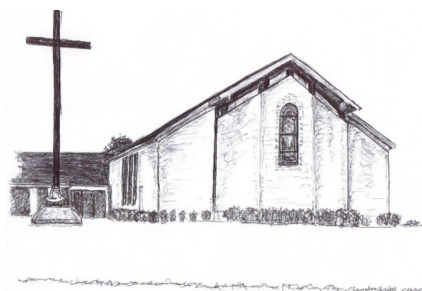


Presby News

SEPTEMBER 2016



A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT...

Reflections of Autumn

By David Jeremiah

My childhood autumns in Ohio hold precious memories—the fall revival at church, unpacking warmer clothing, hot cocoa, harvest moons, fires in the hearth, a well-stocked pantry, and best of all—FOOTBALL! I loved it!

The autumn of life is a strange mixture of nostalgia, blessings, and potential. It yields the harvest of seeds we've sown throughout life and braces us for colder days to come.

When life's autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do—the best and fullest. It's a good transition time.

"Autumn" only occurs once in the Bible. In Jude 1:12, false teachers are compared to "autumn trees without fruit," implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year. How can we take advantage of the "autumn of life?"

The seasons come and go, so focus on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging.

There's a lot of unwelcome change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television or glance at the magazines. We're painfully aware our kids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children.

And personal changes—children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. Sometimes we feel outdated at work.

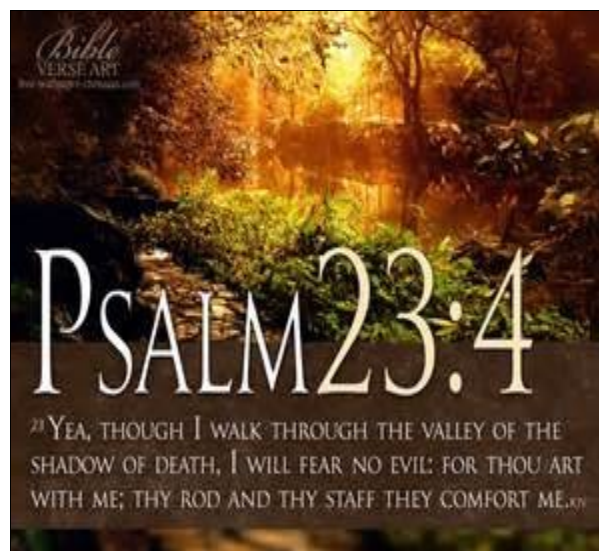
But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes—our eternal God. Remember this verse from "Abide with Me?"

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim' its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changes not, abide with me. (Henry F. Lyte)

J. I. Packer points out that God does not change. His life is always the same. His character is always dependable. His truth, ways, and purposes do not change. His Son does not change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

His children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending.

The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God's wonderful blessings—family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word, and eternal life still to come.



SPECIAL DATES

September 4 Brookdale Worship
September 11 Communion Served
September 5 Labor Day (Church Office Closed)
September 19 Session Meeting
September 20 HealthWorx Meal

Dr. Heath in office on Thursdays 10 am to 2 pm



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana

July 18, 2016

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and led in prayer.

Members Present: Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready
Treasurer: Jim Smolenski excused.
Elders Excused: None
Guests Present: Jim Heath, Stated Supply; Jane Conerly, Moderator

A quorum was present.

Finance Report:

The financial statements for June, 2016, were distributed to the Session. The June, 2016 bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

Motion: That the Session approve the June, 2016 Financial Reports.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session reviewed the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for June 20, 2016.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session for June 20, 2016.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report: Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS:

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

- The Session reviewed and discussed the proposal from Nugent Music and Audio. It was the general consensus of the Session that the current sound system was adequate and no further changes were needed at this time.
- Brookdale has submitted a copy of their insurance, which is now on file at FPC. They will now be able to use FPC as an emergency shelter for their residents in the event of an emergency situation.

Personnel Committee Report: Bill Higgins

Bill Higgins noted that Carolyn Sterne's (FPC Administrative Assistant) employment anniversary was June 25.

Motion: That the session approve a salary increase for Carolyn Sterne.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Property Committee Report: Jack Ready

Jack Ready reported on the following building maintenance projects:

- One Air Conditioning Unit will be replaced.
- Roof has been repaired from low-lying limbs, and more limbs are scheduled to be removed.

Motion: That the Session approve the ACA bill of \$7,945.00 to replace the air conditioning unit.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jack Ready
Motion: Carried

Pastor's/Moderator Report: Dr. Jim Heath

- Dr. Jim Heath discussed the possibility of reinstating the **Wednesday night program** and calling it the **FPPS Program** (Food, Fellowship, Prayer, Service).
- He explained that it is a **service to the NSU students** who drive in for choir practice, and it provides an opportunity for FPC members to **come together for fellowship**.

- He suggested that reinstating the Wednesday night program might serve as a basis for **building support** and making **the program more viable**.
- On some Wednesdays, FPC might consider implementing **action-oriented service projects for outreach**, which would connect with people. (i.e. Taking cold water to Emergency Rooms; Offer Communion at coffee houses.)

The Session members agreed by common consent to reinstate the Wednesday night program for one Wednesday night a month, on a trial basis, starting on September 7.

Jim Heath stated that he had observed a positive, upbeat spirit in Sunday worship and in the Session meeting tonight. More visitors are coming almost every Sunday, and God is working in the lives of people. He thanked everyone for their support.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Debbe Clegg requested the use of the Fellowship Hall for a reception for her son and his new wife on Sunday afternoon, July 24, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.

Motion: That the session approve Debbe Clegg's request to use the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 24, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. for a reception.

Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Adjournment:

Motion: That the Session Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m. with a closing prayer by Dr. Jim Heath. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be 6:00 pm Monday, August 15, 2016.

Respectfully submitted:
Minutes taken by: Elizebette Kennedy
/cs



Wednesday Night Fellowship

Will resume on

September 7, 2016

(One Wednesday Each Month)

September Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
September 4	Vacancy Helen McDaniel (March-Oct)	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Jack Ready Communion Team: Bill Higgins, Vacancy
September 11	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
September 18	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins (May-Oct) Roger Best (Oct-May)	
September 25	Jim Hockensmith Vacancy	Jim Smolenski	



Anniversaries
and Birthdays

Martha Higgins 9/8
Marjorie Benge 9/22
Nancy Davis 9/25
Laurie Morris 9/26
Judy Ready 9/26
Brady Huffman 9/27
Joseph Ellington 9/29

Sunday Solo Series - Extended

Want to be involved in the worship service?

Congregation members and student musicians are invited to participate in the Sunday Solo Series. Please sign up at least 1 (one) week prior! (Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.) Be sure to make an appointment with Aaron to discuss music, and set up a rehearsal time.

Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday night

All rehearsals are open, and you are encouraged to get involved!



First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

office@alexandriafpc.org

www.alexandriafpc.org

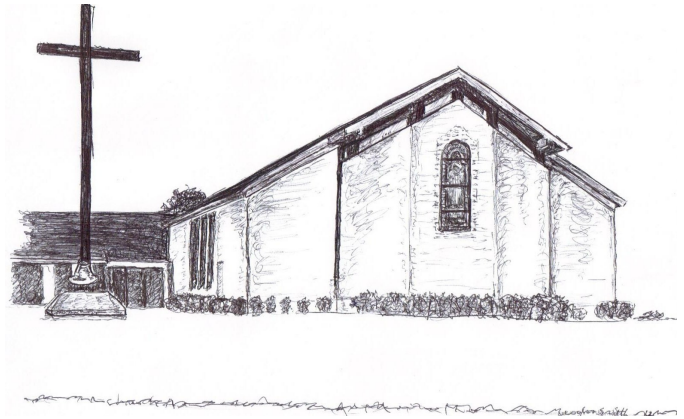
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

(One Wednesday Night Each Month)

5:45 pm	Meal
6:30 pm	Fellowship/Committees
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Will Continue)

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.