



THE GOOD NEWS

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

April 2014

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"A Christian Community
of Faith"

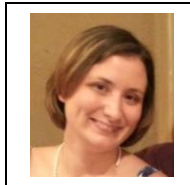
**9:45 a.m. Sunday School
for all ages**

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

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Roger McKenzie -- Church Secretary
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A Message From the Pastor

Come and See



For the month of April we will continue to follow the story of Jesus through the Gospel of John. As we travel through the Gospel of John we will again and again see the phrase "come and see". We heard it on the day we had the congregational meeting to vote on the Pastor Nominating Committee recommendation to bring me to Commerce and to our little church when John the Baptist's disciples started to follow Jesus and Jesus replied to them "Come and see."

We heard these words again a few Sundays ago when the Samaritan woman at the well went back to her community saying to them "Come and see." And on Easter morning we will hear Mary Magdalene saying "I have seen the Lord!" I invite you during the remaining time we have in Lent, and through our Easter Sundays to be watchful of places you have seen God.

Throughout the process of searching for my first call I was continually trying to discern where God was leading me. Finally there was an answer, First Presbyterian Church in Commerce, Texas. God told me "come and see," and I did. I was not 100% sure at first. I knew I was taking the discernment process seriously and felt a tug in my heart, but I have found it is easier to tell where God has called you only after you have gone. So here I am and so far I felt nothing but joy, hope and support. There is at least one moment in every day since I have moved here that I have given thanks to God for leading me to such a wonderful first call.

First, I want to thank the wonderful members of FPC who helped us move everything out of our moving truck and into our house in under two hours! Thank you also for the sandwiches, fruit, and casseroles that tasted so wonderful and truly helped us out our first few weeks here. We are so blessed to have moved into a community that is so supportive and full of grace to this new pastor and her family on this new adventure.

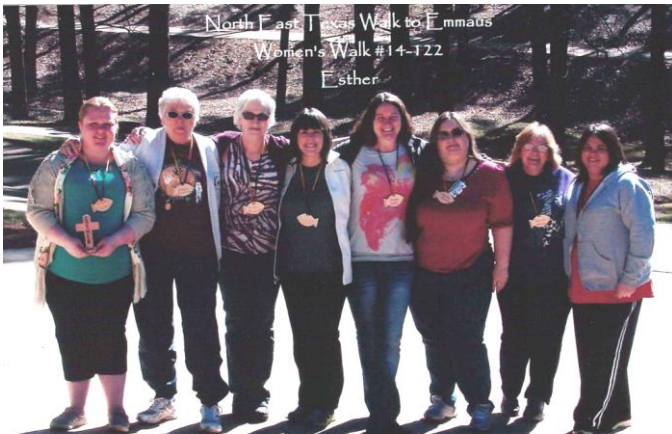
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Communion Date Changed

Communion, normally on the first Sunday of the month, will be delayed this month. The decision was made to delay communion until April 13., after our new pastor's ordination, so that Rev. Krista Rasco will be able to administer it.

FPC will also observe communion on Maundy Thursday (April 17) by intinction. The Maundy Thursday service starts at 6:30 p.m.

Taking a 'Walk To Emmaus'



Helon Razniak and some of her Emmaus Walk friends posed for this picture. Pictured left to right are Audry Long, Helon Razniak, Rita McClendon, Jessica Mobley, Jeana Smith, Andrea Araiza, Juanita Watkins, and Carmen Satterfield.

It took a while, but FPC's **Helon Razniak** fulfilled a dream to take a "Walk to Emmaus" in February. And with a little help from friends Sharon Sanders and Joane Walvoord, who helped keep it secret, part of Helon's weekend (Feb. 20-23) was getting letters of support from some of her friends.

It all took place Lakeview Camp in Lone Star, Texas. Here's a brief description of the special event in Helon's own words:

"I was fortunate to be able to participate in the North East Texas walk to Emmaus this past month," she said. "There were 36 of us that enjoyed three days of singing, learning, worshiping, praying, and participating in small groups.

"There were discussions centered around 15 talks given by laity and clergy. These talks presented the theme of God's grace, and how that grace comes alive in the Christian community. We also had the opportunity to participate in the

celebration of Holy Communion and to understand more fully the body of Christ."

When it was time to leave, Helon said, "I left with a wonderful feeling of knowing God's love is for all who believe."

Church Membership Update

Every so often it is good to update our information with regards to our membership. That planning is now in the works. At some time in the near future, all FPC members will be asked to help us make that update.

There may be no change at all...or not. Even if there is no change in your information, we may not have it all (address, phone, etc.) in our database so we will be asking you to help us. We are trying to find a way that is the least invasive or wasteful of your time. Please bear with us.

Presbyterian Women's News

Circle Meeting – On Monday, March 10, the PW Circle met at 10 a.m. for Bible Study and a business meeting. Those attending were Martha Clevenger, Kay Davis, Toni Deaton, Suzanne Dickinson, Brenda Estes, Irene Humfeld, Nancy McFarland, Nila McQuary, Pastor Krista Rasco, and Helon Razniak. Helon presented the lesson and was co-hostess with Martha Clevenger.

The next Circle meeting will be on Monday, April 14, at 10:00 a.m. Brenda Estes will present the lesson on Chapter 8 in the *Horizons* Bible Study. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Brenda Estes, will present a slate of officers for election at the April meeting. All women are invited to attend.

Missions Projects – On Feb. 27, 100 fleece caps for newborns were taken to the Hunt Regional Medical Center; an additional 100 caps were delivered on March 20. Our commitment is to provide 100 caps each month.

Other on-going projects include taking recent, gently-used periodicals to Draughn's retirement center, Country Estates. If you have magazines you would like to donate, please bring them to the church and leave them in the Fellowship Hall. Helon will pick them up and take them to Country Estates.

We are also collecting eye glasses for the Lion's Club. If you have any eye glasses you no longer need, you may bring those to the fellowship hall also. Please notify church secretary, Roger McKenzie when you bring any of these items for donation.

Grace Presbytery Spring Meetings – Six members attended the spring workshop meeting on Saturday, March 29, at United Presbyterian Church in Greenville. Tina Selvaggi was one of the workshop leaders and Bettina Zvanut “manned” the African Mission Table with items for sale. We were very pleased that Pastor Krista Rasco could attend the meeting also. Another spring meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6, at Central PC in Waxahachie. Tina will present her workshop there and Toni Deaton will also be attending.



Tina Selvaggi at the start of a session she led called “Travels with Tina.”



March 29 Spring Meeting attendees were, (left to right) Toni Deaton, Tina Selvaggi, Bettina Zvanut, Helon Razniak, Krista Rasco, and Martha Clevenger.

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 Ilsa 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.

From the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee met Monday, March 17, 2014. The following upcoming events were planned:

- April 6: Ordination and Installation of Krista Rasco at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary with reception to follow. Communion will be served.
- April 13: Palm Sunday. Palms will be ordered and communion will be served at the 10:50am worship service.
- April 17: Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Communion will be served by intinction.

Helon Razniak will coordinate the annual Easter lily placement for the sanctuary. The Worship Leader schedule for April, May, and June has been distributed. The pastor will be in discussion with Jim and Toni Deaton about upcoming music for services and events.

Caring Committee Report

Bettina Zvanut of the Caring Committee has reported that the Caring Committee has sent 12 more bags of robes and slippers to Odyssey Hospice in Greenville. That brings this year's total to 22 bags of robes and slippers this year.

“Thanks to everyone for helping,” said Bettina.

Want to Hear More About Mission?

Please contact Wally Tucker if you would like to receive information about Presbyterian mission and ministry on an on-going basis. You will be signed up for email from the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

**LENT IS SOLEMN
PREPARATION FOR THE
JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF
EASTER!**

Food Pantry News

The Food Pantry continues to fill an ever-growing role in meeting the food needs of those less fortunate in the Commerce area. As its role expands, so does the need for volunteers to help the Food Pantry in its mission to help area residents.

Currently, the Food Pantry could use some help in stocking the donated and purchased food each week. Volunteers are needed to help out on Wednesday mornings starting at about 8 a.m. The work generally lasts for about an hour.

If you can volunteer for one or more Wednesday mornings each month, please let Dennis White know. The best way is via a sign-up sheet. There are several located throughout FPC. Look for them and sign up if you can.

Teach the Preacher

A new Bible Study with Rev. Krista Rasco, which she is calling "Teach the Preacher," will take place on Mondays at noon at FPC, starting April 7.

Rev. Rasco will lead the discussion of the scriptures used in the following Sunday's morning worship service. Also discussed will be the previous Sunday's sermon (hence an opportunity for feedback, in addition to discussion).

"This will be a time for candid discussion about the previous Sunday's sermon as well as impromptu and informal discussion of the scripture passages that the next sermon will be based on," said Rev. Rasco.

"The congregation and community are invited to this weekly Bible study because it is important for me to study the scripture within the context of the community and congregation in which I am preaching."

Newsmakers

• Let's Play Bridge!

FPC's **Toni Deaton** and **Nancy McFarland** are co-chairing a fun opportunity to play bridge and to raise money for the Northeast Texas Children's Museum at the same time.

Open to all players, with divisions for seasoned players and beginners, the Friendship Bridge event will

take place Monday, April 14, starting at 1:30 p.m. at the museum which is located at 2501 Hwy. 24 in Commerce. In addition to bridge, there will be dessert and prizes.

You are invited to attend as an individual or to come with a group. Your group can rotate or stay together. See the flyer on the bulletin board by the church kitchen for more details, or call the Northeast Texas Children's Museum at 903-886-6055.

• Double the graduation excitement

Eric and Hui Chang Clevenger (he's the son of FPC's **Martha Clevenger**) successfully defended their doctoral dissertations in March at Texas Tech University in Organic Chemistry, and in Nutrition, respectively. They will receive their diplomas in May and proceed to look for jobs. Any leads will be gratefully accepted.

• Sigur is an LPC

This has been a very good month academically for the Clevenger clan. **Martha's** niece **Jessica Jenkins Sigur** has gotten the documentation that she is now a LPC or licensed professional counselor!

"This has been a long time coming with many 'hoops to jump through.' I am very proud of the younger members of my family," said Martha.

New Addresses

John Paul Rhodes, son of **Jim Rhodes**, has a new address and wants his FPC friends to know. He is at 603 Wood Street in Athens, Tex. (75751) in Oak Wood Place after a move from Tyler. He can be reached by phone at 903-675-2002.

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	Amy Lopez	Billy Marshall
Barbara Leonard	Judy Clay	Riley Isom
Joe Yeakley	Family of Roberta Carney Hausey	
Davis Purkiss		

Time for Bluebonnet Trails

FPC's **Sherry Johnson**, the Tourism/Event Coordinator for the City of Commerce, is calling all lovers of bluebonnets to take a guided tour of the area's bluebonnet fields.

It's all part of the Bluebonnet Trails of Ennis and it takes place on April 15. A deluxe chartered bus will depart from the Commerce Farmer's Market at 8 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m.

In between, participants will not only see bluebonnets, they will tour a railroad museum. Lunch and all activities are included in the \$54 price. Call 903-886-1123 for more information and reservations.



Flower Calendar Reminder

Just another reminder to 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.

Come and See

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I look forward to working with all of you in the name of Christ. I look forward to learning with you, together, on how to be better disciples of Christ.

Most of all I'm so very excited to say with this congregation together, "come and see" this wonderful church where I have seen God working in ways you need to see for yourself!

Grace and Peace,

Krista Rasco

2014 Church Budget Still Available

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.

April Worship Leaders

April 6

Host Elder: **Monty Howard**
Head Usher: **Ric Estes**
Candle Lighter: **Matthew McFarland**
Liturgist: **Barbara Tucker**

April 13

Host Elder: **Ric Estes**
Head Usher: **Jim Norwood**
Candle Lighter: **Mason Howard**
Liturgist: **Bettina Zvanut**
Communion Elements: **Barbara Tucker**

April 20

Host Elder: **Monty Howard**
Head Usher: **Bob Johnson**
Candle Lighter: **Lily Selvaggi**
Liturgist: **Walt Davis**

April 27

Host Elder: **Dave Walvoord**
Head Usher: **Scott Stewart**
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.



April Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 6** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Scripture focus on John 11:1-45.
- 6** – Ordination and Installation service for
Krista Rasco 4 p.m. *Reception to follow.*
- 13** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m..
Palm Sunday. *Scripture focus on John 12:12-19.*
- 17** – **Maundy Thursday Worship Service** 6 p.m.
Scripture focus on John 13:1-17, 31-35.
- 20** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Easter Sunday!!! *Scripture focus on John 20:1-18.*
- 27** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Scripture focus on John 20:19-31

Other April events

- 9** -- Wednesday, 6 p.m. – Session meeting
- 14** – Monday, 10 a.m. – Presbyterian Woman's meeting
- 16** – Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. – Evangelism and Mission Committee meeting
- 20** – Sunday, 9 a.m. –Easter Breakfast (potluck) followed by intergenerational Sunday School and an Easter Egg Hunt.

April Birthdays/Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- 2** – Lily Selvaggi
- 5** – Walter Sanders
- 8** – Rebecca Madewell
- 10** – Monty Howard
- 13** – Mark Keahey
- 14** – Larry Towne
- 15** – Charlene Linton, Evan Shatney
- 16** – Ric Estes, Meredith Meighen Champion
- 20** – Lance Wells, Krista Rasco
- 25** – Barbara McCoy
- 29** – Nila McQuary

**There are no anniversaries for April in our files.
If we overlooked you, please let the church secretary know.**

Last second additions

–More Newsmakers

• Four FPC members honored

The Northeast Texas Chapter of the International Wine and Food Society in December honored the long time support of four local people who also just happen to be FPC members.

The very special awards—the BGA (Board of Governors of the Americas) Silver Medallion--were presented to **Lowell Ballew** (posthumously), his widow **Paula Ballew**, and **Janet and Danny Duncan**, at the Chapter's Holiday Dinner, which took place Dec. 13 at the Webb Hill Country Club. One of the presenters was FPC's **Helon Razniak**.

A section of the organization's newsletter detailing the presentation is on the church bulletin board by the kitchen.

–A note from Walter and Sharon Sanders

The Sanders sent a long note to their friends including those of us at FPC. The entire note is available if you would like to read it, but a shorter version is included here:

We are all finally HOME with all our "stuff", and ready to attempt unpacking a few boxes each day. Needless to say, we are tired!

Walter said he prayed us here a mile at a time after a blow-out on a trailer.... On the trip back to pick up Eleanor, we spent a good amount of time on the side of the road being pounded with a hail storm.... Between Thad and his family, Traci and her family, and Pam and her family, we have been fed and supported...and my precious sons-in-law have been wonderful at both our home, and then a week later at Eleanor's when her things arrived.

Here are the new addresses once again for us:

--Walter and Sharon Sanders

201 Canyon Oaks

Sunrise Beach, Tx 78643

903-456-0582

903-456-4590

325-388-3273

--Eleanor Sanders

Windchime Assisted Living

Room 502

216 Covenant Lane

Kingsland, Texas 78639

As you can imagine, the initial change was difficult for Eleanor...until she stepped foot into her new place...saw all her furniture in place and pictures on the wall (again thanks to Pam, Traci, George and Jordan)...within a few hours, her whole composure changed. When we checked in with her the next morning she was happy and seemed at peace....

We have visited at the Federated Church here in Sunrise Beach that Walter and Eleanor's father helped organize 50 years ago, and have found several members who knew Eleanor and who will be visiting her at her new home.... The staff said they love her all ready. I know she will appreciate your cards as well as your prayers.



Did We Forget Something?

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