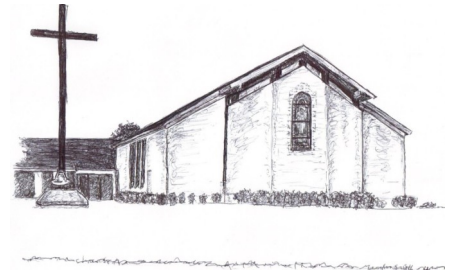


Presby News

October/November 2013



THINKING ABOUT MY GIVING; AN INDIVIDUAL'S GIVING GUIDE

Doyle L Bailey

Please get your Bible and read John 12: 1-11. Read it slowly and reflectively. You might want to read it in a modern day translation. Think about your reaction to the passage and respond to the following questions honestly.



I. A REFLECTIVE LOOK AT THE SCRIPTURE

1. Personally, I find the story of Mary's use of perfume (circle two):

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| a. unreal | e. frightening |
| b. challenging | f. enlightening |
| c. upsetting | g. intriguing |
| d. inspiring | h. _____ |

2. If I had been one of Jesus' disciples and had seen Mary's act of anointing Jesus, I would have (circle one):

- a. Felt that such a lavish gift was not appropriate in light of such grim and dreadful poverty in Palestine.
- b. Been jealous of Mary's extravagant giving and felt it exceeded wise management.
- c. Wondered if I too could overcome nicely calculated and well accepted standards and dare to follow her lead?
- d. Rejoiced with her joyous spirit of caring and sharing.
- e. Other _____

3. My willingness to follow Mary's example:

Mary seemed to feel that there would never be a better time to use her perfume than at the moment she chose. The reason for acquiring money is not to build a nest egg but to share with others in need. (circle one)

- a. I do not believe this is true.
- b. While this may be true, it is an impractical ideal.
- c. I believe this and will seek to live by this truth.

4. Giving is an opportunity to express our feelings toward God. (circle one)

- a. I feel that as long as I give 10% of my money, what I do with the rest is my business.
- b. All I have belongs to God, but I give 10% of my money and believe that is sufficient.
- c. For me, the tithe is simply not enough to express complete obedience to Christ and his kingdom where possessions are concerned.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

II. A PERSONAL EVALUATION OF MY PRESENT GIVING

Circle a number from 1 to 10. 1 being very low and 10 being very high.

I give:

- a. WORSHIPFULLY; I give with a sense of joyful and grateful worship.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- b. GENEROUSLY; I give liberally and with an unreserved spirit of sharing.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- c. REGULARLY; I give faithfully through my church including the Sundays I must be absent from Bible study and worship.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- d. OBEDIENTLY; I give obediently in response to the teachings of Holy Scripture as God's Spirit helps me to understand them.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

III. MY COMMITMENT IN RESPONSE TO HIS LOVE (circle one or more):

- a. I have established a level of giving which would be difficult to change.
- b. I know that by the Bible's teachings I am less than a good steward, but to change would require a breaking out of an established pattern which would be difficult.
- c. I am willing to change my lifestyle in order to give as God expects.
- d. I want to honor God with my giving so that Jesus will be magnified and vital results in ministry will be produced.
- e. I am willing to re-examine my present level of giving and consider the possibility of giving a larger percentage of my income.
- f. Other: _____
- _____
- _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Keep with your Bible or in a private place for future reflection and meditation. Use this guide as your spiritual preparation for the "Listen to the People Fellowship Lunch" on October 27, 2013 after the morning worship service and as a way to be ready to respond in a worthy manner to the Church's Fall Stewardship emphasis.

May God bless your meditations,

Doyle

Stated Supply

SPECIAL DATES

- World Communion Sunday, *October 6*
- Columbus Day Observance, *October 14*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 27*
- Reformation Day, *October 31*



- All Saints' Day, *November 1*
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, *November 3*
- Veterans Day, *November 11*
- National Bible Week, *November 17-23*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 24*
- Thanksgiving, *November 28*

Doyle and Barbara Bailey's Open House date was changed to 10:00 am Saturday, October 5

Directions to their House:

840 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

Take I-49 north to exit.138, Hwy. 6.

Exit to the right and keep right on Hwy. 6.

Cross Hwy. 1. This is your first traffic light.

Northwestern State University will be on your right.

At the fourth light, just before Rail Road Track, get into left turn lane.

Turn left onto Second Street.

Keep straight at 4-way stop at Methodist Church.

Keep straight at another 4-way stop at Fire Station You are still on Second Street.

Pass Events Center on your left.

Look for Natchitoches Utilities Service Center next to Events Center

Bailey house, 840 Second Street, is the third house from Utilities Center. You may park in driveway of the house or in Utilities Service Center Parking Lot.

A Call to Serve

Ruth M. Walsh wrote: "I was naked and you questioned my lack of modesty in my appearance. I was imprisoned, and you debated the legal aspects of interference. I was penniless, and you discussed tax-deductible donations from your wealth. I was sick, and you thanked the Lord for the blessings of your health. I was hungry, and you formed a committee to study malnutrition. I was homeless, and you said God's love was shelter under any condition. I was lonely, and you left me by myself while you and your friends prayed. You seem so holy and close to God, yet I'm still sick and alone and afraid!"

By contrast, in the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

When we fail to serve our neighbors, we fail to serve Jesus. Yet when we feed the hungry, we're actually feeding Jesus. When we visit the sick, we're actually visiting Jesus. And when we love one another, we're actually loving Jesus.

How's your path?

Some Christian converts in an African village were diligent about daily prayer. In fact, they each had a special place in the thicket outside town where they prayed in solitude. Over time, they wore pathways through the brush to their private prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that particular footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: "Friend, there's grass growing on your path."

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don't seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

Don't abandon your pathway to prayer. When you grow weary, remember Galatians 6:9 (NIV), which promises that "at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

My thankful heart

Making the stuffing for Thanksgiving dinner helps restore my heart to gratefulness. First I cut bread into cubes to dry out. Has it really been a year since I thanked God for the simple things of life? Dear God, thank you for my daily bread. Next I boil giblets for the tasty broth. When did I last express thanks for my body — even the oft-forgotten parts? Thank you, God, for creating and sustaining me.

Then I dice onions and celery, adding them to the mixture. That reminds me to thank God for abundant harvests. Finally I measure raisins, nuts, sage and salt into the stuffing, as scents fill the air. Lord, help me to not grow weary of the interesting "spices" that fill my life.

As the stuffing goes into the oven, warm air wafting into the kitchen, I remember to thank God for providing my home. Here relatives and friends gather, often an odd combination. Yet when we bow our heads in thankfulness, we're an unbeatable mix.

— MaryAnn Sundby



*Thank you,
Lord!*






SEPTEMBER 11
Remembrance

Our Honored Guests



A delicious potluck dinner was enjoyed by all



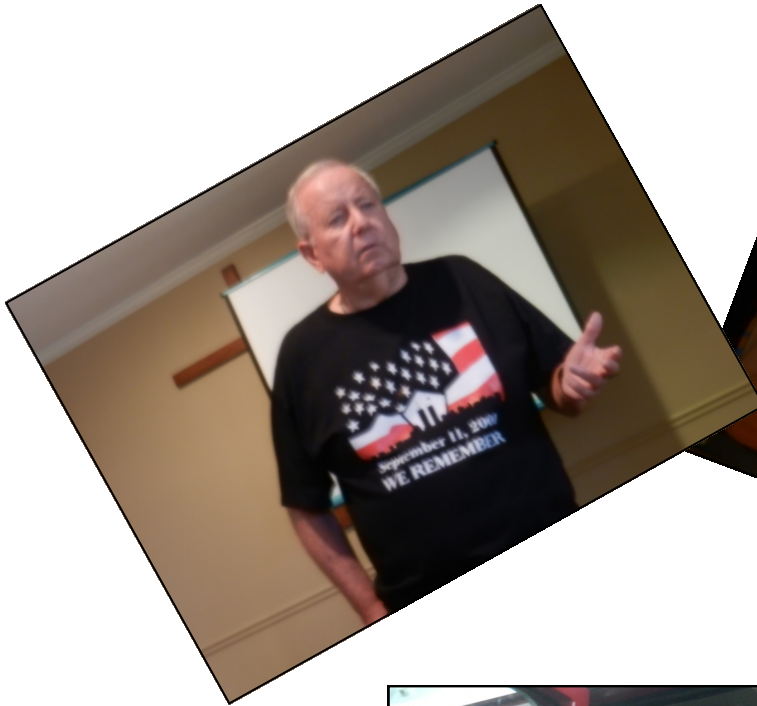
Remembering 9/11
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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A great program was presented



The fire truck was a fun addition to the program



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Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
August 19, 2013

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with an opening prayer by Dr. Ron Sutto, Stated Clerk for the General Presbyter, who served as Moderator for the meeting.

Members Present: John Allen, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: Bill Higgins, Brandi Woolam

Guests Present: Doyle Bailey, FPC - Long Term Supply Pastor

A quorum was present.

Finance Report: Presented by Jim Smolenski, Treasurer

The financial statements for July, 2013, were distributed to the Session. The bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

Motion: That Session approve the July, 2013, Financial Reports.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session members reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session on July 15, 2013.

Motion: That the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session on July 15, 2013, be approved with one correction: change "one abstention" to "two abstentions" on page one, under the Passing of the Peace motion made during the Worship Committee Report.

Moved: Ron Sutto Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

The Session members reviewed the minutes of the Called Meeting of the Session on August 11, 2013.

Motion: That the minutes of the Called Meeting of the Session on August 11, 2013, be approved as presented.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report:

Holy Communion was served on Sunday, August 4, 2013 during worship.

Holy Communion was served on Sunday, August 4, 2013 at Emeritus by Rev. Doyle Bailey, assisted by Jack Ready and Brandi Woolam.

Correspondence by mail

Motion: That the Clerk's Report be received and approved by common consent.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: John Allen
Motion: Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS

Worship Report - None

Congregational Life Report - Presented by John Allen

August 21: Children's Worship - Archery and Gospel According to the Watermelon

September 11: 9/11 Memorial Service

September 18: Children's Worship - Archery and Cake Mix Gospel

September 24: Special Bible Study - Process of forgiveness (open to everyone)

October: Zoo Boo - (Church paying for tickets) - Pumpkin carving and Bible

Study

Property Report - Presented by Jack Ready

Jack Ready reported that he was getting estimates from two people on renovating the bathrooms and will have a report for the September Session meeting. He also reported on a broken glass panel in the hallway, which is currently on order and will be installed by Express Glass.

Personnel Report

Jim Hockensmith reported that Church Secretary Carolyn Sterne had been employed since June 25, 2012, and the Session might want to consider an increase in salary at this time. The Session referred this matter to the Personnel Committee.

Pastor's/Moderator Report - Presented by Doyle Bailey, Long Term Supply

Doyle Bailey expressed concern about finding a way to involve children in church activities.

The church is dependent on the congregation to cultivate friends and invite them to the church.

Discussed the revisions to the Wedding Policy. He noted a correction on No. 19, Page 4, and suggested adding an extra fee if a janitor is needed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

The Session discussed a request for the Presbytery Publication Committee to meet at FPC November 4, 2013 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm in the Dining Hall.

The Session requested that Doyle Bailey attend the October 11-12, 2013, Presbytery Meeting in Feliciana, Louisiana, and be introduced to the Presbytery. The Session also noted that a Commissioner from FPC is also needed for this meeting. The committee will discuss this further during the September meeting.

The Session reported that a new Nominating Committee needed to be elected by the congregation.

The Session requested that Doyle Bailey and Jim Hockensmith organize a Stewardship Campaign for FPC.

Additional Motions and Discussions:

The Session discussed the revisions to the Wedding Policy and made the following motion:

Motion: That the Wedding Policy be revised and placed on the FPC website.

Moved: John Allen Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Evangelism/Stewardship/Worship Committee work on a "Celebrating our Ministries Dinner" or "Listen to the People Fellowship Dinner."

Moved: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Approved by Common Consent

The Session agreed by common consent to move the next Session meeting from September 16 to September 23, 2013.

Motion to adjourn prevailed, and the meeting of the Session adjourned with a closing prayer by Ron Sutto. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be, **Monday, September 23, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:



Brandi Woolam, Clerk of Session

Called Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
August 11, 2013
12:00 Noon

Session Members in Attendance:

Jim Hockensmith, Brandi Woolam, Jack Ready

Temporary Supply Pastor Doyle Bailey was in Attendance as was, Jane Conerly, who served as Presbytery Moderator for the meeting.

A quorum was present

Jane Conerly opened the meeting in prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to visit with Ms. Laurie Morris who has a strong desire to become a member of First Presbyterian Church.

We listened to Ms. Laurie Morris testimony about her spiritual journey from Mormonism to being baptized and accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She gave a wonderful testimony to her faith. We discussed with her that a letter of transfer will be

required to complete the membership.

A motion to accept Ms. Laurie Morris as a member of First Presbyterian Church with a letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Trinity was expressed by Jack Ready and Jim Hockensmith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the Called Session Meeting was made by Jack Ready and seconded by Jim Hockensmith. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Brandi Woolam, Clerk of Session

Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
September 23, 2013

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. with an opening prayer by Dr. Ron Sutto, Stated Clerk for the General Presbytery, who served as Moderator for the meeting.

Members Present: John Allen, Jim Hockensmith, Jack Ready, Brandi Woolam

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: Bill Higgins, Elizebette Kennedy

Guests Present: Doyle Bailey, FPC - Long Term Supply Pastor

A quorum was present.

Finance Report: Presented by Jim Smolenski, Treasurer

The financial statements for August, 2013, were distributed to the Session. The bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

Motion: That Session approve the August, 2013, Financial Reports.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

The Session discussed recent monetary donations by non-members, tax forms and thank you notes.

Approval of Minutes:

The Session members reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session on August 19, 2013.

Motion: That the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session on August 19, 2013, be approved as presented.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report:

- Holy Communion was served on Sunday, August 4, during worship.
- Holy Communion was served on Sunday, August 4, at Emeritus by Rev. Doyle Bailey, assisted by Jack and Judy Ready. There were 22 present.
- Correspondence by mail: A Letter of Transfer was received from First

Presbyterian Church, Trinity, Texas on new member Laurie Morris.

The Session received the Clerk's Report by common consent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS

Congregational Life Report – Presented by John Allen

October and November 2013:

Oct 2 - Committee Meeting

Food: Sandwiches - Brandi

Open: Brandi

Oct 9 - Bible Study

Food: Covered Dish (A-G: Dessert; H-N: Veggies; O-Z: Main Dish)

Open: Rev. Doyle and Laurie

Oct 16 - Bible Study

Food: Pizza - John

Open: Laurie

Oct 23: Bible Study

Food: Chicken - John

Open: Rev. Doyle

Oct 30 - Pumpkin Decorating and Message by Rev. Doyle

Food: Covered Dish (A-G: Main Dish; H-N: Desserts; O-Z: Veggies)

Open: Brandi

Pumpkins - John

Oct 22 - Special Bible Study (Tuesday) Dimensions of Forgiveness II

6:45 pm Pizza - John

7:15 pm Discussion

Nov 6 - Committee Meeting

Food: Sandwiches - Brandi

Open: John

Nov 13- Bible Study

Food: Pizza - John

Open: Rev. Doyle

Nov 20- Hanging of the Greens (moved to December 1)

Food: Covered Dish: (A-G: Veggies; H-N: Main Dish; O-Z: Dessert)

Open: ?

Nov 27- Bible Study

Food: Chicken - Jim Smolenski

Open: John

The Session discussed the need to do a program if a program is planned.

Worship and Evangelism Report - Presented by Jim Hockensmith

The Session approved by common consent to change the date for "Hanging of the Greens" to Sunday, December 1, 2013.

Motion: To approve a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2013, moderated by Jane Conerly To elect a nominating committee; also approved a called session meeting immediately following the congregational meeting to receive Darrah Mannix as a new member.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Motion: Carried

Motion: That the following Elders be approved to serve on the Nominating Committee: Jim Hockensmith, Jim Smolenski and Brandi Woolam.

Moved: Jack Ready Motion: Carried

Motion: To approve a fellowship luncheon/meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2013, immediately following worship, to "Listen to the People."

Motion approved by common consent.

Personnel Report - Presented by Jim Hockensmith

Jim Hockensmith reported that the secretary's increase in salary was very appreciated.

Property Report - Presented by Jack Ready

Jack Ready reported that estimates are still coming in on the bathroom renovation. Ready also reported that the estimate for painting the cross red, as it is now, is \$1,370.00.

Motion: That the Session approve allocating \$1,370.00 to paint the cross with the knowledge that the budget will show a deficit. Moved: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Pastor's/Moderator Report - Presented by Doyle Bailey, Long Term Supply

Need to address nomenclature in terms of call, especially the package and reimbursal.

Rev. Bailey distributed some handouts to the Session: Salary Package and Reimbursals and *A Covenant (for the pastor-church relationship)* by Brightie E. White, Jr.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Pastor Nominating Committee Report:

The committee reported that they have nine matches that may work for FPC. They will review these after the Session meeting. All say they are open to call and can move within 9 months.

The Session noted that three or four people should call the congregation about the October 27 "Listen to the People" meeting.

The Session congratulated Ron Sutto on his upcoming wedding Saturday, September 28.

Motion to adjourn prevailed and the meeting of the Session adjourned with a closing prayer by Doyle Bailey. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be Monday, October 21, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



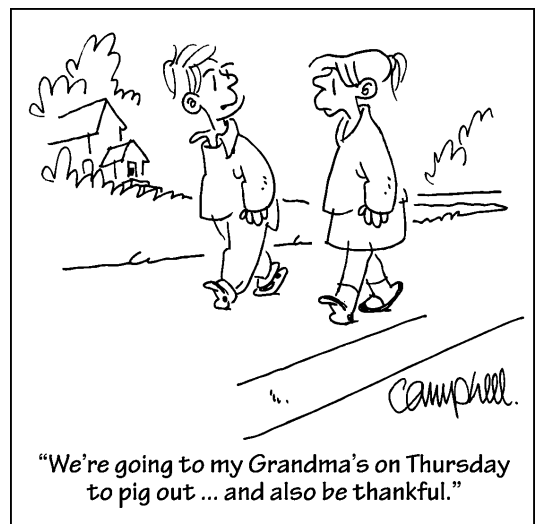
Brandi Woolam, Clerk of Session

A hymn of praise

The hymn often called "The Doxology" or "The Common Doxology" was written by Thomas Ken in 1674 as the concluding verse of a morning hymn, "Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun," and an evening hymn, "Glory to Thee, My God, This Night." The lyrics are appropriate for any time of giving or thanksgiving. Consider this hymn as your Thanksgiving dinner prayer.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise father, Son and Holy Ghost.,

Some church bodies have altered the words to "The Doxology" slightly, but the overall sentiment — praising the Triune god — remains the same. How profound to know that when we sing it, we join Christians around the world and across nearly 440 years!



Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Greeter Front Door	Monitor	Communion Servers
Oct 6	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct - May) Alternate: Helen McDaniel (May - Oct)	? & ?	Jim Hockensmith	Annelize Benade Dirk Benade Bill Higgins (October Elder)
Oct 13	Jim & Stephanie Huffman	John Allen & Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
Oct 20	Bob & Elizebette Kennedy	Bill & Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct - May) ? Alternate	
Oct 27	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers & Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	
Nov 3	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct - May) Alternate: Helen McDaniel (May - Oct)	? & ?	Jim Hockensmith	Roger Best (Oct - May) ? Alternate Ruth Coon John Allen (November Elder)
Nov 10	Jim & Stephanie Huffman	John Allen & Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
Nov 17	Bob & Elizebette Kennedy	Bill & Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct - May) ? Alternate:	
Nov 24	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers & Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	



CELEBRATIONS

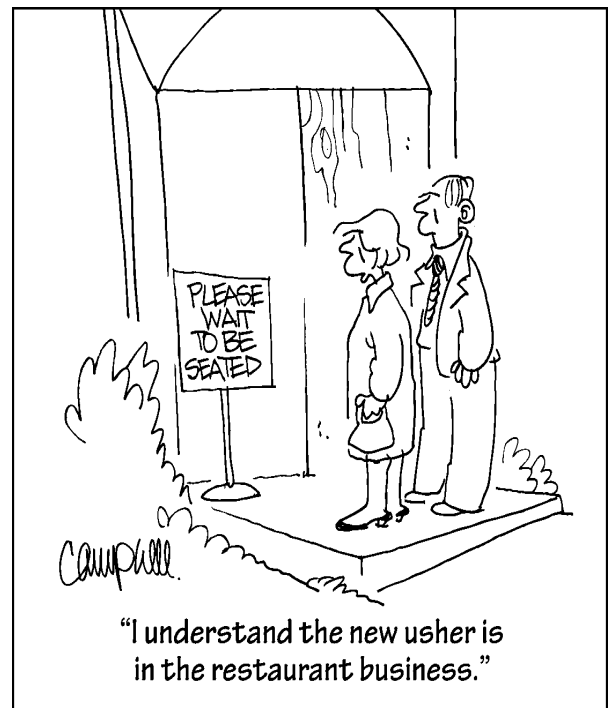
Birthdays

03 Oct Jace Huffman
09 Oct Debbie Ware
18 Oct Tom Clegg
29 Oct Jim Smolenski
02 Nov Blake Brown
03 Nov Robert McDaniel
18 Nov Doyle Bailey
20 Nov Barbara Ware
22 Nov Jack Ready
24 Nov Emily Young
25 Nov Rebecca LaPrairie

Anniversaries

22 Oct Jeff & Emma Jean Huffman
23 Nov Leon Coody & Liz Smith

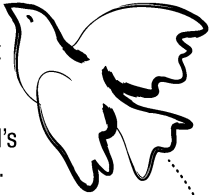
25 Nov Jack & Judy Ready



Youth Page - October

GROW IN Grace

Make this craft as a reminder to continue growing in God's amazing grace.



What you need:

- An adult to help
- Newspaper
- Acrylic paints
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker
- Potting soil
- Small "indoors" plant or packet of seeds

What you do:

1. Cover your work area with newspaper and squeeze paint onto the paper plate.
2. Paint designs on the pot and plate, cleaning your brush in the water when changing colors. Let dry.
3. With the black marker, write "Growing in God's Grace" along the top ridge of the pot.
4. Pour in a small amount of soil. Place your plant in the pot and surround it with more soil. (If planting seeds, follow packet instructions.)
5. Water your plant. Check it daily and keep the soil moist.
6. Enjoy watching your plant grow!



Growing up!

You're growing each day in many different ways. A verse from 2 Peter tells what will help you grow!

Directions: Fill in the blanks below, using the height measurements as guides, to complete 2 Peter 3:18.

3 ¹ / ₄ ft.	knowledge		Savior	3 ¹ / ₈ ft.
3 ¹ / ₁₆ ft.	him		grace	3 ft.
2 ³ / ₄ ft.	now		forever	2 ¹ / ₂ ft.
2 ¹ / ₄ ft.	Lord		grow	2 ¹ / ₈ ft.
2 ¹ / ₁₆ ft.	glory		Jesus Christ	1 ¹ / ₄ ft.
2 ft.	Amen			
1 ft.	our			

"But _____ in the _____ and _____ of _____
 _____ and _____
 To _____ be _____ both _____ and _____ ! _____."

2 PETER 3:18, NIV

Answer: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

2 Peter 3:18, NIV



Answers: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV



First Presbyterian Church

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Doyle Bailey, *Pastor*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Jack Ready, *Choir Director*

Judy Ready, *Pianist*

Delores McDaniel, *Nursery*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*

Sue Shipman, *Newsletter Editor*

Wednesday Night Schedule

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Oct 2 | Committee Meetings, Sandwiches - Brandi
Open - Brandi |
| Oct 9 | Bible Study, Covered Dish (A-G: Dessert;
H-N: Veggie; O-Z: Main), Open - Laurie/Doyle |
| Oct 16 | Bible Study, Pizza - John, Open - Laurie |
| Oct 23 | Bible Study, Chicken - John, Open - Doyle |
| Oct 30 | Covered Dish (A-G: Main; H-N: Dessert; O-Z: Veggies),
Pumpkin Decorating, Open - Brandi |
| Nov 6 | Committee Meetings, Sandwiches - Brandi, Open - ? |
| Nov 13 | Bible Study, Pizza - John, Open - ? |
| Nov 20 | Bible Study, Covered Dish (A-G: Veggies;
H-N Main; O-Z: Dessert), Open - ? |
| Nov 27 | Bible Study, Chicken - John, Open - ? |

-
- | | |
|--------|---|
| Oct 22 | Special Study: Dimensions of Forgiveness Part 2
6:45 Meal
7:15 Discussion |
|--------|---|

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.