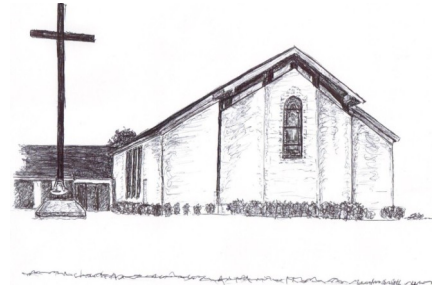


Presby News

SEPTEMBER 2017



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

How our hearts have been moved by the **massive** suffering brought about by the **massive** hurricane/tropical storm, Harvey which unleashed such **massive** amounts of rainfall over such a **massive** area of Texas and the Gulf Coast. Words such as incredible, unprecedented, historic, unbelievable, and never before witnessed by human eyes kept being repeated by the news reporters and meteorologists. To measure rainfall in terms of feet rather than inches is something we are not accustomed to doing.

We saw unfolding before our very eyes the **painful human drama** of people being rescued by tractors, wrecker trucks, bass boats, helicopters, by any means possible from the rising and treacherous waters. Amazingly, and from our faith perspective, miraculously, the **loss of life** thus far has been as small in number as it has been. We continue to pray for all of those involved in rescuing the victims as well as the victims themselves who are displaced from their homes and are **having to adjust** to life in shelters and to rebuilding their lives when the flood waters recede. How our hearts go out to all the homeowners who lost their homes but did not have flood insurance.

From such a catastrophic event as Harvey, we are reminded once again about **how fragile this life is**. And how quickly our circumstances can change. We are, also, reminded of how our **ultimate trust** must always be in God. For we never know when we, too, may be the victims of some severe natural calamity.

The psalmist expresses it well when he says: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, **though the earth give way** and the **mountains fall into the heart of the sea**, though its **waters roar and foam** and the **mountains quake** with their surging." (Ps. 46:1-3)

On a more personal note, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the session for their support and cooperation and for the increase in salary which they agreed for the church to give me beginning this month. I see this as an expression of their confidence in my leadership as your pastor.

Please be aware that I will be away on vacation September 11-24. Thank you for allowing me such time to recharge my spiritual batteries.

On September 27 at 6:30, we will begin our new venture with our **prayer services** in the fellowship hall. Please plan to participate in this as **we come together as a church family** to pray for those persons and needs which are dear to our hearts.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor.

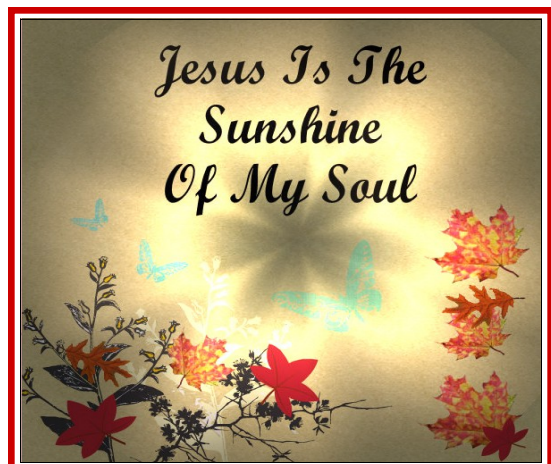
Jim



SPECIAL DATES

September 3	Brookdale Worship
September 3	Communion (<i>Every First Sunday</i>)
September 4	Labor Day (<i>Office Closed</i>)
September 18	No Session Meeting this Month
September 18	Healthworx Meal
September 27	Prayer Service Resumes

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



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

July 17, 2017

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with prayer.

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

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

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

Motion: That the Session approve the June, 2017 Financial Reports.
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for June 19, 2017.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for June 19, 2017.
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Annelize Benade
Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report:

Thomas Victor Borrel, III and Barbara Woolam were baptized on Sunday, July 16, 2017. This is the son and mother of Brandi Woolam.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

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

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made regarding Session Meetings:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be held every other month starting in September, 2017.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Annelize Benade
Motion: Carried

Personnel Committee Report: By Bill Higgins

Motion: That the Session members approve a \$1.00 per hour salary increase for the church secretary, effective August 1, 2017.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Annelize Benade
Motion: Carried

Property Committee Report: No Report

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

New Business:

The Session briefly discussed possible outreach projects with LSU Alexandria

Motion: That the Session approve beginning a contribution program for International Students at LSU-A.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Annelize Benade
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve starting a prayer group on Wednesdays in September, 2017.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Annelize Benade
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve Greg Carroll, Chaplain for Guardian Hospice, filling the pulpit during Dr. Heath's absence on Sunday, August 13, 2017.

Moved: Annelize Benade Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve the request by the church secretary for vacation the week of August 7-11, 2017.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Annelize Benade
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 6:45 p.m. with a closing prayer by Dr. Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:
Minutes taken by Jim Hockensmith

/cs

Starting in September, 2017

The Session Will meet

Every Other Month

as follows:

2017: October, December

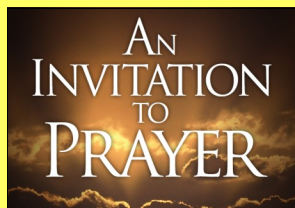
**2018: February, April, June,
August, October, December**

September Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
September 3	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Elizebette Kennedy Communion Team: Bill Higgins, Vacancy
September 10	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
September 17	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
September 24	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	



Elaine Conner	9/7
Martha Higgins	9/8
Ben Yang	9/9
Marjorie Benge	9/22
Nancy Davis	9/25
Laurie Morris	9/26
Judy Ready	9/26
Brady Huffman	9/27
Joseph Ellington	9/29



Wednesday Night Prayer Service
Will Resume on
Wednesday, September 27, 2017
6:30 pm

LSUA International Students Donations

Toiletries: soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body lotion, razors, shaving cream, toilet paper, paper towels, shower curtains

Linens & Laundry: twin bed sheets, blanket, pillows and pillow case (twin), bath towels, clothes hangers, laundry detergent, laundry bags

Kitchen Items: water bottles, bowls, cups, plates, utensils, dish soap, can openers, snacks, instant noodles, canned food, drinking water

(Place donations in boxes in Narthex & Church Office)

First Presbyterian Church

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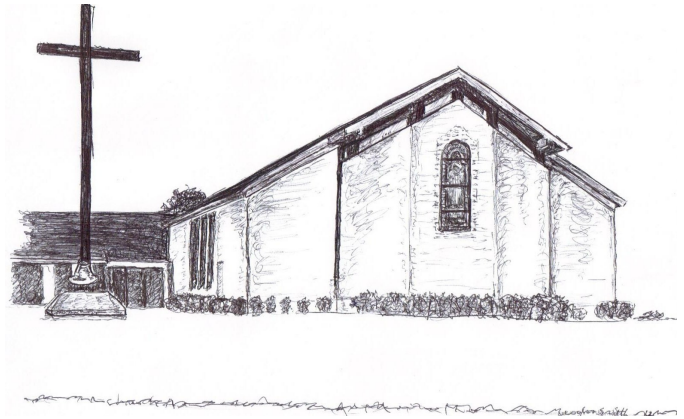
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

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	Prayer Service (<i>Resumes September 27</i>)
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal

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.