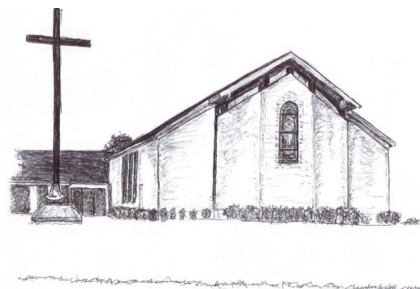


Presby News

DECEMBER 2016



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

No season of the year comes close to comparing to it, do you think? The music, the lights, the decorations, the family gatherings, the excitement on children's faces, the many good wishes for "Merry Christmas" & "Happy New Year". It's almost as if there is a **special magic** that fills the air during the Christmas season.

For many, the rush and the hustle and bustle of it all robs them of the joy of the season. That is why it is so important for us **to give a high priority** to the observance of the Advent Season in our personal lives and in the life of our church.

As we light the four candles of the Advent wreath, may we allow the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus Christ to sink to a deeper level in our hearts and lives as we seek to **live out the Christmas message all year long**.

Giving is usually connected with Christmas. But, you know, there are **many ways to give in addition** to beautifully wrapped presents of items purchased in stores. And sometimes, those gifts are the most meaningful and lasting.

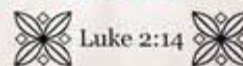
In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul speaks about the Macedonian Christians who gave far beyond their capacity because they were extremely poor. Paul says that "they did not do as we expected, but **they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us** in keeping with God's will."

Maybe **the most important giving** we can do is of ourselves to the Lord and then to others. And giving to others may take the shape of just **spending a few minutes** visiting with them, or **talking with them** on the telephone, or **listening to them** as they share their problems. It may be **interrupting our busy schedules** to check on them and see how they are doing and taking them a few flowers from our yard. Or **baking a cake or some cookies** and taking them over. Some of the **best gifts** are those which **represent a giving of ourselves** to others which communicate that **we truly care**. After all, isn't that **what God did when He came to this earth** in the form of a baby that night long ago and slept in a barn surrounded by the smell of hay and farm animals.

Could it be that what the **world is looking for is a church which really takes seriously** being like the Lord who has called it into existence? Are we up to the challenge? If we are, then this may be the best Christmas ever. **And this next year may be the best ever** in the life of First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, LA? **Do we dare to dream so big?** I hope so! Merry Christmas!

--Jim

*Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.*



SPECIAL DATES

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| December 4 | Second Sunday of Advent
Brookdale Worship
Communion Served |
| December 11 | Third Sunday of Advent |
| December 14 | Choir Concert/Reception |
| December 18 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Joy Gift Offering
Congregational Luncheon |
| December 19 | Session Meeting |
| December 20 | HealthWorx Meal |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Service |
| December 25 | Christmas Day |

*Wishing you a
blessed and peaceful
Christmas!*



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

October 17, 2016

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and opened with prayer and a devotional.

Members Present: Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith
Treasurer: Jim Smolenski
Elders Excused: Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready
Guests Present: Jim Heath, Stated Supply; Jane Conerly, Moderator

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

The financial statements for September, 2016, were distributed to the Session. The September, 2016 bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

Motion: That the Session approve the September, 2016 Financial Reports.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for September 19, 2016.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for September 19, 2016.
Moved: Bill Higgins 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

- The Session discussed the observance of All Souls' Day and, by common consent, decided it would not be observed this November.
- The Session set November 20 as the deadline for ordering Christmas Poinsettias. The cost will be \$15.00 each.
- Dr. Heath will review and reorganize the Hanging of the Greens Service.
- The Salvation Army donation will be given further consideration after reviewing the November financials.

Personnel Committee Report: Bill Higgins

No report

Property Committee Report: Jack Ready

No report

Pastor's/Moderator Report: Dr. Jim Heath

- Dr. Heath reported that he had two volunteers who could teach a high school Sunday School class. Curriculum materials will need to be researched and approved by the Session.
- Dr. Heath will encourage the congregation to use the suggestion box outside his office.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion: That the Session accept Jack Ready's resignation from the Session due to health concerns, and that the Session name a replacement.
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve the request made by Elizabeth Carley (mother of the groom in the December 31 Benade/Carley Wedding) to use the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen for the December 30 Rehearsal dinner.
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

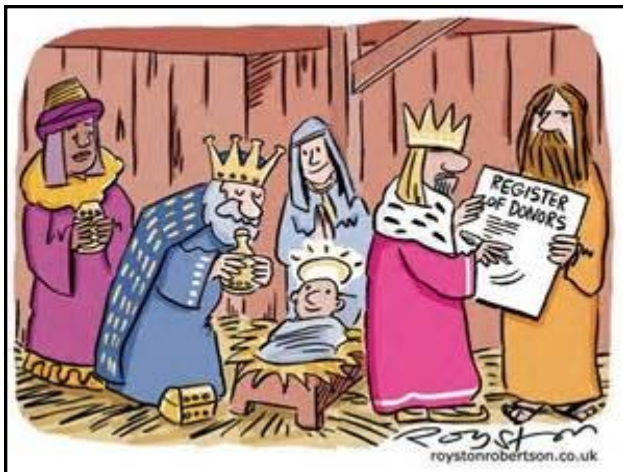
Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 6:58 p.m. with a closing prayer by Dr. Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 pm Monday, November 21, 2016.

Respectfully submitted:
Minutes taken by: Jim Hockensmith

/cs



December Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
December 4	Vacancy Helen McDaniel (March-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Bill Higgins Communion Team: Annelize & Dirk Benade
December 11	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
December 18	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
December 25	Jim Hockensmith Vacancy	Jim Smolenski	



Anniversaries and Birthdays

Charles Ellington 12/04
Georgia McBurney 12/06

Bill Higgins 12/08
DeAnna Brister 12/12
Dee Brister 12/14
Gil & Dee Arnold 12/18
Brandi Woolam 12/19
Jim & Stephanie Huffman 12/20
Laverne Wilson 12/22
Roger Best 12/23
Carolyn Sterne 12/23
Waylon Smith 12/24
Helen McDaniel 12/30

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SANCTUARY CHOIR

PRESENTS

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

At 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall

Aaron Rogers, Director



First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

office@alexandriafpc.org

www.alexandriafpc.org

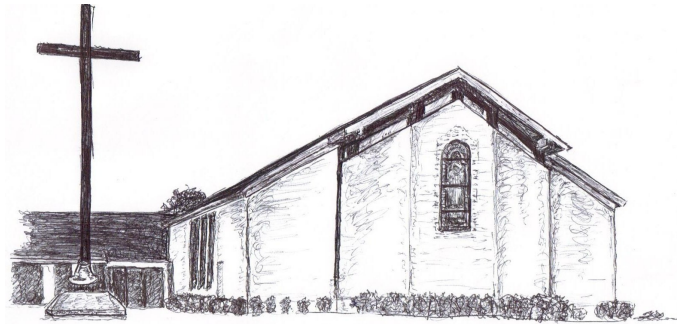
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

5:45 pm	Meal (<i>Suspended</i>)
6:30 pm	Fellowship/Committees (<i>Suspended</i>)
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (<i>Will Continue</i>)

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.