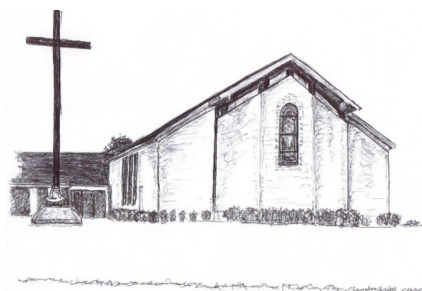


Presby News

January 2018



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

God seems to always be into doing **NEW** things, don't you think?

Wonder what new things **He will be doing** in your life, my life, and the life of our church in this new year of 2018?

No one of us really knows, do we?

But we can be sure of this: **God is always** at work in our lives to make us **more Christlike** in character. And He is always at work in our church to make our local body of believers **a better reflection** of His body at work on this planet!

So, **how can we cooperate** with our wonderful Lord so that we will see new things happening in our individual lives and in the life of our church?

First of all, let me suggest that we **be positive and believe** that He **will** do some new things! Without faith, it is impossible to please God. But with faith as small as that of a mustard seed, a mountain can be moved. **Let us dare to believe** that God can and will do new things in each of us and in our church as a body.

Secondly, let us think of things that **might need to change** inside of us and our church. Don't get me wrong. There are **a lot of things right** about both us and our church. But there is always room for improvement! **Growth** is always about **changing** for the better, don't you think?

Thirdly, let us pray fervently that the **Holy Spirit will empower** each of us to allow God to do the new things He wants to do in us as individuals and in our church as a whole. We will need **divine power** to change and to allow the wind of God's Spirit to **breathe new life** into our congregation!

And fourthly, **let us praise God** for every little sign that He is doing something new in our lives and in our church. As the great old hymn puts it, "To God Be The Glory." He is the one who deserves the credit for **beginning** His work of salvation in us originally. And for **every little inch** of progress, we must depend on Him and praise Him!

Let us join in together in **welcoming** whatever changes God may work in us and in our church for this New Year!

Jim



SPECIAL DATES

January 1	Happy New Year (<i>Office Closed</i>)
January 6	Epiphany of the Lord
January 7	9:00 am Brookdale Worship Communion (<i>Every First Sunday</i>)
January 15	Martin Luther King Day
January 16	5:00 pm Healthworx Meal



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
October 16, 2017

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

Members Present: Annelize Benade, Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy
Treasurer: None
Elders Excused: None
Guests Present: Jim Heath, Pastor
A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

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

Motion: That the Session approve the September, 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 August 21, 2017. One correction was made as follows: Elizebette Kennedy was inaccurately listed as excused, but she was in attendance and took the minutes of the meeting.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for August 21, 2017, as corrected.
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

Congregational Life/Christian Education, Evangelism, Worship & Missions Committee Report: Jim Hockensmith
Stewardship Campaign 2018:

Jim Hockensmith reported that it is time to begin the yearly Stewardship Campaign. The deadline for sending the stewardship letters and pledge cards is early November. Elizebette Kennedy agreed to write the letter, and she will send it to Jim Hockensmith for amendments and final approval.

Christmas Poinsettias:

The Session members agreed by common consent that the Christmas Poinsettia inserts will need to be placed in the bulletins starting mid-November with orders and payment to be turned in by November 26. The poinsettias should be placed in the church by the first Sunday in December (December 3).

Christmas Tree:

The Session members agreed by common consent that the Christmas tree will be put up after the November 19, 2017 morning worship service.

Christmas Eve Service:

Because Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, the Session discussed having the Christmas Eve Service on Sunday morning, rather than the usual morning worship service.

Motion: That on Sunday, December 24, 2017, the Session approved having the Christmas Eve Service only, replacing the Sunday morning worship service.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Christmas Choir Concert:

The Session discussed scheduling the Christmas Choir Concert on Sunday, December 10, during the morning worship service. Jim Hockensmith will make arrangements with Music Director Aaron Rogers. The budget for the concert was set between \$1,000 to 1,200.

Motion: That the Christmas Choir Concert (Contata) be held on Sunday, December 10.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Annelize Benade
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve moving the First Sunday of Advent to Sunday, November 26, 2017.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Annelize Benade
Motion: Carried

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

The Lighting of the Advent Candles will also start on November 26, 2017. The church needs to invest in a good lighter and a box of matches for the candles. The Advent candles have been checked, and they are in order.

Christmas Banquet:

Dr. Jim Heath reminded the Session that the church will be planning a Christmas meal during December. He reported that he will plan the details with the Pastor's Advisory Committee.

Personnel Committee Report: By Bill Higgins

Aaron Rogers is still looking for a replacement pianist for DeAnna Brister.

Property Committee Report: By Jim Hockensmith

- Phillips Sign Company has been called to repair the rails that hold the letters on the front sign.
- Jim Hockensmith will follow up about contacting someone about repairing damage to the church roof. The insurance deductible is \$1,000, so if the cost is less than the deductible, it will be out of pocket.

Motion: That the Session approve that Jim Hockensmith follow up with enlisting someone to repair the roof, noting that if the cost is less than the \$1,000 insurance deductible, it will be out of pocket.
Moved: Annelize Benade Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Pastor's/Moderator Report: Dr. Jim Heath

- Dr. Heath thanked the Session for their service and the recent salary increase.
- He reported that he recently spoke to Greg Carroll, the interim pastor at Woodland Presbyterian Church, Pineville, and he invited them to the Christmas Choir Concert (Contata).
- Dr. Heath presented the idea of purchasing an electronic sign for the church. The Session members felt it would cost too much (\$20,000 plus). At this time, the Session felt it would be better stewardship to continue using the current sign. The Session agreed to allow Dr. Heath to get an estimate for a small electronic sign.
- LSU boxes did well in the beginning. A renewed effort will be started around Christmas/New Year in preparation for the new semester international students.
- Discussed Dr. Heath's role as pastor and fulfilling the mission of the church.
- Discussed use of more lay readers and welcomed members of the congregation to serve as readers.

Old Business: None

New Business:

The Session reviewed a letter from the Ugandan Kids Choir stating that they would be on tour in the Alexandria, Louisiana area in December. They asked if they could perform at First Presbyterian on December 20, 2017. The Session members decided that the Choir would not get the necessary support at this time, it would be too costly, and the December 20th date falls on a Wednesday.

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:00 pm with a closing prayer by Dr. Jim Heath. There will be no Session Meeting in November. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 18, 2017. The Session will conduct business through email until the December meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy
/cs

January Responders Schedule

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



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

January 4	Kennedy Jewell
January 7	Kylee LaPraire
January 13	Alexis Ellington
January 16	Sulin Best
January 25	Dirk Benade, Jr.
January 26	Stephanie Huffman
January 29	Bill Willson



*To all the church and choir
members, who helped with the
recent special events, receptions,
meals, and decorations.
You are most appreciated!*

First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

office@alexandriafpc.org

www.alexandriafpc.org

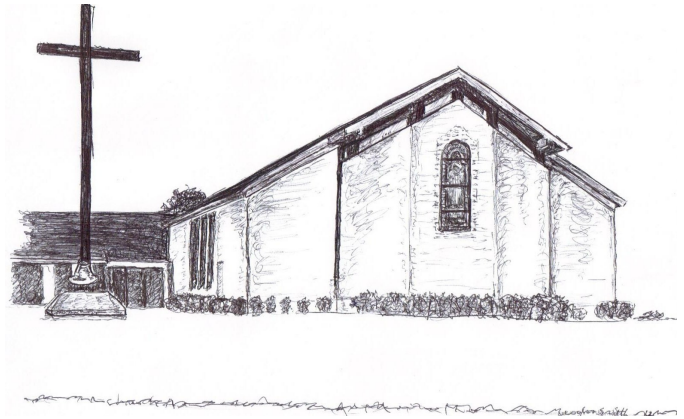
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

4:00 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.