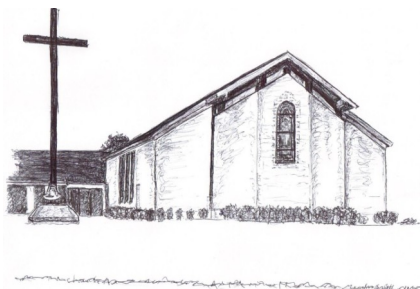


# Presby News

JANUARY 2017



## FROM THE PASTOR . . .

In the recent letter sent to all members by the session, all of us could find **many reasons to give thanks** to God for the good things we have seen happening in our church during 2016.

We must always **remember to praise Him** from Whom all blessings flow as we sing from the depths of our hearts: **"To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done!"**

As we enter into the new year of **2017**, we look forward to seeing **how God will continue to work** in our midst. Isaiah 43:18-19 has the Lord saying these relevant words:

"Forget the former things;

do not dwell on the past.

**See, I am doing a new thing!**

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making **a way in the desert**

and **streams in the wasteland."**

In this passage, the Lord is encouraging His people to put the past behind them--and to **focus on the new thing** that He is doing.

So, in a similar way, **our focus needs to be on the new thing that God is going to be doing in our midst**. Sometimes, we may feel that our church is sort of like in some kind of desert--but God can make a way in the desert! Or we may feel that we are sort of like a wasteland--but again, He can make streams in the wasteland!

**If we are faithful** in praying, worshiping, proclaiming the Word, inviting, welcoming, witnessing, and doing all that we can to advance the Kingdom of God, **who knows what God might do**, what people He will impress upon our hearts to visit our warm and friendly church, what strangers may decide to just drop in some Sunday and check us out, or what new programs or ministries some of our members may feel led to start or become involved with?

In 2017, **who knows how the Holy Spirit may work** within our congregation to deepen our love and commitment to one another?

**May all of us be open to Jesus Christ and to each other** so that whatever new thing or things He wants to do in and through us this coming year, He will be welcomed to do. If we will do this, **2017 may be a very exciting year for First Presbyterian Church**, don't you think?

Jim

*In His Hand  
Are the deep places of the  
earth. The strength of the hills  
is his also.*

*Psalms 95:4*



## SPECIAL DATES

January 1

**Happy New Year!**

Brookdale Worship

Communion Served

January 2

Church Office Closed

January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

January 16

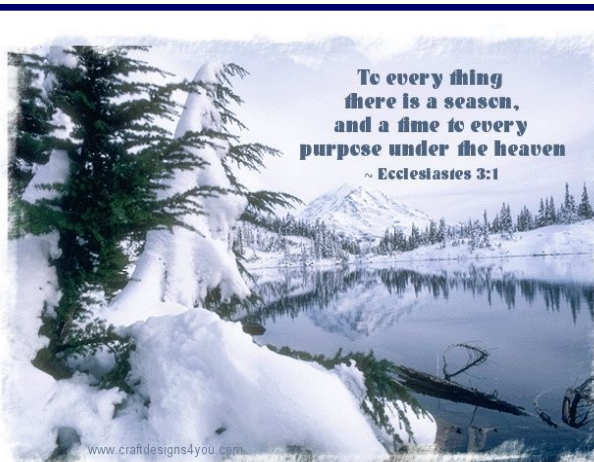
Session Meeting

January 17

HealthWorx Meal

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

**To every thing  
there is a season,  
and a time to every  
purpose under the heaven**  
~ Ecclesiastes 3:1



## Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

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

**Motion:** That the Session approve the October, 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 October 17, 2016.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for October 17, 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:**  
No Report

**Personnel Committee Report:** No Report

### Property Committee Report:

A question was brought up about the church signs that have been pulled up. Jim Smolenski will check on the situation and replace the signs, if possible.

### Pastor's/Moderator Report: Dr. Jim Heath

Dr. Jim Heath discussed starting a Youth Sunday School Class. Youth Curriculum material was discussed. Dr. Heath reported that the Youth Curriculum is expensive at a cost of \$90 per quarter. He also stated that Lynn Pilcher has volunteered to help with the youth class.

**Motion:** That the Session approve *Feasting of the Word* as the curriculum for the Youth Sunday School Class on a trial basis for the first quarter of 2017.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith      Seconded: Bill Higgins  
Motion: Carried

### Old Business:

The Session agreed by common consent for the *Town Talk* advertisement to continue.

The Session agreed by common consent that during Advent to include anyone who is willing and available to light the candle(s) and participate in the readings.

Dr. Heath will ask different people to participate, and, if they so choose, they can write an essay on what each of the different topics mean for them, personally.

The Session discussed the request from Louisiana Eye & Laser to use FPC for their Christmas Party on December 9, 2016 for a usage fee of \$200.

**Motion:** That the Session approve Louisiana Eye & Laser using FPC for their Christmas Party on December 9, 2016 for a usage fee of \$200.  
Moved: Jim Hockensmith      Seconded: Bill Higgins  
Motion: Carried

**New Business:** None

### Adjournment:

**Motion:** That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Bill Higgins      Seconded: Jim Hockensmith  
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with a closing prayer by Dr. Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 pm Monday, December 19, 2016.

Respectfully submitted:  
Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy  
/cs



**Casting all your cares upon him  
for He careth for you. I Peter 5:7**



# January Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
January 1	<b>Vacancy</b> Helen McDaniel (March-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Jim Hockensmith <b>Communion Team:</b> Roger Best, Jim Hockensmith
January 8	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
January 15	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
January 22	Jim Hockensmith <b>Vacancy</b>	Jim Smolenski	
January 29	<b>Vacancy</b>	Bill Higgins	



## Anniversaries and Birthdays

January 4	Kennedy Jewell
January 6	Sulin Best
January 7	Kylee LaPraire
January 13	Alexis Ellington
January 25	Dirk Benade, Jr.
January 26	Stephanie Huffman
January 29	Bill Willson



*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

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

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

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

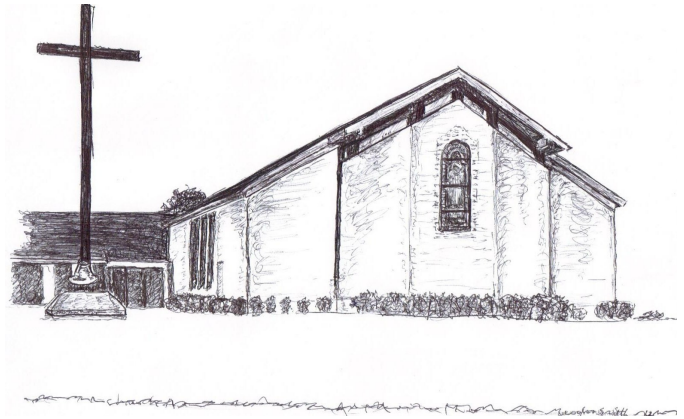
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



### ***WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE***

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.