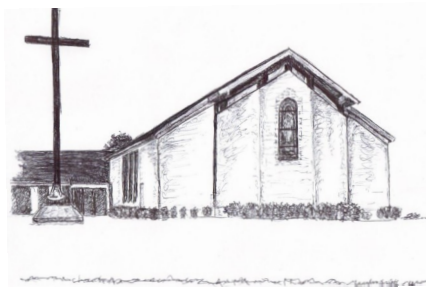


Presby News

FEBRUARY 2020



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

The Nearness of God is My Good

In matters of God's grace, you and I need a daily supply. It is a most sweet assurance that God provides us a daily provision from above. All the nearness of God is abundantly supplied in His Word. Here is one small example.

Luke 8:43 and following tells us about a woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years. She came up from behind Jesus and touched only the fringe of His cloak. She had slipped through the crowd around Jesus thinking to herself that if only she could touch the fringe of His coat she would be healed. Suddenly, upon her touch, Jesus asked, "who touched me," for He had felt power go out from Him. She was immediately healed.

Jesus was on His way somewhere else, and among a whole crowd of people who were already pressed around Him, He stopped to single out that one person who had touched Him. Realizing she could not hide her identity, she fell at Jesus' feet. Before the crowd, she bore witness to the miracle Jesus performed in her life. What she had intended to be in secret, Jesus intended to proclaim.

What do we learn from this miracle?

- Many acknowledge and know about Jesus, but this woman believed in Him, and reached out to Him in her need. Jesus affirmed to her that it was her faith that had brought her healing, while the rest of the crowd received no blessing in His presence.
- Jesus affirmed to her that she need not fear being identified from His words, "go in peace." She had not taken anything from Christ Jesus, rather he had given her a gift of grace. Such wonderful confidence is given to us in those words, to realize His grace provides us His peace.
- While the woman wished to remain anonymous, Jesus did not allow her faith to remain that way, rather publicly acknowledged her.

Our faith is never intended to be a private matter as so many people will say that their faith is merely a very personal thing. Yet Jesus affirms by this public acknowledgment of her that faith is not just personal, it must also be unashamedly professed. The Lord refused to allow this woman to go away unnoticed. He refused to allow her to go without her own public profession. Notice, the woman came because she had a personal need. She left having received so much more.

How often is that the case for each of us. We are sometimes driven to Him for very personal needs. What God has done for us is to be made known.

This, in the miniature of a single encounter, is the last directive Jesus gave to His disciples, "Go and make disciples." In essence, you and I are to unashamedly tell the world what Christ has done for each of us in our very personal life, that others too may also come to know with us, that the nearness of God is for their good, yea, unto the full enjoyment of Him in the forgiveness of our sins to all eternity.

This is our basic mission as a congregation of Christ as we chart a new path of ministry among us, to Alexandria, and to the world. May God so enable, and bless us in this task as we watch His power "going out" from among us. Amen.

Dr. Frazier

SPECIAL DATES

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb. 2 | Brookdale Worship at 9:00 am
Communion Served at 11:00 am |
| Feb. 14 | Happy Valentine's Day |
| Feb. 16 | Universal Day of Prayer for Students |
| Feb. 17 | Session Meeting at 6:00 pm |
| Feb. 23 | Transfiguration of the Lord |



Happy Valentine's Day



Three things will last forever
Faith, Hope, and Love

Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

October 14, 2019

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Sandy Brister called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Members Present: Annelize Benade, Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith
Treasurer: None
Elders Excused: Elizebette Kennedy
Guests Present: Jim Heath, Stated Supply and Sandy Brister, Moderator

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

Financial statements and bank statements for August, 2019, were distributed, reviewed, and initialed by the Session.

Motion: That the Session approve the financial and bank statements for August, 2019:

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for August 19, 2019.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for August 19, 2019, as presented.

Moved: Bill Higgins Second: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

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

The following events were approved by common consent:

- Christmas Poinsettias will be ordered by Jim Hockensmith.
- Sunday, November 24, 2019 - Christmas Tree will be put up.
- Sunday, December 1, 2019 - Hanging of the Greens
- Sunday, December 8, 2019 - Sanctuary Decorations (Ask Choir Members to help.)
- Christmas Cantata (Date To Be Announced)
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Adjournment:

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 6:20 p.m. with a closing prayer by Jim Hockensmith.

The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2019. The Session will conduct business through email until the December 16 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Hockensmith

/cs

WELCOME, DR. FRAZIER!

REV. DR. MICHAEL FRAZIER IS OUR INTERIM PASTOR.
DR. FRAZIER IS AN ORDAINED PRESBYTERIAN
MINISTER AND RETIRED ARMY CHAPLAIN, WHO
SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD IN THE DOWNTOWN FPC .

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2020
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE
MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

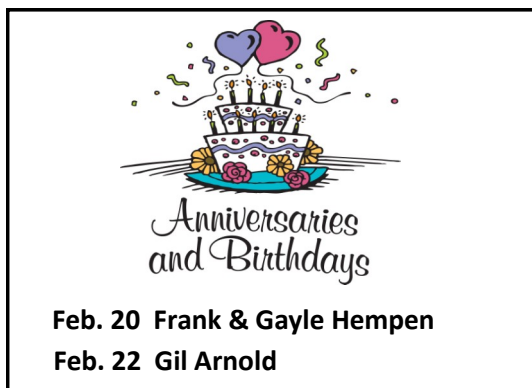


**CHOIR REHEARSAL
EVERY SUNDAY
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
WORSHIP SERVICE,
FROM 12:15 PM TO 1:15 PM.**

*"Sing to God, sing praises to His name."
Psalm 68:4*

February Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
February 2	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Bill Higgins Communion Team: Elizebette Kennedy & Jim Hockensmith
February 9	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
February 16	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
February 23	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	



Dr. Frazier ran into some old friends recently: Left to right, Dr. Bob Vincent (Retired Grace Church Pastor), Dr. William S. Smith (Former FPC Pastor), and Dr. Michael Frazier.

(Note: Picture was made at Grace Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, after the Memorial Service for John Richardson (Dick) Ayers, a past member of this congregation.)

First Presbyterian Church

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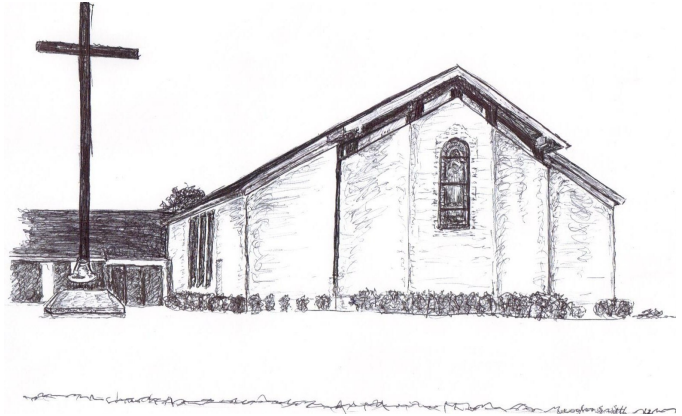
Rev. Dr. Michael Frazier, *Interim Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

Michael Martin, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

To Be Announced

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.