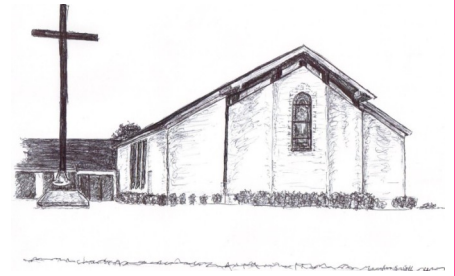


# Presby News

FEBRUARY 2016



## A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT...

### Valentines Day Devotional

By John Phillips, Jr.

Well, it's Valentine's Day, and, of course, romantics all over the world will be finding clever ways to express their love to their Valentine with chocolates and hearts and roses!

I am not a poet; thank goodness for Hallmark. When it comes to love, I believe the Bible does a better job than Hallmark can ever do, because it talks about the great love of God!

Perhaps one of the best known verses in all the Bible is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world . . ." We all know that God loves us; but the question is do we love God as we should?

Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me; keep my commandments." That's how we express our love back to God the Father. But aside from that, the Bible helps us to understand the real nature of this thing called LOVE as in I Corinthians 13 (The Love Chapter).

Notice if you will several things Paul tells us about real love:

#### 1. Real Love Does the Right Thing for the Right Reasons:

When I was little, I used to watch the TV show "Leave It to Beaver." Do you remember the character, Eddie Haskell? He'd act one way around grown-ups and totally different around Wally and the Beaver! That's called being two-faced or a hypocrite. Paul says real love does things from a pure motive and to do otherwise profits nothing. (vs 1-3)

#### 2. Real Love Has Certain Attributes:

Growing up in rural Arkansas, we'd say go get me a "coke" and anything cold and wet would do! Coke was a generic name for any kind of soda pop the local store had in stock! But the Coca-Cola company spends millions of dollars to let us know that "Coke" is the real thing, and "Coke is it!" Paul says real love has certain unmistakable qualities. (vs 4-8a)

#### 3. Real Love Stands the Test of Time:

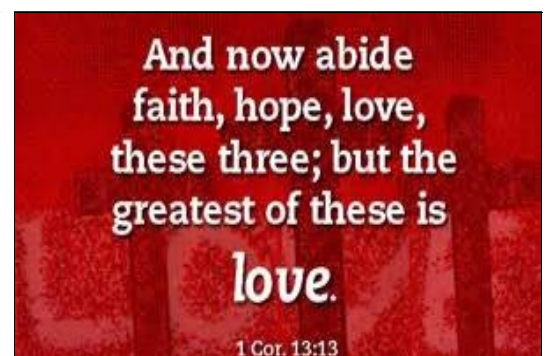
Paul concludes this wonderful chapter on love in verse 13 by saying that in the end there are three essential things that will matter - Faith, Hope and Love and the greatest of these is real love! God's love is a love that endures, He always stands ready to forgive and to pardon if we will only turn to Him in trust and repentance. He only asks that you love him enough to believe in Him.

*Love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, Love never faileth.*



## SPECIAL DATES

- Feb 7 Transfiguration of the Lord
- Feb 10 Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 15 Session Meeting/President's Day
- Feb 16 Healthworx Meal



**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**December 13, 2015**

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Ron Sutto called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm and led in prayer.

**Members Present:**

Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: None

Guests Present: Ron Sutto, Moderator

A quorum was present.

**Finance Report:**

The financial statements for November, 2015, were distributed to the Session. The November, 2015 bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the November, 2015 financial statements.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for November 16, 2015.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for November 16, 2015.

Moved: Ron Sutto

Seconded: Jim Hockensmith

Motion: Carried

**Clerk's Report:** Approved as presented.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:**

**Congregational Life/Christian Education, Evangelism, Worship & Missions Committee Report: Jim Hockensmith**

**Motion:** That the following Christmas Bonus be given to the FPC staff:

Pianist: \$100

Choir Director: \$250

Secretary: \$250

Sexton: \$50

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

The FPC Sanctuary Choir will present a Christmas Concert at 7:00 pm, Thursday, December 17. The concert is being organized by Music Director Aaron Rogers.

**Personnel Committee Report:** None

**Property Committee Report: Jack Ready**

Jack Ready reported the following:

- French Doors have been installed and painted. Checks were cut and signed.
- Back Bathroom needs refurbishing. Jack will check on this.
- Sulin Best and Annelize Benade cleaned the back room and Roger Best and Jim Smolenski hauled it off. Toys went to Hope House.
- Louisiana Eye and Laser held their Christmas Party at FPC on December 11.

**Pastor's/Moderator Report:**

Ron Sutto reported that John Blewett may be available on a temporary basis, 2 to 3 days a week. Housing allowance was discussed. Ron Sutto stated that he is getting his "PIF" together .

**Old Business:**

Dr. Jim Heath is available to fill in for Sundays in January, 2016.

The Session discussed the Natchitoches Presbyterian Church, their mission statement and their offer to prospective pastors, which led them to get so many applicants.

**New Business:**

Jack Ready was given permission by the Session to leave the meeting early.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Ron Sutto

Seconded: Jim Hockensmith

Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 1:40 pm with a closing prayer by Ron Sutto. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be Monday, January 18, 2016.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy  
/cs

# February Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>February 7</b>	Vacancy Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Jim Hockensmith <b>Communion Team:</b> Annelize & Dirk Benade
<b>February 14</b>		Dirk Benade	
<b>February 21</b>	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
<b>February 28</b>	Jim Hockensmith Vacancy	Jim Smolenski	



**Feb 5 Fran Wall**

**Feb 22 Gil Arnold**

**Feb 28 Barry Herndon**



## First Presbyterian Church

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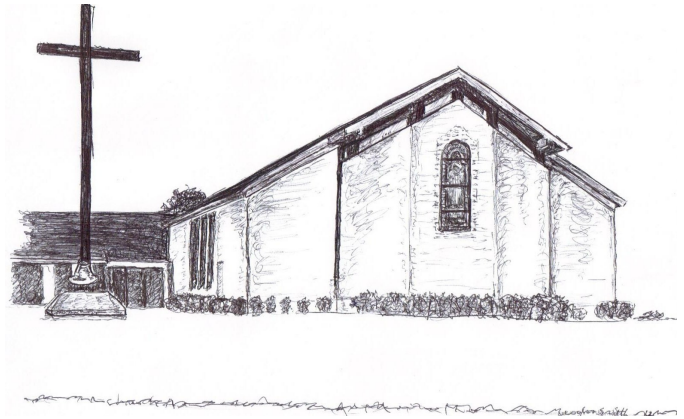
*Vacancy, Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



### ***WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE***

- |      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| 5:45 | Meal                  |
| 6:30 | Fellowship/Committees |
| 7:00 | Choir Practice        |

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.