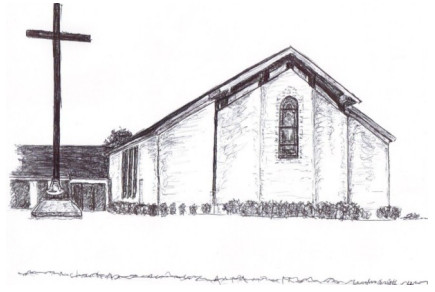


Presby News

FEBRUARY 2017



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Do you like the month of February? Maybe you don't. But I am a big fan of the month. A lot of my fondness for the month has to do with the fact that it was during the month of February, 1964, when Jackie, my wife, and I met and began our courtship. And it did not take long before I was hopelessly in love with her.

So every February is an anniversary of the beginning of our relationship with each other. The fact that Valentine's Day occurs on February 14 gives us an additional opportunity to remember and celebrate the wonderful romance which we believe our wonderful Shepherd of Love led us to share with each other.

February, also, is typically the last month of winter. Although here in Central Louisiana, it can be very mild and almost like spring as the flowers start to bloom and the trees begin to bud. However, if we do have a last blast of arctic air from the north with freezing temperatures, sleet, ice, and snow, we know that it won't last for long. Because, soon--and very soon--spring will be coming and with it much warmer temperatures.

Maybe during this February would be a good time for all of us to try something a little different. We have all heard the term "random acts of kindness." Maybe we could because of the emphasis on love on Valentine's Day focus on "random acts of love."

What would this look like? Well, for a husband, it might look like surprising his wife by doing the dishes after supper or maybe taking her out for supper. Or for a wife, it might mean surprising her husband with his favorite dessert.

For children, it might mean surprising their parents with breakfast in bed. For parents, it might mean a surprise gift even when it's not their birthday.

For a friend, it might mean a special card with a personal note about how much their friendship means to you.

"Random acts of love" can easily be figured out if we will use our creativity and imagination and allow our sense of humor to kick in.

Oh, by the way, I will be away on vacation February 6-19. Filling the pulpit in my absence on Feb. 12 & 19 will be Greg Carroll. He has been here before and will bring excellent messages. Thank you for allowing me time to be off for rest and refreshing.

March 1 is the beginning of Lent. The Pastor's Advisory Committee is recommending that we observe it by gathering at the church for soup, salad, bread, and a brief Lenten Service in which those who so desire have the sign of the cross applied on their foreheads with palm tree ashes.

The exact format has not yet been determined. We need to hear from you concerning what best meets your needs. We are entirely open to having a noon service for those who find that more convenient as well as a 6:00 pm service for those who work.

We will be giving you an opportunity to volunteer to bring a soup, salad, or bread to the church kitchen on that day. If you have any suggestions, please let me, Jim Smolenski, Dirk, Elizebette, Sulin, Beth, or Aaron know.

As always, continue to pray for me as I seek to serve as your pastor.

Please let me know if you have any concern you would like to share with me. I value your trust and your confidence.

In His Service,

Jim

SPECIAL DATES

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| February 5 | Brookdale Worship
Communion Served
Souper Bowl of Caring Offering |
| February 14 | Valentine's Day |
| February 20 | Session Meeting
President's Day |
| February 21 | HealthWorx Meal |
| February 26 | Transfiguration of the Lord |

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

God's Everlasting Love

Neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present
nor things to come,
nor powers,
nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

December 19, 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, Elizebette Kennedy
Treasurer: Jim Smolenski
Elders Excused: None
Guests Present: Jim Heath, Stated Supply; Jane Conerly, Moderator

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

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

Motion: That the Session approve the November, 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 November 21, 2016.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for November 21, 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:

- Approved Stewardship Letter to congregation with 2017 Pledge Cards.
- Approved leaving bank deposits with Capital One Bank and see how it works out, if not, then the Session will revisit the issue and discuss changing banks.
- Approved continuation of Brookdale Worship the first Sunday of each month.
- Approved continuation of Healthworx meal on the third Tuesday of each month.
- Evaluated the December 18 Congregational Christmas Luncheon. Session was pleased with the response.

Personnel Committee Report: By Bill Higgins

Jim Smolenski resigned as Church Treasurer.

Christmas Bonuses for FPC staff were presented for approval.

Motion: That the Session approve the staff Christmas Bonuses as presented.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Property Committee Report:

The Session noted that there are still leaks around the hallway windows during heavy rainstorms. The Session will find out who did the repairs and request that they fix them at no cost to the church.

Pastor's/Moderator Report: Dr. Jim Heath

Dr. Heath thanked the Session for their ongoing support. He updated the Session on the modifications to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. He stated that the Service would be a simple, candlelight service of Lessons and Carols, but it should be just as meaningful. Communion will be served by intinction. Jane Conerly explained to Dr. Heath how "Communion by Intinction" should be done.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Brenda Wilson requested the use of FPC on February 24 and 25, 2017 for her nephew's wedding.

Motion: That the Session approve the use of the church by Brenda Wilson's family on February 24 and 25, 2017 for a wedding.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

The Kappa Kappa Iota Sorority requested use of FPC for their meeting on February 18, 2017. Martha Higgins will be the contact person.

Motion: That the Session approve the use of the church by Kappa Kappa Iota on February 18, 2017.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Additional Motions and Discussions:

Lynn Pilcher expressed an interest in becoming a new member. She was interviewed by the Session.

Motion: That the Session accept Lynn Pilcher's request for membership, and that she be welcomed as a new member of the First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria, Louisiana.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a closing prayer by Dr. Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 pm Monday, January 16, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs

Happy
Valentine's
Day

February Responders Schedule

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



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

February 20 Gayle & Frank Hempen

February 5 Fran Wall

February 17 Delores McDaniel

February 22 Gil Arnold



Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Join the Sanctuary Choir

and we will sing of God's love together!

All are welcome.

Contact Aaron Rogers if you are interested.



First Presbyterian Church

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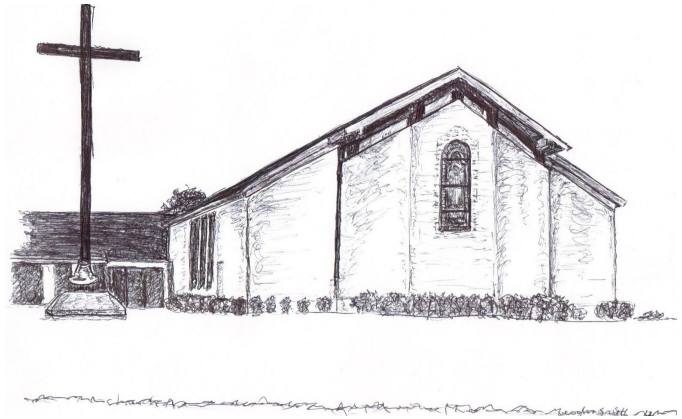
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

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.