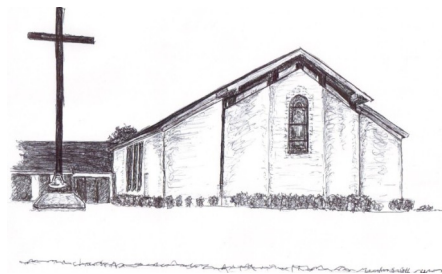


Presby News

August 2015



A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT...

A Near-Miss Is A Moment When Jesus Kept You Safe

By Dianne Neal Matthews for Guideposts

Sometimes I wonder how many times Jesus has gotten me out of trouble, or even saved me from catastrophe, without my being aware of it. "He will not allow your foot to slip; your Protector will not slumber." Psalm 121:3 (HCS)

After I finished loading the groceries in my car, I drove out of the parking lot to turn left on the highway. The red light stopped me, but at least it gave me a chance to notice the beautiful sunshine. Staring at the light made the wait seem longer.

I began to mentally rehearse all that I hoped to accomplish that afternoon. As soon as the light changed, I moved my foot from the brake to the accelerator. But for some reason, I seemed to be going in slow motion. I felt a sense of oddness as I realized that I wasn't pulling out onto the road at my usual speed, yet I wasn't sure why.

At the same time, I wondered if the driver behind me was annoyed at my snail pace. Those thoughts were interrupted when a large SUV zoomed down the highway right in my path, ignoring the red light for oncoming traffic.

It wasn't until I got home that it finally sank in what would have happened to me if I had pulled onto the highway at a normal speed in my smaller car, instead of pulling forward in slow motion. Sometimes I wonder how many times Jesus has gotten me out of trouble, or even saved me from catastrophe, without my being aware of it.

As I go about my daily routine, I'm so thankful to have Him as my Protector. He may choose to openly display His action or He may quietly work behind the scenes. Either way, I have the comfort of knowing that Jesus is looking out for me. And when things in my life seem to be moving slowly, I need to remember that it might be because He's keeping me safe.

Thank you, God, for being our Protector.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul:
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.*

Psalm 103 verse 1



SPECIAL DATES

- August 2 - Communion Sunday
- August 17 - Stated Session Meeting
- August 18 - Healthworx Meal

**Note: All Wednesday activities
(except Choir Rehearsal)
are suspended until September 2.**

Prayer

is the breath, the watchword,
the comfort, the strength,
the honor of a Christian.



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
June 15, 2015

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led in prayer.

Members Present: Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy
Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski
Elders Excused: Jack Ready
Guests Present: Doyle Bailey, FPC Temporary Stated Supply Pastor, Jane Conerly, Moderator and Pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church, Pineville, Steve Cangelosi, Capital One Portfolio Manager, and Jan Hilborn, Assistant Vice President and Trust Officer

A quorum was present.

Jan Hilborn, Capital One Assistant Vice President and Trust Officer and Steve Cangelosi, Portfolio Manager, gave a detailed presentation reviewing the investment performance of the Behl Fund accounts.

Finance Report:

The financial statements for May, 2015, were distributed to the Session. The May, 2015 bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

Motion: That the Session approve the May, 2015 financial statements.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins Motion: Carried

Ratification of Actions taken during May 18, 2015 Stated Session Meeting:

Motion: That the actions taken during the May 18, 2015 Stated Session Meeting be ratified.

Moved: Jane Conerly Seconded: Jim Hockensmith Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session members reviewed the minutes for May 18, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes of the May 18, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report: No Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

No committee meetings will be held until Wednesday night activities resume on September 2.

The Session members discussed options to generate income for the church. They will continue to research additional possibilities.

Pastor's/Moderator Report:

Doyle Bailey said that he and his wife, Barbara, served the May Healthworx meal. He reported that he was disappointed to learn that the Healthworx staff took the meal home instead of eating it there. He stated that it was his understanding that our meals enabled them to continue working through the evening hours. The Session decided to revisit the FPC commitment to provide Healthworx meals.

Doyle Bailey reported that he recently received a letter from Dr. Carin van Schalkwyk from Philippolis, South Africa (Pastor overseeing the South African Mission). Dr. Carin is planning a trip to the United States the first part of August, 2015, and she would like to visit our church to thank us in person for our support of their mission work over the past years.

Doyle Bailey announced that Sunday, June 21, 2015 would be his last Sunday as FPC Stated Supply. He stated that he was hoping to preach until the end of the year, but his health (both physical and psychological) is not holding up. He feels exhausted.

Motion: That the Session accept Pastor Doyle Bailey's resignation, effective June 21, 2015.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

Old Business:

Woodland Presbyterian Church will continue with their plans to visit FPC on July 5, 2015. A luncheon will be served following worship.

New Business:

The Session discussed financial assistance for Dr. Carin van Schalkwyk to make her August visit. Bob and Elizebette Kennedy will host her at their home in

Colfax. Jim Smolenski will ask about Behl Fund money for her ticket due to it being a youth ministry of this church. Dr. Carin will be willing to deliver a sermon. The Session will get the date as soon as possible.

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

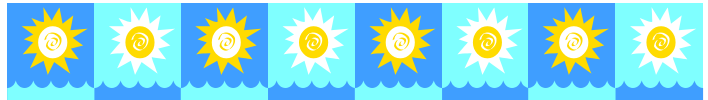
Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 8:15 pm with a closing prayer by Doyle Bailey. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be Monday, July 20, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs



June 14, 2015

Dear Brother Doyle Bailey,

I am writing this e-mail to you to thank you for the donation you have sent to the mission work we do in Philippolis and Bergmanshoogte. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the donation. The donation makes it possible for us to continue with the mission work for the next year. This is truly a big gift. Due to the donation we have received from you, we can focus on spreading the Good News of the Gospel for the next year without worrying about funds and money. It is indeed a huge blessing to be in this position of only focusing on teaching the Gospel.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in August. I am planning a trip to the United States and, if my visa application works out, I would like to visit you in August, if possible. It would be a great privilege to come and thank you in person for all your support over the past years and making it possible for me to do the mission work God has called me to do. I would appreciate it if you could indicate to me if you could receive me in the first part of August for a visit.

May God bless and keep you all.

Your sister in Christ,
Dr Carin van Schalkwyk

August Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
August 2	Vacancy Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Elizebette Kennedy Communion Team: Bill Higgins, Debbe Clegg
August 9	Vacancy	Dirk Benade	
August 16	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
August 23	Jim Hockensmith Vacancy	Jim Smolenski	



Anniversaries and Birthdays

- August 5** - Jim Hockensmith
- August 7** - Mac & Georgia McBurney
- August 11** - Jane O'Donnell
- August 18** - Lacie Ellington
- August 19** - Dee Arnold
- August 19** - Wynn & Debbie Ware
- August 22** - Elizebette Kennedy
- August 24** - Doyle & Barbara Bailey
- August 25** - Mac McBurney
- August 28** - Floy Elliott

Joint Worship Service with Woodland Presbyterian, July 5, 2015



First Presbyterian Church

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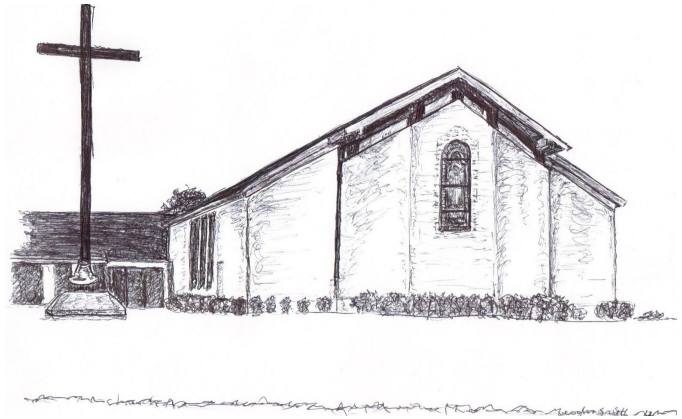
Vacancy, *Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

- 5:45 Fellowship Dinner (*Suspended til Sept. 2*)
- 6:30 Prayer/Bible Study (*Suspended til Sept. 2*)
- 7:15 Choir Practice

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.