

FirstFruits

Of Redstone Presbytery

FirstFruits contributions are NOT just the same old per capita with a new name. Redstone Presbytery now has only ONE unified missional budget for all of the work that God calls us into as a body. That one budget is an expression of our conviction that the Church is not the Church of Jesus Christ if it is not engaged in mission; and engaging in mission means doing the work set before each of us by our God, whether in the mission fields of the Sudan, the Gulf Coast or Western Pennsy I- vania.

Your congregation's support of that one missional budget mirrors the Biblical practice of tithing **FirstFruits**, and you no longer receive a "bill" for what you "owe" the Presbytery! Rather,

- **FirstFruits** means **THANKS** in response to God's bles sings.
- **FirstFruits** means **FIRST**, not what's left.
- **FirstFruits** means **BEST**, not just what you can get by with!

Your Session determines the amount of your congregation's **FirstFruits** offering, understanding that it is not just the same old per ca p- ita with a new name.

Some Thoughts About **FirstFruits** Giving:

We are not very good at gratitude. We think we must earn everything and pay for everything... just another bill: pay off the balance due, wipe the slate clean.

A **FirstFruits** offering is a disciplined expression of gratitude to God for the abundance of life itself.

We need to learn how to say "Thank You" to God, instead of, "Oh yeah, here's what I owe you, Lord."

The God we worship is not a Heavenly Bookkeeper balancing accounts, no matter how much we behave as if we believe otherwise.

Jesus said, **"The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the col- lection than all the others put together. All the others gave what they'll never miss; She gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford..."**

When it comes to calculating **FirstFruits** there are two ways in which a Christian or congregation may view money:

- ✚ "How much of my money shall I use for God?"
- ✚ or "How much of God's money shall I keep and use for myself?"



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