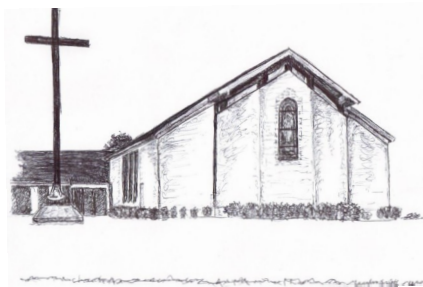


Presby News

MAY 2020



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

"Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled"

These words of our Savior from John 14:1 are one among the most familiar and beloved text of Scripture. They uniquely stand here to comfort, assure, and remind and believers across the world even during these modern troublesome times of the pandemic spread and deaths caused by the Coronavirus that our current circumstances have not caught God by surprise.

Some may retort, that's easy enough to say, and I would agree. Surely the things of God are easy enough to repeat back to God that even a child can recite the verse from memory. The good thing is that this reminder from the lips of our Savior come with assistance to not only repeat the words, but to also apply them to our hearts and minds to the end that your and my hearts are not troubled by the events of life and the world around us. Yet, there are several things required of you and me if non-troubled hearts are to be our realities.

First, are Jesus very next words; "you believe in God, believe also in me." Most every human being alive believes in God. Yet in this verse, Jesus points to Himself as the very object of the same religious trust as believers have in God, reminding us that faith in Him is what is required if we ever expect to find the peace of an untroubled heart, for Jesus made flesh is the visible image of God who is unseen spirit. Jesus further reminded Philip of this very truth in verses 9 and 10; "Have I been so long a time with you, and yet have you not known me, Philip (notice how Jesus makes His remark personal)? He who has seen me has seen the Father." Should we not therefore place our complete confident trust for our heart's peace in the One who died for us, who was able to raise both Himself and every believer from the grave? This is at the heart of the Christian faith, peace with God in our Lord Jesus Christ brings about peace throughout the course of our lives, through uncertain times, as well as in times of sufferings.

Secondly, the outcome of this peace with God is far beyond the tangible realities of this world's comforts. Jesus repeats His exhortation of John 14:1 in the reality of our faith's application of His life to our souls; "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid," John 14:27. His peace for our soul's heavenly home also results to apply peace in our every day physical life (see also Matthew 6:25-34).

Finally, Henry Francis Lyte, the author of the beautiful and comforting hymn, "Abide with Me," also wrote a lesser known hymn about the believer's peace in his hymn, written in 1833, "The Pilgrim Hymn." Listen to the lines of his 4th and 5th verses; "Afflictions may damp me, they cannot destroy. One glimpse of His love turns them

all into joy; The bitterest tears, if He smile but on them, Like dew in the sunshine, grow diamond and gem. Let doubt then, and danger, my progress oppose; They only make Heaven more sweet at the close. Come joy, or come sorrow, whate'er may befall, And hour with my God will make up for it all."

As Christ said, "you believe in God, believe also in me. Speak and teach His same peace to your own heart and mind so that your heart may not be troubled, knowing that God also uses the calamities of this life to accomplish His divine purposes. There is nothing faith in Christ has not done, nor cannot do (see also Hebrews 11) to supply the still quiet voice to your and my heart to accomplish what we seek in Him, peace, be still...for Jesus has gone to Heaven to prepare that eternal mansion, "if it were not so, I would have told you," John 14:2, 3.

Dr. Michael Frazier

SPECIAL DATES

(Services Suspended Due to Coronavirus)

May 3	9:00 am Brookdale - Cancelled 11:00 am Communion Served
May 10	Mother's Day
May 21	Ascension of the Lord
May 25	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
May 31	Day of Pentecost



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
March 2, 2020

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Ron Sutto, General Presbyterian/Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of South Louisiana, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Members Present: Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith,
Elizebette Kennedy
Treasurer: None
Guests: Ron Sutto, General Presbyterian/
Stated Clerk of PSL
Debbie Serra, Guest of Ron Sutto

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

Financial statements and bank statements for February, 2020 were distributed, reviewed, and initialed by the Session.

Motion: That the Session approve the financial and bank statements for February, 2020:

Moved: Ron Sutto Second: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for December 16, 2019.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for December 16, 2019, as presented.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session ratify the business conducted during the December 16, 2020 Stated Session Meeting.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

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

Motion: That certain names on the list of members be sent a letter to inform them that they will be moved to inactive status.

Moved: Ron Sutto Second: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Motion: That Communion be served on Easter Sunday.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

By common consent, the Session approved not purchasing Easter Lilies again this year due to allergic reactions.

Motion: That Dr. Michael Frazier's salary be designated as Housing Allowance for tax purposes.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

After reviewing a comparison report of utility costs since Circle Church has moved into the Fellowship Hall and Youth Wing, it was noted that the FPC utility bill has increased due to additional use of electricity, water, etc.

Motion: That the monthly rent for Circle Church be raised by \$75 to \$875 to accommodate the increase in the FPC utility bill.

Moved: Elizebette Kennedy Second: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session reluctantly accept Annelize Benade's resignation from the Session.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Ron Sutto stated that, for the record, in small communities, elders are allowed to serve for longer terms.

The Session members agreed they will recruit new members to fill the current vacancies.

Music Director Aaron Rogers presented information to the Session to approve the purchase of a new recorder to record the Sunday services. After a brief discussion, the Session approved the following:

Motion: That the Session approve the purchase of the Zoom H4N Handy Recorder.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a closing prayer by Ron Sutto. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 20, 2020. The Session will conduct business through email until the April 20 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizebette Kennedy

/cs

May Responders Schedule

Due to the Coronavirus, Worship Services
Are Suspended Until Further Notice

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
May 3	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Bill Higgins Communion Team: Jim Hockensmith, Annelize Benade
May 10	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
May 17	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	
May 24	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
May 31	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	



5/15 JACE TORRES

5/28 DEBBE CLEGG

FPC Virtual Worship Services

are now available on our
FPC Facebook Page
every Sunday morning at
11:00 am
(Click on Videos)

<https://www.facebook.com/AlexandriaFPC/>



MAY 25, 2020

First Presbyterian Church

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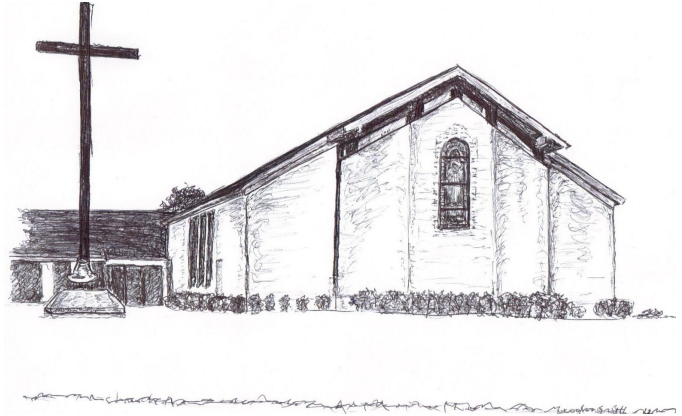
Dr. Michael Frazier, *Interim Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

Michael Martin, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



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.