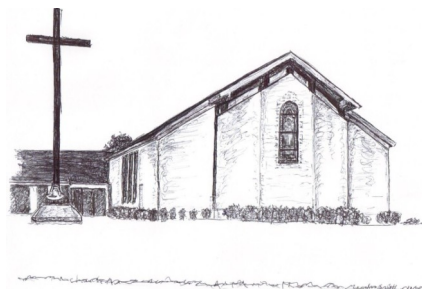


Presby News

May 2017



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Do you know that a well can go dry? I had always assumed that once a well of water was in place and was providing water, that it could always be counted on to do so.

But I learned recently that such is not necessarily the case. In The Kingdom Within, John A. Sanford tells about such a well. It was the source of water for a summer home in Massachusetts which he and his family visited when he was a young boy.

After his father was able to provide running water from a new well that was drilled, the old well was covered up and was not used any longer. After a few years, John decided to remove the cover from the old well that his family used to enjoy. He fully expected to see a pool of water at the bottom. However, he was shocked to see only a huge pile of dust.

Being confused by this turn of events, he began to inquire into what made the well which once provided such cool, clear, fresh drinking water completely dry up. He learned that this particular well depended upon many little rivulets in the earth beneath it. And as long as the water was taken out of the well, the little rivulets stayed open and the water flowed freely to provided a continuous source of water. But if the well were not used and the rivulets were not needed, then their openings closed up and over a period of time, the well would run bone dry. The well ran dry not because there was no water but because it was not being used.

In a similar manner, Sanford goes on to point out that the same thing can happen to our souls and to our churches. The water (a metaphor for God) may be present in great abundance. However, if we are not making use of the water, then our souls, and our churches will inevitably dry up.

So, how can we be sure that we are using the water and keeping the flow of God's life-giving Spirit running freely and not running the risk of drying up?

Well, we need to remind ourselves to keep on doing the basics of the Christian life: Corporate Worship, Bible Study, Prayer, Giving, Listening, Fellowshiping with God's People, Reading Spiritually Nurturing Materials, Remaining Open to the Spirit's Leadership, and Serving God by Serving Others!

May all of us commit ourselves to our Lord Jesus Christ and seek His Help in being sure we use the water both for ourselves as individual believers and together as the Body of Christ!

Jim



SPECIAL DATES

May 4	National Day of Prayer
May 7	Brookdale Worship/Communion
May 14	Mother's Day
May 15	Session Meeting
May 16	Healthworx Meal
May 21	Presbyterian Heritage Day
May 25	Ascension of the Lord
May 29	Memorial Day (Office Closed)

*9:00 am Every Saturday—Ladies' Prayer Group
Dr. Heath in office on Thursdays 10 am to 2 pm*



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

March 20, 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: Annelize Benade, Bill Higgins, Elizebette Kennedy
Treasurer: None
Elders Excused: Jim Hockensmith
Guests Present: Jim Heath, Stated Supply; Jane Conerly, Moderator

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

The financial statements for February, 2017, were distributed to the Session. The February, 2017 bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

Motion: That the Session approve the February, 2017 Financial Reports.
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for February 20, 2017.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for February 20, 2017.
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Annelize Benade
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes of the Congregational Meeting:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the March 12, 2017 Congregational Meeting. A correction was made to change "Reverend Jane Conerly" to "Pastor Jane Conerly."

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the March 12, 2017 Congregational Meeting as corrected.
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

Congregational Life/Christian Education, Evangelism, Worship & Missions Committee Report

Pastor Jane Conerly explained the review of the minutes of Woodland Presbyterian, Pineville and First Presbyterian, Alexandria, to be in compliance with PSL guidelines. The review was conducted by Barbara Breedlove, Clerk of Woodland Presbyterian and Carolyn Sterne, Administrative Assistant of First Presbyterian, Alexandria.

Personnel Committee Report: By Bill Higgins

The Session discussed the number of Northwestern Students in the choir and the limited FPC budget funds. Each student gets a scholarship of \$30 for a regular Sunday Service and \$40 for Special Music Concerts. The church enjoys the music program and does not want to limit the number of students, but will need to find additional funds if the scholarship program continues. Bill Higgins suggested "Adopt-A-Choir-Member" where congregational members give an offering to pay for a choir member for a particular Sunday. A special additional offering or a fund raiser might help offset the cost. Perhaps some budget cuts could be made, but the current FPC budget cannot continue to fund 8 choir members every Sunday.

In response to a need for more *Glory to God* Hymnals, Bill Higgins offered to donate 10 hymnals to help with the shortage. He will arrange to have them ordered through the church office.

Property Committee Report:

The Session will check with Paul Cantrell about his estimate to repair the leaks around the hallway windows for \$1,032.00. This estimate was approved in the February Session Meeting.

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

Dr. Jim Heath reported a positive attitude and optimistic outlook in the membership along with a steadily improving attendance. The farewell luncheon for Liz Magee was a well received, with 42 in attendance. He thanked everyone who helped make it so successful. Two new ministries have begun: Lynn Pilcher is teaching Youth Sunday School and Kate Bladen started a Ladies' Prayer Ministry on Saturday mornings.

Old Business:

The Session reviewed the Red River Bank Certificate of Deposit Renewal (a 12-month CD).

Motion: The Session approved the renewal of the Red River Bank Certificate of Deposit for an additional year.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

New Business:

The Session discussed Easter Sunday activities. The Pastor's Advisory Committee is planning a brunch from 9:45 am to 10:45 am on Easter Sunday morning. FPC does not have enough small children for an Easter Egg Hunt.

The Session discussed ways to publicize the need to help Kylie LaPrairie, granddaughter of Dee Sutro, to attend the River Oaks Art Center Art Camp June 12-16 this summer. She needs some scholarship help from FPC members to pay the \$150 fee as well as transportation to and from the Art Camp.

Pastor Jane Conerly reported that she will be unable to attend the May 15, 2017 Session Meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Annelize Benade
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:00 pm with a closing prayer by Dr. Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 pm Monday, April 17, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs



Kylie LaPrairie, Dee Sutro's Granddaughter, would like to attend the 2017 Summer Art Camp sponsored by the River Oaks Square Arts Center, June 12-16 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm at a cost of \$150.00. She also needs transportation to and from the Art Camp each day. If you would you be willing to donate toward a scholarship to help Kylie attend this Art Camp and/or help with transportation, please contact the church office at 443-7229.

May Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
May 7	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Jim Hockensmith Communion Team: Bill Higgins, Vacancy
May 14	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
May 21	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
May 28	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

May 15

Jace Torres

May 28

Debbe Clegg

Charm is deceptive, and beauty
is fleeting; but a woman
who fears the Lord
is to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30 NIV

Wishing you God's unending
favor, kindness and love this

Mother's Day
and always.

Memorial Day

May 29, 2017

Remember . . .

Mother's Day, May 14



First Presbyterian Church

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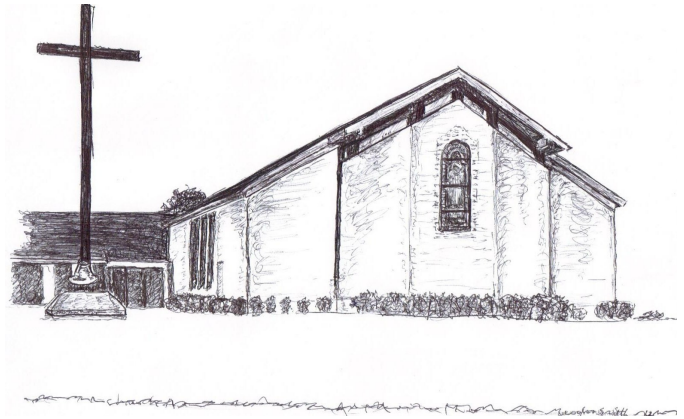
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

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>)

9:00 am Every Saturday—Ladies Prayer Group

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.