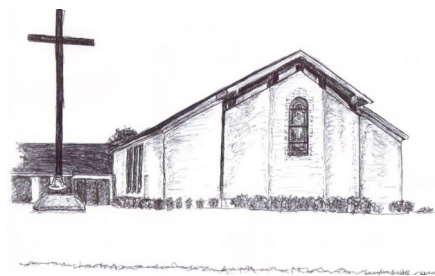


# Presby News

December 2013/January 2014



## FROM THE PASTOR

Undoubtedly, one of the most difficult and challenging times in the life of a congregation is the period between pastors. It has the character of "Between the No Longer and the Not Yet". (Wells); but it can be a prime time for renewal and spiritual growth.

Have you noticed how many experiences of "in-betweens" we go through?

\* in between childhood and adulthood--we call adolescence (the word for pain is in there) and boy is it difficult!

\* the time between leaving home and being on your own and you are not really on your own until you are buying your own toilet paper.

\* the time between jobs. Did God lose our bio in His heavenly database?

\*The time between "I do" and "What have I done?"

\*The time between seeing the children leave the nest and wondering if they will survive and ever come back.

\* The time between the battery of tests and when the Doctor calls you in to discuss the results.

The time between Egypt and arriving in the Promised Land.

\* The time between pastors

"Listen to Paul"

"I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts...**what a relief!**

All I want is to know Christ...**He is enough.**

**and the power of His resurrection is available to me.**

and to share in His sufferings by reproducing the pattern of His death. **I, too, must share the cup.**

This is the way I can hope to make my place in the resurrection of the dead; **because of Easter I hold now my ticket.**

### Philippians 3: 9-11 (The Jerusalem Bible)

Since we are always in awkward in-between times, let me list a few suggestions for survival:

1. Learn to be O.K. even when everything is not O.K. It seldom is.
2. Stop trying for perfection. You won't make it by your own efforts.

*"...they will call him  
Immanuel"  
— which means,  
"God with us."*



*Matthew 1:23*

### SPECIAL DATES

Dec 1	First Sunday of Advent
Dec 8	Second Sunday of Advent
Dec 15	Third Sunday of Advent
Dec 21	First Day of Winter
Dec 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 31	New Year's Eve/Watch Night
Jan 01	New Year's Day
Jan 06	Epiphany
Jan 12	Baptism of the Lord
Jan 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance
Jan 18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

3. Rejoice in knowing Jesus and the power of His resurrection.
4. Be willing to share His sufferings.
5. Remember that you are on your way to take your place in the resurrection of the dead. You are already holding the only ticket you need...your mortality and His power for resurrection.

Laurie Morris shared this with me and I want to share it with all of you. It seems very appropriate for the Christmas season and the Christ event we celebrate.

To realize the value of a sister/brother  
Ask someone who doesn't have one.

To realize the value of ten years:  
Ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years:  
Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year:  
Ask a student who Has failed a final exam.

To realize The value of nine months:  
Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.

To realize the value of one month:  
Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week:  
Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one minute:  
Ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one second:  
Ask a person who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one.  
Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special.

To realize the value of a friend or family member:  
LOSE ONE.

The origin of this letter is unknown.

Remember....

Hold on tight to the ones you love!!!!

Thanking you for the joy of serving with you, wishing you a blessed and happy Christmas Season and encouraging you to hold on tightly to each other even as Jesus holds you closely, near to the heart of God.

Doyle Bailey  
Stated Supply

## CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays

03 Dec Charles Ellington  
04 Dec Stacey Brown  
06 Dec Georgia McBurney  
07 Dec Jeanne Lannoye  
08 Dec Bill Higgins  
09 Dec Robert Coon  
11 Dec David Shipman  
12 Dec Sandy Powers  
19 Dec Brandi Woolam  
22 Dec Laverne Willson  
23 Dec Leon Coody  
24 Dec Waylon Smith  
25 Dec Ruth Coon  
30 Dec Helen McDaniel



01 Jan Tanna Wilson  
04 Jan Kennedy Jewell  
04 Jan Barbara Bailey  
07 Jan Mary Ella Billups  
07 Jan Kylee Laprairie  
13 Jan Alexis Ellington  
23 Jan Sonny Brown  
23 Jan Emma Jean Huffman  
25 Jan Dirk Benade  
26 Jan Stephanie Huffman  
29 Jan Bill Willson

### Anniversaries

18 Dec Gilbert and Dee Arnold  
20 Dec Jim and Stephanie Huffman  
11 Jan Tom and Debbie Clegg

~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin in Little Rock, Arkansas:

On this week's prayer chain:  
Pray for all sick of our church.  
Pray for our new Bible studies

Let's hope the sick are healed.



~~oops!~~

From a newsletter in Springfield, Illinois:

CHORUS announcements  
We're going caroling!  
Join us on December 15 at 7 p.m.  
We're going to want to hear that!

**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**October 21, 2013**

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with an opening prayer by Dr. Ron Sutto, Stated Clerk for the General Presbyter, who served as Moderator for the meeting.

Members Present: Jim Hockensmith, Bill Higgins, Elizebette Kennedy

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: John Allen, Jack Ready, Brandi Woolam

Guests Present: Doyle Bailey, FPC - Temporary Stated Supply Pastor

A quorum was present.

**Finance Report:** Presented by Jim Smolenski, Treasurer

The financial statements for September, 2013, were distributed to the Session. The bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

**Motion:** That Session approve the September, 2013, Financial Reports.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith    Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy  
Motion: Carried

The Session discussed the need to disburse the mission money.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Session members reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session on September 23, 2013.

**Motion:** That the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session on September 23, 2013, be approved as presented.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith    Seconded: Bill Higgins  
Motion: Carried

**Clerk's Report:** Clerk of Session Brandi Woolam was not present.

Holy Communion was served on Sunday, October 6, 2013 during worship.

Holy Communion was served on Sunday, October 6, 2013 at Emeritus

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS**

**Congregational Life Report** – John Allen was not present.

The Session reviewed the following calendar of events in the folders.

**October 20 (Sunday)**

9:45 am Children's Sunday School Event - Coloring cutouts for making Christmas cards for Emeritus residents. Children can also make Christmas cards for friends and family.

**November 6 (Wednesday)**

Open: John Allen

5:45 pm Fellowship Meal - "Build Your Own Sandwich" (Brandi)

6:30 pm Committee Meetings

**November 13 (Wednesday)**

Open: Rev. Doyle and Annelize Benade

5:45 pm Fellowship Meal - Pizza (John Allen)

6:30 pm Bible Study

**November 16 (Saturday)**

3:00 pm Make Christmas Cards at Emeritus.

**November 20 (Wednesday)**

Open: Annelize Benade

5:45 pm Fellowship Meal - Covered Dish: A-G: Veggies; H-N: Main Dish; O-Z: Dessert

6:30 pm Bible Study

**November 24 (Sunday)**

12:00 Noon After Sunday Worship Event - Help put up the Christmas Tree. A sandwich buffet will be served to those who help.

**November 27 (Wednesday)**

All activities are cancelled. Happy Thanksgiving!

**December 1 (Sunday)**

Hanging of the Greens

**December 4 (Wednesday)**

Open: Brandi Woolam

5:45 pm Fellowship Meal - "Build Your Own Sandwich" (Brandi)

6:30 pm Committee Meetings

**December 11 (Wednesday)**

Open: Annelize Benade

5:45 pm Fellowship Meal - Pizza (John Allen)

Birthday Cake - Sue Shipman

6:30 pm Bible Study

**December 18 (Wednesday)**

Open: Brandi Woolam

Christmas Caroling

Fellowship Meal - Croissant Sandwiches

**December 25 (Wednesday)**

All activities are cancelled. Merry Christmas!

**2014**

**January 1 (Wednesday)**

All activities are cancelled. Happy New Year!

**January 8 (Wednesday)**

Open: ?

5:45 pm Fellowship Meal - Sandwiches

6:30 pm Committee Meetings

## January 15 (Wednesday)

Music - Jack Ready

### **Worship and Evangelism Report** - Presented by Jim Hockensmith

Jim Hockensmith reported on the October 27 "Listen to the People" Lunch/Meeting following worship. He stated that he was looking forward to hearing the input from the congregation during this meeting.

### **Personnel Report** - Presented by Jim Hockensmith

Jim Hockensmith reported that Administrative Assistant Carolyn Sterne is doing an excellent job.

### **Property Report** - Jack Ready not present.

The Session stated that the cross in the courtyard looks much better since it was repainted. The Session stated that maintenance projects will need to be prioritized. Preventive maintenance will continue to be needed on the building.

Motion: That the Property Committee list and prioritize projects for 2013-2014.

Moved: Bill Higgins Second: Jim Hockensmith Motion: Carried

### **Pastor's/Moderator Report** - Presented by Doyle Bailey, Temporary Stated Supply

Rev. Bailey distributed several items for the Session to review for the October 27 Luncheon/Meeting: 1) Ministry Budget for 2014; 2) Ministry Priorities Response Information; 3) Questions for Discussion.

Rev. Bailey suggested that the Session develop a ministry-oriented budget and remove words like "expense" from the budgetary items.

Motion: That the Session present the survey, questions and budget to the church members on October 27, 2013.

Motion: Bill Higgins Second: Jim Hockensmith Motion: Carried

### **Old Business:**

The Budget Committee will begin work on the 2014 budget. Treasurer Jim Smolenski will be a member of this committee.

By common consent the Session agreed to listen to the responses from the church congregation and incorporate them whenever possible.

### **New Business:**

The Session members agreed that the church bulletin should always list "Special Music" in the order of service. If there is no choir "Special" planned, the pianist could play something inspirational during that time of the service.

### **Pastor Nominating Committee:**

The PNC has an appointment to place a telephone call to a pastoral candidate, but some of the committee members are not available. The Session asked that Elizebette Kennedy and Jim Hockensmith call the candidate on Wednesday, October 25, 2013, at 6:00 pm. The Session suggested one committee member and two Session members participate. Rev. Doyle Bailey was asked to assist also.

There being no further business, the meeting of the Session adjourned with prayer. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be, **Monday, November 18, 2013**, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Brandi Woolam, Clerk of Session

## Minutes

### Called Congregational Meeting

### First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

October 13, 2013

The Called Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria, Louisiana, was called to order at 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 13, 2013, by Jane Conerly, Liaison to Ministry. Jane Conerly opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect a Nominating Committee:

Jack Ready read the names of the nominees as follows:

-- Jim Hockensmith

-- Jim Smolenski

-- Brandi Woolam

Ed Ware moved that nominations cease, and the nominees be elected by acclamation.

Ruth Coon seconded the motion.

The vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Ben Yang closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted:



Brandi Woolam, Clerk of Session

**Minutes**  
**Called Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**October 13, 2013**

**Session Members in Attendance:**

John Allen, Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Jack Ready, Brandi Woolam

**Others:** Temporary Supply Pastor Doyle Bailey and Jane Conerly, who served as Presbytery Moderator for the meeting.

A quorum was present.

Jane Conerly opened the meeting in prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to visit with Darrah Mannix who has a strong desire to become a member of First Presbyterian Church.

Darrah Mannix spoke about her Christian journey, which began in Zion United Church of Christ of New Providence, Strasburg, Pennsylvania, July 2, 1989. She moved to Alexandria, Louisiana after accepting a job

with Cleco.

**Motion:** That the examination be suspended and Darrah Mannix be accepted into membership at First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith      Seconded: Jack Ready  
Motion: Carried

The Session agreed by common consent to establish a Benevolent Fund to assist members. It will be a sub-fund to the General Fund. Those wishing to donate must designate their gifts to this fund.

There being no further business, John Allen closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted:



Brandi Woolam, Clerk of Session



"Millions of fish begging to be caught,  
and we only brought two worms."

**Epiphany's significance**

The church season of Epiphany begins on January 6 each year. The name comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning "to appear, to show or to manifest." The end date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

Traditionally, Epiphany Day marks the arrival of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by Gentiles, or non-Jews.

The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus, the light of the world. Symbols for the season include light, a star and the color green, which represents life, growth, hope and eternity.

**oops!**

From a worship bulletin in Baltimore, Maryland:

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THE STAFF  
Peach on earth, goodwill toward all.  
Blessings in the New Year!

Wishing everyone a peachy, peace-filled Christmas!



**oops!**

From a worship bulletin in Seagrove, North Carolina:

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS  
You are invited to a church wide ladies  
breakfast on Saturday.  
Join us at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

We hope the church-wide breakfast is low in calories.



# Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Greeter Front Door	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>Dec 1</b>	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	2 Vacancies	Jim Hockensmith	Elizebette Kennedy Jim Hockensmith Wynn Ware
<b>Dec 8</b>	Jim Huffman Stephanie Huffman	John Allen Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
<b>Dec 15</b>	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct-May) Vacancy (May-Oct)	
<b>Dec 22</b>	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	
<b>Dec 29</b>	Mac McBurney Georgia McBurney	2 Vacancies	Bill Higgins	
<b>Jan 5</b>	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	2 Vacancies	Jim Hockensmith	Jack Ready Pat Turpin Wynn Ware
<b>Jan 12</b>	Jim Huffman Stephanie Huffman	John Allen Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
<b>Jan 19</b>	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct-May) Vacancy (May-Oct)	
<b>Jan 26</b>	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	

## Happy birthday, Jesus!

Each Christmas, a family celebrated by holding a birthday party for Jesus. To remind themselves of Jesus' presence, they placed a chair of honor for him at their dinner table.

The highlight of the party was singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and then blowing out the candles on a special cake.

One Christmas, a visitor asked the family's 5-year-old daughter, "Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?"

The girl paused and then answered, "No! It's not my birthday!"



## God's heart toward us

Byron and Ruthie were unemployed one December. Wanting their seven children to have gifts to open on Christmas morning, they took \$20 and shopped diligently at the thrift store, finding seven small items to place under a tiny tree they found in a field. Feeling desperate about all their other needs and guilty for praying for presents, the couple asked God to bless their kids.

On Christmas Eve, a couple they barely knew, friends of friends from church, called and asked to stop by. They pulled up in a 15-passenger van and asked if Byron and Ruthie's kids could help carry in "a couple of things." In fact, the rear seats had been removed and the vehicle was filled with packages and groceries. The next morning, the family unwrapped goodies both practical and fun.

"We felt as if the lord was saying, 'this is my heart toward you. I want to bless you,' " Byron writes. "It is the Lord's heart to bless his children."

— Adapted from *Miracles: 32 True Stories*,  
Joanie Hileman



## A tale of the candy cane

The account of the candy cane's origins circulates every Christmas season and is more likely a fun story than historical fact. No matter; tales often contain truth. This tasty treat can convey important elements of our Christian faith.

The stripes remind us of the heart of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus: white for his purity; red for his blood shed on the cross. The candy cane resembles the curved staffs of the shepherds — the first people to visit the Christ-Child and worship at the manger. And when the cane is turned upside down, it becomes a letter J, for “Jesus.”

Indeed, Jesus turns our lives upside down and inverts our presumptions: A poor baby born in a stable becomes King of kings and Lord of lords; enemies aren't for hating but loving; blessings aren't for hoarding but sharing; the world works for war, but Jesus calls us to live in peace; receiving is better than giving; sinners are made saints; and death is conquered as God grants us eternal life.

## Lessons from the angels

To frightened shepherds on the first Christmas Eve, a host of angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century minister Charles Kingsley explained how these key words tell the meaning of Jesus' birth and give meaning to our lives.

- **Glory.** “That little babe, lying in the manger among the cattle, was showing the very highest glory of the great God who had made heaven and earth. To stoop, to condescend, to have mercy, to forgive — that is the highest glory of God.”
- **Peace.** “God is not selfish. He sacrificed himself for us. Sacrifice yourselves then for each other! Give up your own pride, your own selfishness, your own interest for each other, and you will be all at peace.”
- **Good will.** “God loves you, and he wills to raise you out of this selfish, quarrelsome life of sin, into a loving, brotherly, peaceful life of righteousness. That babe in the manger at Bethlehem is a sign to you and me that God will freely give us that spirit of love if we ask for it.”

## Gifts for a King

Bring him thy precious things  
And lay them at his feet;  
The gold of love, the hope that  
springs  
The unknown ways to meet.

Bring him thy lovely things;  
The joy that conquers care,  
The faith that trusts and sings,  
The frankincense of prayer.

Bring him thy bitter things;  
The myrrh of grief and fears,  
The aching heart that stings  
With pain of unshed tears.

These for thy gifts to him;  
And for his gifts to thee,  
The comfort of his steadfast love,  
His tender sympathy.

—Annie Johnson Flint



## The Light of the world

Early Christians celebrated both Jesus' birth and baptism on Epiphany, January 6. Only in the fourth century did Roman Christians appropriate a pagan festival to celebrate what we now call Christmas — a contraction of “Christ Mass.”

But the origin of when we celebrate Jesus' birth doesn't detract from the day's holiness. In fact, God has *always* transformed things of the world to serve his purposes and show his glory.



The festival honoring the “Unconquered Sun,” held on what was then considered the winter solstice, was deemed the perfect time to praise the “Sun of Righteousness” (a prophetic name for Christ; see Malachi 4:2).

By claiming this day as our own, Christians profess that earthly darkness — winter's seasonal darkness and the darkness in our hearts and lives — is brightened not by a heavenly body that will one day cease to shine but by Jesus, the *real* unconquered and unconquerable Light of the World.

## Prayer for a new year

Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to thee, to be thine forever. Fill me and seal me with thy Holy Spirit. Use me as thou wilt. Send me where thou wilt, and work out thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever. Amen.

—Betty Scott Stam



## Fill a jar

Need a new tradition to begin the new year? One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils.

Encourage every family member to jot down one thing they're grateful for every day. If you have a large family, you may need one jar for each person. You can also use different-colored paper slips for each family member.



Every week, sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.

## For everything a season

Wanting his sons to learn not to judge too quickly, a man sent each, in turn, on a quest to look at a pear tree far away and report what he saw. The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the fourth in fall. Finally, the father gathered the young men together. "What did you see?" he asked.

The first son reported seeing an ugly tree, bent and lifeless. The second disagreed, saying it was budding with fresh new life. The third son reported finding a tree laden with sweet-smelling, beautiful blossoms, while the fourth insisted it drooped with ripe fruit.

The father said his sons were all correct, for they'd seen the same tree, though at different seasons of its life. "Don't judge a tree — or a person — based on just one season of life," he counseled his children. "Who they are can only be known at the end, when all life's seasons have been lived.

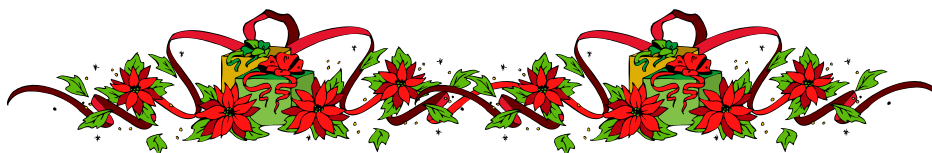
"Furthermore," he added, "don't give up on your own life if you experience a hard season, such as winter, or you'll miss out on the renewal of spring, the joy of summer, the fulfillment of autumn."

## Resolutions

American theologian Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) became focused on his life's purpose at age 19. The result was 70 resolutions, or commitments, he wrote down and then read every week for 35 years until his death.

Some of those resolutions include:

- To live with all my might while I do live.
- To study the Scriptures...steadily, constantly and frequently.
- Never to lose one moment of time.
- Never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.
- Never to do anything out of revenge.
- To let there be something of benevolence in all that I speak.
- Never do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.





## Sharing Jesus

The true story is told of two men sitting together on a train. When one shared with the other, a committed Christian, that he was heading home to donate a kidney to his father, the Christian listened intently. Sensing his seatmate's genuine interest, the speaker confided that he didn't know his life's purpose.

Sensing an openness in his new friend, the Christian told him about Jesus and the purpose Jesus had given to his life. The Christian man said later that he'd never met someone so appreciative of hearing the Good News.

A key Epiphany theme is sharing the news of Jesus. "Ordinary" Christians can do that best by listening for an opening when visiting with someone and sharing part of their faith story in relation to something the other has said. There's no need to accost strangers on street corners. Just be yourself, let the Holy Spirit guide you and invite your listener to follow Jesus, too.

## Passing the test

Samuel Stokes, a missionary who worked with lepers in India in the early 1900s, walked through the Punjab region with only a water bottle and a blanket. He depended wholly on the hospitality of the region's residents.

In one village, Stokes received a particularly hostile reception. Village leaders sat in chairs in a circle, leaving Stokes sitting on the floor the entire evening. When he asked if he might teach them and nurse their sick, they hurled insults at him. Stokes offered no reply.

Finally, the men gave the missionary some stale bread crusts in a dirty bowl. Stokes thanked them and ate. This scene repeated itself for two days. But then on the third day, the top village official laid his turban at Stokes' feet as a sign of respect. "We'd heard that Jesus' disciples were commanded to love their enemies," the man said, "and we decided to put you to the test."

Having seen Jesus' love in action through Stokes, the amazed villagers found him credible. They served him a rich feast and listened eagerly to his teachings.

## Where's your Ebenezer?

The words of the well-known hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" were written in 1757 by pastor and hymnist Robert Robinson. While most of the lines resonate with singers and listeners, the reference to "Ebenezer" may prove confusing:

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
Here by thy great help I've come.

In 1 Samuel 7:12, Ebenezer, Hebrew for "stone of help," is what Samuel names a stone memorial he erects to God after Israel wins a battle against the Philistines. (Similarly, the name Eliezer appears several times in scripture, meaning "My God, [my] help.")

If you were to "raise [your] Ebenezer" in memory of a place where God helped you, where might it stand? Maybe it's at the scene of a car accident you survived, or on a college campus where your faith was challenged or molded. Maybe it's a peaceful spot in nature where you sensed the Spirit's presence. Or maybe it's simply in your heart, where a figurative Ebenezer monument can remind you of the Lord's constant care and love.

## Humor to break up the winter blahs

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

- Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited ... until you try to sit in their pew.
- People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world.

## God among us

The claim that Christianity makes for Christmas is that at a particular time and place God came to be with us himself. When Quirinius was governor of Syria, in a town called Bethlehem, a child was born who, beyond the power of anyone to account for, was the high and lofty One made low and helpless. The One who inhabits eternity comes to dwell in time. The One whom none can look upon and live is delivered in a stable under the soft, indifferent gaze of cattle. The Father of all mercies puts himself at our mercy.



# Youth Page

## Creation KALEIDOSCOPE

Make this fun craft to remember what our heavenly Creator made.

### What you need:

- Adult help
- Tall chip can with lid
- Hammer and nail
- Acrylic paint; paintbrush
- Water, glitter, white glue
- Colored tissue paper
- Stronger craft glue (not hot glue)
- Star stickers or sequins
- Two 4" x 5" pieces of clear Con-Tact paper
- Scissors; pencil; permanent marker

### What you do:

1. In bottom center of can, hammer a hole with a nail. Paint outside of can. Let dry.
2. Add glitter and a little water to white glue. With a clean paintbrush, glue tissue paper to bottom outside of lid.
3. Add stars to sticky side of Con-Tact paper. Place a matching piece on top, sticky sides together.
4. Put craft glue along edge of can opening. Glue Con-Tact paper square over opening. Let dry.
5. Place lid on can, over Con-Tact paper. Turn lid to get kaleidoscope effect.
6. With marker, write "In the beginning ... " on can.

**PUZZLE**

## A Child is Born

*Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.*

**Directions:** Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY NAME IS  
gyhMti  
dGo

MY NAME IS  
lerWnofud  
esnruooCl

MY NAME IS  
vrelEnsitga  
eahFrt

MY NAME IS  
niPcre  
aPcee of

Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace



# Christmas Word Search



ANGEL

BABY

BETHLEHEM

BIRTH

CELEBRATION

CHILDREN

CHRIST

CHURCHES

COW

DECORATIONS

DONKEY

EXCITEMENT

EXPECTATIONS

FAITH

FIRSTBORN

GIFTS

GLORY

HOLIDAY

INN

JESUS

JOSEPH

KINGS

LIGHTS

MAGI

MANGER

MARY

NAZERETH

ORNAMENTS

PRESENTS

RECREATE

SAVIOR

SHEEP

SHEPHERD

SINGING

STRAW

TREE

# First Presbyterian Church

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Doyle Bailey, *Pastor*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Jack Ready, *Choir Director*

Judy Ready, *Pianist*

Delores McDaniel, *Nursery*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*

Sue Shipman, *Newsletter Editor*

## Wednesday Night Schedule

Dec 4	Open (Brandi)	
	5:45	Build your own sandwich (Brandi)
	6:30	Committee Meetings
Dec 11	Open (Annelize)	
	5:45	Pizza (John) Birthday Cake (Sue)
	6:30	Bible Study
Dec 18	Open (Doyle/Brandi)	
	5:15	Croissant Sandwiches
		Caroling
Dec 25	No Program	Merry Christmas
Jan 1	No Program	Happy New Year
Jan 8	Open (Sulin)	
	5:45	Soup (Sulin/Laurie)
	6:30	Committee Meeting
Jan 15	Open (Annelize)	
	5:45	Fried Chicken (Laurie)
	6:30	Ben Wates
Jan 22	Open (John)	
	5:45	Covered Dish (A-G: Dessert, H-N: Veggies, O-Z: Main)
	6:30	Bible Study
Jan 29	Open (Annelize)	
	5:45	Pizza (John)
	6:30	Bible Study

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.