Here’s a great article on how to retain new church members by Thom Rainer, President of Lifeway. I’m interested to see how these “six questions” strike you? I thought it was interesting how each of them dealt with relationships… Take a look and share with me your thoughts… I don’t have the book that Rainer references yet…but I will!! Sounds like a great book!

Gary McIntosh and Charles Arn recently released a delightful new book, What Every Pastor Should Know. I love the data and research in the book. One of my favorite sections dealt with retention of members. Two of the most critical findings were:

Of all the members who drop out of church, 82 percent leave in the first year of their membership. Retention efforts are thus critical in the first twelve months after a member joins a church.

The pattern of dropout is not random. Most leave close to their six-month tenure or close to their twelve-month tenure. So church members seem to give new churches a “test” at both six months and twelve months. If the church passes the test at six months, the member will stay for another six months. If the church passes the test at the one-year mark, the member is likely assimilated into the church.

The first “test” consists of three questions. Though the church member may not ask these questions specifically, he or she is evaluating three critical issues to determine if it’s time to move or stay. These are the issues around the six-month point.

Have I made friends in this church? New members who remained active in the church made an average of seven new friends in these first six months. The drop-outs had an average of less than two friends.

Is there a place in the church where I fit? Critically important to this question is whether or not the new member is in a group or class.

Does this church really want me? Are the members still as friendly as they were when I first joined? Am I being invited or encouraged to participate in ministries in the church?

Assuming the new member feels good about these first three questions, he or she is likely to stay another six months or so. At roughly the twelve-month point, the new member then evaluates the church on three more issues.

Are my new friends as good as my old friends? The members begin to assess the quality of their relationships.

Does the group meet my needs? By the time the new member has been involved in a group for more than six months, he or she is asking if the investment of time in the group is really worth it.

Is my contribution important? Everyone wants to be a part of something significant, something greater than themselves. Church members join a church with those expectations. Near the end of the first year, they begin to evaluate that issue and their contributions to the overall mission of church.

Though there are no great surprises in these six issues, what is new in the study by McIntosh and Arn is the timing issue. Most of those who will drop out will do so before the end of their first year. And at six months and twelve months respectively, new members will intuitively ask themselves six questions. How they respond to those questions ultimately determines if they will stay or leave.

How do you evaluate these six questions? What can your church do to prevent members from dropping out?

In Him,
Dan
Wilted Laurels

It’s my understanding that the Greeks and Romans would crown their champions with a laurel wreath after a competition. For many athletes, this was the ultimate recognition of their achievement. For most, it was a final accomplishment to a life-long commitment of hard work and dedication. This is where we get the expression “Resting on my laurels”, meaning that the objective has been reached; the work is done & there is no longer a need to continue.

For a Christian, to “rest on my laurels” is totally contrary to the teachings of the New Testament; our work is not finished until that final day when we are called home to be with our Lord. Paul said, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.” (1 Cor. 9:24). And in Hebrews 12:1, we are told, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out before us.” If you think that your “work” is done because you have achieved so much in service to God, think again; the only thing a Christian gets when they “rest on their laurels” is wilted laurels!

The race is not won and the prize not attained. You may not be able to serve as much as you would like due to your schedule, your job, your family or your health. But you can still SERVE in many ways. Here are a few suggestions:

**Can you pray?** Our Prayer Room Ministry can provide you with an opportunity to go before the God’s Throne and intercede for our church family, our leaders and our world.

**Can you watch?** We are developing a security ministry that will help ensure the safety and security of our members and campus.

**Can you encourage?** There are several ministries currently in need of people to visit our homebound, our sick, and our first time visitors.

**Can you eat?** Our Men’s Ministry is a great time of fellowship, Bible study and service projects.

If you would like more information on these & other ways to serve, ask a deacon or email us at deacons@stetsonbaptistchurch.org

God Bless,

David Hunt
General Fund Receipts

July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013

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<th>April 14, 2013</th>
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<th>April 14th</th>
<th>Worship Services Statistics</th>
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<td>Wed. Youth</td>
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<td>Children’s Church</td>
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Worship Services

- **Sunday**
  - April 21, 2013
  - Morning Worship
    - 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
  - Dan Glenn
  - “Loving Difficult People”
    - Romans 12:9-21
- **Wednesday**
  - April 23, 2013
    - 6:00 p.m.
  - Dan Glenn
  - “The Tears of Jesus”
    - John 11:35

**Deacon of the Week**

April 21st-27th

Byron Conerly
(386) 736-4005

Deacon Email:
deacons@stetsonbaptistchurch.org

**For emergencies, the Pastor-on-Call**

can be reached at:

(386) 734-1991

Press 1

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**Food Pantry Totals**

April 8th-12th: 45
March: 156
2013 Year-to-Date: 538

**April 17th**

**$6.00 Meal**

- Ham
- Hashbrown
- Casserole
- Fried Okra
- Biscuit
- Salad Bar
- Dessert

**$3.00 Meal**

- Chicken Nuggets
  - or
- Macaroni & Cheese
  - or
- Salad Bar only
- Dessert

**April 24th**

**$6.00 Meal**

- Meatloaf
- Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy
- Green Beans
- Roll
- Salad Bar
- Dessert

**$3.00 Meal**

- Chicken Nuggets
  - or
- Macaroni & Cheese
  - or
- Salad Bar only
- Dessert

**Nursery Volunteers**

**April 21st**

- 8:45 a.m.
  - Kim May
  - Chris Delligatti
  - Robbie & Nicole Harper
  - Stephanie Barker
  - 10:15 a.m.
    - Susie Lowry
    - Dawn McDonough
    - Velda Phillips
    - Randy & Marjorie Savage

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April 16, 2013
**Announcements**

**Men's Ministry**

Men's Ministry Breakfast & Bible Study
Saturday, April 20th
7:30 a.m. in the FLC Gym
Contact Lavon Wilson for more information.

**Attention Sunday School Teachers**

Sunday School Teacher Meeting
Sunday, April 28th in the Family Life Center
Immediately following the 2nd Worship Service
Lunch provided.
Contact Joe Kramer for more information.

**Young-at-Heart**

Young-at-Heart Game Days
2nd & 4th Fridays of each month
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. • FLC 1
Contact Dorothy Cairns for more information.
cairns.dorothy@yahoo.com

**Church-Wide Singles Event**

**Pizza & A Movie**

May 3rd from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in FLC 9 & 10
Contact Church Office for more information.
$2.00 for Pizza

**Mugs & Muffins**

Saturday, May 18th, 2013
9am - 11am
Tickets: $3.00 (On Sale Soon)
Save the Date

Presented by: Stetson Baptist Church Women's Ministry

**Cozzol Colossal Coaster World**

July 8th - 12th 2013
Vacation Bible School

Young-at-Heart Meeting

Thursday, April 25th
10:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center
High School Room
Program: Crime Prevention for Senior Adults. Mark Rutledge, Guest Speaker
On the menu: Roast Beef
Baked Potato
Lima Beans
Salad
Dessert.
$6.00/person