



THE GOOD NEWS

The Good News is published ten times a year by the
First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas.

February 2014

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Worship with us!

“A Christian Community
of Faith”

**9:45 a.m. Sunday School
for all ages**

**10:50 a.m.
Sunday Worship**

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New Minister Announced

Mrs. Krista Rasco of San Antonio, Tex., has been extended a call to be pastor of FPC-Commerce, pending confirmation of the call by Grace Presbytery at the next Presbytery meeting Feb. 28-Mar. 1. Pastor Rasco came to our church on Sunday, Jan. 19, to conduct the morning worship service.



Krista Rasco and her husband Jason

Following the service, a congregational meeting was held and there was a unanimous vote from the members who were present to accept the recommendation of the Pastor Nominating Committee. At the covered-dish luncheon following the congregational meeting, Pastor Rasco and her family were warmly welcomed by all.

Mrs. Rasco grew up in Missouri and in Boerne and Bandera, Tex. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Austin College in Sherman in 2006 and a Master of Divinity Degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Virginia in 2011. She is married to Jason Rasco. They have a two-year-old daughter Kaitlynn. She also has two step children who live in Austin. Elizabeth, who will be 15 in March, and Julian, who is 12, live with their mother and will only be able to visit sporadically because of school functions.

While this will be her first pastoral position, the PNC was in agreement that her energy, enthusiasm and personality will enable her to successfully lead our congregation. They were impressed with her determination to become a minister, her obvious spirituality, her sincere interest in people and her desire to serve a small congregation. In addition, the PNC pointed out that she grew up in a small town and has served as a student pastor of campus ministry at Davidson College in North Carolina.

Pastor Rasco and her family plan to live in Commerce. After confirmation of her call by Grace Presbytery, she will start as minister on Monday, Mar. 10.

We extend our gratitude and thanks to the PNC who have worked diligently more than a year and a half to find a pastor for our congregation. Members of the PNC are Dr. Keith McFarland and Helon Razniak, Co-chairs; Martha Clevenger, Walter Sanders, Neal Stewart and Dennis White.

Middle School Sunday School Class Decorates Christmas tree

The Middle School Sunday School Class decorated the tree for the fellowship hall in Dec. The students in this class are Mason Howard, Matthew McFarland, and Lily Selvaggi. They enjoyed decorating the tree and are becoming pros at this task.

The students are beginning to study Jacob and the twelve tribes of Israel. They are also preparing to make kaleidoscopes in class.



Next up for middle schoolers—kaleidoscopes!

Newsmakers

Dr. Bob Johnson was awarded the M.L.K. Award for Social Change on Jan. 19 at the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in the Norris community. Dr. LaVelle Hendricks, organizer of the event, elaborated why Bob was honored.

"Bob's name was given to the committee by eight individuals. Secondly, the selection is based on those who best exemplify the spirit of Dr. King. And last, with Bob's commitment to education, community involvement, and advancing the legacy of Dr. King, Bob was an excellent choice," said Hendricks.

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FPC members **Sharon and Walter Sanders** were pictured prominently in the Jan. 2014 issue of the *Hunt County Business Spectrum*, a publication of the Hunt County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber extended its congratulations to **Sharon** on her recent retirement from Hunt Regional Healthcare and also thanked her for her many years as an ambassador to the Chamber.

Sharon and Walter are now busy enjoying that well-earned retirement!

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FPC's **Dennis White** made the front page of the Jan. 23 issue of the *Commerce Journal* for his appearance at the Jan. 21 Commerce City Council meeting.

At that meeting, writer Joseph Hamrick noted that White, who is president of the Commerce Food Pantry, Inc., spoke to the council about the need for a new, larger space for the charitable organization. The Food Pantry is, of course, now housed at FPC.

The need is due to the growing numbers of people who are using the Food Pantry. Dennis has included a report on the Food Pantry for FPC members in this issue of *The Good News*.

An item has been placed on the city council's February meeting agenda for further discussion of a new, larger facility.

*Why not come a little early on Sunday,
so you can attend Sunday School!*

Upcoming Grace Presbytery Meeting, February 28

(Submitted by Dr. Wally Tucker, Clerk of Session)

According to the Grace Presbytery web page, the Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held at Binnerri Presbyterian Church, 1301 Abrams Road, Richardson, TX 75081, on Friday, Feb. 28. The time for the approval of ministers' calls to the various churches will be around 11 a.m., according to last year's agenda. The exact times for agenda items for the February meeting are not yet posted on the website.

Show support for Rev. Rasco

Dr. Julie Adkins, one of our interim pulpit supply ministers, stressed that it would be very helpful if a number of members from our church could attend this Presbytery meeting to show our support for our new minister, Krista Rasco, who is scheduled to be confirmed at the meeting.

Caring Committee

(Submitted by Bettina Zvanut)

The Caring Committee has begun their Robes and Slippers Campaign again this year. They will be collecting men's or women's robes or slippers. They can be gently used or new. The committee will also accept sleep socks in place of slippers.

If you have some of these items that you possibly will never use, please consider donating them to us. The robes and slippers are matched together and placed into an attractive gift bag for hospice patients in Hunt County who need a change of clothes during their illness.

These members will collect your items: Nila McQuary, Irene Humfeld, Toni Deaton, Charles Dorsett, Beverly Housewright, Kay Davis, or Bettina Zvanut. Or you can leave them in the church office for us to pick up.

Next Meeting

The Caring Committee will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 6p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Sympathy Extended

Our warmest sympathy goes to member Susan Reeves in the recent death of her father.

We also extend sympathy to Linda Roosevelt and all the Roosevelt family in the recent death of long-time member Paul Roosevelt.

Community News:

Meals On Wheels Reorganizes

(Submitted by Helon Razniak)

In May of 2013, the Commerce Meals On Wheels Board of Directors met with the SCRPT people in Greenville and started the process of transferring our clients over to the SCRPT program. The reason for this change was the ever increasing cost of food and labor plus rent on the Linda Muller Community center.

The Commerce Meals on Wheels purchased meals from SCRPT (and our drivers delivered them) three days a week through Dec. 17th when the program officially ended.

SCRPT provides seven meals per week: five hot meals Monday through Friday plus two frozen meals delivered also on Friday for the weekend. To contact the Hunt County SCRPT program, call 903/454-1444 ext. #6.

The Meals on Wheels program operated in Commerce from 1976 until 2013. I was a member of the Board of directors 30 of those years.

(FPC note: We thank Helon for her 30 years of dedication to the Commerce Meals on Wheels program.)

Commerce organizing rodeo trip

Contact Sherry Johnson at 903-886-1123 if you are interested in a bus trip to the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. The trip is planned for Feb. 7 with two pick up points, including leaving Commerce at 8:30 a.m. from the Farmer's Market. Trip can be with or without a ticket to the rodeo.

Commerce Food Pantry Growing

The “Pantry” is busy. Every Thursday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. in the North wing of the First Presbyterian Church anywhere from 40 to 50 heads of families arrive to collect a supplemental amount of canned/dry food from our stores.

This past summer and through the year-end holidays the generous giving of food and money has kept the Pantry’s shelves full and ready for each week’s attempt to feed the less fortunate in Commerce and the surrounding cities (Campbell, Cumby, Fairlie and Celeste and a few points in between). A simple request for food assistance from a person is all that is needed to start the “Pantry” process of receiving food. Afterwards, a screening process is started to document their address, number and age of the household residents along with their relationships (spouse, sibling, parent, etc.) This form will later be referred to in determining the amount of food assistance they will receive each month.

The attendance to the Pantry is slowly growing. We are seriously looking for larger facilities to house our record keeping forms, screening/interview room, food storage including shelving and the food distribution room. Plus, we need room for a couple of refrigerators to store perishable goods. On Tuesday, Jan. 21, I went before the Commerce City Council and made an “announcement” that I would like the City to provide a city owned/controlled building to house the Commerce Food Pantry. The request was well received and will be placed on the Council Agenda for the next meeting scheduled on Feb. 18 for further discussion. Quick reviews of available city owned buildings do not look good, but we are still looking and will not give up easily! The volunteers at the Pantry are fantastic! Have I used up all my exclamation marks yet? Anyway, it takes a lot of people to load and unload the food each week on Wednesday mornings, mark each item, and stock the shelves. Then we get to give the food away each Thursday.

Mark your calendars now and prepare your hearts. Ash Wednesday, March 5, marks the beginning of Lent



The Wednesday Food Pantry crew stopped for a moment in their work of stocking food for Thursday’s distribution. Pictured from the left are Dennis White, Dr. James Norwood, Walter Stokes, Neal Stewart, and Jim Rhodes.

Volunteers screen and interview each recipient, log in the date and prepare the form that shows the quantity of food they are eligible to receive. It is easy to get very tired of these procedures and each Thursday comes around way too often, so how about some new volunteers to relieve the present ones? Just call Isabel Davis at 903-886-2711 or Dennis White at 903-851-3491.

Those of you who have donated your time, money and food to the Pantry are truly angels here on earth. Your generosity has been beyond the Call-Of-Duty and is worthy of Texas bragging rights, but we know that is not how you do your business. Please know that you are all in my prayers and God loves each and every one of you.

Thank you,
Dennis White

Meet Our New Secretary: Roger McKenzie

Following the resignation of Lindsey Priest, we welcome Roger McKenzie who is now serving as our church secretary.



Recently Roger and his wife, Carole, moved to our area from Alva, Okla., following Carole's employment with TAMU-Commerce as a professor in the Nursing Department. Her boss is FPC's Barbara Tucker, who directs the new program at the college.

Roger is originally from Houston and lived in Lindale, Tex., before moving to Alva, where he and Carole lived for the past seven years. While in Alva, Roger, who has an extensive newspaper background, worked as sports editor for the *Alva Review-Courier*.

However, he is no newcomer to the "church scene" having served as church secretary while living in Ellicott City, Md., while Carole worked in hospital administration in Baltimore.

The McKenzie's are the parents of three children and they also have two grandchildren.

Roger joined our "team" on Dec. 30, 2013. If you have not already met him, please drop by the office sometime soon to welcome him to our church community. FPC office hours continue to be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Flower Calendar for 2014

Please consider signing up to provide flowers for the morning worship services. The sign-up sheet is in the hallway outside the kitchen.

Providing flowers brightens the sanctuary and is a perfect opportunity to honor a loved one or a loved one's memory.

Susan White Now Serving as Treasurer

(Submitted by Dr. Wally Tucker, Clerk of Session)

Walter Sanders recently resigned from his position as one of our treasurers. A Treasurer Search Committee consisting of Neal Stewart, Helon Razniak and Walter Sanders, was appointed by the Session. In December, the committee recommended Susan White for the position. Susan was wholeheartedly approved by the Session members who collectively breathed a huge sigh of relief in knowing there was a member who was very willing and very able to handle the daunting job of treasurer.

Walter Sanders has capably filled this position for a number of years. Thanks go to Walter for his many years of service and also to Susan for her willingness to serve.

New Addresses

Jackie Book, one of our members, recently moved away. We all miss Jackie and she would most assuredly enjoy hearing from you. She was very faithful in attending Sunday school, PW Circle meetings, and Sunday morning worship. She was a big "fan" of our choir and voiced her appreciation to choir director Jim Deaton on numerous occasions.

Here is her new address:

Jackie Book
2201 Horseshoe Lane #G14
Longview, TX 75605

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Member and former secretary **Lindsey Priest** has moved to McKinney to be near her daughter and grandchildren.

Lindsey, we hope you will come back to visit us as often as you can. Here is Lindsey's address:

Lindsey Priest
5004 Blackwood Drive
McKinney, TX 75071

New Church Officers Installed

At a Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013, the following new officers were elected to begin serving in January 2014: **Scott Stewart, Rick Selvaggi, Ric Estes** and **Dean Calvert**.

These new officers were installed at a Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, January 12, 2014. Scott Stewart was also ordained at this meeting. Rick Selvaggi was unable to be present that day and will be ordained at a later time.

Wally Tucker, our Clerk of the Session, is continuing in that capacity.

Other appointments for 2014 are:

Session Committee Chairs

Worship:

Chair.....**Barbara Tucker**
Co-Chair.....**Dean Calvert**

Christian Education:

Chair.....**Sharon Sanders**

Membership and Pastoral Care:

Chair.....**Joyce Isaacs**
Co-Chair.....**Ric Estes**

Mission/Evangelism:

Chair.....**Sherry Johnson**
Co-Chair.....**Dennis White**

Buildings and Grounds:

Chair.....**Monty Howard**
Co-Chair.....**Dennis White**

Stewardship and Finance:

Chair.....**Neal Stewart**

Personnel:

Chair.....**Sharon Sanders**

Nominating Committee:

Bob Johnson, Mona Towne, Nancy McFarland, Scott Stewart (Chair), and Dean Calvert.

Presbyterian Women Update

Circle Meeting – PW Circle met on Monday, January 13, in the Fellowship Hall. Nila McQuary provided the refreshments. Since the December Circle meeting was cancelled, Gaye Furry presented Lesson 4 from the Horizon’s Bible Study. Following her presentation, Toni Deaton led the discussion on

Lesson 5. The Circle will meet again at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 10, for Bible Study. The leader will be Helon Razniak and the hostess is Jane Cox. Don’t forget to bring a box of cereal/oatmeal for the Food Pantry to the February meeting. All women are invited to attend.

Mission Project – On Monday, January 20, members met in the Fellowship Hall to trace patterns and cut out fleece baby caps. Thursday, January 23, Toni took 153 completed caps to the Maternity Floor at Hunt Regional Medical Center in Greenville. Thanks to all who helped trace, cut out, and sew the caps. In adopting this project in May of 2013, our group agreed to make 100 caps each month. A total of 719 caps were completed and donated by our group for the year 2013.

Upcoming Events – February 7th and 8th, member Toni Deaton will attend a women’s conference at Gilmont. She will also attend the Grace Presbytery PW Coordinating Team meeting while at Gilmont and will be helping to make and finalize plans for the area PW spring workshop meetings.

The Grace Presbytery PW area spring workshop meetings are coming up soon. One will be held at United Presbyterian Church-Greenville on Saturday, March 29, and the other area meeting will be at Central Presbyterian Church-Waxahachie. We are hoping to have two car-loads of ladies who can attend the Greenville meeting. Please notify Toni if you plan to attend.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Riley Isom and Joe Yeakley are the two latest additions to the FPC Prayer List. Riley is the neice of Brenda Estes, while Yeakley is a friend of Roger and Carole McKenzie. He’s the Lindale fire fighter who was seriously burned when a house structure fell on him recently.

If you have anyone you would like to add to the Prayer List, contact the church secretary.

Our Troops	Diane Little	Gordon Hunter
Jace Carrington	Bruce Campbell	Sara Grace Pullen
Melba Blount	Barbara Schreiber	Amy Lopez
Billy Marshall	Barbara Leonard	Judy Clay
Riley Isom	Joe Yeakley	

Special visitors come to see window

On Jan. 3, Sally Stephens Norris and her mother Pate Stephens, wife of the late Bob Stephens, made a special trip from Mesquite to look at the grand stained glass window in the FPC sanctuary dedicated to her great, great, great grandmother, **Nancy Maloney**, who died September 27, 1891.



Special thanks for our pulpit supply pastors

FPC and its members owe special thanks to our pulpit supply pastors. Dr. Julie Atkins and Dr. Ron Wood have made church services warm and inviting for all who attend. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

February Birthdays/Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- 2 - Susan Reeves
- 3 - Penny Belcher Muecke
- 5 - Joyce Isaacs
- 5 - Helon Razniak
- 8 - John Walvoord, II
- 14 - Danny Duncan
- 22 - Castleton Walker Porterfield
- 25 - Garrett Michael Chastain

Happy Anniversary to:

- 7 - Walt & Isabel Davis

Upcoming Worship Leaders

February 2

Host Elder: **Neal Stewart**
Head Usher: **Monty Howard**
Candle Lighter: **Mason Howard**
Liturgist: **Helon Razniak**
PW Circle met on Monday **Joyce Isaacs**

February 9

Host Elder: **Barbara Tucker**
Head Usher: **Bob Johnson**
Candle Lighter: **Matthew McFarland**
Liturgist: **Dennis White**

February 16

Host Elder: **Sherry Johnson**
Head Usher: **Nancy McFarland**
Candle Lighter: **Lily Selvaggi**
Liturgist: **Martha Clevenger**

February 23

Host Elder: **Dean Calvert**
Head Usher: **Scott Stewart**
Candle Lighter: **Paul Shatney**
Liturgist: **Wally Tucker**

March 2

Host Elder: **Dennis White**
Head Usher: **Bob Johnson**
Candle Lighter: **Mason Howard**
Liturgist: **Tina Selvaggi**
Communion Elements: **Sherry Johnson**

We want to thank these people and those who have performed worship service duties in the past. You make our worship service more meaningful.

If you would like to take part in the worship service in some way, contact the church secretary.

February Calendar

- 2—Morning Worship Service 10:50
Communion
- 9—Morning Worship Service 10:50
Session meeting following service
- 10—PW Circle Meeting 10 a.m. (FH)
- 16—Morning Worship Service 10:50
- 23—Morning Worship Service 10:50

Change in Newsletter Editor

After several years of editing and publishing the church newsletter as a volunteer, Toni Deaton has relinquished these duties to church secretary Roger McKenzie. She will be assisting Roger during the transitional period.