministry:** One-month commitments are still needed for November and December and into the **2018 New Year!**
- **Fellowship Ministry:** The remaining 2017 events where you can help include: **Adult Christmas Play Receptions** on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>; **Kids Choir Program Receptions** on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact us for times

and more details, and the **2018 Fellowship Schedule of Events** will be coming soon!

- **Senior’s Breakfast:** Are you an **Early Bird**? If so, help is needed every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 a.m. at the church to make coffee and help set up for this wonderful fellowship opportunity! It takes less than 30 minutes to get everything done! So, it may be something you can do on the way to work!
- **Reboot/Reset Team:** A team leader is still needed! This group is responsible for setting up and resetting our space when we have church meals; i.e., Wednesday nights and special events throughout the year. If you like to use your muscles, this ministry is **THE** perfect opportunity for **YOU!**
- **FaithWALK Ministry:** There are still two important open opportunities within this group. We need ministry members who will pray during the sermon for people to be touched and reached by the message, and also members who will be up front to greet and help anyone who responds to the message.

Please contact us today! We are prepared to share an overview of the expectations, time commitments, training that may be needed, and get you connected to a ministry team leader so that you can get into action right away!

## RCofC Community Database by Penny Barton



As most of you may know, RCofC uses a church management software program called Elexio. It helps us manage our church database; communicate with members by email and text; is used for Child Check-In and events management; and tracking and managing giving, attendance, membership records, and more. Elexio is also used for mobile and online giving. This December we will be upgrading that program to Elexio Community. Community will allow us to manage our database on any device. This

system is highly secure and very user friendly for our members and staff.

Community member database is the place where you can update your contact information, provide a picture of yourself and family members that attend RCofC, view groups you may lead or are a part of, print your donation statement, and find groups you might be interested in. Community is also what staff will use to stay in touch with you and your family. Your basic contact information is what we will access when we need to reach you by email, postal mail, or phone, so please be sure to update as needed, as it is what we use for our church directory.

If you have already set up a user account in Elexio, that account login (user name and password) will be the same in Community. If you have already set up online giving, all that information also remains the same. If you don’t currently have a user account in Elexio, it is very easy to set up one. However, you must have an email address to create an account.

More information will be coming soon on how to login to Community and download the new Elexio Community App and the new Check-In App. You will be able to login to RCofC Community from any web browser on your smart phone, computer, or tablet.

**I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. JOHN 14:6**

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Mailing: PO Box 1286  
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Phone: 804-333-9659  
Email: Walker@rcofc.org  
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*Mission Statement: Our mission and purpose as a congregation of believers is to lead people to Christ, by helping them to mature in their relationship in Him, teaching and enabling them to minister to others both inside and outside of the family of God, and providing opportunities to share and fellowship together that in all things we might bring glory to God.*



## A Story About The Church At Work by Walker Gauling

I recently was visiting in the home of a shut-in. She's got a fine, sharp mind, but like so many that are north of 80, her body is betraying her. We talked about her memories, her loneliness, and her ailments, but suddenly, without warning, everything changed. Her face totally transformed as a huge smile spread across her face. She said she had something that she just HAD to tell me. I urged her to continue, by all means. She proceeded to tell me about one of the best days of her year. It seems that a group of church friends, RCofC ladies, called her before her birthday and INFORMED her (they didn't ASK her) that she should be ready for them to come over. They were going to celebrate her birthday, and she had better be ready! One of these fine women showed up at her door, escorted her to the car, and took her to a local spot for lunch. She said, "Walker, I had the best crab cake I've ever had in my LIFE!" I suspect that she has had better crab cakes, but the wonderful COMPANION and fellowship made it taste richer and sweeter.

Because when she arrived with her chauffeur, there were five other ladies waiting to spend the afternoon with her.

They ate together, and I'm told it took them longer than normal because when you're laughing and talking as much as they were . . . it just takes longer to eat! After lunch, they piled into their cars to go back to the home of the lady where they ate birthday cake and celebrated their friendship.

I was just so taken aback at how much that afternoon meant to her. It literally made her YEAR. And it's CONTINUING to have an effect, because she's still talking about it, and probably will be for some time to come! But the thing that struck me the most is that this is the CHURCH at work. It's brothers and sisters in Christ, caring for one another, and sharing the most precious thing they have—their TIME. Just six ladies giving so unselfishly of themselves and brightening the day of that lady. Can you imagine what our church community would be like if more of us were as kind as these six ladies were to the people we worship with? We wouldn't have ROOM for the people who would flock here to experience that kind of love. To those six ladies, I'd like to say, "Well done."

But the story doesn't end there. This same lady went on to tell me how the best

part of her day is going to the mailbox. She even had to SHOW ME one of many notes written to her by one individual. She also went on and on about the thoughtful cards sent to her by a second person. But then she said, "And one woman, I'll bet she's sent me a thousand cards and notes over the years!" She said that there were so many more RCofC folks who remember her by mail, and it makes her day, EVERY day. Again, may I say . . . Well done! That's what the church looks like.

So who IS this lady? I'll never tell. But I'll bet you know somebody LIKE her, who could really use a card or visit from you. Why don't YOU be the church to somebody today? You'll never know how you'll affect them, this side of heaven. And one last thing if you're reading this and thinking, "Why didn't those six ladies call ME to tag along? I would have enjoyed that . . ." May I say to you, you're thinking the wrong way! Instead, start planning your OWN mission of mercy to somebody's home. Go alone, or call a few friends to go with you. You'll never look more like Jesus than when you're loving somebody.

## Hey Keith, I have some questions about...

**Q.** What happens to my contribution after I put it in the offering plate?

**A.** We strive to do everything we can to maintain a secure and accurate method of handling the church finances. Paul gives us a guideline to follow in 2 Corinthians 8:20-21 where he writes, "We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men." Looking to this scripture for guidance, here are the procedures we follow in order to uphold the highest level of security and accuracy.

1. Immediately after the offering is collected, two ushers place it in a bank bag and put it in the church safe. Later, two finance ministry counters remove the bank bags from the safe, count the offer-

ing, prepare the deposit slips, and take the deposits to the bank drop box. There are always at least two people handling the money at each step of the process to ensure its security.

2. Each Tuesday I receive an email from the bank with the deposit details. I compare what the bank claims we deposited against our own deposit slips and check for any discrepancies. Deposits are recorded in QuickBooks, the church accounting software, and individual contributions are updated in Elexio, the church management database.

3. There are three separate primary checking accounts for expenses: one for the general fund, one for the building fund, and one for the rental spaces. Each checking account is handled separately using QuickBooks. At the end of each

month, I prepare a financial report for the church board that shows the YTD actual expenses versus the budgeted expenses.

In addition, the church treasurer conducts a monthly audit of the checking accounts to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the process.

You can be sure that the church leadership and the ministry volunteers involved in handling the church finances want to do everything possible "to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."

Got other questions about procedures or policies related to church management? Call or [email](#), I'd love to talk with you.

Serving Christ by Serving His Church,  
Keith Peyton

