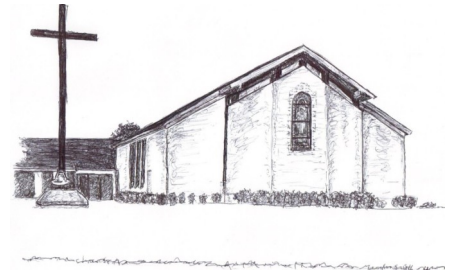


# Presby News

March 2015



## FROM THE PASTOR

### STEPS TO GENEROUS GIVING

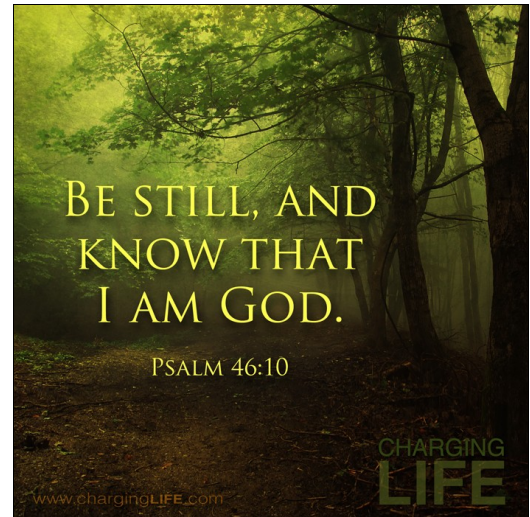
Ask yourself the following questions:

1. When you come to First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria, do you expect the lights to be on and the air conditioning to be functioning? Of course you do or you would not come.
2. Do you expect to hear good music that will encourage and uplift you? This is a reasonable expectation.
3. Should you expect to hear a sermon that will instruct you in the Word of God, give you some truths to live by and feed your soul? Not too much to ask.
4. When you go into a Sunday School Class, will there be quality literature for you for the lesson? I would hope so.
5. Will there be coffee and donuts for you before the service? After all, that's the way you get ready for the service.
6. On Wednesday evenings will there be a meal ready for you at the Fellowship Dinner? I like the idea and expect it to be there for me.
7. When we have the mid-week Bible study after the Fellowship meal, can you expect a Bible study with spiritual depth that will help you get through my week? You should settle for no less.
8. When you are sick either at home or in the hospital, can you reasonably expect a visit from the pastor to encourage and pray for you? Absolutely.
9. Would you be upset if the Sanctuary, classrooms, the Fellowship Hall and bathrooms were dirty and messy (with no toilet paper or towels)? Of course you would.
10. Do you expect your church to support mission causes at home and around the world? Isn't that what churches do?
11. Do you expect to enjoy all these and to feel good about what your church does and for it to cost you nothing or next to nothing?

I do not think this is the way you think. To me, you are showing growth in learning the joy of generous giving. To help you continue to grow, let me ask you to consider the following:

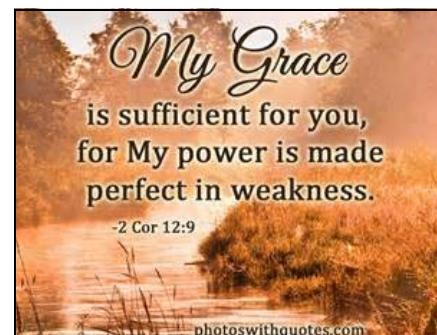
1. Have a willing and open mind. Let God guide you. In Exodus 35, only those whose hearts were willing were allowed to participate in the offerings. Their hearts were willing because of what they had seen God do for them.
2. Think of the good things your church does with the money. Members of the Session and others who make financial decisions for the church must remember it is still God's money after it is given to the church. If you have concerns or questions about the budget or expenditures, ask and I will do my best to get you an answer. You deserve to know.
3. Give cheerfully. "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7) God as little pleasure in a gift given with the wrong attitude. He can still honor the gift and create good from it but the giver has lost a blessing.
4. Refuse to be pressured. Do not let anyone, including me, pressure you into giving. Let God set the amount, and you will be blessed.

*Doyle Bailey*



### SPECIAL DATES

- March 6 - World Day of Prayer
- March 8 - International Women's Day
- March 8 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 16 - Session Meeting
- March 17 - Healthworx Meal
- March 17 - Saint Patrick's Day
- March 20 - Spring Begins
- March 22 - Congregational Luncheon
- March 29 - Palm Sunday (Holy Week Begins)
- March 30 - National Doctors' Day



**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**January 19, 2015**

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and opened with prayer. The devotional for the meeting was from Exodus 20:17.

Members Present: Debbe Clegg, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: None

Guests Present: Doyle Bailey, FPC Temporary Stated Supply Pastor; Jane Conerly, Moderator

A quorum was present.

**Finance Report: Jim Smolenski**

The financial statements for December, 2014, were distributed to the Session. Jim Smolenski reported that 16 families have pledged approximately \$68,000 to the 2015 FPC budget. The December, 2014, bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

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

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready Motion: Carried

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Session members reviewed the minutes for December 15, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes of the December 15, 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 on the following items:

- The Behl Fund request needs to be sent in.
- Ron Sutto has not sent a response regarding the New Beginnings meetings.
- The Session needs to prepare for the statistical report.
- Need to reinstate the 4th Sunday Congregational Fellowship meals.
- South African Mission wire of \$6,600 needs to be sent.

**Personnel Committee Report:**

No Report

**Property Committee Report: Jack Ready**

The Fire Alarm Panel needs to be replaced. We are waiting for an estimate from Brown's Security Systems.

**Pastor/Moderator Report: Doyle Bailey**

- Doyle Bailey reported that he is looking for outreach programs.
- He suggested a guest musician pool to use each Sunday for an annual budgetary amount of \$6,100, which would focus on outreach to young people and their families.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the Guest Musician Pool Outreach idea.

Motion: Jack Ready Seconded: Jim Hockensmith 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 6:55 p.m. with a closing prayer by Doyle Bailey. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be February 16, 2015.

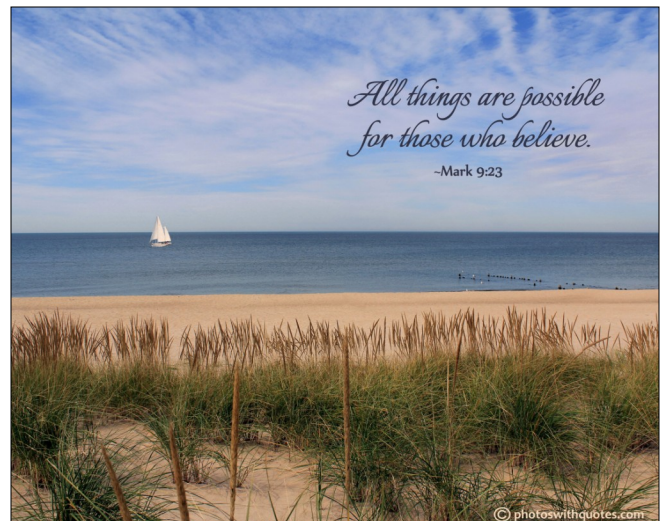
Respectfully submitted:

Debbe Clegg, Clerk of Session

/cs



**Daylight Savings Time Begins:**  
**On March 8th**  
**don't forget to**  
**spring forward one hour!**



# March Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>MAR 1</b>	<b>Vacancy</b> Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder:</b> Elizebette Kennedy <b>Communion Team:</b> Roger Best, Jim Hockensmith
<b>MAR 8</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	Dirk Benade	
<b>MAR 15</b>	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Roger Best (Oct-May) Bill Higgins (May-Oct)	
<b>MAR 22</b>	Jim Hockensmith <b>Vacancy</b>	Jim Smolenski	
<b>MAR 29</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	Bill Higgins	



## Anniversaries and Birthdays

Mar 7 - Robert Kennedy  
 Mar 14 - Charles & Dee Dee Ellington  
 Mar 15 - Darrell Dubroc  
 Mar 16 - Brenda Willson  
 Mar 22 - Elana Glynn  
 Mar 22 - Roscoe Wilson  
 Mar 28 - Robert & Elizebette Kennedy

## First Presbyterian Church

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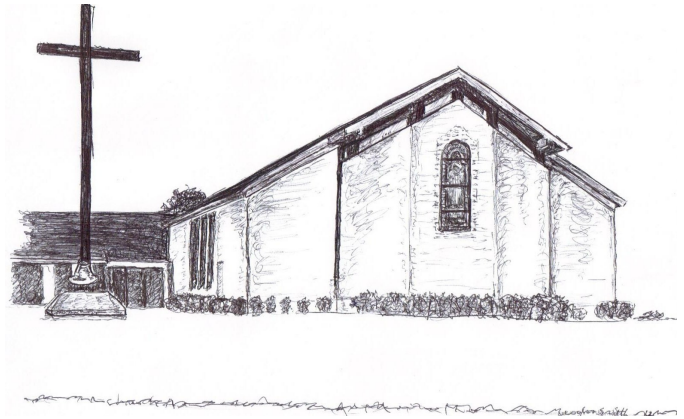
Doyle Bailey, *Pastor*

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.