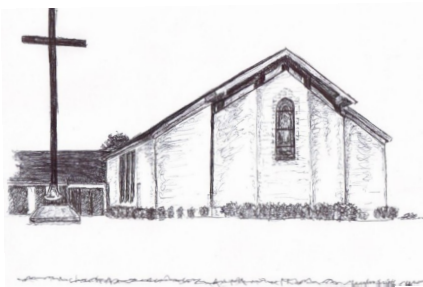


# Presby News

MARCH 2020



## FROM THE PASTOR . . .

### "No, We Are Not All God's Children"

Christian's are so often told, mostly by non-believers, that we are all God's children. This statement is made without any consideration of whether or not a person believes in God, or regardless of whether or not a person accepts Jesus Christ by faith as their Savior in repentance from sin, or His sacrifice for their forgiveness.

But, the Bible completely contradicts this modern notion, where we read in Hebrews 11:6:

"But without faith, it is impossible to please Him. For He that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them who diligently seek Him."

The fact is that none of us are God's children. The Bible reminds us the hard truth that every human being has a different father, and has no claim to the God of our Lord Jesus as their father at all, as Jesus Himself warned, "you are of your father the Devil," John 8:44.

Notice that Jesus pins every one of us down with His accusation in His use of the the second-person personal pronoun "you." He pointedly tells every one of us who is our father. He is the Devil.

Despite the fact that every human being owes their very lives and each breath to the God of Heaven and Earth, He rejects any connection with us unless He specifically adopts us as His children.

Our father the Devil was eager for the death of our Savior on many occasions. He instigated Herod to destroy Christ in His infancy. He tempted Jesus to destroy Himself in the wilderness temptations. He stirred up the Scribes and Pharisees to kill Jesus, and whispered in the heart of Judas to betray Him.

The Devil teaches his children the lie that all of us are actually good, that as long as we are "sincere," then it really doesn't matter what we believe. That, too, is a lie.

Every human being must take to heart what the Apostle John warns:

"He that believes on the Son of God has the witness in Himself. But, the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he does not believe the record that God gave His Son."

Everyone who believes that Jesus is God's Son, and accepts by faith His sacrifice for their sin, has eternal life as a gift of God's grace, as well as being adopted by God as their Father. (See I John 5:1, 2).

Thereby, this is the reason God is not ashamed to be called, our Father.

Dr. Michael Frazier

### SPECIAL DATES

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 1  | Brookdale Worship at 9:00 am<br>Communion Served at 11:00 am |
| March 2  | Session Meeting at 6:00 pm                                   |
| March 4  | Prayer Meeting Suspended during March                        |
| March 8  | Daylight Savings Time Begins                                 |
| March 17 | St. Patrick's Day  |



Nehemiah 8:10

Neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

# Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

## First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

### December 16, 2019

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

Members Present: Annelize Benade, Elizebette Kennedy, Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith

Treasurer: None

Guests: Sandy Brister, Moderator, was absent

A quorum was present.

#### Finance Report:

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

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

Moved: Bill Higgins

Second: Jim Hockensmith

Motion: Carried

#### Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for October 14, 2019.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for October 14, 2019, as presented.

Moved: Bill Higgins

Second: Elizebette Kennedy

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 decorations will be removed on Sunday, December 29, following worship service.
- Jim Hockensmith will review the 2020 FPC Budget with Jim Smolenski for submission to the Trustees for approval of the 2020 Behl Fund Distribution.
- 2020 Planning Calendars were distributed to the Session Members.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Bill Higgins

Michael Martin has agreed to serve as the new pianist for First Presbyterian Church, replacing Robyn Tan. Michael Martin will begin his employment January 1, 2020.

**Motion:** That the Session approve Michael Martin as the pianist for First Presbyterian Church, effective January 1, 2020.

Moved: Bill Higgins

Second: Annelize Benade

Motion: Carried

Dr. Jim Heath, First Presbyterian Church Stated Supply Pastor from March 9, 2016 - December 31, 2019, has requested that his severance check be designated for Minister's Housing.

**Motion:** That the Session approve Jim Heath's severance check be designated for Minister's Housing.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Second: Elizebette Kennedy

Motion: Carried

**Motion:** That the Session approve Christmas Eve Communion by intention.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Second: Elizebette Kennedy

Motion: Carried

The Session approved the following by Common Consent:

- Accepted the resignation of Robyn Tan, pianist, effective December 24, 2019.
- There will be no newsletter for January, 2020. There will be a calendar for January, 2020.
- Prayer Meeting will be suspended during January, 2020.
- Christmas Eve Communion will be served by Jim Hockensmith, Bill Higgins, Dirk Benade and Dr. Michael Frazier.
- Approved \$150.00 Honorarium for Dr. Frazier for preaching during the Christmas Eve Service.
- Bill Higgins will write Dr. Frazier's introduction to the congregation, and he will email a copy of his introduction to the Session for approval.
- The Session members discussed their November 13, 2020, meeting with Dr. Frazier, and it was concluded that the Session will currently continue to function as is.

The Session discussed the 2019 Christmas Bonuses for FPC staff.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the 2019 Christmas Bonuses for FPC staff, as presented.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Second: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

#### Adjournment:

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

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Second: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 6:40 p.m. with a closing prayer by Bill Higgins. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 17, 2020. The Session will conduct business through email until the February 17 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizebette Kennedy  
/cs



# March Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>March 1</b>	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Elizebette Kennedy <b>Communion Team:</b> Jim Hockensmith
<b>March 8</b>	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
<b>March 15</b>	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
<b>March 22</b>	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	
<b>March 29</b>	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	



**March 7**  
**March 14**

**Robert Kennedy**  
**Beth McDaniel**  
**Dee Dee & Charles Ellington**

**March 16**  
**March 22**  
**March 28**

**Brenda Willson**  
**Roscoe Wilson**  
**Robert & Elizebette Kennedy**



Thank you Jim Hockensmith, Aaron Rogers, Michael Martin, and Choir for your faithful service in leading in the Worship Service at Brookdale Senior Living the first Sunday of each month. We appreciate your faithfulness to this important ministry of FPC.

## **First Presbyterian Church**

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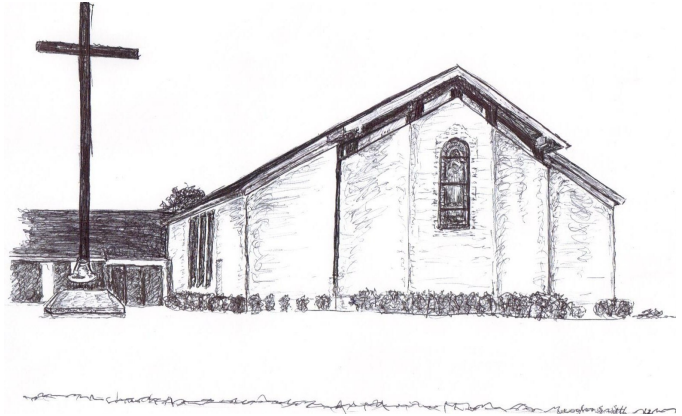
Rev. Dr. Michael Frazier, *Interim Pastor*

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.