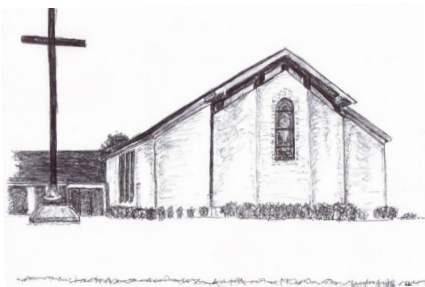


Presby News

April 2018



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

In 2007, Robert Schnase, bishop of the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church at that time, wrote a significant book entitled *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. In the introduction, he says: "No church that is vibrant, fruitful, and growing performs its ministry exactly as it did in the 1950s, and no pastor leading such a congregation is practicing ministry as she or he did in the 1970s or 1980s. Effective congregations change, improve, learn, and adapt to fulfill their mission."

The first practice which he elaborates upon in chapter one is "The Practice of Radical Hospitality." He begins the chapter by citing this verse from Romans 15:7: "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

The practice of radical hospitality is well grounded in both the Old and New Testaments. The chapter is extremely well written and has many creative ideas concerning how a church can do a better job at practicing hospitality.

As your pastor, I would like to commend you for making a special effort to greet any visitors who may come to worship with us on a given Sunday.

I would like to encourage all of us to be more vigilant in noticing any visitors who may be among us. Some of them, I have noticed, do not tarry after the service is over. So, it might facilitate our meeting and welcoming them if we moved more quickly to the narthex area before they leave.

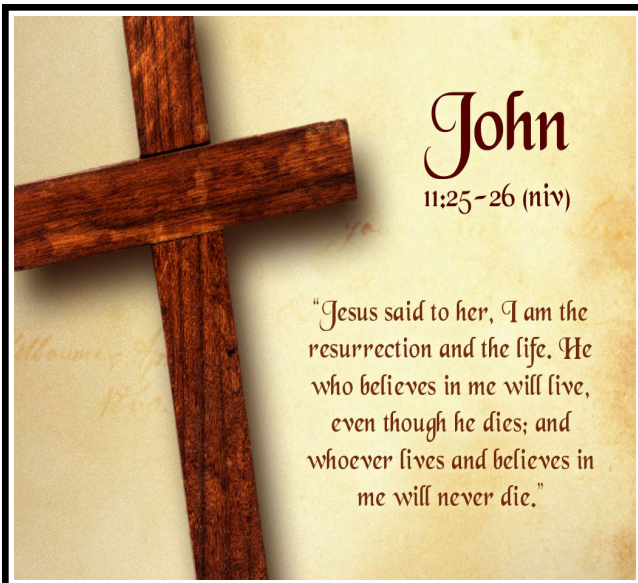
Also, the book by Bishop Schnase could be extremely helpful for us to use as a basis for discussing things our church might do in order to be more fruitful and reach more people for Jesus Christ. If you are interested in looking at the book and/or becoming part of such a study group, please let me know.

Could it be that this is one of the tools the Lord wants to use to help our church to thrive and grow?

Before saying no to the idea, will you pray about it?

Thanks again for allowing me to be your pastor. Please pray for me as I strive to be the pastor the Lord wants me to be. Please let me know if you need me.

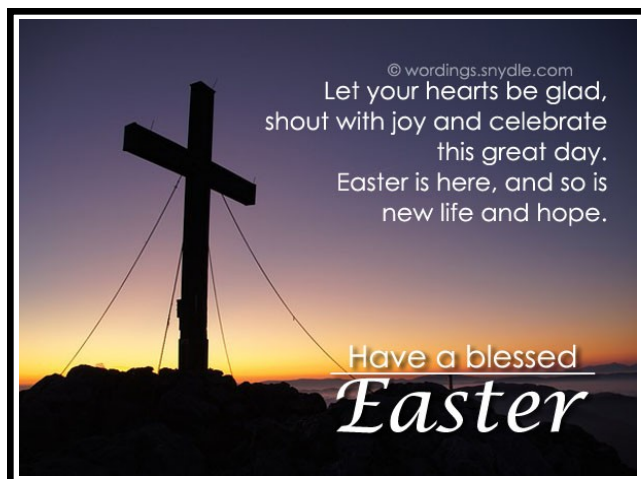
Jim



SPECIAL DATES

- April 1** Easter Sunday (Regular Schedule)
Brookdale Worship
Communion Served
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 16** Session Meeting, 6:00 pm
- April 17** Healthworx Meal, 5:00 pm
- April 22** Earth Day

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



HAPPY EASTER

Trivia

1 The word "Easter" comes from...

- a. The white Esturian Flower that blooms this time of year.
- b. "Ostara," the Anglo-Saxon goddess of fertility.
- c. The word "East," referring to the rising sun and to spring.

2 Palm Sunday, one week before Easter, celebrates...

- a. The edict in 325 AD by the council of that Easter fall on a Sunday.
- b. The commemoration of the Last Supper.
- c. The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

3 When Jesus died, what miracle occurred?

- a. The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 21:45).
- b. There was an earthquake (Matt. 27:51).
- c. Rocks were split apart (Matt. 27:51)
- d. Tombs were opened (Matt. 27:52)
- e. All the above.

4 What prayer did Jesus say in the garden? (Matt. 26:39)

- a. Let this cup pass from Me.
- b. My words shall not pass away.
- c. If any man will follow me, let him take up His cross.
- d. Get thee behind me Satan.

5 What did Jesus say to king Herod at His trial?

- a. You shall see the son of man sitting on the right hand of power.
- b. You could have no power against me except it were given to you from above.
- c. He said nothing.
- d. He cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

6 What did the priests do with the money that Judas returned to them?

- a. They spent it on riotous living.
- b. They purchased a field with it.
- c. They bribed the soldiers with it.
- d. They cast it into the treasury.

7 What did the centurion say about Jesus after He died?

- a. All is well that ends well.
- b. Truly this was the Son of God.
- c. What must I do to be saved?
- d. Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

8 Who warned Pilate to have nothing to do with Jesus?

- a. Nichodemous
- b. Peter
- c. The priests
- d. Pilate's wife

9 Who drew his sword to protect Jesus? (John 18:10).

- a. James
- b. John
- c. Peter
- d. Malchus

10 What was Jesus' next-to-last utterance from the Cross?

- a. Into thy hands I commit my spirit.
- b. Father forgive them, they know not what they do.
- c. It is finished.
- d. Today thou shalt be with me in paradise.

1. The word Easter comes from Ishtar, the Babylonian goddess of love and fertility, also known as Astarte. Astarte became the Anglo-Saxon Ostara, goddess of fertility, spring and dawn. Easter was a pagan springtime celebration before it became a Christian holy day, and many non-religious elements form our celebrations. 2. The council of Nicea did in fact issue an edict in 325 AD that Easter must fall on a Sunday, but Palm Sunday celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where people spread palm branches and clothing before him. Maundy Thursday (or Holy Thursday) is the day to remember the Last Supper. 3. Rocks were split apart (Matt. 27:51) 4. Let this cup pass from me 5. He said nothing. 6. They purchased a field with it 7. Truly this was the Son of God. 8. Pilate's wife 9. Peter 10. It is finished.

April Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
April 1	Robert Kennedy	Dirk Benade	Elder Liturgist: Bill Higgins (April 1), Jim Hockensmith Communion Team: Elizebette Kennedy, Annelize Benade
April 8	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Jim Hockensmith	
April 15	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Vacancy	
April 22	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	
April 29	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith (May-Oct) Bill Higgins (Oct-May)	



April 1

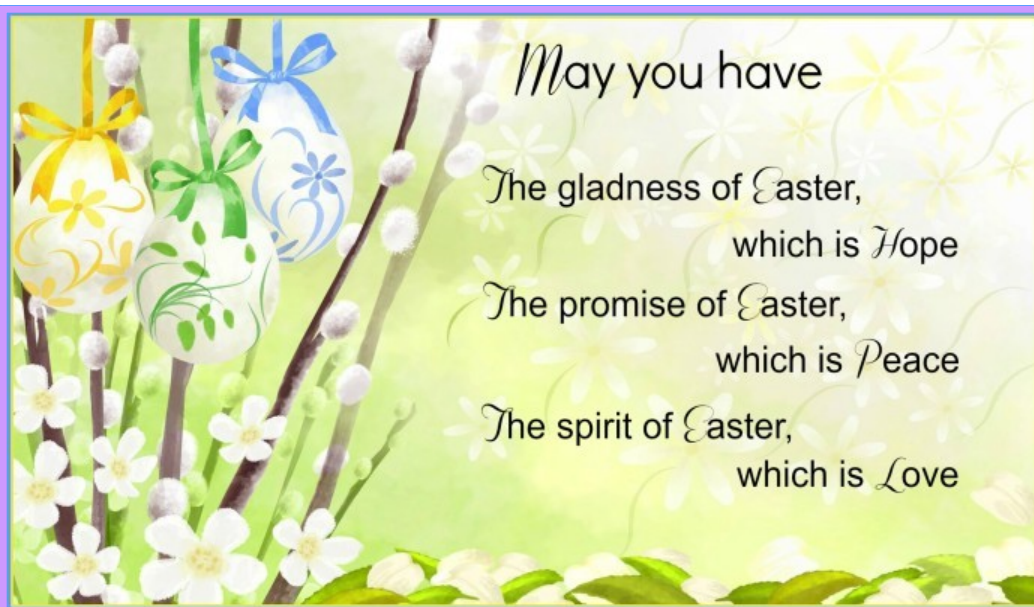
Bill & Laverne Willson

April 3

Dirk & Annelize Benade

April 4

Dirk Benade



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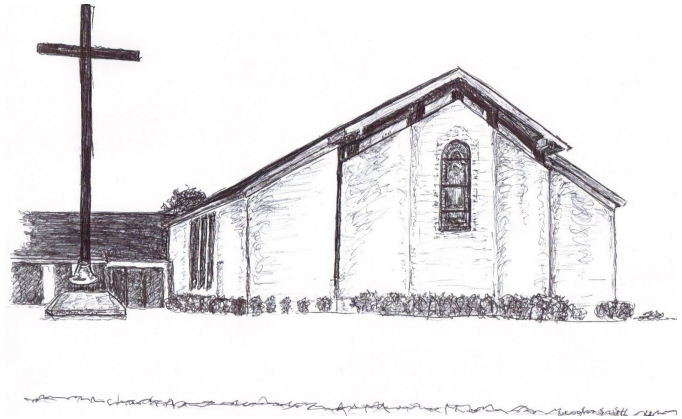
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

Vacancy, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

3:00 pm Prayer Service

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.