



THE REMINDER

Looking Over Jordan

BIRTHDAYS

Charlotte Nche	15 TH
Cooper Jordan	15 TH
Stacy West	27 TH
Diane Garrett	31 ST

VESPERS AT THE CARILLON
SUNDAY, JAN 28 - 4:00 PM

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER



- Income: \$6625
- Expense: \$6393

*Your gifts are
truly appreciated!*

As I write this newsletter article, I am wearing a shiny silver button with the word “Noel.” We are used to this word as part of our Christmas celebration. We sing Hymn 85, “The First Nowell” which is an old traditional English carol. The hymn affirms that the first “Nowell” was given to the shepherds by the angel. The first “Nowell” was said, or spoken, to them. The content of this first Nowell is that “The King of Israel is born.”

What does Noel mean? It comes from a Latin word that has the same root as the Latin word for birth. Nativity and Noel are related words. The old feast of the Birth of Christ was called *natus Christus*. For the French in particular, *noel* was the word for a birthday. As time went on, people began to associate the word *noel* exclusively with the birth of Jesus.

Jesus' birthday and Christmas are one and the same. If we were French we might say the longer phrase, “Joyeux noel” at Christmas. Noel (the way we spell it these days) is that very simple and very unusual word that means so much. It is the announcement of Jesus' birth, the Good News, the Gospel itself. It means the salvation of the world! It is a one-word announcement!

In January there is an old Christian feast called Epiphany. On this day of the Christian/Church year, January 6, Christians celebrate the



“manifestation” of Christ to the world. Epiphany is a longer word than Noel, but the meanings overlap. They are sort of two sides of the same coin, as the Angels tell and the people hear and see the message.

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Specifically, Epiphany celebrates Jesus' manifestation to the world via the visit of the Wise Men or Magi, when they gave the three gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

In 2024, we choose to continue saying Noel to the world around us. By our lives, our speech, and our actions, we are witnesses for Jesus in the world. In this way, the true message of Christmas continues all year long. In this way, the way of witness, God's glory in Jesus Christ is again and again manifested to the people all around us.

Happy because of Jesus,

Pastor James

When God reveals people you have hurt or slighted, resolve to go to them and ask their forgiveness. Yet, do not go and try to defend yourself or get the battle started again. Just go in simple humility and love." -Dr. Gregory R Frizzell

In West Virginia's rugged coal country, an old preacher told a boy, "Son, remember that faith can move mountains." "Yeah," the boy replied, "but dynamite's more exciting!"

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Our channel has been around for 11 years; so you can watch videos from years ago, as well as our most recent. We have lots of music, VBS videos, games (some pretty funny stuff in those), in addition to sermons and special events. Check them out.