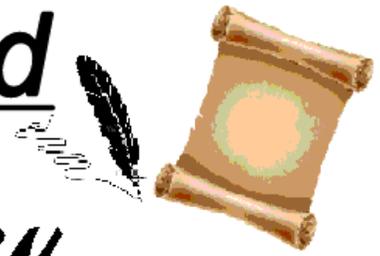


The First Word



THE PASTOR'S PEN *(Disciples of Christ)*

November 27th, 2017

Happy New Year!

You may think this an odd title for my first newsletter article as your interim shepherd. December 3rd, the first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the Church Year rather than January 1st. At this time First Christian Church Pensacola, is entering a new time in its 116 year history.

Isaiah 43:19a reads, *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"* God is leading the Church to do a new thing. We do not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future.

In 1997, there was a Ziggy cartoon which read: *"There's no future in spending our present worrying about our past!"* In the past 116 years, much good has happened as a result of First Christian Church being a part of Pensacola. As we interact with those who are fellow travelers, especially our Christian sisters and brothers in Christ, may we show the love of Christ toward them.

Soon the Search Committee will be in place. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of the members to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit as they seek to be led to the person that God would have to be your new Shepherd. Pray also that God will prepare the heart of the one He would have to come here.

An interim time can be a time of growth in the life of a congregation. It should be a time of looking at who we were and a time of looking at who you now are. It is a time of some change, of trying to become who we feel that God wants to be at this time and place.

Advent means *"coming."* It is a time devoted anew for the coming of the Christ Child and the preparation for His second coming in majesty. As we welcome the One who came at Christmas time, may the message of our song be, *"Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth, Peace and Goodwill to Peoples Everywhere."*

Happy New Year!

Pastor John