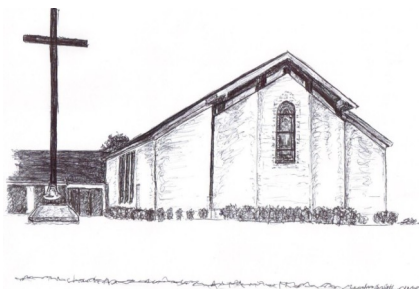


Presby News

MAY 2016



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

In my column this month, I want to ask for your **help**.

I would like for you to write down in very specific terms what **YOU** like about being **Presbyterian**.

We all readily recognize that God's children wear all kinds of different labels: Episcopalian, Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, etc. But **WE** have intentionally chosen the "Presbyterian" label.

But, why have we done so?

What is it about Presbyterianism that attracts us in ways that no other church nor denomination does?

I believe that we must have some very good reasons for being a part of the Presbyterian way of promoting the Kingdom of God! I hope that you feel the same way.

Another thing I believe is this: by naming and identifying these reasons, we can better clarify who we uniquely are as **First Presbyterian Church**. And in turn, we will be better able to communicate to those who may be seeking a spiritual home what we have uniquely to offer.

What I have in mind is perhaps developing a new and current brochure for our church within the next few months. In it, some of this uniqueness could be highlighted as a way of helping others to appreciate what our church has to offer.

So, if you are willing to help, please fill out the form included in this issue. Simply give it to me, one of the elders, or to the church office at your earliest convenience.

Thanks so much for reading this and for taking the time to give it some **thought** and filling out & returning the form.

We pastors need lots of help--especially **this one**! So keep **praying** for me!

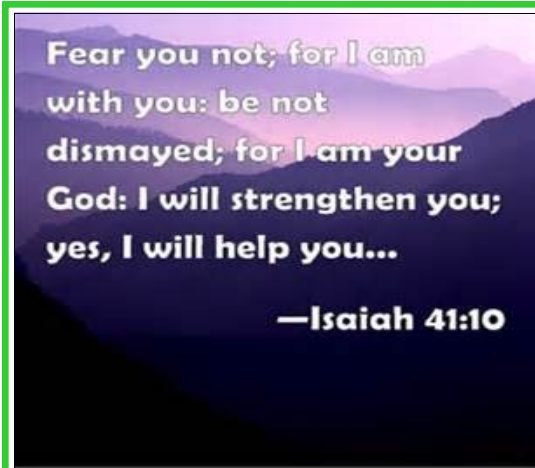
Jim



SPECIAL DATES

May 1	Brookdale Worship
May 5	Ascension of the Lord
May 8	Mother's Day
May 15	Pentecost Sunday
May 16	Session Meeting
May 17	Healthworx Meal
May 22	Trinity Sunday
May 30	Memorial Day

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



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
March 21, 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 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 and Jane Conerly, Moderator
A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

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

Motion: That the Session approve the February, 2016 Financial Reports.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve the 2016 FPC Budget and Monthly Financial Report as presented by Treasurer Jim Smolenski.

Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for February 15, 2016.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for February 15, 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

Easter Lilies will be bought for decoration for Easter Sunday. Church members may purchase them.

The Order of Worship will be modified in order to shorten the service so that it ends on time. Jim Hockensmith will meet with Jim Heath and Aaron Rogers to discuss the changes.

Additional \$100 for extra insurance was approved for coverage in case a lawsuit might be brought against the church in the future.

Dr. Heath's Term of Service was signed by the Session, effective March 15, 2016. The Committee On Ministry (COM) will need to also sign the documents and give final approval. (*Addendum: The Committee on Ministry (COM) did approve Dr. Heath's Term of Service as presented.*)

Motion: That the Session approve Dr. Jim Heath's Term of Service as of March 15, 2016. (See attachment)

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Jim Hockensmith reported that the South African Mission money would need to be wired soon before Sulin Best leaves for Nebraska. The wire transfer requires two signatures, and Sulin would need to be present to help send the money. The Session approved sending the \$6,600 wire transfer, effective immediately.

Personnel Committee Report:

Music Director Aaron Rogers requested taking a day of vacation on Sunday, April 3, 2016, to attend a school conference.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Property Committee Report: Jack Ready

Jack Ready reported that:

All the windows have been repaired, and payment has been made.
Gutters will be cleaned.
Restroom updates/repairs will be postponed temporarily.
Only necessary repairs will be made at this time.

Pastor's/Moderator Report:

Dr. Jim Heath has been approved to do the sacraments, e.g. Communion. The first Communion Dr. Heath will conduct is Easter Sunday, March 27. Dr. Heath will meet with Jim Hockensmith prior to March 27 to go over the Communion service. Jack Ready and Dirk Benade will assist with serving Communion.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Doyle and Barbara Bailey requested a transfer to First Presbyterian Church, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Motion: That the Session approve the transfer of Doyle and Barbara Bailey to First Presbyterian Church, Natchitoches.

Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Angela Manuel, Brookdale Marketing Director, requested use of the FPC Fellowship Hall from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month for a Continuing Education Class, beginning April 19, 2016.

Motion: That the Session approve the request from Brookdale to use the Fellowship Hall every third Tuesday of the month for a usage fee of \$100 per session.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

The Session received a request from Louisiana Eye and Laser, which would like to use the FPC facilities for their Employee Appreciation Banquet. The Session discussed the possible conflict with some weddings schedule in April.

Motion: That the Session approve Louisiana Eye and Laser using the FPC facilities for their Employee Appreciation Banquet, and that they provide a certificate of insurance. (Carolyn Sterne will work out a compatible date with them.)

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 6:45 pm with a closing prayer by Jane Conerly. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 pm Monday, April 18, 2016. Jane Conerly reported that she will not be available for the next meeting. The Session agreed to meet in April and ask Jane to ratify their actions when she meets with them during the May meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs

May Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
May 1	Vacancy Helen McDaniel (March-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgists: Jack Ready, Jim Hockensmith Communion Team: Bill Higgins, Wynn Ware
May 8	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
May 15	Bob Kennedy Elizabette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
May 22	Jim Hockensmith Vacancy	Jim Smolenski	
May 29	Vacancy	Jim Hockensmith	



May 6 Jeff Huffman
May 15 Jace Torres
May 28 Debbe Clegg



First Presbyterian Church

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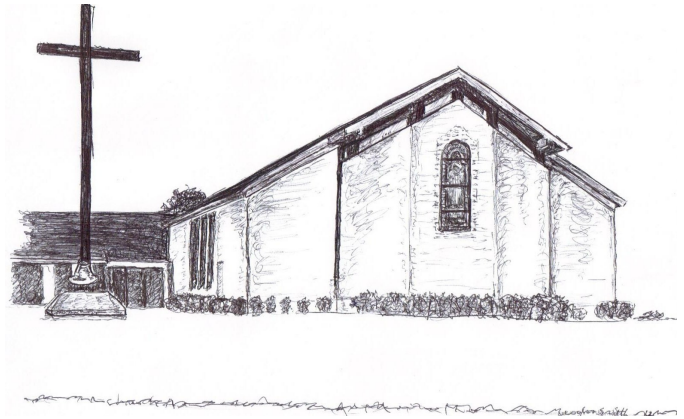
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

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.