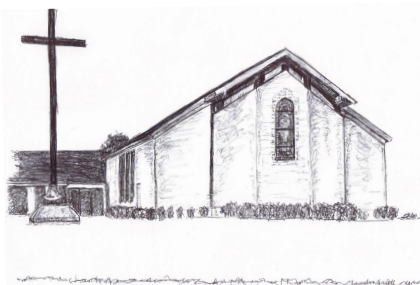


Presby News

JANUARY 2023



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

I hope you all have had a great Christmas season with family, friends, and coworkers! As much as I love the celebration and joy of Christmas, I must confess, I breathe a sigh of relief to put it all away for another year. I won't miss the crowded stores and hectic schedules.

With the close of the Christmas season, we come to the part of the year that always inspires me. I have a hard time picking a favorite holiday or time of year, but this week comes pretty close. I am always inspired by the New Year. I love the time to reflect over the past year and see where the Lord has directed me. Some years my memories are more positive and encouraging. It's easy to think over the year, smile, and remember. Then other years, we are faced with more difficult situations and the memories create a bit of a struggle. Some years, my memories include that unexpected death of a loved one, some struggle with health, or even some situation that ended up shaping my year more than I would have wanted. But through the good and the bad, I remember and see God's hand through it all giving strength and guidance.

New Year's is also a time for me to get a chance to look forward and set some resolutions and goals for the upcoming year. This is the time of year that I dream and set some goals for what I want or need to do. You know, after the Christmas food, I need to cut back on sweets and salty foods! I like the chance to put down on paper a few goals for my life in every area. Like everyone, I think about my health, my finances, my job, my home, family, personal and intellectual growth. I may set some goals for diet, dream some dreams about vacations, or even challenge myself to pick up that book that makes me a better person. I have to also include my spiritual life in my goals too. "What does the Lord require of you, oh man?"

Perhaps the best part of the New Year celebration is the simple fact that we get to start over. New Year's Day is the time that we get to begin again. With a fresh start, we get to take steps in a brand new year. Paul wrote that our Christian life begins with all things becoming new. The New Century Version translates 2 Corinthians 5:17 with "If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new!"

New Year's is the time for me to start over and begin again. The closing year gives way to a fresh start and a time to begin again. We can forgive ourselves the things we regret. We can celebrate the great accomplishments. And we can embark on a new journey with greater hopes and expectations for the coming year.

I think that is why I enjoy the season so much. It's not forgetting what is behind, but it's pressing on toward the goal of the call of Christ in my life.

May you and your family have the most blessed New Year and may we all celebrate the new life we have in Christ. May our journey keep us close to old friends and familiar joys, but may we also find new roads for relationships, great accomplishments, and reasons to celebrate the new life we have in Christ!

Grace and Peace!

Greg

Happy New Year!

SPECIAL DATES

January 1	Happy New Year!
January 1	Brookdale Worship Communion
January 2	Church Office Closed
January 6	Epiphany of the Lord
January 8	Baptism of the Lord

MAY YOU SHINE
THE LIGHT OF
CHRIST IN THE
NEW YEAR!

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



The Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and is significant in a number of ways. In the [East](#), where it originated, the Epiphany celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It also celebrates Jesus' birth.

The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11 they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6 until [Ash Wednesday](#), which begins the season of [Lent](#) leading to [Easter](#).

Other traditions, including the Roman Catholic tradition, observe Epiphany as a single day, with the Sundays following Epiphany counted as Ordinary Time.

In the Spanish speaking world Epiphany is also known as *Día de los Reyes* (Three Kings Day).

January Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
January 1	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	Communion Team: Elizebette Kennedy
January 8	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
January 15	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
January 22	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
January 29	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

Kennedy Jewell

1/4

Alexis Ellington

1/13

Dirk Benade, Jr.

1/25

Bill Willson

1/29



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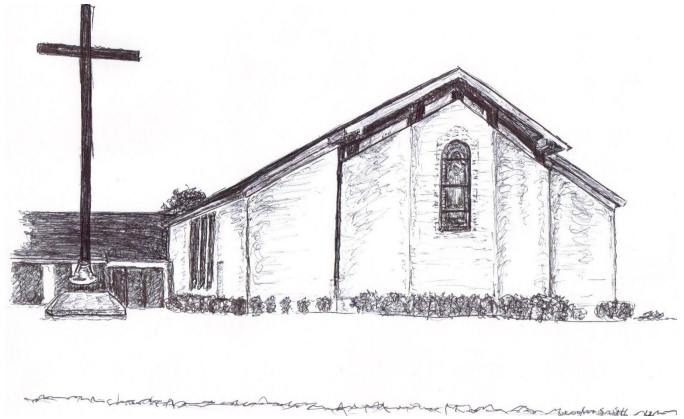
Greg Carroll, *Interim Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Music Director*

David Berrocal, *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.