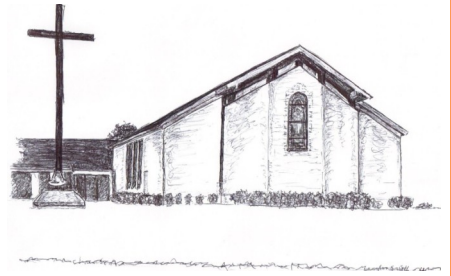




Presby News



NOVEMBER 2015

A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT...

A SEASON OF THANKS

By Kelly McFadden

*All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.
Psalms 119:160*

This holiday season, you will most likely hear the song "My Favorite Things" from the Broadway musical *The Sound of Music*. To me this song has always felt out of place during the holidays, until recently. I have begun to hear it in a new light, recognizing the famous list of "favorite things" as a list of reasons to be thankful. The character, Maria, who sings this song, thinks about her list of favorite things when she seeks comfort.

Christians have a list as well. Found in the Bible are promises from our Lord - keepsakes we can cling to at all times including periods of worry, trouble, or despair. These promises urge Christ-followers not to be troubled or to feel alone. They are words offering great hope because they are not the words of mere men. They are inspired, never-changing words given to us from our Savior and Lord. Read through a few of these promises:

The Lord will give His people strength. Psalm 29:11
The Lord hears our cries. Psalm 34:17
The Lord will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4-5
The Lord will answer when you call to Him. Jeremiah 33:3
You need not be afraid. God is with you. Isaiah 41:13
The Lord will give rest to your burdened soul. Matt. 11:28-29
The Lord will comfort you. John 14:27
The Lord had given us His Spirit to guide us. Acts 1:8
You will have everlasting life when you believe. John 3:16

This list can go on and on. The Lord promises mercy, protection, strength, eternity, love, and forgiveness. As it says in the Bible, God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18) and His word is truth (John 17:1). We cannot look at God's promises like we do those of our friends and family. As people, we often promise, but don't follow through, even when we have the best intentions. God's Word is binding and true. These promises hold fast. We do not have to wonder if they will happen. Rather we ought to wait in expectation. So "when the dog bites, when the bee stings, when you're feeling sad," I encourage you to remember all God has promised you. It is in these promises you will find great strength.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, in addition to thinking through all you are thankful for, take time to thank God for His many promises.



SPECIAL DATES

- November 1 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 1 - All Souls' Day
- November 1 - Brookdale Worship
- November 11 - Veterans Day (office closed)
- November 16 - Session Meeting
- November 17 - Healthworx Meal
- November 22 - Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- November 26 - Thanksgiving (office closed)
- November 29 - First Sunday of Advent



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
September 21, 2015

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Ron Sutto called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm and led in prayer.

Members Present: Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready
Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski
Elders Excused: None
Guests Present: Ron Sutto, Moderator
A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

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

Motion: That the Session approve the August, 2015 financial statements.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for July 26 and August 17, 2015.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for July 26 and August 17, 2015 as presented.
Moved: Ron Sutto Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report: See minutes in folders.

Motion: That the Clerk's Report be approved as presented.
Moved: Ron Sutto Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

Congregational Life/Christian Education, Evangelism, Worship & Missions Committee Report: Jim Hockensmith

By common consent the Session approved the following:

- No "Hanging of the Greens" Service this year.
- The Church will be decorated between Thanksgiving and the first Sunday of November.
- Fourth Sunday Meals will be postponed until further notice.
- Jim Heath will be asked to preach the Christmas Eve Service.
- Invite more people for Wednesday Night Fellowship.
- Provide Sunday School for visiting children. Ask Victor Trantham to help. Elizebette Kennedy will look into the Tell Series for different age groups.
- The October Healthworx meal will be provided by Robert and Elizebette Kennedy.

Personnel Committee Report: Bill Higgins

Pianist DeAnna Brister has not returned since her illness. Bill Higgins will contact her. Her contract allows her to be off 4 Sundays per year and she has been off more than that and is getting paid.

Motion: That the church terminate DeAnna Brister's salary until she returns, effective immediately.
Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Property Committee Report: Jack Ready

Jack Ready gave a brief update on air conditioner problems, and reported that a temporary fix had been made costing \$472.30. He then made the following motion:

Motion: That the Session approve fixing the air conditioning system for a total cost of \$2,425 as presented in the quote from ACA Mechanical/Industrial.
Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve fixing the leaks around the windows in the youth wing and crack above the door between the library and kitchen as quoted by Ronald Juneau for \$1,800.

Moved: Ron Sutto Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Jack Ready noted that the glass doors need to be changed to decrease the risk for glass damage. He also pointed out that the wood on the doors is rotten, and all six doors need to be replaced. Jack Ready will get a price/quote for repairs and report back to the Session for approval.

Pastor's/Moderator Report: Ron Sutto

Ron Sutto reported that he has had a conversation with Joel about part time work. He is still waiting for an email.

Old Business:

Supply Pastor: The Session will check with Jim Heath to fill the pulpit vacancies for October and November, 2015.

Budget Matters: Jim Smolenski reported that utilities are averaging \$758 per month. Property maintenance is on target. Total expenses year-to-date are under budget, and overall the budget is doing better than expected.

The Church is thankful for the many contributions made in memory of Doris Hockensmith. Doris touched the lives of many people, and she will be missed.

New Business:

Hope House needs cleaning supplies. Donation boxes will be put out for contributions. Hope House also needs playground equipment.

Motion: That the Session approve donating the FPC playground equipment to Hope House.
Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve Community Outreach Stroke/Vascular screening in December, 2015.

Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the Session approve entering into negotiations with Tom Harmeyer about renting space from the church.

Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

The Session discussed the closing of the Shepherd Center. This item will need to come off the budget. The Session approved separating the missions in the budget to keep a record of payments for each individual mission for future reference.

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.
Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:20 pm with a closing prayer by Ron Sutto. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be Monday, October 19, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy
/cs

November Responders Schedule

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



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

Nov 18 **Doyle Bailey**
Nov 20 **Barbara Ware**
Nov 22 **Jack Ready**
Nov 23 **Darrah Mannix**
Nov 24 **Emily Young**
Nov 25 **Rebecca LaPrairie**
Nov 25 **Jack & Judy Ready**



First Presbyterian Church

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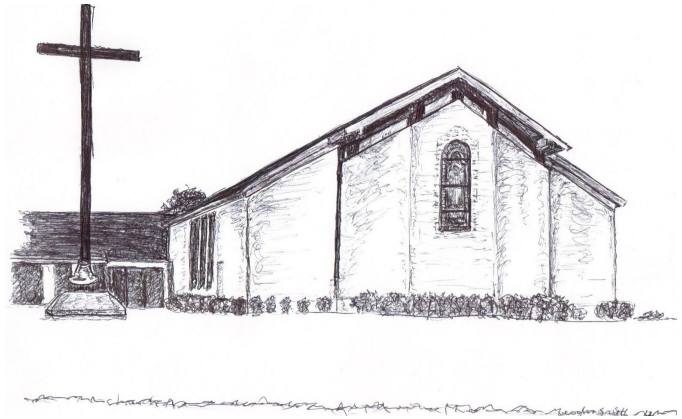
Vacancy, *Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

5:45	Meal
6:30	Fellowship/Committees
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.