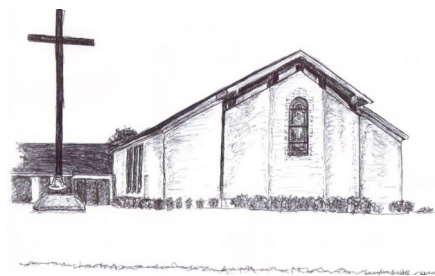




# Presby News



SEPTEMBER 2015

## A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT...

### WHEN YOU WANT TO QUIT

By Chrystal Evans Hurst

*"... Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."  
Hebrews 12:1b (NLT)*

My youngest son is an athlete at heart. He runs every race *hard*. During track season, he frequently walks off the asphalt in tears, heaving, because he has given every drop of his energy to running his race.

At a recent track meet, my 6-year-old was the third leg runner on his relay team. As the runner before him got closer, my son moved forward and extended his arm back to receive the baton. At that point, they were in fourth place. Well this son of mine hates, and I mean HATES, to lose. So he sprinted fast. Too fast in fact.

From the sidelines, we saw how much energy he exerted. He was trying to close the distance between himself and the three teams in front of him. He did it, too. He passed the guy in third quickly. He zoomed past the guy in second. And, before the first 100-meter curve was complete, he had moved in front of the little guy in first place!

He held that first place position for the second 100 meters. But somewhere around the 200-meter mark, his energy waned, his legs started "talking to him," and he started slowing down. He was tired after having spent so much energy catching up—and it showed.

During the third 100 meters, he fell from first to second, and it appeared that he would soon fall back to third. But right at the moment that runner behind him threatened to catch him, my little runner heard a familiar voice. My husband was waiting for him at the last 100 meters. He was shouting to our little runner that the finish line was near. "Focus on the finish. Son! Don't quit! Hold your ground! Dig deep and focus on the finish!"

Between the sound of my husband's voice and the breath on the back of his neck from the boy in third place, my son apparently found a new source of strength. The look on his face changed from numb exhaustion to a grimace of pure agony and determination all mixed together. A renewed focus made all the difference in his ability to fight to the finish. His legs started moving faster as he held his ground and pushed to the end of his race to hand the baton to the team member to run after him.

Life is like that sometimes. It's like a race you're trying to run, even though you've exhausted your resources and are simply out of steam. Yet the writer of Hebrews encourages us in today's key verse to "run with endurance the race God has set before us."

Maybe you're worn out from doing too much, too fast. Maybe your body presents a challenge as you battle physical ailments that slow you down. Maybe your emotional or mental energy are low as you fight to maintain a positive outlook and trust God for His best, even though it seems like you only fall further behind in your finances, relationships or career.

Focus on the finish, my friend. Don't quit. Hold your ground and dig deep. Run that race with endurance. Whatever God has asked you to do, do it well. Your race will not last forever, so give it all you've got. God is watching and cheering you on as you fight to the finish.

*God, help me run my race in a way that pleases you.*

### SPECIAL DATES

- September 2 - Wednesday Activities Resume  
5:45 pm Fellowship Meal  
6:30 pm Committees  
7:15 pm Choir
- September 6 - Brookdale Worship Resumes
- September 7 - Labor Day (Office Closed)
- September 21 - Session Meeting
- September 21 - International Day of Peace
- September 22 - Healthworx Meal
- September 23 - Native American Day
- September 27 - Worship & Communion



THE MAGNIFICENCE OF FALL

**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**July 26, 2015**

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Ron Sutto called the meeting to order at 12:05 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 June, 2015, were distributed to the Session. The June, 2015 bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

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

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Session members reviewed the minutes for June 15, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Session.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes of the June 15, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:**

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

After a discussion about interim pulpit supply, the Session members made the following motion:

**Motion:** That the Session members pursue options for getting a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) or Pastors that might be available for FPC pulpit supply.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

**Property Committee Report: Jack Ready**

**Motion:** That Jack Ready be given approval to follow up on each property item needing attention and move forward on repairs as needed. Session also gave approval for Jim Hockensmith to purchase a new oven and have it delivered.

Moved: Bill Higgins

Seconded: Jim Hockensmith

Motion: Carried

**New Business:**

**Motion:** That Aaron Rogers be accepted as a new member and a letter be sent to his previous church, Trinity Episcopal Church, Natchitoches, Louisiana, for transfer.

Moved: Jack Ready

Seconded: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

**Motion:** Approved paying Dr. Carin van Schalkwyk from Philippolis, South Africa, \$1,000 to assist with her travel expenses. She will speak at FPC on Sunday, August 16, 2015.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

**Adjournment:**

By common consent, the Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 12:54 pm with a closing prayer by Ron Sutto. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be Monday, August 17, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy

/cs



# September Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>September 6</b>	<b>Vacancy</b> Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Bill Higgins <b>Communion Team:</b> Wynn Ware, Elizebette Kennedy
<b>September 13</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	Dirk Benade	
<b>September 20</b>	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
<b>September 27</b>	Jim Hockensmith <b>Vacancy</b>	Jim Smolenski	



Anniversaries  
and Birthdays

September 8 - Martha Higgins

September 10 - Ed Ware

September 22 - Marjorie Benge

September 25 - Nancy Davis

September 26 - Laurie Morris

September 27 - Brady Huffman

September 29 - Joseph Ellington



*This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Psalms 118:24

## First Presbyterian Church

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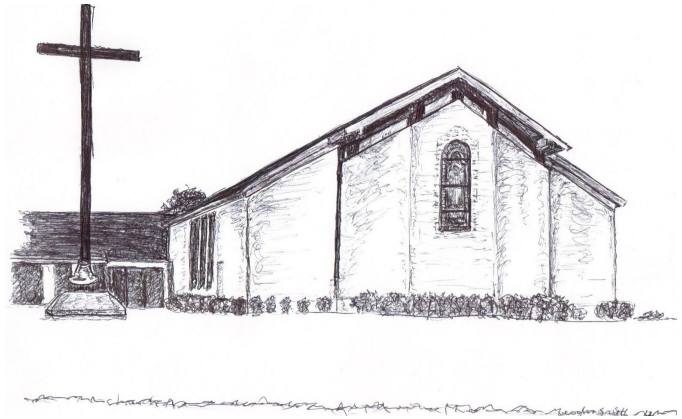
*Vacancy, Pastor*

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.