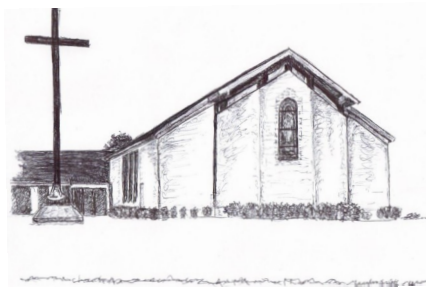


# Presby News

JANUARY 2019



## FROM THE PASTOR . . .

As we welcome in the new year of 2019, what is passing through our minds? Do we look forward to it with hope, optimism, and confidence? Or do we sort of dread it with apprehension, cynicism, and doubt?

Do we look at this new year as an opportunity to grow, contribute, and reach out? Or do we see it as a chance to stay the same, protect what we have, and close off ourselves?

It has a lot to do with the set of eyes through which we see life in general. And, I think it has a lot to do with the texture of our faith.

And what does our faith tell us? Let's list some of the things we need to remember:

#1 God is good! In spite of all the bad things we may see happening all around us, God has not given up on our world. He is still active in the lives of all who belong to Him--and even in the lives of those who are opposed to Him. And as Christians, we believe that he is at work in history to accomplish His purposes.

#2 God is creative! Scripture tells us that He is able to take everything that happens and bring good out of them. Those who love God are able to trust Him to take even the most tragic circumstances and by His grace to transform them so that they accomplish good.

And, God is creatively using His church to serve people and help this world to be a better place. He is in the process of answering our prayer: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

#3 God is in the redeeming business! From the very beginning, God has had a heart for redeeming lost people and a lost world. He sees all of us with our sins and shortcomings. And He works in our lives to purify us and to shape us more into the likeness of His Son.

He is even in the process of redeeming His church, helping her to be more reflective of His Kingdom and encouraging her to reach out to those who need the touch of His compassion and caring.

#4 God is love! And His love is at the heart of the universe. His love is a reality from which we can never be separated. He showed His love for us supremely in the giving of Himself sacrificially through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Let us remember, too, that He loves each of us personally. He knew us before we were born, He knows the number of hairs on our heads, and He cares for us in all of our struggles, challenges, and problems. As the gospel song puts it: "His eye is on the sparrow--and I know He watches me."

I hope that in this new year of 2019, we will cooperate with God in allowing Him to work in our lives and help all of us to become more Christlike and to use us to touch and bless the lives of others.

Thank you for letting me take the journey into 2019 with you!

Jim

*"You have been born anew,  
not from perishable but from  
imperishable seed, through the  
living and abiding word of God."*

—1 Peter 1:23



## SPECIAL DATES

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 1  | New Year's Day ( <i>Office Closed</i> )  |
| Jan. 2  | 3:00 pm Prayer Meeting Cancelled   |
| Jan. 6  | Epiphany of the Lord<br>9:00 am Brookdale Worship<br>11:00 am Communion Served |
| Jan. 9  | 3:00 pm Prayer Meeting Resumes   |
| Jan. 13 | Baptism of the Lord  |
| Jan. 16 | 3:00 pm Prayer Meeting   |
| Jan. 21 | Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.  |
| Jan. 23 | 3:00 pm Prayer Meeting   |
| Jan. 30 | 3:00 pm Prayer Meeting   |

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

*Happy* NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



## Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

October 15, 2018

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

Members Present: Annelize Benade, Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith,

Treasurer: None

Elders Excused: Elizebette Kennedy, Jim Heath, Sandy Brister (Moderator)

Guests Present: Nanette Cagney,  
Pastor St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Lake Charles, and PSL Executive Council Representative and Debbie Serra, Chair of the PSL Mission Committee

A quorum was present.

The Session updated Nanette Cagney, Representative from Presbytery of South Louisiana Executive Council, on the status of First Presbyterian Church along with its former and current mission and community activities. Nanette Cagney offered assistance from the Presbytery to FPC.

### Finance Report:

Financial statements and bank statements for August and September, 2018, were distributed to the Session; reviewed and initialed by the Session.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the financial and bank statements for August and September, 2018:

Moved: Bill Higgins      Second: Annelize Benade  
Motion: Carried

### Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for August 20, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for August 20, 2018 as presented.

Moved: Bill Higgins      Second: Annelize Benade  
Motion: Carried

### COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

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

- **Christmas Poinsettias:** Jim Hockensmith will order the poinsettias. Congregational Orders will need to be made by the November 11 (the second Sunday in November).
- **Sanctuary Decorations:** The Sanctuary will need to be decorated on December 1, the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.
- **Hanging of the Greens:** Dr. Heath will be asked if he would like to coordinate the Hanging of the Greens with the First Sunday of Advent.
- **Advent Readers/Candle Lighters:** The Session selected four people who will be asked to light the Advent Candles.
- **Christmas Cantata:** The Session approved a Christmas Cantata and set a budget of \$1,900 for the event, with Aaron Rogers coordinating.
- **Christmas Eve Service:** The Session will discuss the Christmas Eve Service during the December 17 Session Meeting.
- **Stewardship Letter:** The 2019 Stewardship Letter will be written by December 1st and mailed to the congregation along with the 2019 Pledge Cards.

### Adjournment:

**Motion:** That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Bill Higgins      Second: Annelize Benade  
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned with a closing prayer by Jim Hockensmith. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 17, 2018. The Session will conduct business through email until the December 17 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Hockensmith

/cs

# January Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
January 6	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Jim Hockensmith <b>Communion Team:</b> Jim Hockensmith, Vacancy
January 13	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
January 20	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
January 27	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	



*Anniversaries  
and Birthdays*

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

**I can do all things through  
Christ who strengthens me.**

**Philippians 4:13**

## **First Presbyterian Church**

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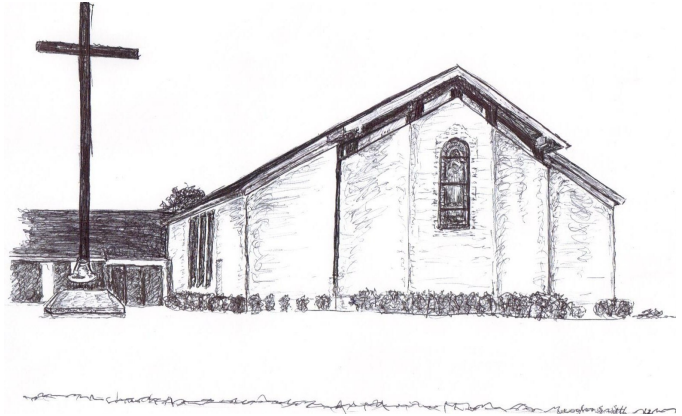
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

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.