



# First Presbyterian Church

January 2013

Jacksonville, Alabama

## “The Magi or Wise Men or Kings” and the Feast of Epiphany

In a treatise attributed to the Venerable Bede (672-735), the first English church historian, the magi are first named: “Melchior” was described as “an old man with white hair and a long beard,” “Gaspar” as “young and beardless and ruddy complexioned,” and “Balthasar” as “black-skinned and heavily bearded.” The gifts of the magi



are also described: gold represented an appropriate gift due a “king,” frankincense symbolized an “oblation worthy of divinity,” and myrrh “testified to the Son of Man who was to die.” Though this description is historically invalid, the magi represent an anticipation of Gentile Christians of the early Christian community.

## Why Was Jesus Baptized?

According to Robert M. Brearley, Pastor of St. Simon Presbyterian Church, “Jesus presented himself for baptism as a sign of solidarity with a nation and a world of sinners. When the line of downtrodden and sin-sick people formed in hopes of new beginnings through a return to God, Jesus joined them. At his baptism, he identified with the broken and damaged people who needed God.”

Quoted in *Feasting on the Word, Year C, Volume 1*, page 236.



### From Your Organist

I want to express my appreciation to the Session and you, the congregation, for all the kindnesses shown in word and deed during the last year.

It is such a pleasure to serve an appreciative congregation.

I love you all! Happy New Year!!

Susie F. Dempsey

## Announcements

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated on Epiphany **Sunday, January 6.**

**Stated Session Meeting**  
Sunday, January 13 at 12:30pm

**Congregational Meeting**  
Sunday, January 13 (after service)

**Church Dinner**  
Sunday, January 20

**Winter Youth Retreat**  
Middle School  
January 11-13, 2013 ∞ Camp McDowell

Sr. High  
February 1-3, 2013 ∞ Camp Lee

∞  
**Jr. and Sr. High Science and Math  
Tutoring/Homework Workshop**  
Wednesdays ∞ 5:30-6:30pm

Call the church or Laura Underhill  
for more information.

**Knitter’s Night**  
3rd Wednesday of each month  
6:30pm

## January Sermons

**January 6**  
*Just Nine Miles*  
*Matthew 2:1-23*

**January 13**  
*John, Herod, and Jesus*  
*Luke 3:15-22*

**January 20**  
*The First Sign*  
*John 2:1-11*

## Bible Study Opportunities

Wednesday 10am — Starting January 9  
*Uppity Women of the Bible*

∞  
Sunday Night 5pm — Starting January 6  
*Uppity Women of the Bible*



Find us on **Facebook** at First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, Alabama

## First Presbyterian Church

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### The Wedding at Cana

The church needs to remember how Jesus' mother swung into action to keep a party going and how her son turned water into wine so the wedding feast could continue. It is called *Cana Grace*. God wants even now for the community of faith to be a celebration of people – brothers and sisters in Christ eating barbecue on the back porch and laughing until the sun goes down – Christian women turning the fellowship hall into a festive tea party as they share the gospel and good food together – it's called *Cana Grace*.

Give thanks to all in your church who have a knack for  
throwing a party and keeping it going!

Robert M. Brearley



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>New Year's Day!</b>	2  <i>Happy Birthday!</i> Glenn Hester	3	4	5
6 <b>Uppity Women of the Bible</b> 5pm	7	8  <i>Happy Birthday!</i> Virginia Veasey	9 <b>Bible Study</b> 10am	10	11	12
13 Congregational Meeting after service Stated Session Meeting 12:30 <b>Uppity Women of the Bible—5pm</b>	14	15	16 <b>Bible Study</b> 10am  Knitter's Night 6:30pm	17	18  <i>Happy Birthday!</i> Rachel Underhill	19  <i>Happy Birthday!</i> Vivian Snow
20 3rd Sunday Dinner  <i>Happy Birthday!</i> Susan Veasey <b>Uppity Women of the Bible</b> 5pm	21	22	23 <b>Bible Study</b> 10am	24	25	26
27 <b>Uppity Women of the Bible</b> 5pm	28	29 Diabetes Support Group 6:30pm	30 <b>Bible Study</b> 10am	31		

## January Worship Plan

**January 6** *Epiphany of the Lord*  
**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**  
 Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12  
 Reverend Tom Winter preaching

**January 13** *Baptism of the Lord*  
 Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
 Reverend Tom preaching

**January 20** *2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11  
 Reverend Tom Winter preaching

**January 27** *3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21  
 Reverend Monty Clendenin preaching

### January Opportunities for Service Schedule

**Elder Greeter:** Cosper Bell

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:** January 6

*Servers: Gary Brown, Ivan Ratzlaff, Hannah Underhill and Steve Underhill*

Date	Ushers	Lay Readers
January 6	Trish and Nathan Ballard	Jetta Manners
January 13	Cosper Bell and Steve Underhill	David Talley
January 20	Jerry Boozer and Rodney Petty	Elsie Wheeler
January 27	Ethelyn Brown and Don Seymour	Wayne Claeren



### January Birthdays

- 2 Glenn Hester
- 8 Virginia Veasey
- 18 Rachel Underhill
- 19 Vivian Snow
- 20 Susan Veasey

### Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers.



**Mary Lois Dempsey**  
 Wayne Dempsey's mother



**Bobby Haynes**  
**Joy Kelly and Family**  
**Stacy Boozer Mariani**  
**Ken Mount**  
**Dan and Millie Neisler**  
**Lee Pope**

*If you would like to include a name on this list, please call or email the church office.*

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*There is a blessed calm at eventide  
 That calls me from a world of toil and care;  
 How restful, then, to seek some quiet nook  
 Where I can spend a little time in prayer.*

— Bulluck

*Prayer is as important as breathing.*



**POTLUCK DINNER**

**Sunday, January 20**

Barbara and Glen Franklin  
 Carolyn Padgett  
 Peggy-Lynn Prescott