



# THE GOOD NEWS

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

March 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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## Time to Prepare for Lent, Easter

Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held at FPC on Mar. 5 at 7 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins will officiate.

Lent is a time of spiritual preparation leading up to Easter. Let us all make our hearts mindful of the gift of the Father and the sacrifice of the Son.

The Temptation of Christ  
c. 1500 By Juan de Flandes  
National Gallery of Art

## Rasco family arrives this month

FPC-Commerce members are excited about getting a new pastor. It has been a long time without a permanent pastor. A recent email from Krista Rasco shows that the excitement goes both ways.



"We are getting excited about moving," she wrote. "It has been a crazy week for us but all in all everything is looking up (Kaitlynn had to see the doctor and we traded in our car for a more gas efficient Prius and we are saving money)!"

The Rascos will arrive Wednesday, March 5, late in the afternoon with their moving truck. They will head to 3007 Tanglewood Drive, their new home in Commerce.

Some help in unloading the truck on Thursday (Mar. 6) would be greatly appreciated.

"I'm more than ready to be up there!," said Rev. Rascoe.

## Starting the month off right!

A number of FPC members started the month off right by attending the Scheduled Presbytery Meeting at Binnerri Presbyterian Church in Richardson.

Barbara and Wally Tucker attended both days of the meeting where they served as commissioners. They were joined by others who came on its second day, Mar. 1, expressly to show support for our new pastor who was ordained that day.

## 2014 Church Budget Available

It is important for everyone to be aware of what they have and where it goes. The Bible reminds us to be good stewards of our gifts from God. FPC is no different.

Stewardship and Finance Chairman Neal Stewart has made sure copies of the 2014 church budget are available for members. These copies are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary or in the church office.

## Memorial Service for Roberta Causey

Roberta Harney Causey, who sang many times at FPC, passed away last month in Georgia. Her sister, Barbie Harney Cockrell expressed her thanks for "all the love and support" given to her sister and the family.

A memorial service will be held in Commerce for Roberta on March 8 at 11 a.m. at the Saint Joseph's Catholic Church here where she was a member when she lived here.

## Presbyterian Women News

Circle Meeting – The PW Circle met for Bible Study and a business meeting on Monday, Feb. 10.

The lesson was given by Helon Razniak; Jane Cox was hostess. The next meeting will be March 10 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Beverly Housewright is scheduled to lead the lesson and hostesses are Helon Razniak and Martha Clevenger. All women are invited to attend.

PW History for 2013 Completed – Bettina Zvanut and Bev Housewright have been working to

complete the history for 2013 which was due at the end of January. All PW groups in Grace Presbytery are asked to complete this project and we are pleased that we have been able to comply with this request for the past 3 years. We give special thanks to Bettina and Bev for completing this.

Mission Project – On Monday, Feb. 10, circle members met to trace and cut out fleece baby caps. Our group has agreed to sew at least 100 caps each month for the nursery at Hunt Memorial Hospital District. Completed caps will be delivered to the hospital before the end of February. Those helping with the caps were Martha Clevenger, Kay Davis, Toni Deaton, Brenda Estes, Irene Humfeld, Nancy McFarland and Nila McQuary. Thanks go to all these ladies.



(L-R) Brenda Estes, Martha Clevenger, Nancy McFarland, Nila McQuary, Kay Davis, Toni Deaton

PW Spring Meeting – All women are invited to attend the Grace Presbytery PW Spring Workshops on Saturday, March 29, at United Presbyterian Church in Greenville. Tina Fletcher will lead a workshop at this meeting sharing information about her travels to the Ilsan Orphanage in South Korea. Information concerning registration and all the workshops is available on line at the Grace Presbytery web site in *The Innovator*. We hope to have a large group going from our church to attend the workshops and to give our support to Tina.

## Bidding Farewell to Dr. Ron Wood and Dr. Julie Adkins

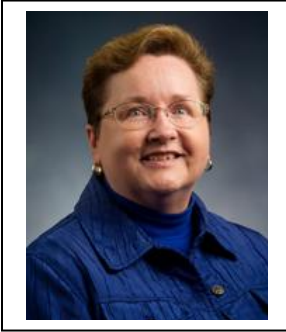
FPC-Commerce has been blessed to have both Ron Wood and Julie Adkins filling our pulpit while we have been without a pastor during the past 19 months.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, we said farewell to Ron who was presented a copy of a proclamation expressing our thanks for his commitment and service to our congregation. Jim Deaton read the proclamation and presented Ron with a framed

copy. Ron was also presented with gift cards from our church as his time with us was concluded.

A similar proclamation and gift will be presented to Julie Adkins on Sunday, Mar. 9, her last Sunday with us before we welcome Pastor Krista Rasco to our pulpit on Sunday, Mar. 16.

## Meet Our Newest Member



**Petra Strassberg** is FPC's newest member, although our church is not new to her.

"Everyone knows my mom, Jacqueline Book. She is happily living at Buckner/Westminister Senior Living Center in Longview," Petra

said. "Many of you have met my older sister, Jerry Ann Harris. She and her husband live on Lake Bob Sandlin in East Texas. She was my editor for my dissertation. I think she read it more times than I did.

"My other older sister, Barbara, lives in Roatan, Honduras. She and her husband, Tim, video tourist scuba dives, give underwater video lessons, and generally enjoy the good life in the sun!"

Petra has long been associated with TAMU-C, but she was born and raised in Central Texas.

"My daughter, Jordan, was born in Nuremberg, Germany. She and her partner, Sandy, live in Baltimore, Maryland. Jordan's Dad and I divorced when Jordan was 10 years old," she said.

About TAMU-C, she explained, "I have been an employee of TAMU-Commerce since May 2011. Before then I was a graduate assistant, intern, part-time employee, and an adjunct instructor.

"I moved to Commerce in 2009 because I grew tired of the four-hour commute from Central Texas. I love the weather and the scenery in northeast Texas!

Petra graduated in December, 2013, with her EdD in Supervision, Curriculum, and Instruction-Higher Education. She also has an MS in Instructional Technology and an MS in Information Systems.

"I was fortunate after my graduation to be

offered a promotion and substantial pay raise which made it possible for me to stay at TAMU-C," she said. "I wanted to stay so I was thrilled and grateful to have the opportunity!"

She explained her new job.

"In a nutshell my job is to assure that online courses are accessible to all students with or without a disability. A good portion of each day is spent assisting faculty by troubleshooting issues with *eCollege*, the university's online course platform," Petra said. "I enjoy troubleshooting computer issues so call me and I will try to help!"

Petra's address in Commerce is 3010 Charlinda Street.

## Caring Committee

*(Submitted by Bettina Zvanut)*

The Caring Committee has sent 12 bags of robes and slippers to Odyssey Hospice in Greenville. Special thanks to Jane Cox for all of the beautiful robes she has contributed. Also, thanks to Toni Deaton, Nila McQuary, Kay Davis, and Isabel Davis for robes, slippers, bags, and help in sorting the items.

**Note:** If anyone sees pink, purple, or white sleeping socks or slippers on sale, we could use them for several robes we received.

## Food Pantry news

The Commerce Food Pantry is looking for a new home. Please pray that the search is successful. Donations have been steady. Dennis White and his crew have also had some new volunteers step forward offering to help.

## Flower Calendar Reminder

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.

## Sanders Are Moving

It has been known that Walter and Sharon Sanders would be moving. Still it is hard to say good-bye. So don't. Just say, "Ya'll come back soon." Or "See ya at the lake!"

Both will be missed for their friendship and their dedication to FPC. Walter has stepped down after years as the church treasurer. Sharon will be leaving her chairmanship of two committees. Thank you for being such a blessing not only to the church but to the community.

Their house has sold and they have been busy packing and doing all the other laborious moving things. Their schedule calls for them to be out of Commerce by Mar. 21.

Once at their house on Lake Lyndon B. Johnson (near Marble Falls), their new address will be 201 Canyon Oaks, Sunrise Beach, Texas 78643. Call them there at 325-388-3273.

Walter's sister, Eleanor, will also be moving. She is going to an assisted living facility in Kingsland, Texas, on April 1. That's about seven miles from the Sanders' homestead.

## Jim Deaton Set To Become New Elder

With Sharon Sanders leaving, she has announced her elder position here will be taken over by Jim Deaton. That matter of business is expected to be on the agenda of the next session meeting, scheduled for Mar. 9.

## Committee news

Here is some brief news from some of the FPC committees:

**Personel Committee/Christian Education Committee:** These committees have been chaired by Sharon Sanders who is leaving. Just who the new chairmen will be is not yet known.

**Mason Howard** has agreed to take Carolyn McFarland's position as Sunday School secretary and **Bettina Zvanut** will be his back up.

**Mission/Evangelism Committee:** This committee is looking for three new members. If you are interested, contact Chairman Sherry Johnson or Co-Chairman Dennis White.

## In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

*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	Davis Purkiss
Family of Roberta Carney Hausey		

## March Calendar

2—Morning Worship Service 10:50

*Transfiguration Sunday*

5—Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7 p.m.

*Lenten Season begins*

9—Morning Worship Service 10:50

10—PW Circle Meeting 10 a.m. (FH)

16—Morning Worship Service 10:50

23—Morning Worship Service 10:50

30—Morning Worship Service 10:50

*Fifth Sunday Hymn Singing*

*Note: Rev. Rasco will begin her duties on Mar. 10.*

## March Birthdays/Anniversaries

**Happy Birthday to:**

4 – John Harris

12 – Scott Harvey

15 – Debra Jones

17 – Jackie Book

17 – Bruce Shatney

20 – Trevor Elijah Wells

22 – Kyle Keahey

25 – Matthew Charles McFarland

30 – Jason McFarland Champion

**Happy Anniversary to:**

16 – Kathy and Ken Miller

20 – Charles and Paula Elliott



## Don't Forget

Remember to bring the following food donations when you can each Sunday for the Food Pantry.

**First Sunday**—Peanut butter and/or jelly

**Second Sunday**—Bag of pinto beans and/or bag of rice

**Third Sunday**—Box of cereal and/or box of oatmeal

**Fourth Sunday**—Cans of tuna, spam, and/or chicken

**Fifth Sunday**—Cans of fruit: peaches and/or fruit cocktail

## Grace Presbytery News

The Grace Presbytery's Resource Center will be closed Thursday, Mar. 20 through Thursday, Mar. 27 while the Presbyterian Mission Center interior is being repainted. Please make resource requests to the Director of the Resource Center, Leah Wyckoff, no later than Monday, March 17, to insure that your request can be filled prior to the painting work. You can contact her by calling 214-393-5616 or at [leah@gracepresbytery.org](mailto:leah@gracepresbytery.org).

The latest edition of Grace eNews, the bi-monthly electronic newsletter that is emailed to the leadership in Grace Presbytery and its churches, is out. eNews provides information about presbytery events and news. In addition, the newsletter shares local church events, non-ordained job opportunities, and items that churches need or are giving away.

If you would like to receive Grace eNews via email go to [www.gracepresbytery.org/enews](http://www.gracepresbytery.org/enews) and fill out the request form.

## Start Thinking About Summer Camp

Gilmont Summer Camp has announced discounted pricing for 2014 summer camp, as well as multiple child family discounts. Summer camp is a great opportunity for a child to develop independence, practice community building and grow spiritually! You are invited to find out more about summer camp offerings at [www.campgilmont.org](http://www.campgilmont.org) or call with your questions at 903-797-6400.

## March Worship Leaders

### March 2

Host Elder: **Dennis White**

Head Usher: **Bob Johnson**

Candle Lighter: **Mason Howard**

Liturgist: **Tina Selvaggi**

Communion Elements: **Sherry Johnson**

### March 9

Host Elder: **Neal Stewart**

Head Usher: **Ric Estes**

Candle Lighter: **Matthew McFarland**

Liturgist: **Keith McFarland**

### March 16

Host Elder: **Joyce Isaacs**

Head Usher: **Wendell Linton**

Candle Lighter: **Lily Selvaggi**

Liturgist: **Helon Razniak**

### March 23

Host Elder: **Scott Stewart**

Head Usher: **Nancy McFarland**

Candle Lighter: **Mason Howard**

Liturgist: **Barbara Tucker**

### March 30

Host Elder: **Rick Selvaggi**

Head Usher: **Jim Norwood**

Candle Lighter: **Paul Shatney**

Liturgist: **Neal Stewart**

*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.*

### **Did We Forget Something?**

If you don't let us know, we might miss your news. Contact the church secretary.