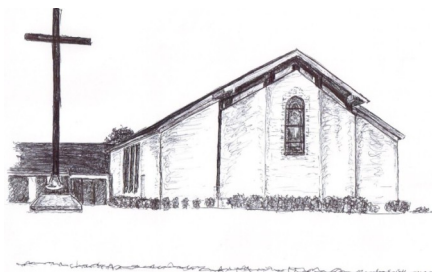


Presby News

MARCH 2016



A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT...

THE CRADLE OF HOPE

By Max Lucado

Christ rose first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will become alive again. I Corinthians 15:23

Let's go to the tomb, for Jesus lies in the tomb.

Still, Cold, Stiff. Death has claimed its greatest trophy. He is not asleep in the tomb or resting in the tomb or comatose in the tomb; he is dead in the tomb. No air in his lungs. No thoughts in his brain. No feeling in his limbs. His body is as lifeless as the stone slab upon which he has been laid.

The executioners made sure of it. When Pilate learned that Jesus was dead, he asked the soldiers if they were certain. They were. Had they seen the Nazarene twitch, had they heard even one moan, they would have broken his legs to speed his end. But there was no need. The thrust of a spear removed all doubt. The Romans knew their job. And their job was finished. They pried loose the nails, lowered his body, and gave it to Joseph and Nicodemus.

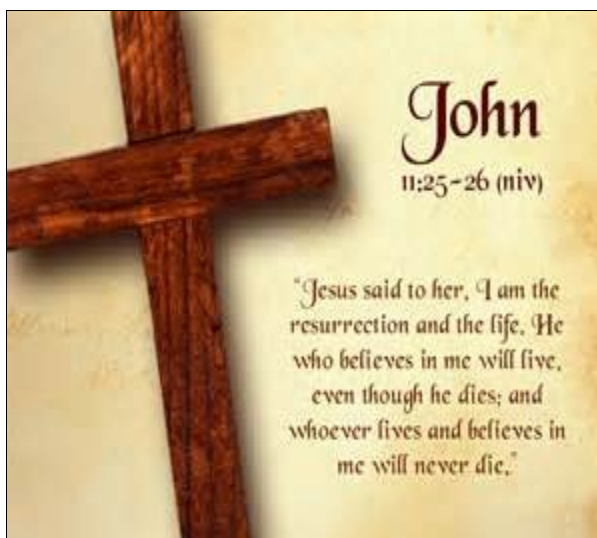
Joseph of Arimathea. Nicodemus the Pharisee. Jesus had answered the prayer of their hearts, the prayer for the Messiah. As much as the soldiers wanted him dead, even more these men wanted him alive.

As they sponged the blood from his beard, don't you know they listened for his breath? As they wrapped the cloth around his hands, don't you now they hoped for a pulse? Don't you know they searched for life? But they didn't find it.

So they do with him what they were expected to do with a dead man. They wrap his body in clean linen and place it in a tomb. Joseph's tomb. Roman guards are stationed to guard the corpse. And a Roman seal is set on the rock of the tomb. For three days, no one gets close to the grave.

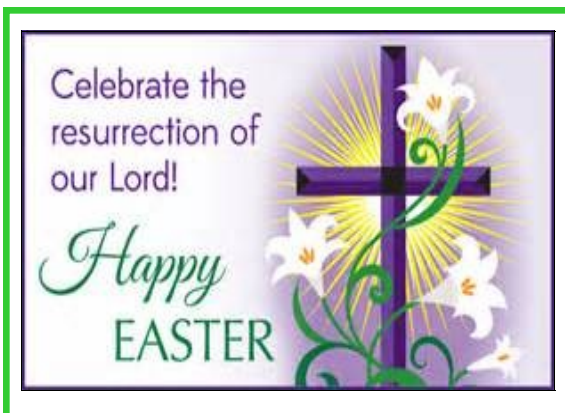
But then, Sunday arrives. And with Sunday comes light—a light within the tomb. A bright light? A soft light? Flashing? Hovering? We don't know. But there was a light. For he is the light. And with the light came life. Just as the darkness was banished, now the decay is reversed. Heaven blows and Jesus breathes. His chest expands. Waxy lips open. Wooden fingers lift. Heart valves swish and hinged joints bend. And, as we envision the moment, we stand in awe.

We stand in awe not just because of what we see, but because of what we know. We know that we, too, will be buried. Our lungs, like his, will empty. Our hands, like his, will stiffen. But the rising of his body and the rolling of the stone give birth to a mighty belief: "What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us." (Romans 6:5-9 MSG).



SPECIAL DATES

- Mar 13 Daylight Savings Begins
- Mar 15 Healthworx Meal
- Mar 20 Palm Sunday/Holy Week
- Mar 21 Session Meeting
- Mar 24 Maundy Thursday
- Mar 25 Good Friday
- Mar 27 Easter Sunday



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
January 18, 2015

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm and led in prayer.

Members Present:

Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready

Treasurer: Jim Smolenski, Absent

Elders Excused: None

Guests Present: Jane Conerly, Moderator

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

The financial statements for December, 2015, were distributed to the Session. The December, 2015 bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members. Note: Since Treasurer Jim Smolenski was absent, the Session reviewed and initialed the bank statements available. The finances were not discussed during the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for December 13, 2015.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for December 13, 2015.

Moved: Jack Ready

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

- Dr. Jim Heath will preach every Sunday until the end of February, 2016
- Jim Hockensmith will follow up with Ron Sutto about John Blewett.
- Congregation will still gather on Wednesday nights with a meal and fellowship, no program.
- Statistical Report will be completed. Jim Hockensmith will contact Carolyn Sterne about the report.

Personnel Committee Report: None

Property Committee Report: Jack Ready

Jack Ready reported the following:

- Doors have been installed and painted.
- New section of the eave has been repaired and painted.
- Old paint does not match the new paint on the doors. The estimate to paint and caulk windows is \$8,155.00.
- Waiting on quote on update for bathrooms.
- Bulbs in the sanctuary need to be replaced.

Motion: That the Session approve painting and caulking windows for a cost of \$8,155.00

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

Pastor's/Moderator Report: None

Old Business:

Session will check with Ron Sutto about having an Elder officiate over Communion.

New Business:

Session approved setting April 21, 2016 for the Life Line/Stroke Screening in the fellowship hall.

Jim Hockensmith and Jack Ready will alternate leading services at Brookdale on the first Sunday of each month. Jack Ready led services in January and Jim Hockensmith will take care of February.

The Session received a request from Martha Higgins to allow Kappa Kappa Iota Sorority to meet at FPC on Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27, 2016.

Motion: That the Session approve the request to allow Kappa Kappa Iota to meet at FPC on February 26 and 27, 2016.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 6:30 pm with a closing prayer by Jane Conerly. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 pm Monday, February 15, 2016.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs

March Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
March 6	Vacancy Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Elizebette Kennedy Communion Team: Bill Higgins, Vacancy
March 13		Dirk Benade	
March 20	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
March 17	Jim Hockensmith Vacancy	Jim Smolenski	



Anniversaries
and Birthdays

March 7	Robert Kennedy
March 14	Dee & Charles Ellington
March 15	Darrell Dubroc
March 16	Brenda Willson
March 22	Elana Glynn
March 22	Roscoe Wilson
March 28	Robert & Elizebette Kennedy



First Presbyterian Church

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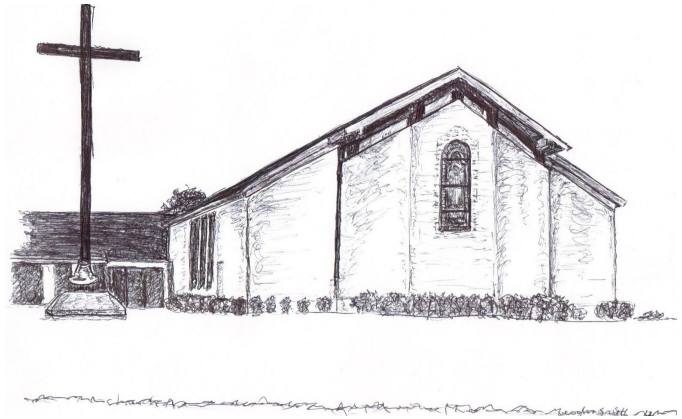
Vacancy, Pastor

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.