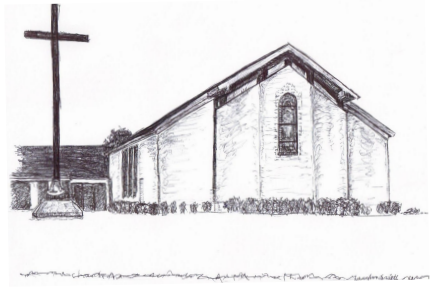


Presby News

MAY 2023



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

May is filled with celebrations and days to celebrate: Mother's Day, Graduation, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day, National Teacher's Day, and Star Wars Day, I would venture to say that "Star Wars Day" is probably NOT on your list of days to celebrate on your May calendars. The origin of the day is from the catch phrase of the Jedi saying "May the force be with you" like an expression of good luck. Well, apparently someone made the pun of saying "fourth" for "force" and TA DAH! May the 4th became Star Wars Day. It didn't take two days to also use the pun of "Revenge of the sixth" from the movie title, *Revenge of the Sith*.

Poking fun at the title and plot of the movie can be fun. However, I have discovered a rather upsetting fact about Star Wars that is not funny at all. In the movie series, the heroes are a part of an ancient mystical religion called Jedi. These Jedi stand for peace and balance in all of life. They have special abilities to move things with their minds. The Jedi are pretty cool warriors.

The strange fact is that nearly 25 years after the movie's release, Jedi became a real religion. Yes, that's right. Jedi is now an official religion according to the United States Census Bureau. According to the story, when some people answered the US Census, they stated that Jedi was their religion. In 2001, so many people stated that Jedi was their religion, the Census Bureau recognized Jedi as an official religion. By 2015, the numbers of this George Lucas, made-up religion had grown to be large enough to apply for a tax-exempt status.

I think this reveals a couple of disturbing facts about our generation. First, people are searching. If people are looking to science fiction and fairy-tale based religions, people are searching for something. The Jedi were a very mystical and spiritual people. Our society is searching more and more for spiritual answers. They search palm readers, tribal shaman, and now this science-fiction, super-hero religion of Star Wars. People are turning anywhere they can to find spiritual answers to questions. However, they fail to turn to the one place with real answers.

This brings me to the second fact: Christians have given away our relevancy to real life. If the world is looking to the movies for answers, for peace, for meaning in life, then they will look anywhere. If they are not finding these in Christianity, we have messed up. How have we missed the opportunity to show the world that peace is found in Christ? How have we missed the chance to show them that, instead of some bogus, special mantra to find life eternal, we have Christ, who gives life eternal for real? Instead of meditating our way into communicating with some life force greater than us, we can bow our head and speak to the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

Now please don't hear me knocking against Star Wars. I love those movies. I have nothing bad to say about those movies. I do not find myself heart-broken when I realize that, in the search for meaning in life, some have found answers in a made-up story instead of the Good News. I challenge myself to work harder at being relevant and genuine. I want to show the world how Christ adds meaning to life, and his teachings are important to living a joyful life. I am also challenged to live more genuinely in Christian values and character. My fear is that I might have been given the opportunity to show the real meaning of love, only to mess up. Then, someone has a black spot on what love is because of my mistake. Or, perhaps, that black spot is on Christian trustworthiness, or Christian peace, or goodness, or any other virtue in Christ. I pray that I can be a better example of genuine Christianity and relevant living so the world won't have to look to science fiction to find spiritual truth. Oh my, if science fiction becomes a source of truth, be on the lookout for Frankenstein to give "resurrection to life!" Oh well, May the Fourth be with you!

Grace and Peace,
Bro. Greg



SPECIAL DATES

May 4	National Day of Prayer
May 7	Brookdale Worship Communion
May 14	Mother's Day
May 18	Ascension of the Lord
May 29	Memorial Day





May Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
May 7	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	Communion Team: Bill Higgins & Elizebette Kennedy
May 14	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
May 21	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
May 28	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	

MAY



Jace Torres

5/15



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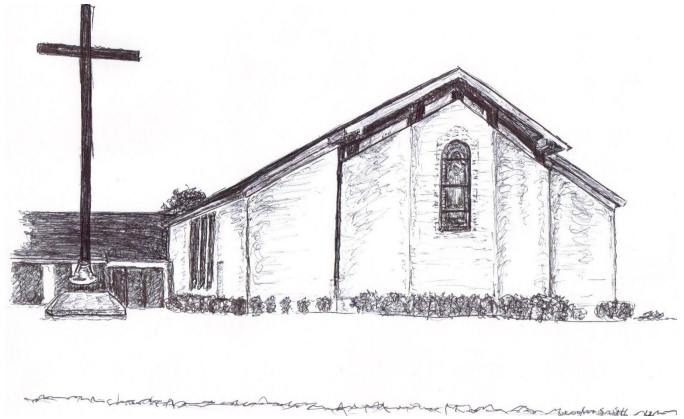
Greg Carroll, *Interim Pastor*

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.