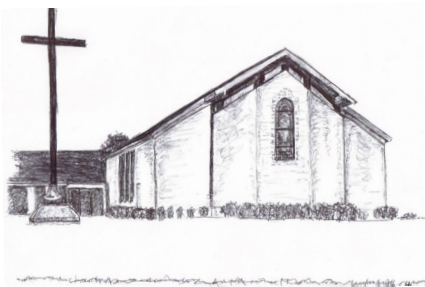


# Presby News

AUGUST 2018



## FROM THE PASTOR . . .

A couple of Sundays ago, I shared with you some information concerning my health. I did so because I value the relationship we have with each other. I wanted you to hear directly from me instead of from the grapevine.

Also, one of the things I have emphasized in my preaching is the importance of us as members of the body of Christ to share ourselves with each other more fully. This enables us to know each other better, to pray for each other more intelligently, to build true *koinonia* (that rich sharing of life with each other that characterized the early church), and to care for one another paying loving attention to each other's specific needs. All of this fosters an atmosphere of trust in one another and eagerness to make ourselves available to each other.

Revealing ourselves to one another makes us somewhat vulnerable; however, the price we pay for not doing so has a way of keeping our relationships with each other pretty superficial and inauthentic.

Jesus, Himself, gave us the model for how to relate to one another. He allowed the twelve disciples to see Him when he was tired and weary and needed to rest, when He was exhausted from ministering to the crowds and went off by Himself to pray and be spiritually recharged, and when He was heavily burdened about His imminent going to the cross and needed them to watch and pray with Him in Gethsemane. They saw Him in His full humanity. They were able to see God in the flesh because of His openness and vulnerability. It seems to me that practicing this kind of openness and vulnerability helps us to be more whole and human.

I want to thank you for allowing me to reveal that I have been diagnosed with smoldering multiple myeloma. My cancer of the bone marrow is in the very early stage. My oncologist is going to have me doing regular lab work in order to determine whether or not the disease is progressing. It may not advance, and my hope and prayer is that it does not. However, if it should, he has assured me that it would be very treatable.

I want to thank you for how you have expressed your concern for me and have assured me that you are praying for me. That means so very much to have your support! I am so blessed to have both my wife, my family, my close friends, my medical team, and my church all pulling for me.

Also, I want to thank you for allowing me to continue to serve as your pastor. There is nothing about my health condition at the present time which prevents me from filling the pulpit and performing my pastoral activities such as keeping regular office hours and visiting in the hospitals and homes when the need arises. Please do not hesitate to call on me if you need me. And as you pray for me, ask that the Lord will continue to supply me with the guidance, wisdom, love, and strength to serve as your pastor for as long as He wills and that I will be a good shepherd of His flock.

It is my prayer that regardless of how this illness unfolds that God will be glorified and I will respond in a way that brings honor to the cause of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. And I trust you to join me in that prayer.

Jim

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Psalms 19:1



## SPECIAL DATES

**August 5** Brookdale Worship at 9:00 am  
Communion Served

**August 20** Session Meeting at 6:00 pm

**August 21** Healthworx Meal, 5:00 pm

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

Trust

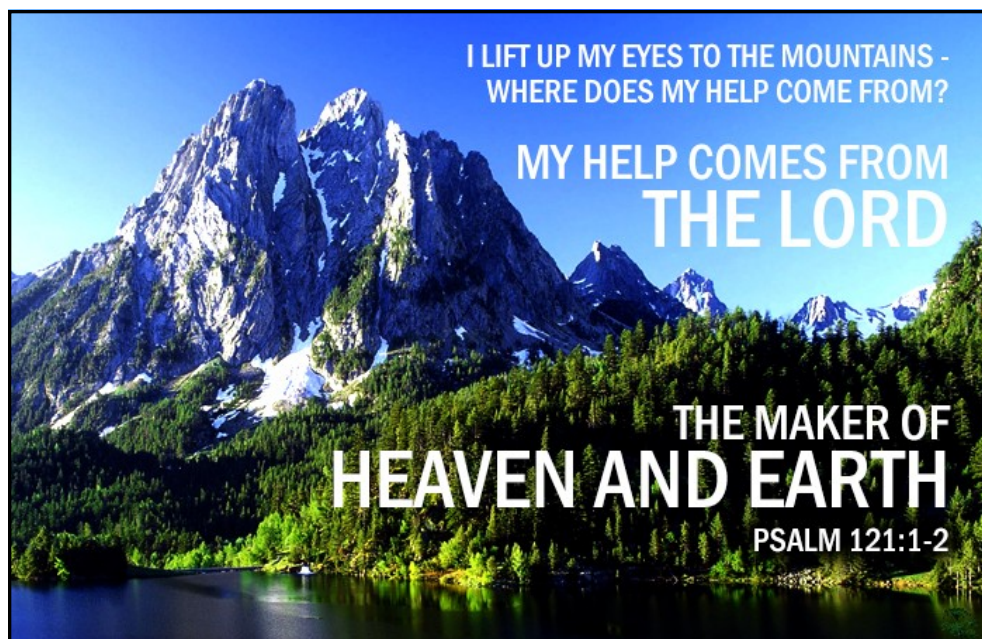
IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR

Heart

AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN

understanding

PROV 3:5





# August Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>August 5</b>	Robert Kennedy	Dirk Benade	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Bill Higgins <b>Communion Team:</b> Elizebette Kennedy, Vacancy
<b>August 12</b>	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Jim Hockensmith	
<b>August 19</b>	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Vacancy	
<b>August 26</b>	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	



<b>August 5</b>	<b>Jim Hockensmith</b>
<b>August 16</b>	<b>Bill &amp; Martha Higgins</b>
<b>August 17</b>	<b>Lynn Pilcher</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Lacie Ellington</b>
<b>August 19</b>	<b>Dee Arnold</b>
<b>August 22</b>	<b>Elizebette Kennedy</b>



## First Presbyterian Church

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Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

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

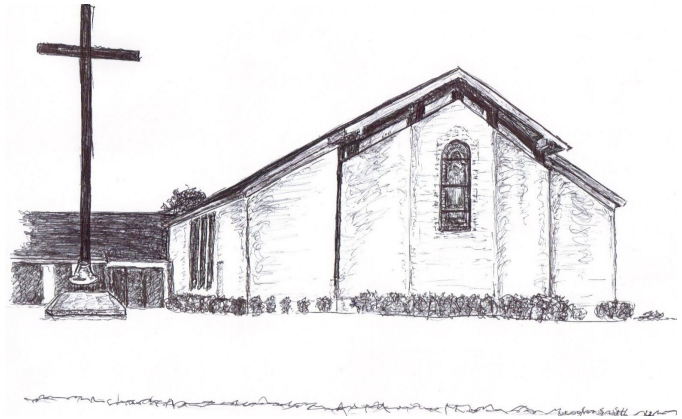
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

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.