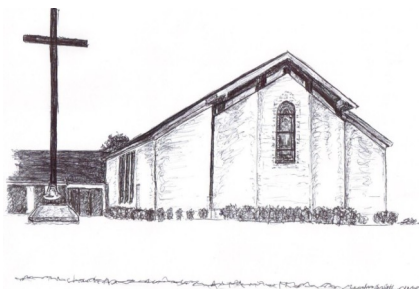


Presby News

MARCH 2017



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

On Wednesday, March 1, we will observe Ash Wednesday. We will have two services here at our church: one at noon and one at 6:00 P.M. A light meal consisting of soup, salad, and dessert will be served along with bread or crackers, tea, and coffee.

If you can help with a soup, salad, or dessert, please call Carolyn as soon as possible if you have not already indicated that you will bring something.

As we begin the Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday, it gives us a unique opportunity to **reflect upon our mortality**. When the ashes are applied to our foreheads in the shape of the cross and we hear the words: "From dust you have come--and to dust you shall return"--each of us is reminded of the biblical truth that one day we shall die.

As Christians, we are not morbid. But **we are realists**. We do not deny the reality of our mortality. Ash Wednesday is a powerful reminder that our time on earth is limited.

Part of our acknowledging that we are made of dust is also to admit that **we are sinful**, that we miss the mark, that we mess up, and are in need of a Saviour. And so the days of Lent help us to face up in a more disciplined way our tendencies to wander away from our Lord of love and to insist on living our lives according to our selfish inclinations.

However, as we move steadily toward the somber mood of Good Friday, that day on which the innocent and perfect Lamb of God took upon Himself the full weight of all of our sins, failures, betrayals, selfishness, pride, lust, hypocrisy, and every other thing we: have done/ are doing/ or will do which breaks the heart of a totally loving and holy God, we begin to sense **how serious our sinfulness** is in the eyes of God.

It seems to me that while repentance, confession, and other spiritual disciplines are especially emphasized during the Lenten Season, **the brilliant light of the Resurrection Morning** is never too far removed from our vision. For the climax of all the fasting, facing our mortality, confessing our sins, and even going with Jesus to the cross at Calvary is to celebrate the wonderful and unspeakable joy that on the third day which we call Easter Sunday, we experience a **RISEN AND LIVING SAVIOUR. HE LIVES!!! HE LIVES!!! AND BECAUSE HE LIVES, WE TOO SHALL LIVE--even AFTER RETURNING TO THE DUST!!!**

Please pray with me and with one another that this Lenten Season will be a season of **unparalleled renewal** for all of us in First Presbyterian Church!

Jim

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

SPECIAL DATES	
March 1	Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)
March 3	World Day of Prayer
March 5	Brookdale Worship Communion During Worship
March 12	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 20	Session Meeting
March 21	Healthworx Meal

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

*... If God be for
us,
who can be
against us?
Romans 9:31*



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

January 16, 2017

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.

Members Present: Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy

Treasurer: None

Elders Excused: Bill Higgins

Guests Present: Jim Heath, Stated Supply; Jane Conerly, Moderator

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

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

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

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

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

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for December 19, 2016.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report:

Thank You letters were received from Dr. Jim Heath and Community Healthworx.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

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

Brookdale Ministry: FPC continues to lead Brookdale residents in worship the first Sunday of the month. Jim Hockensmith, Dr. Ben Yang and Beth McDaniel are leading in this very important ministry.

Personnel Committee Report: By Bill Higgins

- Jim Hockensmith will ask Dirk Benade to serve as Treasurer.
- Annelize Benade expressed that she is willing to serve on the Session. Session will officially confirm with Annelize Benade.

Property Committee Report:

- No report has been received from Ronald Juneau on fixing leaks around hallway windows.
- Carpet in the fellowship hall and offices need to be shampooed. This is not urgent and will be postponed for now.
- Lynn Pilcher will continue with Youth Sunday School, and it is doing well.

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

Dr. Heath thanked the Session for their ongoing support of his ministry. He expressed appreciation for the number of outreach ministries in which FPC is engaged. Dr. Heath asked that the Session consider a Benevolent Ministry Fund for FPC. The Session members discussed the pros and cons of such a fund and the need for the Session to approve issuing these funds to stay within the framework of a budget. The Session will give further consideration to Dr. Heath's suggestion. No action was taken.

Old Business:

The Session discussed changing the FPC bank account from Capital One Bank to Red River Bank in light of the recent changes at Capital One Bank.

Motion: That the Session approve moving the FPC bank account from Capital One Bank to Red River Bank.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the current Visa Credit Card be closed and that FPC request a credit card from Red River Bank.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

New Business:

The Session discussed hosting a supper on Ash Wednesday to begin the Season of Lent. The Pastoral Advisory Committee will meet to discuss the arrangements.

The Session discussed suggestions for Pastoral Time Management as follows: Set aside one day for visiting the sick, be available in the office one day and have the pastor's phone number available.

Dr. Heath requested two weeks of vacation from February 6-19. Greg Carroll, Chaplain for Guardian Hospice Care, has agreed to supply the pulpit on February 12 and 19, while Dr. Heath is away.

Motion: That the Session approve Dr. Heath's vacation for February 6-19, 2017.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

Additional Motions and Discussions:

Motion: That the Session approve the 2017 Budget temporarily, with revisions to follow at the February 20, 2017 Session Meeting, if needed.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve the use of the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 11, 2017 by Brenda Willson for a wedding shower at 2:00 p.m.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 6:45 p.m. with a closing prayer by Dr. Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 pm Monday, February 20, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs



March Responders Schedule

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



3/07 Robert Kennedy
 3/14 Beth McDaniel
 3/14 Dee Dee & Charles Ellington
 3/16 Brenda Willson
 3/22 Roscoe Wilson
 3/28 Robert & Elizebette Kennedy



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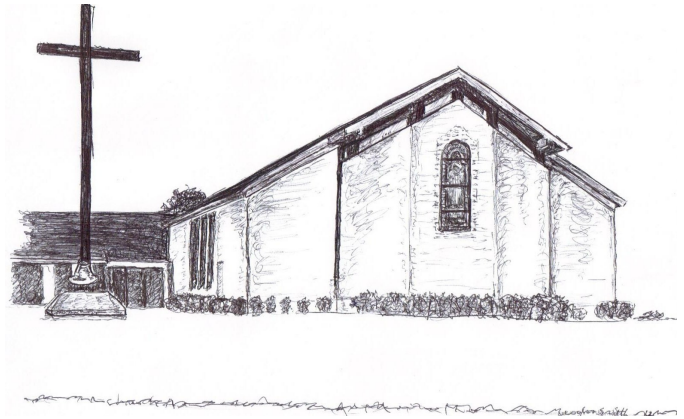
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

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.