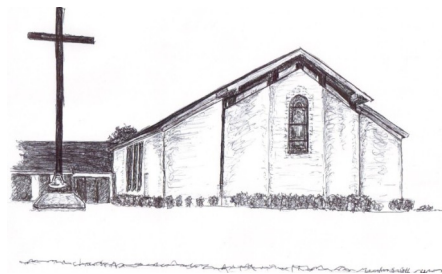


# Presby News

February 2015



## FROM THE PASTOR

### DO THE RIGHT THING EVEN WHEN YOU HAVE THE WRONG ATTITUDE

There is a wise Rabbinic principle, *mitoch shelob lishmah bab lishma*: **one should perform the proper action even if it is done without proper intention because the intention will follow.** (David J. Walpe)

In other words do the right thing and the right attitude will follow. There is an A. A. adage that says: **"Fake it til you make it."** Act your way into a new way of thinking and living.

People can be educated through action to elevate their intentions. Do not **"give until it hurts."** **"Give until it feels good."** In sports, the only way to learn the game is to play the game. The way to learn to pray is to pray. Given the choice, most people will choose a conference on how to pray over praying. Someday when given the option to go to Heaven is given, will they choose a book about Heaven? Will they choose to gaze lovingly at the picture of their beloved over being present with him or her?

A famous Talmudic dispute concerned a debate to decide whether study or practice should claim priority. Finally, it was decided that study is more important than action because study leads to proper action. The problem with study is that it can so easily lead to inaction and only more study. Knowledge must lead to enlightened behavior.

On the other hand simply to act without proper knowledge (study) has no value and can even do harm. Nothing is more frightening, to me, than unenlightened zeal. Informed action can transform situations and lead to desirable results.

A woman once asked Rabbi Jose ben Halafis: "If creation was completed in only six days, what has God been doing since?" He answered: **"God spends His time building ladders, for some to ascend, and others to descend."** -Leviticus Rabbah 8: 1

In every situation, do the right thing and you will:

- ascend the ladder to higher understanding and appreciation
- ascend the ladder to a better attitude toward loving and serving people
- descend from exaggerated concepts about yourself
- descend to search out a brother or sister and together find a ladder to ascend

What thing could be more right to do than to find a brother or sister and invite him/her to join you in an upward journey?

Doyle L Bailey

LOVE IS PATIENT AND  
KIND; DOES NOT ENVY  
OR BOAST; IT IS NOT  
ARROGANT OR RUDE.  
IT DOES NOT INSIST ON  
ITS OWN WAY; IT IS  
NOT IRRITABLE OR  
RESENTFUL; IT DOES  
NOT REJOICE AT  
WRONG DOING, BUT  
REJOICES WITH THE  
TRUTH. LOVE BEARS  
ALL THINGS, BELIEVES  
ALL THINGS, HOPES  
ALL THINGS, ENDURES  
ALL THINGS. LOVE  
NEVER ENDS.  
1 CORINTHIANS 13: 4-8 ESV



### SPECIAL DATES

- Feb 1 - Souper Bowl of Caring
- Feb 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb 15 - Transfiguration of the Lord
- Feb 16 - Session Meeting
- Feb 17 - Healthworx Meal
- Feb 17 - Mardi Gras
- Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)
- Feb 22 - Congregational Luncheon

This is my  
commandment, that  
you love one another  
as I have loved you.

John 15:12

**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**December 15, 2014**

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and opened with a reading from the Presbyterian Peace Making Advent Book.

Members Present: Debbe Clegg, Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Jack Ready  
Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski  
Elders Excused: John Allen and Elizebette Kennedy  
Guests Present: Doyle Bailey, FPC Temporary Stated Supply Pastor, Jane Conerly, Moderator  
A quorum was present.

**Finance Report: Jim Smolenski**

The financial statements for November, 2014, were distributed to the Session. The November, 2014, bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

The church has \$3.6 million in mostly liquid assets. A letter and a point-settia were sent to Mrs. Bertie Deming-Smith. Expenses have been kept below budget; however, pledges are below expectation.

Two letters from Capital One have been received letting us know about bank changes.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the November, 2014 financial statement as presented.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith    Seconded: Bill Higgins    Motion: Carried

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Session members reviewed the minutes for November 18, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith    Seconded: Jack Ready    Motion: Carried

**Clerk's Report: Debbe Clegg**

No Report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS**

**Congregational Life/Christian Education Committee Report: Jim Hockensmith**

Jim Hockensmith reported that Ron Sutto suggested New Beginnings sessions on Sunday afternoon following services. Five simple questions would be asked and it would not be a gripe session. Confidentiality would be maintained in these sessions and stressed to the congregation. The Committee approved these sessions.

**Motion:** That Ron Sutto be invited to meet with the Session and determine the next step.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith    Seconded: Bill Higgins    Motion: Carried

John Allen's interest in Honduras was discussed. Jim Hockensmith found a website by a Presbyterian minister who is doing work in Honduras. Doyle Bailey mentioned that he knows people in that country. By common consent, the Session agreed to ask John Allen to further investigate the matter for the church.

**Personnel Committee Report: Bill Higgins**

No Report

**Property Committee Report: Jack Ready**

Doyle Bailey reported a limb down and a crack in the wall in the kitchen.

**Pastor/Moderator Report: Doyle Bailey**

Beth McDaniel wanted to know if the church was interested in helping a family for Christmas. It was decided that individuals could help if they wished.

There was no real interest in having musicians on New Year's Eve. Musicians can still use the facilities when they can with Aaron Rogers. It is a work in progress and general approval has been given by consensus from the Session.

There is a young couple interested in using the church for a wedding.

**Motion:** That Vacation Bible School be suspended until the church has children to attend.

Moved: Debbe Clegg    Seconded: Jim Hockensmith    Motion: Carried

The Session stated that eventually the archery equipment could be sold if the Archery Bible School program is discontinued.

Thirteen people went to the December 7 FPC Choir event in Natchitoches and several attended Doyle and Barbara Bailey's December 13 Open House.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

The Session discussed staff Christmas bonuses for 2014.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the Staff Christmas Bonuses.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith    Seconded: Bill Higgins    Motion: Carried

**Adjournment:**

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

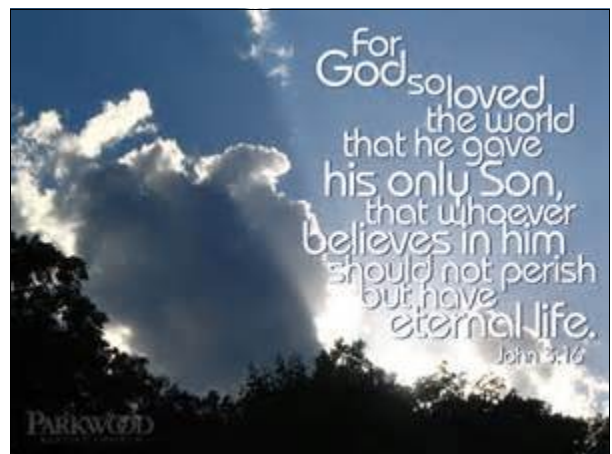
Moved: Jim Hockensmith    Seconded: Jack Ready    Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m. with a closing prayer by Doyle Bailey. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be January 19, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbe Clegg, Clerk of Session

/cs



# February Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Greeter Front Door	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>FEB 1</b>	<b>Vacancy</b> Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	<b>Vacancy</b>	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder:</b> Jim Hockensmith <b>Communion Team:</b> Annelize & Dirk Benade
<b>FEB 8</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	John Allen Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
<b>FEB 15</b>	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct-May) Bill Higgins (May-Oct)	
<b>FEB 22</b>	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	



*Anniversaries  
and Birthdays*

Feb 1 - Robert & Ruth Coon  
 Feb 5 - Fran Wall  
 Feb 22 - Gil Arnold  
 Feb 28 - Barry Herndon

## First Presbyterian Church

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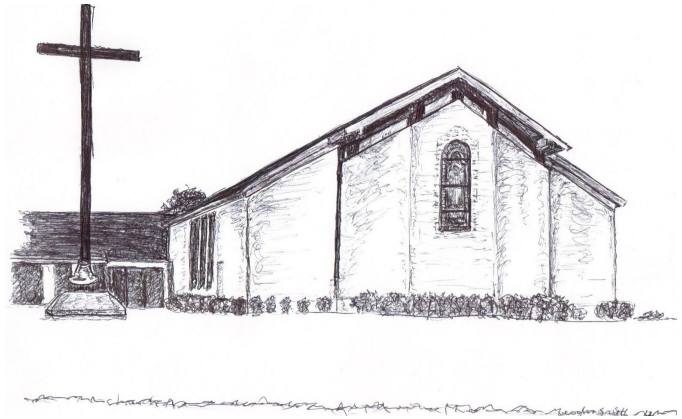
Doyle Bailey, *Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



### ***WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE***

5:45 Fellowship Dinner

6:30 Prayer/Bible Study

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.