



And Jesus said to them,  
"Follow me and I will make  
you fish for people."  
Mark 1: 17

\*4020 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605  
\*Office Phone: 477-6166 \*Office Fax: 477-6002  
Office Email: [standrewpres@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:standrewpres@suddenlinkmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.standrewpres.com>  
Presbyterian Campus Fellowship Email: [pcfmcneese@yahoo.com](mailto:pcfmcneese@yahoo.com)

Volume XXVI

Anita Duhon, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

November 2016

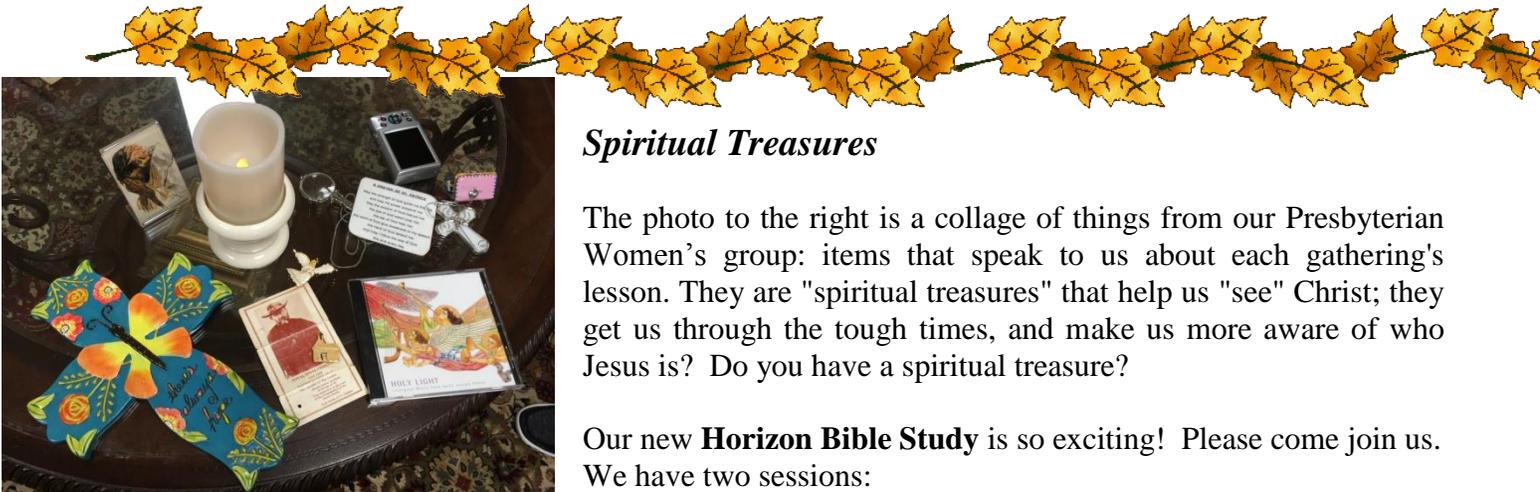
Nanette Cagney, Pastor

Music Department Team:

Music Director-Emily Lancon

Assistant Music Director-Bryce Louviere

Pianist: Benjamin LaBuff



### *Spiritual Treasures*

The photo to the right is a collage of things from our Presbyterian Women's group: items that speak to us about each gathering's lesson. They are "spiritual treasures" that help us "see" Christ; they get us through the tough times, and make us more aware of who Jesus is? Do you have a spiritual treasure?

Our new **Horizon Bible Study** is so exciting! Please come join us. We have two sessions:

- 1} Second Tuesday of the month: 7:00 p.m. Richardson Room.
- 2} Fabulous Fridays - once a month 10:30 a.m. - Richardson Room.

"Who is Jesus? What a difference a lens makes." is the name of our study. Our workbook offers us an opportunity to "see" Jesus through the eyes of Mark, Matthew, John, Paul and others. What lens do you look through when you see Jesus? We are just getting started so it's not too late to jump in to share your view.. Workbooks are available in the church office. We're reading the book of Mark. Try it...it's a speed read!

### *Interfaith Forum*

An Interfaith Forum will be held Saturday evening, November 12, 2016, at 6PM-7PM at St. Andrew.

The purpose of this forum is to introduce the Christian community to our local Muslim community and to explore the Muslim faith together. Do the Muslims and Christians share any common beliefs? What are common misconceptions about Muslims? Are all Muslims affiliated with or sympathetic toward ISIS? What, exactly, is Sharia law? This will be our opportunity to ask the local sheikh questions and to meet our Muslim neighbors.

We will have refreshments available. If childcare is needed, please call the office to let us know how many children and what ages.



**St. Andrew has a new in-house post office!** Look towards the east wall of the Fellowship Hall and you will see the new "self-serve" post office for the St. Andrew congregation, only. If a Christmas, birthday, or anniversary card, were mailed, it would cost about 50 cents per card. Instead of mailing it through the post office, mail it through the new in-house post office and donating that 50 cents to the Landscape Committee, instead. Please put your mail in the appropriate slot and give the change box at least 50 cents per item. Check your mail box often. Holidays are coming fast!

Sincerely,

Landscape Committee



### ***Pastor's Ponderings***

At the beginning of our services on the last Sunday of the month I ask everyone for what are they grateful? What joys and thanksgivings are in your life? We have all been blessed in so many ways, yet often when we come before the Lord in prayer it is to ask for something. Too often we forget to give thanks for the many blessings that we have received. Perhaps we are more aware of thanks in November because of Thanksgiving, yet this should be something that is routine in our prayer lives- giving thanks.

At the beginning of each Session meeting this past year, one or two elders have each taken a turn sharing their faith journey with the rest of the Session. It has been an amazing process to hear of the faith journeys and how God has moved in everyone's life over the years. It is for such growth that we give thanks.

Our church is growing and our outreach is continuing. For this, we give thanks.

Prayers have been answered over the year and people have been restored to health. Jobs have been found. Exams have been passed. For this we give thanks.

How have you been blessed this past year? Give thanks and continue to be a blessing to others.

Nanette



### ***Prayers and Concerns***

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for those who visited this past month.

Also, remember in your prayers the many members and friends in need of support during the trying times of their lives: Keith Conrad; Virginia Conrad; Margy Clawson; Carolyn Colter; Nancy Crnic; Jody Flanagan; Ronnie Galloway (brother-in-law to Linda Latour and Edna Breaux); Carolyn Chingo; Cullen Nolan; Rev. Rudy Pace; Ted Roeling; Sarah Marshall; and Sr. Jane Claire Simon, SSND.

Prayers for those serving in the military.

**When you are ready to be taken off the list, please call the church office.**



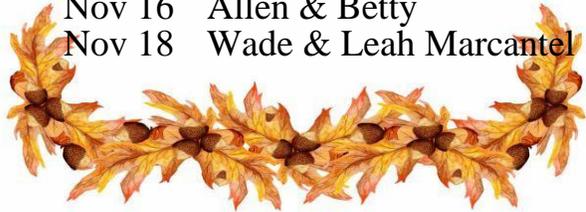
### ***Birthdays***

Nov 08 BrieAnna Ardito  
Nov 11 Ronnie Fountain  
Nov 12 Mindy Dye  
Nov 15 Courtney Fountain  
Nov 25 Sue Long  
Nov 26 Mike Davidson  
Nov 30 Helen Taylor



### ***Anniversaries***

Nov 05 Doyle and Linda Cannon  
Nov 16 Allen & Betty  
Nov 18 Wade & Leah Marcantel



### ***Choir Schedule***

11/02 Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.  
11/03 NO Choir Practice.  
11/10 Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.  
11/16 Cantata Practice at 6:00 p.m.  
11/17 Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.  
11/24 No Choir Practice  
(Thanksgiving)  
11/30 Cantata Practice at 6:00 p.m.



***The Landscaping Committee*** will start selling engraved bricks in January for our memory/prayer garden in the quadrangle. More information to follow concerning the engraved brick. The garden will have Bob Dunn's oak tree in the center rather than the pictured fountain. Other small changes will have to be made as needed.

Come join the Lake Charles Messiah Chorus by singing in the chorus for the 76<sup>th</sup> performance of Handel's Messiah on December 4, 2016. The chorus will practice on November 8, 14, 22 and 28 in the McNeese Fine Art Annex, room 207. Go to [www.lcmessiah.org](http://www.lcmessiah.org) for more information and to access the on-line registration form. You can also register at the first practice. Our own Emily Lancon and Bryce Louviere will be featured soloists this year.

## Advent Bible Study

An Advent Bible study will begin during adult Sunday School at 9:30AM in the Session Room beginning Nov 27 and continuing for four Sundays. We will study "Names for the Messiah" by Walter Bruggemann.

In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. "Names for the Messiah" ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. Christians have claimed from the beginning that Jesus was the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. In this study, best-selling author Walter Brueggemann, tackles the questions: What were these expectations? Did Jesus fulfill them?

Come join us for this special Advent study led by our Pastor.



A "**generosity giving**" button will be added to our website sometime in November. This will allow on-line tithing, donations, gifts, etc. More will be announced next month.

## PCF/M Schedule

11/07	Meditation with Reverend Constance.
11/12	Interfaith Forum-Saturday night at 6:00 p.m.
11/14	Study of Chapter 7.
11/21	No PCF/M (Thanksgiving Break)
11/28	Last meeting of the semester.
12/01	Study Hall



**Study Hall** will be held Thursday, December 1, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sponsored by PCF (Presbyterian Campus Fellowship). Free tutoring, supper and a place to study, alone or in a group. Free childcare services while you are studying.

## "Church Wide Project"

The Worship Committee along with the Geaux Team and Nurturing Spiritual Growth want you to participate in an Easter project that will decorate our sanctuary for the Lenten Season.

**WHO:** You, Your family, Your Team, Your Friends, Your group

**WHAT:** Select, study, and create an illustration of a cross you like.

**WHEN:** Palm Sunday - Easter

**WHERE:** Sanctuary

**HOW:** With imagination, study and creativity.

**HELPFUL HINTS:**

1. Watch the newsletter in the months ahead. More will be revealed!
2. Check your mailbox at the church. A letter may have your name on it. (If so, don't forget to leave the postage!)
3. Look around the church property....there are lots and lots of crosses at St. Andrew. Check them out. Which one is your favorite?
4. Instead of finding Elmo - find the crosses.

Stay tuned –

**Starting January 8**, on Sunday afternoons for 6 weeks, the pastor will hold an Introduction to the **Presbyterian Church USA and New Members Class**. The class will run from 3-4 pm every Sunday for six weeks. If you are a new member, would like to learn more about the Presbyterian Church, or would like a refresher course, please make plans to join us.

Ron Kaspar to SAPC congregation:

*I was very pleasantly surprised to be presented with some new golf clubs at the September Fellowship service. The gift from you to me was in appreciation for my 22 years of service as church treasurer. In response that day, I acknowledged my mentor and predecessor Charles Barron, and tried to make a salient comment about the value of active stewardship. But I forgot to say "thank you".*

*So thanks, congregation. It was a wonderful surprise that I am enjoying immensely. If I had a bucket list, one item would be to score my age or better on the golf course. So, guess what, with the aid of my new sticks, I carded 83 on Thursday Oct 20 which is one less. It was a personal thrill and makes it ever more difficult for me to be as humble as Jesus wants us all to be.*

*Looking back, I explain to myself my dedication to being treasurer. I am not a career "bean counter". The main appeal of the treasurer job was the continual involvement in church business which is similar to the pitcher and catcher on a baseball team - they are involved in every play.*

*I'm very grateful to Diana for being my replacement. I don't admit to "burnout" but it was time for another congregant to enjoy the satisfaction of the job. The congregation will certainly appreciate her, she brings a high level of dedication and competency and I am sure our treasury will be well accounted for.*

*God's love to all,  
Ron*

## ***What is the history of the Thank Offering?***

In 1888, when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "thank offering to her Lord," women responded and the Thank Offering was born. The gifts represented much soul-searching and self-sacrificing on the part of many women. It has been said that women's giving saved the worldwide missionary movement at that time. The thrust of how and where the money was used changed over the years, but a "thank offering to our Lord" continued to be an important part of women's giving in the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (and United Presbyterian Women). This expression of thanksgiving is now an important part of Presbyterian Women's Celebration Giving program.

The Thank Offering is one of two monetary offerings of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. These offerings are an extension of, but separate from, Presbyterian Women's Mission Pledge support.

The Thank Offering is received annually in the fall. Many women use an offering envelope or box for daily/weekly/monthly offerings of thanks. These gifts may be dedicated at a gathering of PW in the Congregation, Sunday worship service or some other special occasion in the fall. The offering should be sent to the treasurer of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery by December 10. Some of the recipients are listed below.

## **Synod of the Sun**

### [Stewpot of First Presbyterian Church](#)

ESL Program Enhancement for Immigrant Families  
Dallas, Texas

\$7,660

FPC Dallas will expand its English as a Second Language (ESL) program serving families whose incomes are extremely low. The expanded curriculum includes job-seeking and life skills.

[Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living](#)

Independence on the Move

Bryan, Texas

\$25,000

This grant will allow the center to convert an accessible bus into an outreach vehicle. The mobile outreach program will provide transportation and training for individuals with disabilities.

[Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless](#)

One Stop Homeless Services Center

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

\$41,000

This grant will enable the center to add weekend hours and expand the number of clients rehoused and provided services to 50 clients per day.

***Western Cluster Hayride/Bonfire/Gumbo***

November 20, 2106 at 3:00 p.m. The

Western Cluster event will be at the Burt Tietje Farm on 375 Aaron Road, Roanoke, LA. There will be gumbo and the fixings. Just bring yourself, your appetite, chairs, and possible sticks for roasting s'mores.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 5<sup>th</sup>. We fall back on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

***Baby-Sitting, House –Sitting, House Cleaning***

If you need a break and some time to yourself. You need not look any further.

Help is just a call away!

Name: Nana Adeoye

Tel: 318-6233397

E- [adequeen1w097@gmail.com](mailto:adequeen1w097@gmail.com)

***Poinsettias***

I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ plants

In honor of:

In memory of:

Your name:

Please send your check to the church and mark it "Poinsettia Plant".

Cost is \$8.00 per plant. The deadline to order is **November 30**.

The names of those honored and remembered will be acknowledged in the worship bulletin for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

# A Different Christmas Story

[Presbyterians Today](#) October 20, 2016

## **Bible Explorations: What the Bible Gets ‘Wrong’ About Our Holiday**

By Aric Clark

Americans love to celebrate Christmas. Christmas is wrapped in numerous beloved traditions and well-known folk tales. Even non-Christians are familiar with key aspects of the story behind the holiday, which is why many people find it shocking that a lot of the story details aren't, strictly speaking, you know, in the Bible. For the Advent season I thought it might be fun, with my tongue firmly planted in my cheek, to go over some thing the Bible gets “wrong” about Christmas.

Let's start with the date. Both Matthew and Luke tell us that Jesus was born during the reign of Herod (Matt. 2:1, Luke 1:5). Herod died in 4 B.C., so right away we have a conflict with the established date of Jesus' birth. But it gets messier, because Luke also tells us that it happened when Quirinius was governor of Syria and conducted a census of Palestine (Luke 2:1–7), and that didn't happen until 6 A.D. In other words, there was never a date when Herod was reigning and Quirinius was governor of Syria at the same time. So what year was Jesus born? We don't know. Maybe this will be the 2,016th celebration of his birthday, but probably not.

Speaking of the date, the Bible doesn't give us a clear indication what time of year Jesus was born. Many have theorized that the December 25 date for Christmas came about as a way for Christians to co-opt pagan celebrations around Saturnalia and the winter solstice. Perhaps there's some truth to that, but another possibility is that there was a strong folkloric tradition in the ancient Near East of saints and prophets dying on the same day they were conceived. Since it was believed that Jesus died on March 25, it must mean he was also conceived on that day. Add nine months to March 25 and you get December 25! Happy birthday, Jesus!

The little town of Bethlehem is another element of our story the Bible contradicts. According to Matthew, Joseph and Mary just lived in Bethlehem. There's no mention of a census, no journey to Bethlehem, no inn, none of that stuff. All of those elements are drawn from Luke's version of the story. But before you just get comfortable assuming Luke got it correct, you should know there are a lot of problems with Luke's narrative, too.

For example, the census would not have required people to journey to a different city to be

registered. The purpose of a census is to figure out where people actually live and work so you can tax them. It would have been highly impractical and counterproductive to require everyone to return to some arbitrary ancestral home to register.

But even if we roll with Luke's unusual depiction of a census, we're still left with another big problem for our favorite traditional Christmas stories: there was no inn as we know it. The word that some translators have rendered in English as “inn” is the Greek word *kataluma*, which means “guest room.” It is the same word used elsewhere in the New Testament to refer to that “upper room” where Jesus and his disciples had their last supper.

Since Luke has made it clear that in his version of the story Joseph is returning to Bethlehem because it is his family's hometown, he wouldn't be looking for a Motel 6 when he got there. He'd be expecting his relatives to put him up. Luke is telling us is that, due to all of the family coming home for the census-inspired reunion, the guest room at his family's place was crowded. That doesn't mean Joseph and Mary got kicked out on the street. It just means they were staying in a crowded house with all of their relatives, and when Mary went into labor, rather than give birth in a room full of second cousins and nosy aunts, they decided to seek some privacy in the stable.

Luke isn't the only Gospel to get these important holiday traditions “wrong.” Matthew never mentions that the wise men were kings, and he doesn't even say that there were three of them. He just says “magi,” plural. It could be two. It could be hundreds. Many early paintings of the visitation of the magi depicted them as being 12 in number, like the tribes of Israel and the disciples.

When it comes to comparing the Biblical versions of these stories with our holiday traditions the list of discrepancies is long. Those angels in the sky weren't friendly choirs; they were an invading army. That donkey Mary rode into Bethlehem? Never mentioned. Even that stable I mentioned above isn't in the text. A manger is mentioned, but many people in that region actually kept their animals in caves. Reading the Bible at Christmastime can be a dangerous activity if all we want to do preserve the traditional images we associate with the season.

Aric Clark is a writer, speaker, and Presbyterian minister living near Portland, Oregon. He is also the creator of [LectionARIC](#), a YouTube channel devoted to reading the text of religion and culture with “geeky irreverence.”

---

## September Calendar

*Elders on Duty: Nov 06 & Nov 13: Annette Harlow & Ramiro Jaramillo*

*Nov 20 & Nov 27: Marilyn Dunn & Ramiro Jaramillo*

*To see the newsletter in color go to <http://www.standrewpres.com>*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>6:30pm</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chances NA	<b>2</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Practice	<b>3</b> <b>12:30-3pm</b> Art Class  <b>5:45pm</b> Renewal Group  <b>6:30pm</b> New Hope GA  <b>6:30pm</b> NO CHOIR	<b>4</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Mission Stitches	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>9:30am</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45am</b> Communion Worship Service  <b>Daylight Savings                      Time</b>	<b>7</b> <b>6:00pm</b> PCF/M Meditation  <b>6:30pm</b> Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	<b>8</b> <b>6:30pm</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chances NA  <b>7:00pm</b> Horizon Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>12:30-3pm</b> Art Class  <b>5:45pm</b> Renewal Group  <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Practice  <b>6:30pm</b> New Hope GA	<b>11</b> <b>Fabulous                      Friday</b> <b>10:30am</b> Bible Study <b>11:30am</b> Luncheon <b>1:30pm</b> Mission Stitches	<b>12</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Interfaith Forum
<b>13</b> <b>9:30am</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45am</b> Worship Service  <b>5:00pm</b> Stated Session	<b>14</b> <b>6:00pm</b> PCF/M  <b>6:30pm</b> Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	<b>15</b> <b>6:30pm</b> "Soul Feast" Study  <b>6:30pm</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance NA	<b>16</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Cantata Practice	<b>17</b> <b>12:30-3pm</b> Art Class  <b>5:45pm</b> Renewal Group  <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Practice  <b>6:30pm</b> New Hope GA	<b>1:30pm</b> Mission Stitches	<b>19</b> <b>8:00am</b> Men's Breakfast – Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church
<b>20</b> <b>9:30am</b> Sunday School  <b>10:45am</b> Worship Service	<b>21</b> <b>6:00pm</b> NO PCF/M Thanksgivint Break  <b>6:30pm</b> Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	<b>22</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance NA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  NO Art Class Renewal Group Choir Practice  <b>6:30pm</b> New Hope GA  <b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>25</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Mission Stitches	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9:30am</b> Sunday School <b>9:30am</b> Advent Bible study  <b>10:45am</b> Fellowship Worship Service  <b>Fellowship                      Luncheon after                      Church</b>	<b>28</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Last PCF/M of semester  <b>6:30pm</b> Fresh Start GA & Gam-Anon	<b>29</b> <b>11:30am</b> JOY Group Time/Place to be announced  <b>06:30pm</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance NA	<b>30</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Cantata Practice			