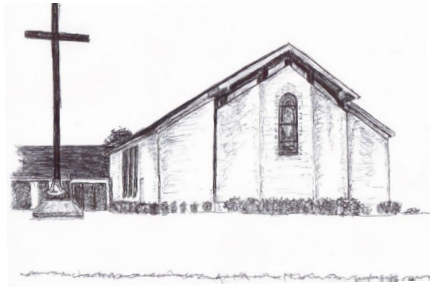


# Presby News

DECEMBER 2019



## FROM THE PASTOR . . .

To understand the true meaning of Christmas, it seems to me that we have to be in touch with the spirit of giving. And that quickly takes us to the heart of God. "For God so loved the world that he gave . . ."

It was God's love that led Him to give to the world the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ. And if we want to be in touch with the true spirit of Christmas, we must have something of the same giving spirit as our Lord has. In the book of Acts, Paul quotes Jesus as having said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

There is no gift that can compare with the giving of God's Son. Only God could make that special gift in the form of a baby in a barn almost 2,000 years ago. But we can seek to imitate God's unparalleled generosity by giving more generously.

Such giving is not merely monetary in nature. The most important gift that we can give to God is the gift of ourselves. And the most important gift we can give to others is the gift of ourselves. Paul says of the Macedonian Christians in 2 Corinthians 8 that "they gave themselves first to the Lord." What a compliment to those early followers of Jesus!

To be sure, the giving of presents reflects something of the true giving associated with Christmas. But the giving of ourselves still outranks the materialistic gifts we may offer to others.

To give of ourselves is far more costly than gifts we can buy in stores.

To give of ourselves has to do with giving to another quality time, personal interest, true listening, and making ourselves available to help in any way possible. This requires the investment of time, energy, a willingness to be flexible, and a true desire to assist in tangible ways.

Maybe this Christmas, we could try (along with the presents we give) to give of ourselves in a more genuine and deeper way.

On that first Christmas night almost 2,000 years ago, God gave of Himself in a totally unselfish and generous way. Jesus Christ was truly God's "unspeakable gift." No words are adequate to describe that unique gift.

And throughout Jesus' earthly life and ministry, Jesus incarnated that unselfish, self-giving manner of living and investing in the lives of his disciples and the many individuals to whom he ministered in some way.

The model given to us in the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, is the model for us to follow as we relate to family members, friends, and to all with whom we come in contact.

When we follow His example, not only do we bless others more richly; we also enlarge ourselves by giving in a more Christlike manner.

May we strive this Christmas to follow the pattern Jesus gave us as we give to others more completely of ourselves--and not just our presents.

Thanks for your support and your prayers.

Jim

**JESUS**  
is the Reason  
for the  
**Season**



## FUN CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (SEE BELOW)



1. Which author wrote the book, *A Christmas Carol*?
2. According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the seventh day of Christmas?
3. Which colorful and much sung-about Christmas character was invented by American ad writer Robert L. May in 1939?
4. What is the date of St. Stephens' Day?
5. Which Country is Eggnog said to have originated from?
6. Which popular Christmas song was composed by James Pierpont in 1857?
7. What are the names of the Three Wise Men (also known as the Three Kings)?
8. What is the name of the Dr. Seuss character who steals Christmas?
9. What is the name of George Bailey's guardian angel in the film *It's a Wonderful Life*?
10. Three of Santa's reindeer's names begin with the letter "D." Name them.
11. Which Christmas word means "turning of the sun?"
12. What star sign would you be if you were born on Christmas Day?
13. In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, which was the first ghost to visit Ebenezer Scrooge?
14. What gift did the Little Drummer boy give to the newborn Christ?

Answers: 1. Charles Dickens, 2. Seven Swans A-Swimming, 3. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, 4. The 26th of December, 5. England, 6. Jingle Bells, 7. Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, 8. The Grinch, 9. Clarence, 10. Dancer, Dasher and Donner, 11. Yuletide, 12. Capricorn, 13. Jacob Marley, 14. He played a song for him on his drum.



*Our Sanctuary Choir will  
present a  
Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 8, 2019  
During the Worship Service.  
Come join us for this  
special event.*

# December Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>December 1</b>	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Elizebette Kennedy <b>Communion Team:</b> Dirk & Annelize Benade
<b>December 8</b>	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Jim Smolenski	
<b>December 15</b>	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	
<b>December 22</b>	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
<b>December 29</b>	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	



*Anniversaries  
and Birthdays*

December 3 Charles Ellington  
December 3 Jim Heath  
December 6 Georgia McBurney  
December 8 Bill Higgins  
December 18 Gil & Dee Arnold  
December 19 Brandi Woolam  
December 22 Laverne Willson  
December 23 Carolyn Sterne  
December 24 Waylon Smith

## SPECIAL DATES

Dec. 1 First Sunday of Advent (*Hope*)  
Brookdale Worship at 9:00 am  
Communion Served

Dec. 8 Second Sunday of Advent (*Peace*)  
Choir Concert/Reception Following

Dec. 15 Third Sunday of Advent (*Joy*)

Dec. 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent (*Love*)  
Christmas Joy Offering

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 pm

Dec. 25 Christmas Day (*Office Closed*)

Dec. 25 Prayer Meeting Cancelled

Jan. 1 New Year's Day (*Office Closed*)

*Merry Christmas  
Blessings*

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.  
Have a Blessed Day.*

## **First Presbyterian Church**

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

[office@alexandriafpc.org](mailto:office@alexandriafpc.org)

[www.alexandriafpc.org](http://www.alexandriafpc.org)

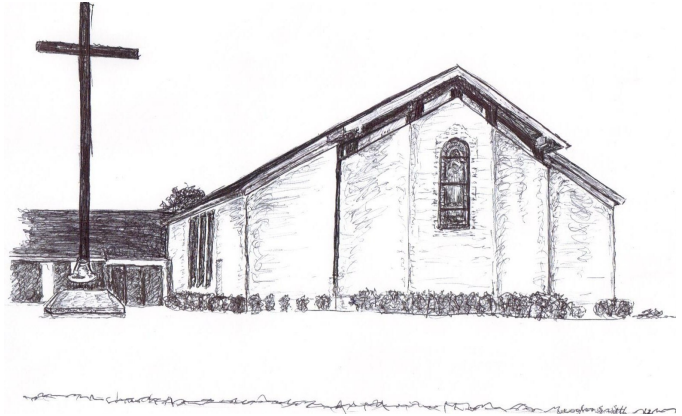
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

Robyn Tan, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



### ***WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE***

3:00 pm Prayer Service

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.