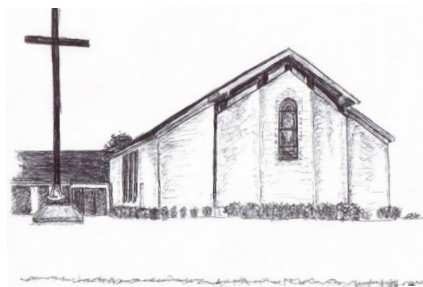


# Presby News

MAY 2019



## FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Jesus was a revolutionary. Not in the sense that He organized a movement with military strategy and sword-bearing soldiers to overthrow the Roman government. But in the sense that He taught and lived out a way of life consisting of values which were contrary to the prevailing values of 1st century Judaism and the disciples.

One of the clearest examples is found in Matthew 5:43-48. It goes like this: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. . . ."

In these words, we see Jesus challenging the predominant way 1st century Jews looked at how they were supposed to respond to their enemies. To their ears, the words Jesus spoke sounded radical and revolutionary.

I can just imagine how Jesus' disciples may have responded to these words of Jesus. Perhaps they thought: "This is not natural for humans to do. It is natural to hate--not love our enemies." Or maybe they reasoned: "Is Jesus out of touch with reality? We know that this will never happen in the real world." Or maybe they said to one another when Jesus was not with them: "What in the world have we gotten ourselves into. We knew that there was something different about Jesus--but we never dreamed that He would ask us to change our whole way of thinking, living, and relating."

And, before we criticize the disciples for perhaps responding in these ways, how do we respond to these words of Jesus?

If we take these words of Jesus seriously, we begin to see how truly revolutionary He was. And we realize that we have a special Christlike way that we should respond to our enemies. We are to love them and pray for them!

Do these words of Jesus come across to us as any less revolutionary than they did to the disciples who first heard them? Are we any more prone to love and pray for our enemies than were they? How willing are we to seek to live by and practice these words?

It is worth noting that to love our enemies does not mean we have to like them. The Greek word for love that Jesus uses is *agape*. And *agape* is willing to work for the highest good of our enemy even though we cannot honestly say that we like our enemy.

Another thing to note: whomever we view as our enemy, as followers of Jesus, we must put them on our prayer list.

And one other thing to emphasize: when we love our enemies, we are treating them like our Heavenly Father treats all people, both the righteous and the unrighteous. And striving to be like our Heavenly Father is a worthy goal for us to pursue.

I hope the month of May proves to be a good one for you. And as always, let us be faithful in loving and praying for each other.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your pastor. Let me know if you need me.

Jim

## SPECIAL DATES

May 5	Third Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Brookdale Worship 11:00 am Communion Served
May 12	Mother's Day
May 27	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
May 30	Ascension of the Lord

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



**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**February 18 , 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: Annelize Benade, Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy

Treasurer: None

Elders Excused: None

Guests Present: Jim Heath

A quorum was present.

**Finance Report:**

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

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

Moved: Bill Higgins Second: Jim Hockensmith

Motion: Carried

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for December 17, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for December 17, 2018, as presented.

Moved: Bill Higgins Second: Jim Hockensmith

Motion: Carried

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:**

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

**Personnel Committee Report: Bill Higgins**

The Session discussed the increased number of choir members. They noted that recent payments to choir members were \$45 per Sunday, not the agreed upon amount of \$35 per Sunday with 6 choir members. Bill Higgins will address the matter with Aaron Rogers.

**Pastor/Moderator Report: Jim Heath**

Jim Heath expressed his gratitude for the privilege of serving. He asked for suggestions on ways he might minister more effectively and draw more people into fellowship. He asked for suggestions on how the Session might want to observe the March 6 Ash Wednesday Service.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the March 6, 2019 Ash Wednesday Service be observed at 12 Noon.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

**New Business:**

The Session discussed decorating the church with Easter Lilies during the 2019 Easter Season. Session Members noted that some members of the church are allergic to the Lilies.

**Motion:** That the Session agree not to decorate the church with Easter Lilies this year due to health/allergy reasons.

Moved: Elizebette Kennedy Seconded: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

**Additional Motions and Discussions:**

The Session discussed the need for special prayers for Ben Yang; Lily Claire, Dr. Heath's Granddaughter; Sandy Brister's husband and mother.

**Adjournment:**

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

Moved: Sandy Brister

Seconded: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m. with a closing prayer by Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 15, 2019. The Session will conduct business through email until the April 15 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizebette Kennedy

/cs

# May Responders Schedule

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



5/15

Jace Torres

5/28

Debbe Clegg

Charm is deceitful,  
and beauty is vain,

BUT A WOMAN  
WHO FEARS THE LORD  
IS TO BE PRAISED.



PROVERBS 31:30

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## **First Presbyterian Church**

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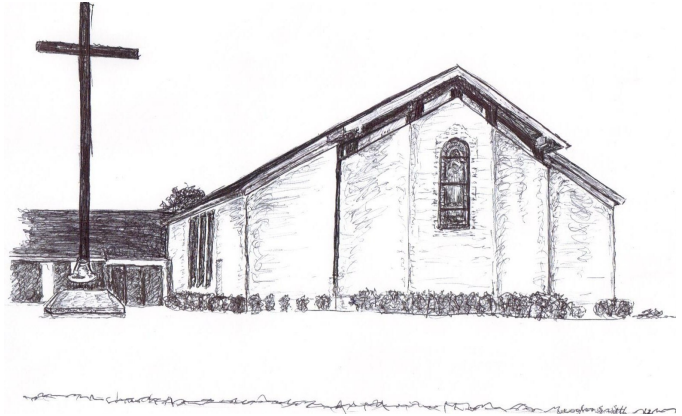
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

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.