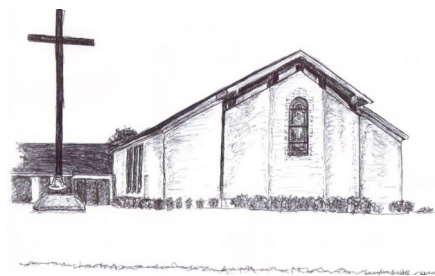


Presby News

October/November 2014



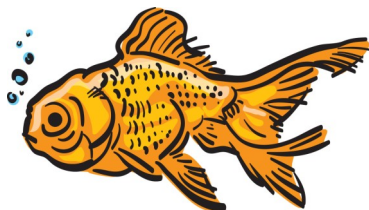
FROM THE PASTOR

What is your vision for the future of our church?

All members please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it to the church office.

Something's fishy

On her blog "Tales of Wonder," Marlo Schalesky writes about the short-lived goldfish her family has accumulated over the years. When her daughter brought two **more** home, Schalesky tried to lower her expectations: "Fish like this don't live that long." Yet those particular fish thrived — one lived five years! Schalesky figured their well water must have been purer than the city water their previous pets inhabited.



People are like fish that way, Schalesky suggests: What surrounds us has power over us. Constantly "swimming" in negativity and impure thoughts hinders our growth and well-being. Yet if we seek Christ-like surroundings, we'll thrive spiritually.

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things" (Philippians 4:8, NIV).

At the beginning of another week, we pause to remember that God is above all and in all. Thank you, God, for all life brings!



THE LORD
WILL INDEED
GIVE WHAT
IS GOOD,
AND OUR
LAND WILL
YIELD ITS
HARVEST.

PSALM 85:12, NIV



SPECIAL DATES

- Oct 05 - World Communion Sunday
- Oct 13 - Columbus Day Observance
- Oct 26 - Reformation Sunday
- Oct 31 - Reformation Day
- Nov 02 - Daylight-Saving Time ends
- Nov 11 - Veterans Day
- Nov 23 - Christ the King Sunday
- Nov 27 - Thanksgiving
- Nov 30 - First Sunday of Advent

Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
July 21, 2014

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order with prayer by Jane Conerly, Pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church, Pineville, Louisiana, who moderated the meeting. Jane Conerly opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 17:1,4-9.

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

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: John Allen, Jack Ready

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

A quorum was present.

Finance Report: Jim Smolenski

The financial statements for June, 2014, were distributed to the Session. The June, 2014, bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members. Treasurer Smolenski noted that FPC has little liability, mostly monthly bills and is barely under budget on expense totals.

Motion: That Session approve the June Financial Reports.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session members reviewed the minutes for the June 23, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes of the June 23, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS

Congregational Life/Christian Education Report: No Report

Worship and Evangelism Report: Jim Hockensmith

Session members discussed the following:

Continue Healthworx meals ministry through July. Revisit in August. Healthworx understands if FPC cannot continue this ministry.

Choir Room cleanup needed.

Online banking not an option due to need for two signatures.

Agreed to obtain credit card through Red River Bank, which will

give Treasurer Jim Smolenski easy daily access.

It was suggested that a lock box be purchased for the credit card and a purchase order system be put in place.

Motion: That FPC obtain a credit card with a \$1200 credit limit through Red River Bank.

Moved: Debbe Clegg Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Personnel Report: Bill Higgins

Bill Higgins reported that a letter of termination was sent to Nursery worker Delores McDaniel effective August 1, 2014. The Session agreed that she will no longer be needed due to the decline in children and infants needing care during the worship services. She will be recognized for her service to the church.

Bill Higgins reported that he has a lead on a potential pianist for the church.

Property Report: No Report

Pastor's/Moderator Report: Doyle Bailey

Doyle Bailey reported that he had looked into a media offer of online Biblical studies, movies, etc., from RightNowMedia.org. It can be logged onto by individuals or as a group anytime. There was no real interest in this idea from session members.

Old Business:

The Session agreed to postpone the budgetary luncheon to late August or September.

New Business:

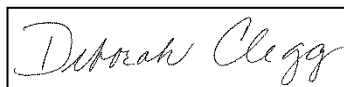
The new liturgy order has been started as of July 20, 2014.

Motion: That the meeting of the Session be adjourned.

Moved: Elizebette Kennedy Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a closing prayer by Doyle Bailey. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be **6:00 pm, Monday, August 18, 2014.**

Respectfully submitted:



Debbe Clegg, Clerk of Session



Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Louisiana
August 18, 2014

The Session met in the church library, 357 Windermere Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana. At 5:55 p.m. the meeting was called to order with prayer by Jane Conerly, Pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church, Pineville, Louisiana, who moderated the meeting.

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 July, 2014, were distributed to the Session. The July, 2014, bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members. Treasurer Smolenski will check on the large interest income posted that skews the budget.

Motion: That Session approve the July Financial Reports and receive Treasurer's verbal report as information.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes:

The Session members reviewed the minutes for the July 21, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Motion: That the Session approve the minutes of the July 21, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Session.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Clerk's Report:

Clerk of Session Debbe Clegg reported on a Clerk of Session Training in October for anyone interested in going. No one was interested in attending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS

Congregational Life/Christian Education Report:

Doyle Bailey met with the committee due to John Allen's absence. They evaluated Wednesday night suppers and decided it needed to be tweaked. The Session suggested that John Allen needs to be contacted to see if he plans to continue to head the committee.

Worship and Evangelism Report: Jim Hockensmith

Session members discussed the following:

How to increase church attendance. No real solutions were found.

Selling of the church and meeting in homes due to low attendance.

Combining with other Presbyterian Churches in the area if attendance does not increase.

Personnel Report: Bill Higgins

Bill Higgins reported that he has a lead on a potential pianist for the church.

Property Report: No Report

Pastor's/Moderator Report: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business:

The Session discussed the following matters:

The new liturgy needs to be adjusted.

Motion: Request for building use for Dora Lee's impending services be approved by the Session.

Moved: Bill Higgins Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Motion: Request for building use for Kappa Kappa Iota Meeting, February 21, 2015, be approved by the Session.

Moved: Jim Hockensmith Seconded: Bill Higgins
Motion: Carried

Discussed Sue Shipman's request to host the Southern Plainsmen Concert on September 20, 2014 at FPC and pay for their dinner at the Golden Corral.

Motion: The Session declined Shipman's request and moved to cancel the concert due to low Saturday night attendance and lack of publicity. Doyle Bailey volunteered to relay the Session's decision to Sue Shipman.


Moved: Debbe Clegg Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

Motion: That the meeting of the Session be adjourned.

Moved: Jack Ready Seconded: Jim Hockensmith
Motion: Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a closing prayer by Doyle Bailey. The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be **6:00 pm, Monday, September 15, 2014.**

Respectfully submitted:



Debbe Clegg, Clerk of Session





The influence of John Knox

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of Scottish reformer John Knox, founder of the Presbyterian church. Scottish philosopher Thomas Carlyle called Knox “the one Scotsman to whom the whole world owes a debt.”

Once a Catholic priest, Knox later decried the papacy in front of royalty — and was arrested twice as a result. But he always stood firm, insisting that “a man with God is always in the majority.”

Knox, who was influenced by fellow reformer John Calvin, said people had a duty to oppose unjust governments to bring about moral and spiritual changes. Among the many people affected by Knox’s revolutionary ideas were the English Puritans.

Professor David P. Murray says Knox left these lessons for the entire church: Get back to the Bible. Love your confession of faith. Fear God and not man. Hate all false religion. Get involved in politics. Feed the hungry and provide for the poor. And never despair.

The Quiet Hour

Speak, Lord, in the stillness, while I wait on Thee;
hushed my heart to listen, in expectancy.
Speak, O blessed Master, in this quiet hour,
let me see Thy face, Lord, feel Thy touch of power.

For the words Thou speakest, “They are life” indeed;
living Bread from heaven, Now my spirit feed!
All to Thee is yielded, I am not my own;
blissful, glad surrender, I am Thine alone.

Fill me with the knowledge, of Thy glorious will;
all Thine own good pleasure, in my life fulfill.
Like a watered garden, full of fragrance rare,
ling’ring in Thy presence, let my life appear.

—Emily M. Crawford

~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin in Runnemede, New Jersey:

Today is Reading

From the book of Galatians

What is Paul’s message?

Were the *Galatians* fond of Jell-O?

What’s a Christian to do with Halloween?

These days, children associate Halloween with trick-or-treating and candy. But centuries ago, Christians named the night before All Hallows’ Day (All Saints’ Day) “All Hallows’ Eve.” As the faithful prepared to remember people who were entrusted to resurrection life, they adopted various traditions to poke fun at death.

Around the world, Christians observe Halloween differently: In Poland, kids pray aloud while walking through forests to comfort souls of the dead. In Spain, tolling church bells remind people to remember the saints. In Finland, so many people light candles in cemeteries that the observance is

called “seas of light.” Although some Christians steer clear of Halloween, others use it as an evangelism opportunity and provide entertainment alternatives such as harvest parties.

No matter your views, you can remind children that though it’s fun to pretend, we can always be ourselves with God. Whatever our features and flaws, we need not and cannot hide from God behind masks. God made us in his holy image and loves us as his holy — *hallowed!* — children.



Song of thanksgiving

After retiring from the ministry in England, the Rev. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) became a prolific hymn writer. Some people have compared his talents to those of Charles Wesley, co-founder of the Methodist Church.

Green's popular Thanksgiving hymn "For the Fruits of His Creation" calls worshipers to move beyond gratitude to their responsibilities for other people and for God's creation. The hymn's closing lines sum up why Christians can give thanks throughout the year: "For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God."

Persevering faith

In the movie *Monumental*, Kirk Cameron describes what led the Pilgrims to leave England and Holland for America — as well as the conditions they faced along the way. While on the cramped, storm-tossed Mayflower, they signed the Mayflower Compact, attesting that they came "for the glory of God and advancements of the Christian faith."

Within months in the new land, 47 of the original 121 Pilgrims had died. Only six or seven could walk and care for the others, and only four adult women were still alive for the first Thanksgiving. But the Pilgrims persevered, thanks to their faith in God and help from Native Americans.

William Bradford, governor of Plymouth Colony for 30 years, experienced hardship firsthand; his wife was one of the first to die during the journey. Yet Bradford's tomb bears the bold message that "Jehovah is our help."

~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin in Lakewood, Colorado:

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Denver West Christen Women Luncheon

Bring a dish to share

Kristen, Beth, Myra ... Christian women of all names are invited!

A colorful lesson

We could learn a lot from crayons: Some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors ... but they all exist very nicely together in the same box.



—Robert Fulghum

Returning thanks

After a family sat down for breakfast, the father offered his standard prayer of thanks. Afterward, though, he began his usual grumbling about financial hardships, the food's poor quality, how it was cooked and so on.

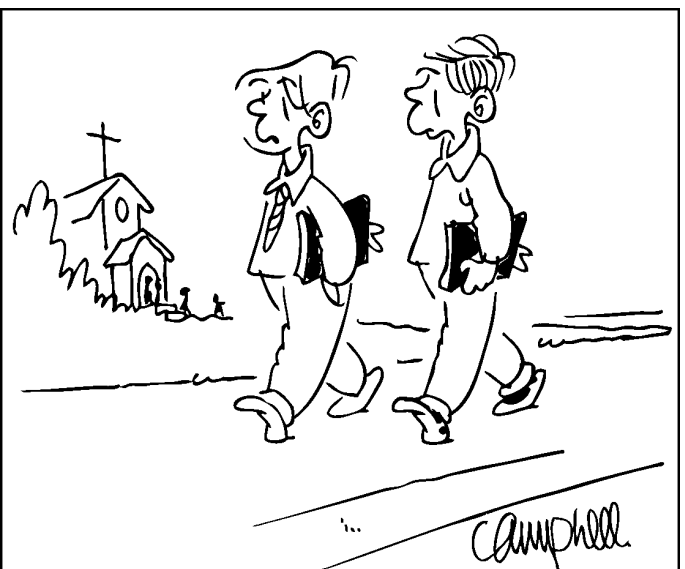
One of his children interrupted: "Dad, did God hear what you said a while ago when you were giving thanks?"

"Certainly," the father replied confidently.

"And did he hear what you said just now about the bacon and the coffee?"

"Of course," the father said, more hesitantly.

"Which did God believe?"



"Must've been a candy apple. I can't believe Adam and Eve would do us in for plain fruit."

Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Greeter Front Door	Monitor	Communion Servers
Oct 5	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Vacancy	Jim Hockensmith	Bill Higgins Annelize Benade Dirk Benade
Oct 12	Vacancy	John Allen Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
Oct 19	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct-May) Bill Higgins (May-Oct)	
Oct 26	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	
Nov 2	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct-May) Helen McDaniel (May-Oct)	Vacancy	Jim Hockensmith	John Allen Roger Best Ruth Coon
Nov 9	Vacancy	John Allen Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
Nov 16	Bob Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct-May) Bill Higgins (May-Oct)	
Nov 23	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	
Nov 30	Mac McBurney Georgia McBurney	Vacancy	Jim Hockensmith (May - Oct) Bill Higgins (Oct - May)	



Anniversaries and Birthdays

03 Oct - Jace Huffman
09 Oct - Debbie Ware
18 Oct - Tom Clegg

29 Oct - Jim Smolenski
02 Nov - Blake Brown
03 Nov - Robert McDaniel
18 Nov - Doyle Bailey
20 Nov - Barbara Ware
22 Nov - Jack Ready
23 Nov - Darrah Mannix
24 Nov - Emily Young
25 Nov - Rebecca Laprairie
22 Oct - Jeff and Emma Jean Huffman
23 Nov - Leon Coody and Liz Smith
25 Nov - Jack and Judy Ready

There's an app for that!

These days, there's a smartphone app for just about everything. But what about spiritual concerns? Where can you turn?



Depressed? Try the joy app. Read Isaiah 51:11.

Tired? Try the renewal app. Read Isaiah 40:30-31.

Unsettled? Try the peace app. Read Philippians 4:7.

Unloved? Try the love app. Read Romans 8:38-39.

Worried? Try the refuge app. Read Psalm 46:1.

Fearful? Try the power app. Read 2 Timothy 1:7.

Guilty? Try the forgiveness app. Read Colossians 1:13-14.

Praying? Try the prayer app. Read 1 John 5:14-15.

The Scriptures are God's storehouse of meaningful applications for what we face every day. Think of the Bible as the iTunes Store of spiritual apps. Best of all, everything's free!

Desperate for peace

During worship, our congregation "passes the peace." More than a friendly greeting, this ritual is a symbol of Christ's peace shared with us, for us to share daily with others. It also echoes Jesus' exhortation that we be reconciled with others before offering our gifts in worship (see Matthew 5:23-24).

One Sunday morning, I sat behind a 9-year-old girl and her toddler brother. The boy was active and talkative, keeping his parents busy. As the pastor invited us to "share Christ's peace with one another," big sister popped up from her seat and offered to shake hands with everyone nearby, proclaiming "Peace!" to each.



As she tried this with her mom and brother, however, they were occupied with each other and wholly unaware of her efforts. Finally, I overheard her not inviting but demanding, "Mom! James! I want PEACE!" I had to smile, for the girl had voiced the desperation with which we all crave peace in the world and in our lives.

—Heidi Mann

Unanswered prayer?

One day a little boy asked his pastor-mom why she always bowed her head for a moment before starting to preach. The mother, delighted that her son was so aware of what went on during

worship, answered, "I pray for God to help me deliver a good sermon to the people."

Alas, her delight was short-lived and fizzled at the child's response: "So why doesn't God ever answer?"

A 90-10 split

When the weather prediction is for a 10 percent chance of rain, do we sigh and grumble and stay indoors? Or do we go ahead and picnic, golf or hike because the chance of bad weather is so low?

When doctors say our child has a 90 percent chance of full recovery from a deadly illness, don't we rejoice at the great prognosis? We quickly decide we can live with the slight chance of some impairment.

When a really tough exam comes back with a 90 percent grade, aren't we glad to have done well?

When a politician runs for office, 90 percent of the vote would be considered an overwhelming mandate.

Why then, when God gives us 100 percent of our material blessings, are we so horrified at the thought of giving him 10 percent back?

An ancient stewardship message

Some Christians actively avoid church on Stewardship Sunday because giving is a private matter "between me and God." New pastors are even sometimes advised never to preach about money, lest certain people get riled up. Yet Jesus talks frequently in the Gospels about giving and sharing our material goods — and he wasn't the first in Scripture to do so.



A thousand years before Christ's birth, King David prepared to hand over the kingdom to his son, gathering tons (literally!) of gold, silver and other materials for Solomon to use in building the temple. Revealing his take on stewardship, David prayed: "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand" (1 Chronicles 29:14, NIV)

First Presbyterian Church

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Doyle Bailey, *Pastor*

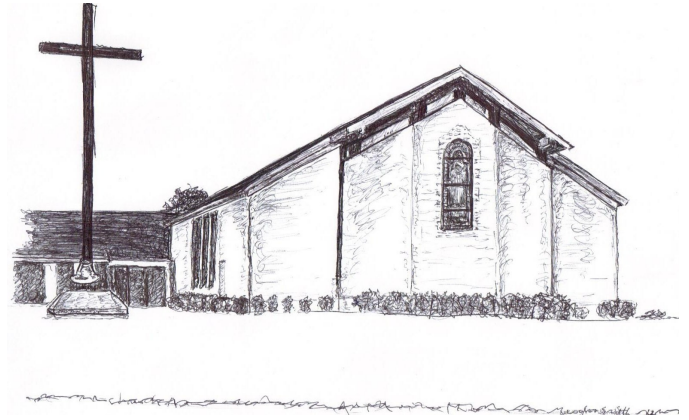
Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

DeAnna Brister, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*

Sue Shipman, *Newsletter Editor*



5:45 Dinner

6:30 Program

7:30 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.