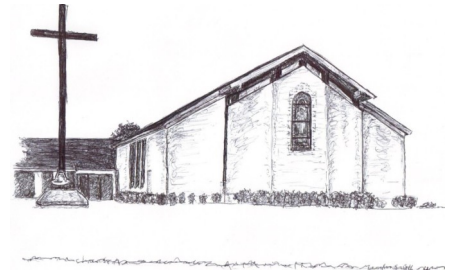


# Presby News

December 2014



## FROM THE PASTOR

On Sunday, November 9, I asked you to join me in becoming a member of the CCC — Not the Civilian Conservation Corps of Franklin Roosevelt. This CCC is the Christian Community of Caring. Some of you will remember that your charge for the week was to 1) Commend someone, 2) Close some issue in your life, and 3) Celebrate your life in Jesus. I have already done the three, and, so you can see I at least try to practice what I preach, here they are:

1) Commend. I was happy to commend a member of our church who lovingly counseled with and prayed for another member of our church family. This person is dear to Barbara and me. Barbara did it in a way I would have never thought of and is to be commended for ministering in such a creative, caring way. Men, listen to your wives. Observe and learn.

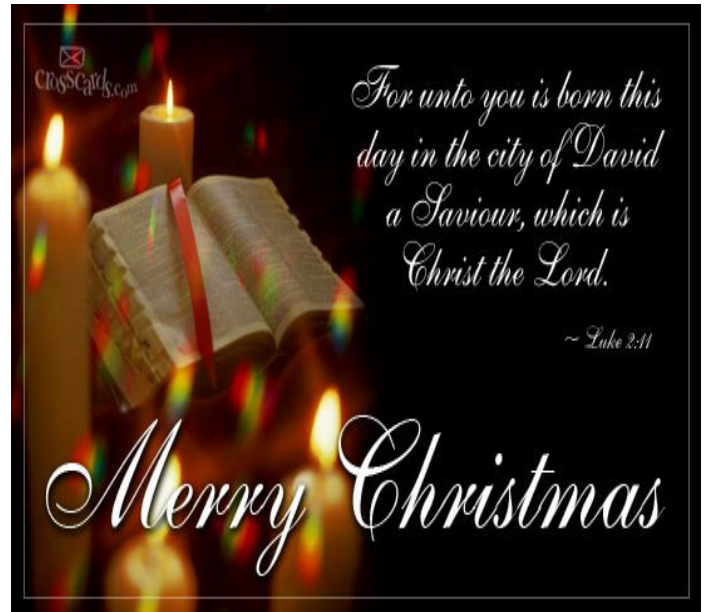
2) Close an issue. I have been angry and unforgiving toward a person in Natchitoches who I felt maligned me, and I felt had questioned my integrity. To make matters worse, it was done in social media. Well, I am happy to say I have “let it go” and, yes, I have forgiven. What a relief. This is a load I do not have to drag around with me any longer. What a great way to lose “weight.”

3) Celebrate. Our little “Presby dog,” a rat terrier, who comes to church every Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday, sat with me on our front porch in the swing. She was soaking up some rays in a patch of sunshine near the top of the steps. I was basking in another kind of “sunshine.” This was a thirty-minute time of breathing deeper than I usually do. Letting tense muscles relax, meditating and just basically experiencing the moment. My directive to myself was, “Don’t just do something, sit there!” Every once in a while I even remembered to swing. (Swinging was optional.) It was wonderful. I hope you will try it or something like it. It is energizing to let your soul catch up with your body.

Now as I write this on Tuesday afternoon as a big cold front moves into our area, I have two choices. One, I can say I am done for the week. Two, I can say this is a better way to live. I think I will go another round.

So, to you who are still with me in reading this article, I commend you for so doing. I hope you will be encouraged to do your “homework.” Now on to numbers 2 and 3. I may have completed the cycle 3 times by the time I see you Sunday.

Doyle



## SPECIAL DATES

- Dec 1 - World AIDS Day
- Dec 7 - Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec 7 - FPC Choir to NSU for Sing-Along
- Dec 10 - FPC Choir Caroling
- Dec 10 - Human Rights Day
- Dec 14 - Third Sunday of Advent
- Dec 14 - Congregational Luncheon
- Dec 15 - Session Meeting
- Dec 16 - Healthworx Meal
- Dec 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec 21 - Winter Solstice
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25 - Merry Christmas!
- Dec 31 - New Year's Eve

**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**September 15, 2014**

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and opened with a reading of *The Authority of Christ*.

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

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: John Allen

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

A quorum was present.

**Finance Report: Jim Smolenski**

The financial statements for August, 2014, were distributed to the Session. The August, 2014, bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members.

Jim Smolenski explained that there is \$109,000 in the investment account; it made \$9,000 in less than a year. There is a need to transfer money between accounts to be put in the working account as it is low due to some big expenses in August. Money is being put into an account for a pastor. Expenses have been slightly below amount budgeted.

**Motion:** That the Session receive the treasurer's report as presented and approve the transfer of money from the investment account to the working account.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Session members reviewed the minutes for the August 18, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes of the August 18, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Moved: Jack Ready

Seconded: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

**Clerk's Report:** No report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS**

**Congregational Life/Christian Education Report: Presented by Debbe Clegg**

It was decided that the Congregation Life/Christian Education Committee and the Worship and Evangelism Committee be combined. Wednesday dinners will follow the previous schedule as follows: **First Wednesday** of the month: Sandwiches (committee night), **Second Wednesday:** Pizza, **Third Wednesday:** Fried Chicken and **Fourth Wednesday:** Covered Dish. Sue Shipman will be removed from coordinator of covered dish night.

**Evangelism, Worship and Mission Committee Report: Presented by Doyle Bailey**

A subcommittee was formed on how to increase church attendance. Jim Hockensmith, Jack Ready, Jim Smolenski and Debbe Clegg were asked to serve. It was suggested that invitations be sent to musicians to come and "jam" at the church. Also, an illustrated sermon will be presented on October 12.

**Personnel Committee Report: Presented by Bill Higgins**

DeAnna Brister was hired as the new pianist on August 28, 2014.

**Property Committee Report:** No report

**Pastor/Moderator Report: Presented by Doyle Bailey**

Doyle Bailey led in more discussion about the "Jam Sessions" outreach idea to increase church attendance.

**Old Business:**

The Session agreed by common consent to continue to supply Healthworx with a meal once a month. It was suggested that the director or representative be recognized one Sunday.

**New Business:**

Fellowship luncheons will be served after morning worship on the fourth Sunday of each month, with the first luncheon to begin on October 26, 2014.

**Adjournment:**

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

Moved: Jim Hockensmith

Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a closing prayer by Doyle Bailey. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be October 20, 2014.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbe Clegg, Clerk of Session

/cs

**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**October 20, 2014**

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Jane Conerly called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and opened with a reading of I Thessalonians 1:2-3.

Members Present: John Allen, Debbe Clegg, Bill Higgins, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: Jim Hockensmith

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

A quorum was present.

**Finance Report: Jim Smolenski**

The financial statements for September, 2014, were distributed to the Session. The September, 2014, bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members. By common consent the Session received the Treasurer's Report as presented.

There was a return of 7.98% in September for a return on investments of \$51,000 in the two accounts. At present, the church is running under budget. The Pastor Transition Fund should be analyzed to see if the church can continue to fund it. New money counters for Sundays need to be found. It was decided that the monitors can count the money. The Session discussed the interest earnings from the Behl Fund, and it was suggested that some of the earnings be used to add to choir involvement and activities.

**Motion:** That the Session allocate some of the Behl Fund interest to choir involvement and activities.

Moved: Debbe Clegg

Seconded: Jack Ready

Motion: Carried

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

**Motion:** That the Session approve the minutes of the September 15, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Moved: Jack Ready

Seconded: Bill Higgins

Motion: Carried

**Clerk's Report:** No report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS**

**Congregational Life/Christian Education Report:**

**Presented by Jack Ready and Debbe Clegg**

It was decided that the Congregation Life/Christian Education Committee and the Worship and Evangelism Committee be merged. A schedule for Hanging of the Greens needs to be made. A turkey dinner for the congregation will be held on Sunday, December 14. Jack Ready will fry the turkeys. John

Allen wants to make Christmas Cards with Emeritus.

**Personnel Committee Report:** No Report

**Property Committee Report:** No Report

**Pastor/Moderator Report: Presented by Doyle Bailey**

A questionnaire about the future of the church was placed in the newsletter and needs to be returned. A New Year's Eve service was discussed. It would be family oriented, possibly with a covered dish meal and snacks. If there is enough interest, a coordinator will be named for the arrangements.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Prices for keyboards will be looked into. The jam sessions will be on Wednesdays after choir for musicians and singers. Jane Conerly discussed 1001 Fellowships that the Presbytery is promoting on Facebook.

**Adjournment:**

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

Moved: Jack Ready

Seconded: Elizebette Kennedy

Motion: Carried

The Stated Meeting of the Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a closing prayer by Doyle Bailey. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be November 17, 2014.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbe Clegg, Clerk of Session

/cs

# December Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Greeter Front Door	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>Dec 7</b>	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Vacancy	Jim Hockensmith	Elizebette Kennedy, Elder Jim Hockensmith Wynn Ware
<b>Dec 14</b>	Vacancy	John Allen Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
<b>Dec 21</b>	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct-May) Bill Higgins (May-Oct)	
<b>Dec 28</b>	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	



## Anniversaries and Birthdays

Dec 3 Charles Ellington

Dec 4 Stacey Brown

Dec 6 Georgia McBurney

Dec 7 Jeanne Lannoye

Dec 8 Bill Higgins

Dec 9 Robert Coon

Dec 11 David Shipman

Dec 12 DeAnna Brister

Dec 12 Sandy Powers

Dec 18 Gil and Dee Arnold

Dec 19 Brandi Woolam

Dec 20 Jim and Stephanie Huffman

Dec 22 Laverne Willson

Dec 23 Roger Best

Dec 23 Carolyn Sterne

Dec 23 Leon Coody

Dec 24 Waylon Smith

Dec 25 Ruth Coon

Dec 26 Bertie-Deming Smith

Dec 30 Helen McDaniel