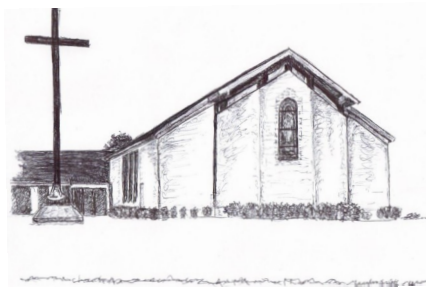


Presby News

JULY 2019



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Sometimes, sincere and well-meaning individuals quote the Bible in a way that is inappropriate. For example, when expressing your opinion after weighing all the available evidence, have you ever experienced someone saying: "Wait a minute. You know, don't you, that the Bible says 'Do not judge.'"

When taking the Bible out of context, you can prove just about anything you want to prove. To legitimately understand what Jesus meant when He said "Do not judge", one needs to read not only the first three words of Matthew 7:1 but also the words which follow all the way through Matthew 7:1-5.

In doing so, we are able to see that Jesus is condemning the hypocritical, censorious, and mean-spirited judging that the religious leaders of Jesus' day practiced. Jesus describes it in a graphic manner. It consists of trying to pull a small speck out of another person's eye when there is a huge log in your own eye.

So, Jesus is not urging us to make no judgments in life. It is impossible to live without making judgments. Jesus urged his followers to beware of false teachers and to be discriminating when it comes to evaluating who is and is not telling the truth.

Think of the many judgments we have to make on a daily basis (what food to eat, which clothes to wear, and how we are going to spend our time?) And, think of the judgments we have to make which are much more serious (should we move, should I agree to my doctor's doing major surgery on me, who should I support for governor or president, how should I conduct myself in a troubling relationship?)

To be sure, some judging is highly questionable. It seems to me that when it comes to discussing the eternal destiny of other people, we need to leave that to God, Himself. We are in no position to see what is in another person's heart.

When discussing a controversial subject, we need to practice a great deal of humility in evaluating what others say. We need to recognize the possibility that others may be more on target than we are concerning what the truth actually is when dealing with a particular subject.

And, yes, we need to be sure that we do not fall into the category of those who criticize and nit-pick the faults and sins of others while there is a huge weakness in our own lives which we are overlooking.

Let us be conscientious followers of Jesus and pay close attention to the words of a particular scripture as well as its surrounding context. By so doing, we will be more likely to make sense of the Bible and rightly applying it to our lives.

Thanks again for allowing me this opportunity to share some of my thoughts with you and to serve as your pastor.

May we be diligent in praying for one another and for our church!

Jim

SPECIAL DATES

July 3	3:00 pm Prayer Meeting
July 4	Independence Day (<i>Office Closed</i>)
July 7	9:00 am Brookdale Worship 11:00 am Communion Served
July 10	3:00 pm Prayer Meeting
July 17	3:00 pm Prayer Meeting
July 24	3:00 pm Prayer Meeting
July 31	3:00 pm Prayer Meeting

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



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
April 15, 2019

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

Members Present: Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith,
Elizebette Kennedy

Treasurer: None

Elders Excused: Annelize Benade

Guests Present: Jim Heath, Jim Smolenski, Jan Hilborn and Walker Reynolds, Behl Fund Trustees from Hancock Whitney Bank.

A quorum was present.

Report from Hancock Whitney Bank Behl Fund Trustees:

Jan Hilborn, Vice President and Relationship Manager, and Walker Reynolds, Portfolio Manager from Hancock Whitney Bank, distributed an Investment Performance Review, dated March 31, 2019. Discussion followed regarding the Behl Fund Portfolio.

Finance Report:

Financial statements and bank statements for March, 2019, were distributed, reviewed, and initialed by the Session.

Motion: That the Session approve the financial and bank statements for March, 2019:

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for February 18, 2019.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for February 18, 2019, as presented.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

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

The Session agreed by common consent to take FPC Administrative Secretary Carolyn Sterne to lunch at The Cottage Restaurant, at 12 noon, April 24, in recognition of Secretary's Day.

Personnel Committee Report: Bill Higgins

No Report

Property Committee Report: Jim Hockensmith

Jim Hockensmith reported that the storage building needs to be cleaned out as well as the area above the kitchen (old pew cushions).

Pastor/Moderator Report: Jim Heath

Jim Heath thanked the Session for the privilege of serving. He stated that he welcomed suggestions, input and/or criticism.

Old Business:

Dr. Ben Yang is improving from his stroke, and has started physical therapy again. He asked for continued prayers.

New Business:

Several thank you notes for recent FPC donations were received from the following:

- Hope House
- Healthworx
- Our Daily Bread Ministries

FPC has also wired its 2019 donation to the South African Mission Fund.

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Second: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:20 p.m. with a closing prayer by Jim Hockensmith.

The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 17, 2019. The Session will conduct business through email until the June 17 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizebette Kennedy

/cs

July Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
July 7	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Jim Hockensmith Communion Team: Annelize & Dirk Benade
July 14	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
July 21	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	
July 28	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	



7/08

Wynn Ware

7/10

Annelize Benade

7/12

Peyton Jewell

7/15

Nancy Smilie

7/16

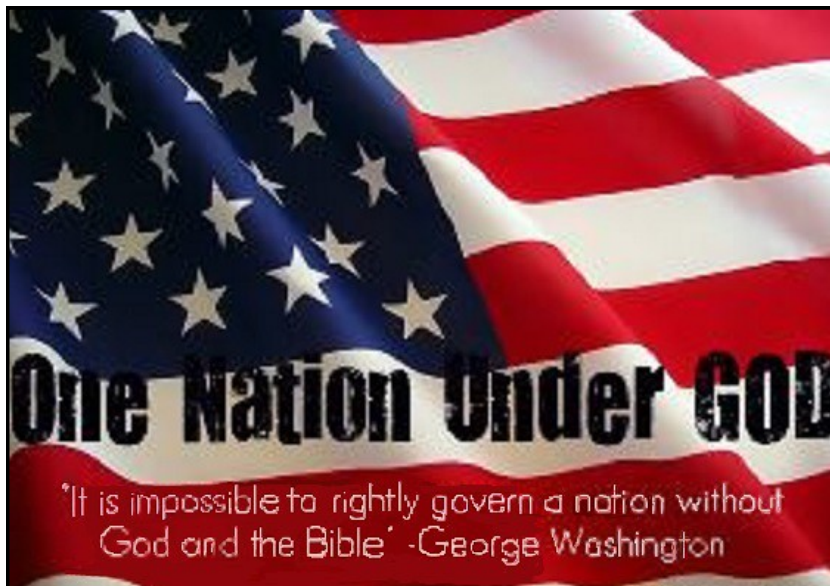
Bill & Martha Higgins

7/23

Christelle Corley

7/31

Dee Dee Ellington



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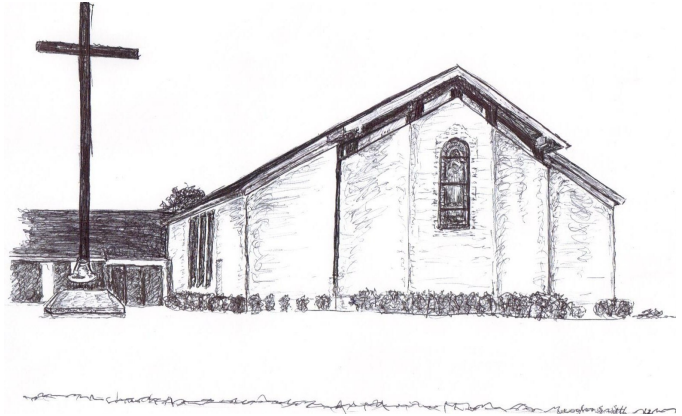
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

Robyn Tan, *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.