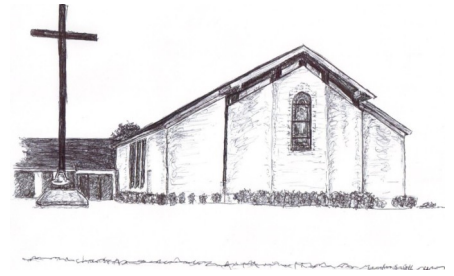


Presby News

July 2015



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Jesus Is the Life of the Party

"Life of the party" may suggest a tipsy wag with a lampshade over his head being foolish in the attempt to inject some "life" into what is in all aspects a boring get-together. Not what I am thinking about Jesus. Remember the wedding in Cana of Galilee when they ran out of wine? What a disaster! Jesus changed all that and to the degree that the Master of Ceremonies exclaimed, "You have saved the best wine until now." I am thinking that the party never really starts until Jesus is there, and He is the one who gives us life.

Israel's Feasts were meant to be feasts of celebration. The Israelites were told to celebrate to Me in the calendar year: "You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover)...and the Feast of Harvest (Pentecost), the first fruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles), which is at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field." (Exodus 23: 15-16)

PASSOVER

This was a party/celebration of the deliverance from the Angel of Death that killed the first-born of the Egyptians when Israel was enslaved. Jesus is the fulfillment of our deliverance. The blood of Jesus has marked you for life and that is really something to celebrate.

For, indeed, Jesus is our Passover; He was sacrificed for us. "Therefore, let us keep the feast..." (1 Corinthians 5: 7-8). Jesus is the one who enlivens this feast/party.

PENTECOST

Pentecost commemorates the giving of the Law to the Israelites 50 days after the first Passover. (Pentecost means fifty). Acts 2 tells us that 50 days after the crucifixion of Jesus (at Passover), the Holy Spirit descended upon the church in a fulfillment of the Feast of Pentecost, just as God had descended in fire upon the mountain to give His Law.

The promise of God was that He would put His laws in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts. (Jeremiah 31:33). This became a reality when the Holy Spirit descended on the 120 gathered in the upper room, filling them with power truly putting His Law in their hearts. These are only the "first-fruits." The party is just getting started. The best is still to come.

TABERNACLES

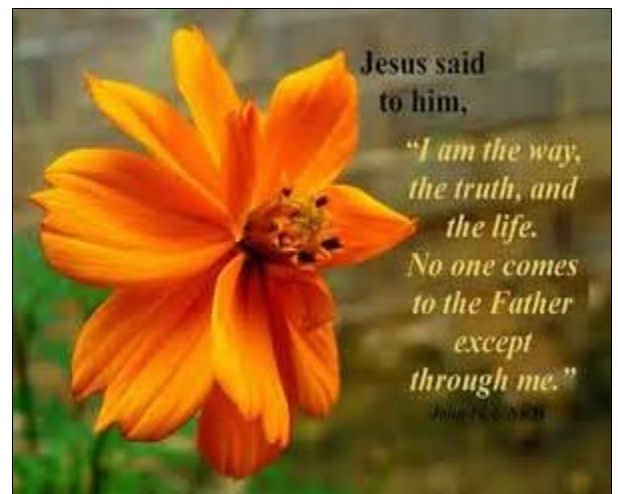
This harvest party was also called the "Feast of Ingathering." Deuteronomy 16: 13-15 tells the plan for the party. Everyone was invited, and it lasted 7 days. You will dwell in a booth for seven days so they would remember the days of tents when God brought them out of Egypt.

The Feast of Tabernacles is the key to God releasing His fullness and maturity into His Church. It is a feast/party of joy and release/Exodus. It is a party that celebrates humility, unity and inclusiveness. It represents the ingathering of many lost peoples. It is the celebration of the harvest.

God wants His people to rejoice and serve Him with gladness of heart.

- It is because of the redemptive work of Jesus that there is a party at all.
- It is Jesus who invites everyone to His celebration. It is a "come as you are party." (*Just as I am without one plea...*)
- It is a party that will not suffer party-poopers, nor will it fizzle out. It cannot, for you see . . . Jesus is the LIFE of the Party.

Doyle L. Bailey



SPECIAL DATES

- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 5 - Host Joint Worship/Luncheon with Woodland Presbyterian Church
- July 20 - Session Meeting
- July 21 - Healthworx Meal

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

Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
May 18, 2015

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jim Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm and opened with prayer.

Members Present: Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy
Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski
Elders Excused: Bill Higgins
Guests Present: Doyle Bailey, FPC Temporary Stated Supply Pastor
A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

The financial statements for April, 2015, were distributed to the Session. The April, 2015 bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.
Motion: That the Session approve the April, 2015 financial statements.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session members reviewed the minutes for April 20, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Session.
Motion: That the Session approve the minutes of the April 20, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Session.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report: No Report.

Note: The minutes of this Session Meeting will be given to the moderator for approval at a later time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

Congregational Life/Christian Education Committee Report: Jim Hockensmith

Wednesday night dinners and program are on hold until September 2. The choir will continue to rehearse on Wednesdays.

Motion: That the Session approve suspending Wednesday night dinners and program until September 2.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve the Listening Committee Luncheon/ Meeting following morning worship on Sunday, October 25, 2015 (the fourth Sunday in October).
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

Evangelism, Worship, and Mission Committee Report:

The Session discussed the need to consider changing the FPC Mission Statement to enable the church to find someone suitable for our church/situation. The Session also discussed going with month to month arrangements.

Motion: That the Session approve changing the FPC Mission Statement.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

Personnel Committee Report: None

Property Committee Report:

The Session appointed a Task Force consisting of Jim Smolenski, Jack Ready and Roger Best. They will explore different options regarding the future for First Presbyterian, e.g., partner with another church or sell the church building and grounds, etc.

Motion: That the Session approve the appointment of the Task Force members, and accept its report when presented.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

The Session discussed the HVAC thermostat issue in the church and the increase in utility costs during the summer months. Doyle Bailey suggested that an energy efficiency study be conducted. The thermostat is programmable, but, if someone changes it, the whole program is voided and requires re-setting. The possibility of a lock box on the thermostat was also discussed.

Pastor's/Moderator Report:

The Session discussed salary for a part-time pastor of \$15,000 to \$20,000. The church may also need to pay in for medical and pension costs for this person. The Session discussed the need to state clearly the expectations for visitations, funerals, weddings, Wednesday night program and Sunday worship.

Old Business:

The Session discussed the possibility of selling the archery equipment, which cost the church around \$5,000 when purchased. Jim Smolenski agreed to look into selling the equipment.

Motion: That the Session approve selling the archery equipment at the best possible price.

Moved: Elizebette Kennedy Seconded: Jim Hockensmith Motion: Carried

New Business: None

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

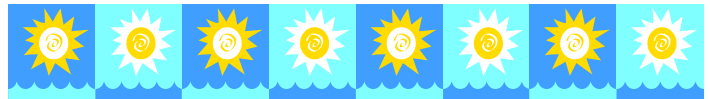
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned with a closing prayer. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be June 15, 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 Philippiolis and Bergman-shoogte. 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

July Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
July 5	Vacancy Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Jim Hockensmith Communion Team: Annelize & Dirk Benade
July 12	Vacancy	Dirk Benade	
July 19	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
July 26	Jim Hockensmith Vacancy	Jim Smolenski	



July 7 - Doris Hockensmith
 July 8 - Wynn Ware
 July 9 - Jim Huffman
 July 9 - Liz Smith

July 10 - Annelize Benade
 July 12 - Payton Jewell
 July 12 - Liz Magee
 July 15 - Nancy Smilie
 July 16 - Bill & Martha Higgins
 July 21 - Justin Ware
 July 22 - Rocky Willson
 July 23 - Christelle Benade
 July 23 - Roy Pitchford
 July 30 - Jim & Doris Hockensmith
 July 31 - Dee Dee Ellington

***FPC WILL HOST THE MEMBERS OF
 WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 AT 11:00 AM, SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2015
 IN A JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE
 WITH LUNCH FOLLOWING***

Be sure to mark your calendars.

First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

office@alexandriafpc.org

www.alexandriafpc.org

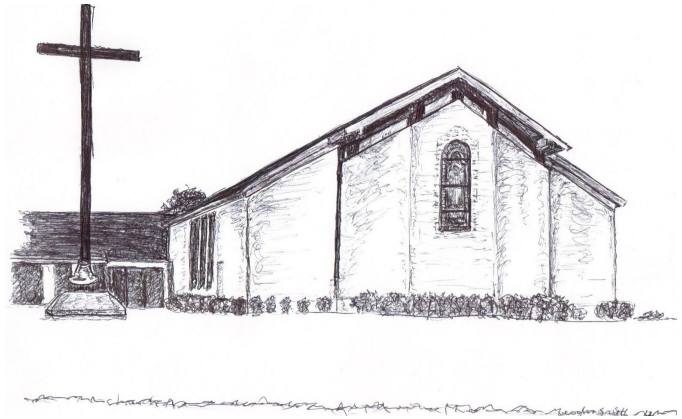
Doyle Bailey, *Pastor*

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.