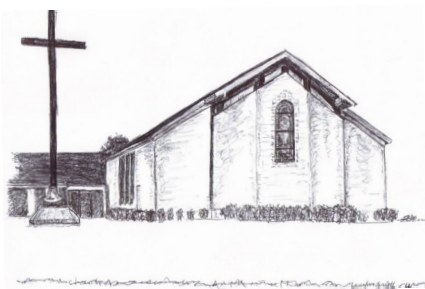


Presby News

March 2018



SPRING CLEAN YOUR MIND . . .

Spring is here... although someone forgot to tell the weathermen. I don't know about you, but where I live, I still need to use my fireplace at night. Nevertheless, according to the calendar, it's spring. Time to open up the house and let the sunshine in. Grab a few dozen trash bags, go through all the closets and the attic, and throw away everything that has cluttered up the house.

I decided this spring I needed to clear the junk out of my head first. Only a few months into the New Year, and I already had too much on my mind. I still had a lot of questions built up from last year. God, why did this happen? Why did I pray for this, and it still fell apart? Why, God, why? The questions were piling up, and no answers were in sight to help with the mess.

I can be the ultimate pity party planner. Just give me one problem, and I'll sulk on it all day. I could feel myself going there one morning and suddenly realized I needed to get with it. Thankfully, God sent me a gentle reminder that He was more than willing to help.

The same day I got on the elevator with a heavy-set woman who had a medical boot on her leg. Thinking that she's probably been asked a thousand times what happened, I instead asked, "Is it easy to walk in that thing?" I fully expected her to start complaining about how painful and difficult it was with this contraption strapped to her leg. However, she looked up at me and said matter-of-factly, "No, it's quite easy. I've had this on for about a year." Then, she explained to me how she's had surgery on that foot many times, and it didn't really bother her.

I know it sounds superficial but the first thought I had as I walked away was, A whole year not being able to walk on your right foot. No fun shoes. Wobbling all the time... I truly felt sorry for her. Yet, while it made me sad, she seemed perfectly fine with it.

Walking down the long hallway to my office, the situation started unraveling in my head. Here I was with the imaginary world on my shoulders, yet I was walking on both feet with breath in my lungs towards a job that I enjoy. I started to pray, "God, I gotta get rid of this annoying habit of feeling sorry for myself when the most miniscule thing goes wrong in my day. I mean, I have so much to be thankful for, I should be skipping to work every day. But how do I do this? Where do I begin?"

I must admit that I am the queen of unfinished projects. I'm a great starter. Following through is a different story. Cleaning out the pesky demons of jealousy, ungratefulness, and general pessimism would not be easy. I wondered, How do I start cherishing my life? I was being rhetorical, but as I turned the key to my office door, I heard that still small voice say, "You can start with every moment."

I had to pause and laugh at myself. Of course! The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step, as does any big spring-cleaning job. If I could take every moment and enjoy it to its fullest, letting tomorrow take care of itself, in no time I would look back on a life of laughter and love. So I sat at my desk, turned on some cool jazz, and let a smile creep across my face as I began the work I so enjoy. The day looked better already.

I can't say that I completely understand how or why my life got so cluttered, but at least I know how to clean it up. And it may never be finished but as God continues to perfect the work He started, I can at least enjoy the process.

Jennifer E. Jones, Author

(Prepared while Dr. Jim Heath was on vacation.)

The heavens declare
the glory of God,
and the skies above
proclaim the work
of His hands.

Psalms 19:1 (NIV)



SPECIAL DATES

| | |
|----------|---|
| March 2 | World Day of Prayer |
| March 4 | Third Sunday of Lent Brookdale Worship Communion Served |
| March 11 | Fourth Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins |
| March 18 | Fifth Sunday of Lent |
| March 20 | Healthworx Meal, 5:00 pm |
| March 25 | Palm/Passion Sunday |
| March 29 | Maundy Thursday |
| March 30 | Good Friday |

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

HAVE A HAPPY SPRING

This is the day the
Lord has made;
We will rejoice and
be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24 NKJV



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
December 18, 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, Elizebette Kennedy
Treasurer: None
Elders Excused: None
Guests Present: Jim Heath, Pastor; Jane Conerly, Moderator

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

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

Motion: That the Session approve the October and November, 2017 Financial Reports.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for October 16, 2017.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for October 16, 2017 with correction to the spelling of the Christmas to Cantata from Contata.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session move to ratify the meeting of October 16, 2017.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

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

2018 Budget: Bill Higgins will get in touch with Jim Smolenski and Jim Hockensmith will work on the 2018 budget as well.

Fellowship Hall Air Conditioner: The air conditioner in the Fellowship Hall was not working and has been repaired.

Sanctuary Lights: Lights are out in the sanctuary, but the Session agreed to wait until more lights are out due to the high cost of changing them.

Offering Collected During Christmas Cantata: Jim Hockensmith stated that no offering should have been taken during the Christmas Cantata since the concert was a service to the community.

Communion by Intention During Christmas Eve Service

Motion: That the Session approve serving Communion by Intention during the Christmas Eve Service.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Volunteers to Light the Christ Candle During Christmas Eve Service:

Anna Benade volunteered her children, Aaron and Christelle Carley.

Appreciation for Sulin Best: The Session agreed to do something special for Sulin Best to express the church's appreciation for her hard work during the Christmas meal and the Cantata. Bill and Martha Higgins will take Roger and Sulin Best out to eat.

Christmas bonuses were discussed.

Motion: That the Session approved the 2018 Christmas Bonuses.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

The dishwasher and disposal were replaced.

The church sign was repaired and new tracks installed for the letters.

The air conditioner was repaired.

Total pledges to date were \$75,760.00

Personnel Committee Report: Bill Higgins

The Committee is continuing to search for a pianist to replace DeAnna Brister, who has health problems. A flyer will be displayed at Red River Music. DeAnna Brister's name can be removed from the staff listing in the Sunday bulletin starting in January, 2018. The Session honored DeAnna Brister's request to be on the personnel list until the end of December.

Property Committee Report:

The Session discussed the need for the church gutters to be checked and cleaned.

Pastor's/Moderator Report: Dr. Jim Heath

Dr. Heath apologized to the Session for the donation/offering during the Christmas Cantata and stated that it should have been approved by the Session. He reported that attendance increased a little during Advent Season after decreasing slightly. He requested allowing the surplus in the 2017 Continuing Education fund to rollover to 2018. This will enable him to purchase more preaching materials and help with his continuing education costs.

Motion: The Session approved rolling over any surplus 2017 Continuing Education funds into the 2018 budget.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

New Business:

The Session received a thank you note from Healthworx for the FPC donation.

The Session received a thank you note and \$300 donation/gift from TOPS for use of the church for their Monday meetings.

The Session received a thank you note from Hope House for the FPC donation.

Sandy Brister, Commissioned Pastor at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Leesville, will serve as Moderator during the February 19, 2018 Stated Session Meeting.

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 pm with a closing prayer by Dr. Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 19, 2018. The Session will conduct business through email until the February meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs



March Responders Schedule

| | Usher Narthex | Monitor | Communion Servers |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| March 4 | Robert Kennedy | Jim Hockensmith | Elder Liturgist: Elizebette Kennedy Communion Team: Jim Hockensmith, Roger Best |
| March 11 | Annelize & Dirk Benade | Dirk Benade | |
| March 18 | Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy | Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Vacancy | |
| March 25 | Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy | Jim Smolenski | |
| | | | |



| | |
|-----------------|--|
| March 7 | Robert Kennedy |
| March 14 | Beth McDaniel |
| March 14 | Dee & Charles Ellington |
| March 16 | Brenda Willson |
| March 22 | Elana Glynn |
| March 22 | Roscoe Wilson |
| March 28 | Robert & Elizebette Kennedy |

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4, 11, 18: Lent

March 25: Palm/Passion Sunday/Holy Week

March 30: Good Friday

April 1: Easter Sunday

First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

office@alexandriafpc.org

www.alexandriafpc.org

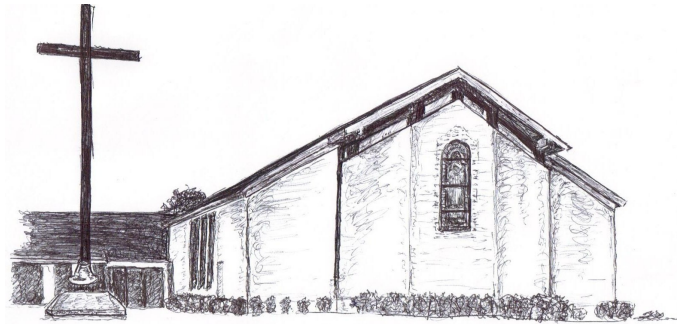
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

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.