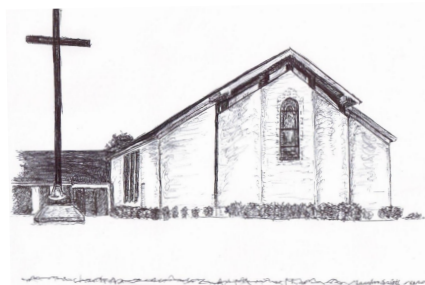


Presby News

DECEMBER 2023



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

I feel so far behind schedule. It's already December 1st and I don't have my Christmas lights up yet. Oh, there is plenty of time. But I watched some of my neighbors get lights up during the weekend after Thanksgiving. There was even one house that had their lights up the week BEFORE Thanksgiving! Christmas lights decorate the nights of December with colors of red, green, white, and sometimes blue. My family loves to drive the long way home to look at the lights and decorations.

This is a season of lights for so many reasons. In Natchitoches, December is the season of lights that fill the streets, businesses, and sky all month long. And thanks to the tourism, the season of lights fills the pocketbooks of the storeowners! December is the season of Hanukkah which is a Jewish celebration of a miracle during the Maccabean Revolt over King Antiochus. According to tradition, the leaders of the revolt were preparing for a rededication of the Temple. Only enough consecrated holy oil could be found for one day. They used the oil anyway. The miracle of Hanukkah is that the oil lasted eight days!

It's possible that the astrologer-wise men of the Christmas story saw the Season of Light as a planet or some astrological phenomenon in the sky. Some scholars and astronomers suggest that the Star of Bethlehem could have been a conjunction of planets and stars moving through a constellation. Near the estimated time of the birth of Jesus, the planet, Jupiter, was close in conjunction with the star, Regulus. The planet Jupiter was called the King Planet. And as you can probably see in the name, Regulus was called the King Star. These two would have beamed more brightly in the night sky. These two were in the constellation of Leo. Leo would have signaled many things to the Wise Men. First, it would have been seen as a royal constellation. Second, it would have represented the Israelite tribe of Judah. All this could add up for someone paying attention to signs in the sky. The King Planet shines every so close to the King Star in the King Constellation. And the Wise Men travelled to Jerusalem to the palace to find the King of Judah expecting to hear of the birth of a future king. Perhaps the Star of Bethlehem was some sort of light in the sky that announced the birth of a great light.

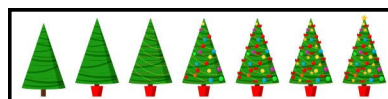
We as Christians see the Season of Light from a different perspective. We see the Great Light of the World shining from a manger for all eternity. The Season of Light celebrates the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. This light shines in a dark world that stumbles through trying to find life. Our light warms the hearts of stone-cold souls who could not know love without the light beaming into our lives. The light of Christmas guides and directs much like a lighthouse on the dark coast. The light warns of unseen dangers. It gives far-sighted directions like a stationary point to guide our steps.

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,
Star with Royal Beauty bright,
Westward leading,
Still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.

May the perfect light of Christ guide us each and every day. May the warmth of His love radiate from us as we try to show others the grace of God that we have experienced. May the bright light of Christ both guide our steps and anchor us as a beacon to guide others. May we remember that light has the power to overcome the darkest moments. It does not matter how dark, the faintest light still wins. We may not feel like the perfect example of Christ. But His light still shines through us for all to see.

Merry Christmas and May God continue to bless you richly as His Beloved!

Bro. Greg



SPECIAL DATES

December 3	9:00 am Brookdale Worship 11:00 am Worship/Communion
December 17	Christmas Joy Offering
December 24	Morning Worship Only
December 25	Christmas Day (Office Closed)
December 31	New Year's Eve
January 1	New Year's Day (Office Closed)





holly jolly
MIX-UP

Unscramble the holiday words... most right wins!

1. PULRDOH _____

2. MHCISTARS _____

3. GSTKCNOIS _____

4. UHANKHA _____

5. ERTE GISHTL _____

6. KBLCA DFYRIA _____

7. PGNIWRPA RPEAP _____

8. ECOIKSO _____

9. YLOHDIA YPRTA _____

10. ANSTA UALCS _____

11. EGSLIH IDRES _____

12. WNMSOAN _____

13. EISMOETLT _____

14. EYDEIULT GLO _____

15. YCNAD EANC _____

16. AROSDET TSNCHTSUE _____

Name _____ *#Right* _____

December Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
December 3	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	Communion Team: Elizebette Kennedy & Bill Higgins
December 10	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
December 17	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
December 24	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
December 31	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	



Bill Higgins	12/08
Ruzanne Ceronio	12/13
DuToit Ceronio	12/17
Carolyn Sterne	12/23



Thanks to all who helped decorate the church. You did a GREAT job! Merry Christmas!



First Presbyterian Church

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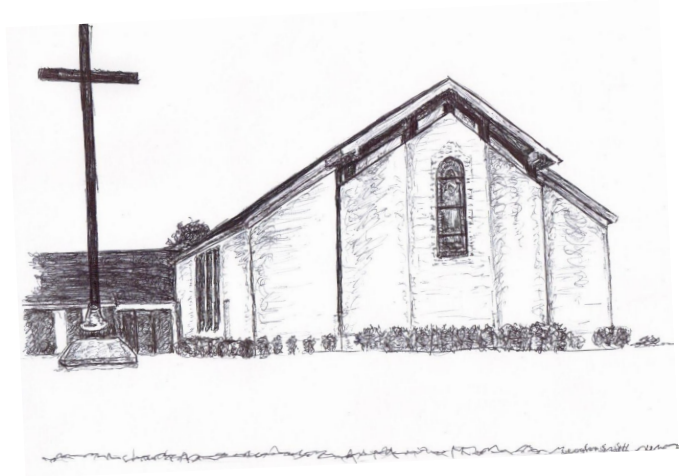
Greg Carroll, *Interim Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Music Director*

Jennifer Ciobanu *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Administrative Assistant*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd.

Alexandria, LA 71303

Come experience God's love at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday School—9:45 a.m., Worship—11:00 a.m.