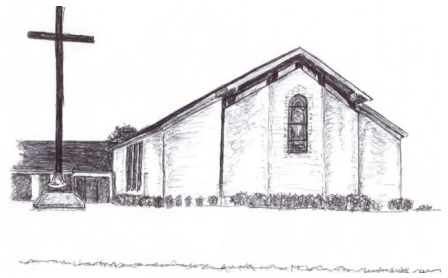




# Presby News

OCTOBER 2015



## A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT...

### GOT THE RIGHT COMPASS?

By Mary Southerland

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*  
(Hebrews 4:12, NIV)

In 1804, the British ship, *HMS Apollo*, was leading a convoy of 69 merchant vessels to the West Indies on a route that put them parallel to the coasts of Spain and Portugal, about a hundred miles from land. A storm arose on Sunday, April 1. Even though it was April Fools' Day, the captain was unconcerned because the compass assured him he was well into open sea. But in the wee hours of the morning, the ship wrecked against the jagged rocks of the coastline.

Jolted from their hammocks, the crew ran to their posts and tried to save the ship from the cold sea. The waves crashed over the hull, flooding the ship from above amid the screams of shipmen still below.

As the night gave way to dawn, the surviving crew were amazed to find themselves not a hundred miles from land, but wrecked against the Portuguese coast, which was littered with the debris from many of the other ships in their convoy. Of the sixty-nine vessels traveling with *HMS Apollo*, forty were wrecked, some with total loss of life. It was one of the greatest disasters in the history of British maritime shipping.

The captain of *HMS Apollo* faced court-martial, but he was acquitted when it was learned that the fault lay not with him - but with the ship's compass.

Because the *Apollo* had taken on a large iron tank, the magnetism of the compass was thrown off just a little - just four degrees - and the error accumulated day after day. As leader of the convoy, the captain had unwittingly led the others to shipwreck because his compass was defective.

Unfortunately, many of us are living shipwrecked lives because of a defective compass. The Bible is the only compass we can count on for accurate and precise directions that enable us to navigate the treacherous waters of everyday life with confidence.

Romans 10:17 NIV: "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."

We can always trust the Word of God. We can always count on what it says. If that is true, then why do we constantly doubt God? When a storm hits, why does our default emotion tend to be fear instead of faith?

You may have heard the familiar old Chinese saying, "There is a good dog and a bad dog fighting within each of us. The one that is going to win is the one we feed the most." The same is true when it comes to faith and doubt. We weaken our doubt by strengthening our faith in God. The Word of God feeds the new nature God gives us when we surrender our lives to Him. As that new nature grows stronger, the old sinful nature becomes weaker . . . And as the old nature becomes weaker, our faith in God grows stronger.

A steady diet of the Word produces a strong faith. Read the Bible each day. Memorize a verse of Scripture each week. The more of the Bible you have in your heart and mind, the stronger the compass of His truth grows.

**Now is the time. Check your compass.**

### SPECIAL DATES

- October 4 - Brookdale Worship
- October 12 - Columbus Day
- October 16 - World Food Day
- October 19 - Session Meeting
- October 20 - Healthworx Meal
- October 24 - United Nations Day
- October 25 - Reformation Sunday



**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**August 17, 2015**

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led in prayer.

Members Present: Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: None

Guests Present: Jane Conerly, Moderator

A quorum was present.

**Finance Report:**

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

**Motion:** That the Session approve the July, 2015 financial statements.

Moved: Jack Ready  
Seconded: Jim Hockensmith  
Motion: Carried

**Motion:** That the Session cease making deposits to the Pastoral Transition Account, effective immediately.

Moved: Jack Ready  
Seconded: Jim Hockensmith  
Motion: Carried

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes for July 26, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Session were not available for approval.

**Clerk's Report:** No Report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:**

*No committee meetings will be held until Wednesday night activities resume on September 2.*

The Session noted that Wednesday Night Fellowships and activities will resume on September 2.

The Session received a report that the Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) was not available to come to FPC as supply pastor.

**Property Committee Report: Jack Ready**

Jack Ready gave an update on property matters, and reported that the new oven has been purchased and installed.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

After a brief discussion about upcoming supply pastors needed, the following motion was made:

**Motion:** That the Session approve Jim Heath as Supply Pastor for September 6 and 13, Aaron Rogers for September 20 with Jim Hockensmith as Alternate for September 20 and Nancy Hendrix for September 27.

Moved: Jack Ready  
Seconded: Jim Hockensmith  
Motion: Carried

The Session reviewed a request from Ann Murray, Human Resources and Marketing Director for Alexandria Eye and Laser Center to use the FPC Sanctuary for their monthly staff meetings. After a brief discussion, the Session made the following motion:

**Motion:** That the Session approve Alexandria Eye and Laser Center using the Fellowship Hall for their monthly staff meetings, and FPC will accept donations to cover expenses.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith  
Seconded: Jack Ready  
Motion: Carried

Jane Conerly reported that she would not be able to attend the September 21 meeting. Ron Sutto will serve as Moderator for that meeting.

Regarding Brookdale Nursing Home services, by common consent, the Session approved continuing with singing and a short devotional at Brookdale on the first Sunday of each month. No communion will be served at this time. Jim Hockensmith will lead the worship service, and Judy Ready or Ben Yang will be asked to assist if needed.

**Adjournment:**

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

Moved: Jim Hockensmith  
Seconded: Jack Ready  
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be Monday, September 21, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs



# October Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>October 4</b>	<b>Vacancy</b> Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Jack Ready <b>Communion Team:</b> Jim Hockensmith, Vacancy
<b>October 11</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	Dirk Benade	
<b>October 18</b>	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
<b>October 25</b>	Jim Hockensmith <b>Vacancy</b>	Jim Smolenski	



**October 3 - Jace Huffman**  
**October 9 - Debbie Ware**  
**October 29 - Jim Smolenski**



THE MAGNIFICENT BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION. . .

## First Presbyterian Church

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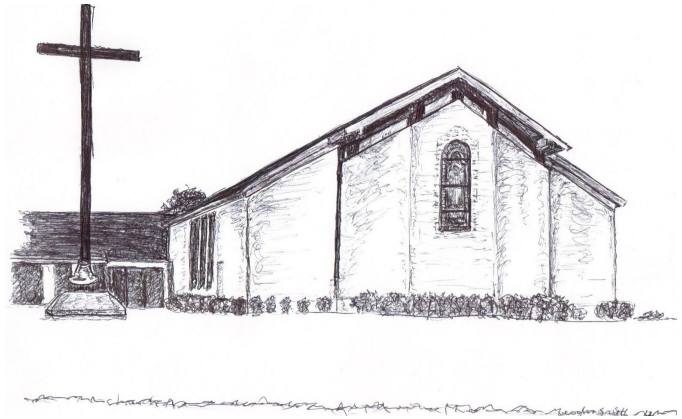
*Vacancy, Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



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

5:45 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.