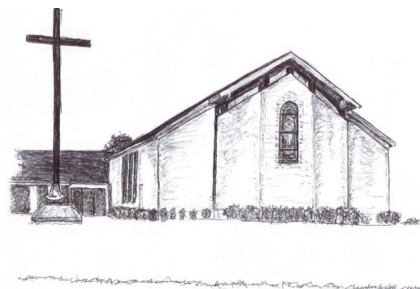


# Presby News

JUNE 2016



## FROM THE PASTOR . . .

As I have already told you, I grew up on the banks of Bayou Boeuf in the little community of Eola. However, my family went to church in Bunkie.

In the eighth grade during recess, some of us were playing football on the playground. One of my classmates tackled me and my ankle took an awkward turn and was broken.

One Saturday morning following that, my dad and I were home alone while Mom must have been out grocery shopping. We heard a knock on the door. I was in bed with my leg propped up so Dad went to the door. When he came back to the bedroom, he brought Bro. Charlie with him.

I don't remember anything about the conversation. I only remember that we had a good time visiting and I remember how valuable I felt that my pastor would come to my home to visit me. During my 17 years at home before leaving for college, he was the only pastor from my home church to make a pastoral visit in my home.

I have always felt that an important priority for me as a pastor is home visitation. There is something about sitting down in the informality of the home setting, drinking a cup of coffee and chatting about family members, hobbies, interests, and whatever comes to mind that enriches the human relationship between pastor and church members.

The shepherd imagery is so appropriate for the pastor/congregation relationship. And the better the shepherd knows his sheep, the better he can tend to their needs.

If for some reason I have not yet been in your home and you would like for me to come for a visit, please let me know. I'll put my tavelin' boots on.

Jim

Happy moments Praise God  
Difficult moments Seek God  
Quiet moments Worship God  
Painful moments Trust God  
Every moment Thank God

### SPECIAL DATES

June 5 Brookdale Worship  
June 19 Father's Day  
June 20 Session Meeting  
June 21 Healthworx Meal

*Wednesday Night Meals/Fellowship Suspended  
Choir Rehearsal Will Continue.*

*Dr. Heath in office on Thursdays 10 am to 2 pm*

Come to me, all who are  
weary & burdened  
& I will give you rest.

Mathew 11:28

photoswithquotes.com

**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**April 18, 2016**

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

Members Present: Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready  
Treasurer: Jim Smolenski  
Elders Excused: None  
Guests Present: Jim Heath, Stated Supply  
A quorum was present.

**Finance Report:**

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

**Motion:** That the Session approve the March, 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 March 21, 2016.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for March 21, 2016.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith      Seconded: Bill Higgins  
Motion: Carried

**Clerk's Report:** Approved as presented.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:**

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

Frank Hempen offered to make a \$50 donation toward flowers for the sanctuary.

Jack Ready was asked to serve as Elder Liturgist for May; however, he will not be able to serve all five Sundays. Jim Hockensmith agreed to fill in as liturgist on the first and last Sunday of May when Jack Ready will be out, and he will bring the devotional on May 1 at Brookdale.

Bill Higgins will open the church for the upcoming wedding and rehearsals if Charles Bell (Sexton) is not available to do so.

April 27 is Secretaries' Day. Jim Hockensmith and Jim Heath will take Carolyn Sterne to lunch.

**Personnel Committee Report:** No Report

**Property Committee Report: Jack Ready**

Gutters were cleaned and overhanging branches cut.

The interior wooden door entering the left side of the sanctuary does not stay open. Jack Ready will check on whether or not the door hardware that keeps the door propped open will need to be replaced.

**Pastor's/Moderator Report:**

Dr. Jim Heath stated that he has been focusing on the following:

- Getting to know the members of the congregation
- Visiting members
- Contacting and re-engaging those who have become inactive
- Listening to concerns
- Streamlining the Sunday worship order of service to conclude by noon
- Requested and appreciates help from the congregation
- Need to conserve what we have: Encourage those who are faithful, do all we can to let them know that we appreciate them, be sensitive to their needs and concerns

Increase the level of commitment and faithfulness. Be an example to the rest of the congregation.

Focus on clarifying our vision. What do we see as the unique purpose and vision for FPC?

Share your thoughts on areas we need to focus on; what is our niche, areas we can serve the Lord

Asked Session Members to answer the following questions and bring answers to the May 16 meeting: 1) What do we like as Presbyterians? 2) What is satisfying/enjoyable to us? 3) What appeals to us? (e.g. friendly people but not "pushy," no forced fellowship . . . etc.) 4) Why do you like to be a member here?

Prepare a brochure

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

DeAnna Brister, church pianist, requested that she be given permission to take off on Sunday, May 19, 2016, to attend her granddaughter's wedding. Aaron Rogers can arrange with another pianist for that Sunday, e.g. Dr. Ben Yang.

**Motion:** That the Session approve DeAnna Brister taking off on Sunday, May 19, 2016, to attend her granddaughter's wedding.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith      Seconded: Bill Higgins  
Motion: Carried

Thank You notes were received from Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition for the \$150 donation, and from Our Daily Bread Ministries for the \$50 donation.

The Session signed the Certificate of Transfer for Doyle and Barbara Bailey, who transferred their membership to FPC, Natchitoches. The Certificate will be sent to FPC, Natchitoches, as requested.

**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 Dr. Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 pm Monday, May 16, 2016.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs

# June Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
June 5	<b>Vacancy</b> Helen McDaniel (March-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Jim Hockensmith <b>Communion Team:</b> Jack Ready, Bill Higgins
June 12	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
June 19	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
June 26	Jim Hockensmith <b>Vacancy</b>	Jim Smolenski	



June 20

Dee Sutro

June 26

Aaron Rogers



## First Presbyterian Church

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Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

[office@alexandriafpc.org](mailto:office@alexandriafpc.org)

[www.alexandriafpc.org](http://www.alexandriafpc.org)

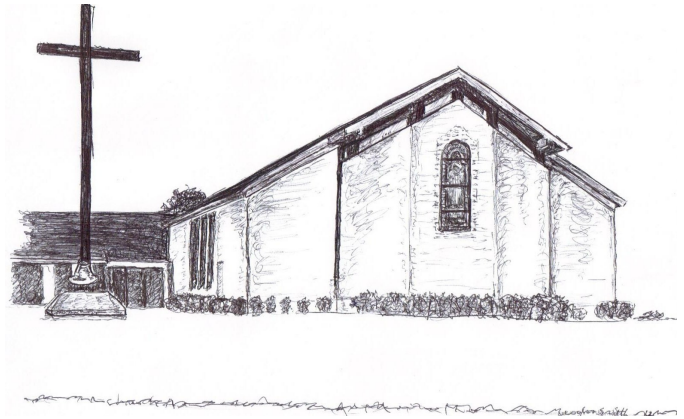
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE**

*(Meals & Committees/Fellowship Suspended)*

- |      |                                 |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 5:45 | Meal                            |
| 6:30 | Fellowship/Committees           |
| 7:00 | Choir Rehearsal (Will Continue) |

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.