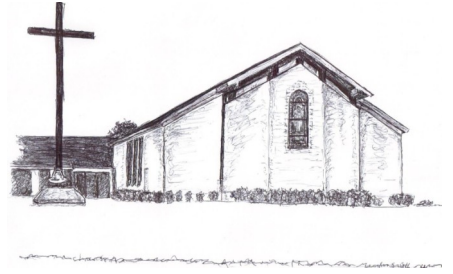


Presby News

January 2015



FROM THE PASTOR

“In Praise of the Absent Minded”

Doyle L. Bailey

To be honest with you, I had originally intended to write about something else but I forgot what my subject was. I suppose I was as William James, the great psychologist and philosopher, said: I was “present-minded somewhere else”.

All of us are capable of having “junior moments” as well as “senior moments.” If you have a good memory, that is good. If you have good memories, that is really good. I actually devote time to improving my memory. There are three secrets to developing a mind with a “steel trap” capability to remember. Unfortunately, I do not remember what they are.

I also devote time to the art of forgetting. My major professor is the Apostle Paul. Here is his thesis:

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13)

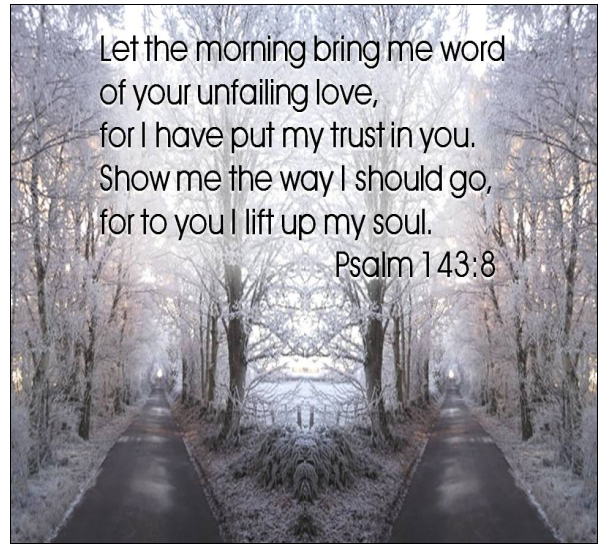
When you “mess up,” ask God to forgive you and ask any person you have wronged to forgive you and move on with your life. This sin has been forgiven by God, so you should accept it with gratitude and move on from there. In other words, it should be absent from your mind and thinking. **That is the best “absent-mindedness” of all.**

Mark Twain has the final word on absent-mindedness. In his later years he remarked: “When I was younger I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not; but my faculties are decaying now and soon I so shall be so I cannot remember anything but the things that never happened.”

In God's forgiveness, He, too, has senior moments. After all, who has been around longer than the Eternal God? In His forgiveness, our sins are passed into oblivion never to be recalled. One thing we should always remember is that our Heavenly Father holds no grudges and treats us as if we had never sinned.

Let the morning bring me word
of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.

Psalm 143:8



SPECIAL DATES

- Jan 1 - New Year's Day (Office Closed)
- Jan 6 - Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 22 - Baptism of the Lord
- Jan 18 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan 19 - Session Meeting
- Jan 19 - Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Jan 20 - Healthworx Meal



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
November 17, 2014

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Ron Sutto called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and opened with a prayer and moment of silence.

Members Present: John Allen, Debbe Clegg, Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready
Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski
Elders Excused: None
Guests Present: Doyle Bailey, FPC Temporary Stated Supply Pastor, Ron Sutto, Moderator

A quorum was present.

Finance Report: Jim Smolenski

The financial statements for October, 2014, were distributed to the Session. The October, 2014, bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members. By common consent the Session received the Treasurer's Report as presented.

A deposit of \$31,961.38 was made on November 10, which is not reflected in the October financial statements. This deposit eliminates the church deficit at the time of this report.

Jim Hockensmith reported that he had asked Music Director Aaron Rogers to submit monthly budget statements to the Session.

Motion: That Aaron Rogers continue submitting monthly budget statements to the Session.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins Motion: Carried

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

Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Jim Hockensmith Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session members reviewed the minutes for October 20, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes of the October 20, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Bill Higgins Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report: Debbe Clegg

The Salvation Army is requesting money for meals for the holidays. We have already sent our annual donation of \$900.00 on March 27, 2014. No action was taken on this request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS

Congregational Life/Christian Education Report: Jim Hockensmith

We have a new formatted newsletter that Carolyn Sterne is publishing. There will be a Christmas dinner on December 14. A list of the Advent readers will be given to Carolyn by Jim Hockensmith.

The Session discussed sending Bertie Deming-Smith a letter of thanks for all she has done for the church through the years. It was suggested that Brandi Woolam compose the letter as she does an excellent job. The letter will be hand delivered.

Motion: That the Session approve sending a letter of thanks to Bertie Deming-Smith for her generosity to the church through the years. Brandi Woolam will be asked to write the letter.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

Personnel Committee Report: Bill Higgins

No Report

Property Committee Report: Jack Ready

No Report

Pastor/Moderator Report: Doyle Bailey

Doyle Bailey noted a couple of events for congregational fellowship are coming up:

- 1) On December 7 the Natchitoches Community Choir Sing-A-Long will be held, in which our choir will be participating. Doyle's house will be open from 3:00 p.m. until the concert at 7:00 pm for the choir and congregation.
- 2) On December 13 Doyle and Barbara Bailey will host an Open House around 3:00 p.m. There are also several activities of interest in Natchitoches on that date that the church members might enjoy.

Doyle stated that the processional, recessional and his wearing of a robe during worship service have added to the worship experience. He suggested that we might want to add the carrying of a cross by a child or choir member to the processional, but Session members felt it would be too "Catholic" and wouldn't be looked upon favorably by several members of the congregation.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Ron Sutto was asked to give the Session advice on what to do about a full-time pastor and what to do to energize the congregation. It is felt that the congregation is very happy with Doyle and have no real interest in getting a new pastor. Ron stated that he feels the congregation does not have a vision and suggested that the Presbytery come and have a meeting with small groups of church members and the Session. The meetings would not be negative, but positive thoughts about the church and what it means to them. Ron also offered suggestions such as a prayer walk, which could help gain increased membership. He also felt the Session needs to be energized in order to energize the congregation.

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:42 p.m. with a closing prayer by Doyle Bailey. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be December 15, 2014.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbe Clegg, Clerk of Session

/cs



January Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Greeter Front Door	Monitor	Communion Servers
JAN 4	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Vacancy	Jim Hockensmith	Jack Ready, January Elder Dirk Benade, Roger Best Ben Yang
JAN 11	Vacancy	John Allen Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
JAN 18	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct-May) Bill Higgins (May-Oct)	
JAN 25	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	



Anniversaries and Birthdays

Jan 1 - Tanna Wilson
 Jan 2 - Chuck & Darrah Mannix
 Jan 4 - Jewell Kennedy
 Jan 7 - Barbara Bailey
 Jan 7 - Mary Ella Billups
 Jan 7 - Kylee Laprairie
 Jan 11 - Tom and Debbe Clegg
 Jan 13 - Alexis Ellington
 Jan 23 - Sonny Brown
 Jan 23 - Emma Jean Huffman
 Jan 25 - Dirk Benade, Jr.
 Jan 26 - Stephanie Huffman
 Jan 29 - Bill Willson

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

First Presbyterian Church

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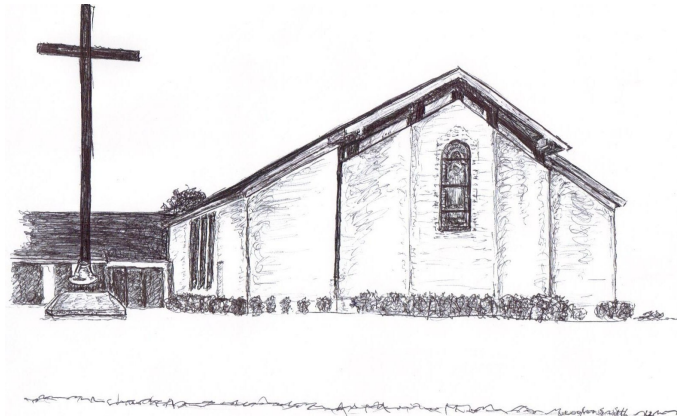
Doyle Bailey, *Pastor*

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.