



THE GOOD NEWS

**The Good News is published weekly and monthly by
the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas.**

February 2016

Inside this Edition:

A Message from the Pastor
Prayer List Additions
In Our Prayers
Sunday Bible Readings
Presbyterian Women's News
February Worship Leaders
February Calendar
Please Keep Us Informed
Gilmont Summer Camp Jobs
Event Tackles Islamophobia
Ash Wednesday Service
GriefShare Resumes
Food Pantry Items
FPC Staff, Session, Committees
Grace Presbytery Events
February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship with us this Sunday!

"A Christian Community of Faith"

9:45 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages
10:50 a.m.
Sunday Worship

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A Message From the Pastor

Dear friends and family of FPCC,

*So many of the important moments
in life occur around a table.*

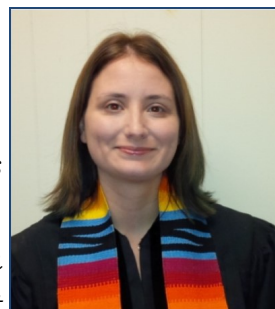
*I encourage you to think back on
your life, and of the significant
experiences you've had at a table. Perhaps you can
remember being fed by your mother at the table as a
toddler. Perhaps you remember feeding your mother
when she was unable to do so for herself.*

*Maybe it is joyful moments that drift to the surface of
your memory of a table, moments of exciting news shared
and new life plans dreamed up.*

*Maybe it's what's on the table that you remember:
spaghetti Fridays with your family, your grandmother's
vegetable soup, your mother's apple pie.*

*And maybe, like this preacher, you think of a
communion table; that place where familiarity meets a
stirring you can't quite explain, in the sacramental beauty
of ritual. That table is the core of our identity as followers
of Jesus Christ.*

*This Lent, I invite you on a journey through tables of
the New Testament – eight, to be exact. We will begin this
journey with Jesus in hearing about his temptation in the
desert and being questioned about fellowship and fasting.
We will experience an orderly table interrupted by a
woman with costly perfume, deciding now is the time to
anoint Jesus with love (and not after dessert).*



Continued on page 4

Prayer List Additions

FPC's **Rick Selvaggi** is recovering from a hip injury. He and three others are the latest additions to the FPC Prayer List. **Charles Rogers**, a colleague of Dr. Selvaggi who teaches at TAMUC is hospitalized while he undergoes testing. **Gayle Shumate** of Commerce and a high school classmate of FPC's Neal Stewart, has lung cancer.

Finally, **Diane Little**, who is already on our list, is in declining health. Please keep these folks in your prayers, as well as all the others on our list. If you would like to add someone to the FPC prayer list, contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Diane Little	Gordon Hunter
Jace Carrington	Bruce Campbell	Sara Grace Pullen
Melba Blount	Amy Lopez	Billy Marshall
Joe Yeakley	Randy Roberts	Barbara Frey
John Paul Rhodes	Kade Daniel Campbell	
Grace Byrd	Family of Virginia Holley	
Betty Holloway	Family and Friends of Joe Fred Cox	
Tyrus Dolese	Family & friends of Frances Robinson	
	Family of Kathleen Dickerson Smith	
Family of John Cooley		Rick Selvaggi
Charles Rogers		Gayle Shumate

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

Bible Readings for this Sunday and Next Sunday



This Sunday (Feb. 7) is Transfiguration Sunday

Old Testament: Exodus 34:29-35 *The Shining Face of Moses*

Psalter: 99 *Praise to God for His Holiness*

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 *Ministers of the New Covenant*

Gospel: (and sermon focus) Luke: 9:28-36
The Transfiguration

Next Sunday (Feb. 14) is the First Sunday in Lent

A special sermon series for Lent begins, starting with Gospel readings in Luke as Pastor Rasco takes us on a journey of eight tables that were integral parts of the ministry of Jesus.

Week 1: Luke 4:1-12; 5:27-39 *A Table of Fasting and Fellowship*



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Congratulations, Toni!

FPC's **Toni Deaton**, president of the Presbyterian Women's Circle here, has been elected to the office of **moderator-elect** for *Presbyterian Women in Grace Presbytery*.

It happened at the group's Fall Gathering, which was held at the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas.



Pam Dotson and Toni Deaton

Toni will be installed at the upcoming Fall Gathering in October, 2016, and will become moderator of the organization for the years 2017 and 2018 (2-year term), succeeding the current moderator, Pam Dotson.

Circle Meeting

PW Circle will meet on **Monday, Feb. 8, at 10 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall for Bible study and a brief business meeting. Helon Razniak will lead the lesson (Chapter 8 in *Come to the Waters*, the PW Horizons Bible Study) and Jane Cox is hostess.

All women are invited to attend and are asked to bring a box of cereal or any other item you prefer to benefit the Commerce Food Pantry. Guests are welcome.

Volunteer Opportunity

Members of PW have been asked to volunteer to help at the Children's Museum on **Saturday, Feb. 27**, for Super Heroes Night. The event begins at 6 p.m., will last approximately two hours, and is specifically for mothers/sons.

"Last year about eight of us volunteered for Pirate Night and enjoyed it. It is a chance for us to be more visible in our community as a church group," said Toni.

Watch for an email from her that will give more details.

February Worship Leaders

February 7

Host Elder: Petra Strassberg
Head Usher: Dean Calvert
Candle Lighter: Carrigan Oats
Liturgist: Walt Davis
Elements: Helon Razniak

February 14

Head Usher: Nancy McFarland
Candle Lighter: Evie Conner
Liturgist: Barbara Tucker

February 21

Head Usher: Bob Tucker
Candle Lighter: Cal Conner
Liturgist: Wally Tucker

February 28

Head Usher: Rick Selvaggi
Candle Lighter: Matti Ritchie
Liturgist: Tina Selvaggi

Please thank these volunteers to let them know you appreciate what they do. If you would like to assist at FPC, please contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

February Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 7** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 9:28-36
Confirmation Class begins (during Sunday School).
- 10** Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m.
- 14** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 5:27-39
- 21** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 7:36-50
- 28** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 14:1-14

Other February events

2, 9, 23 Tuesdays, 9 a.m.—Teach the Preacher

Note: No Session meeting will be held this month..



Please keep us informed about news items for our next newsletter. Call or email (we prefer email) the church office with your news.



Do you know a young adult between the ages of 18 and 25 looking for fun, challenging and meaningful work this summer?

Gilmont Counselors are the backbone of our outstanding summer camp program and serve as role models for the campers. In addition, it's a great place to develop professional skills needed in life!

Check out the flyer on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

TAMUC Event Addresses Islamophobia

FPC members were well represented Tuesday, Feb. 2 at a dialogue and discussion special event put on by the Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion at Texas A&M University-Commerce in the Sam Rayburn Student Center.

Called "Getting to Know You: Addressing Islamophobia through Mutual Understanding, Building Trust & Respect," the event was open to administration, faculty, and students, as well as the general public.

Dr. Dan Jones, Texas A&M University-Commerce President, offered the Welcome Address. Provost, Dr. Adolfo Benavides. Jacques Fuqua (Executive Director of Global Programs) moderated the event.

Speakers include Amir Rahman (East Texas Islamic Association), Dr. Edward Romero (Chief Diversity Officer), John Mark Jones (Director of International Student Services), and Syed Fayyaz Hassan (Muslim Democratic Caucus of Texas).

A large crowd took advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about some of the rich diversity of Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Remember!

Ash Wednesday Service



Feb. 10 at 6 p.m.

**Let This Be the Day You
Give Up Who You Have Been
for Who You Can Become!!**

Area GriefShare Program Resumes

The Commerce GriefShare group, which meets at the First Baptist Church of Commerce, began its spring semester on Monday, Feb. 1.

The GriefShare curriculum consists of 13 nights of videos. **Jim and Teena Ayres** are leading discussions this semester. Jim is a minister, and both have extensive experience in ministry leadership.

Although the program is called GriefShare, no participant is ever expected to "share" when they don't feel like talking. This is a support group where people should feel comfortable to share when they want to or to sit quietly and think.

"We also have what we call the Las Vegas rule: 'What's said in GriefShare, stays in GriefShare,'" explained Beverly Burrow, who helped organize the program. "We don't share other people's stories unless they have given permission in the hope of helping others."

Visitors are welcome, with no commitment to attend the entire 13-week-program.

"Sometimes a person might benefit from visiting one or more times and then return later when they are ready to participate more often," said Burrow. "Grief is personal, and each person's journey through grief is unique to them."

No fee is charged for participating in the Commerce group. Much more information about grief, resources, and the GriefShare program can be found at www.GriefShare.org. A zipcode locator can direct people to the group closest to their location.

In addition to the Commerce group, which meets on Mondays, groups can be found in Wolfe City on Tuesday, Sulphur Springs on Wednesday, and Greenville on Thursday.

All teaching is done via videos suitable for any church domoniation—or no denomination. The speakers on the video are grief experts and include counselors, academicians, ministers, and motivational speakers and authors. The local leaders are here to support and to facilitate discussions.

If you have questions about the local group or the GriefShare program, feel free to call Jim and Teena Ayres at 903-886-8600 or Beverly Burrow at 214-460-8998.

The group meets here each Monday night this spring from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Church Parlor of First Baptist Church.

"People arrive in all sorts of attire, and some bring sack suppers and eat during the video," said Burrow. "Our group is caring, our atmosphere is casual, and you will probably feel right at home."

A Message From the Pastor Continued from page 1

We will see how those wily Pharisees tried to trick Jesus at a table, and how he left them all agape with his own test of faithfulness. We will hear Jesus' ancient, and yet, timely, words about how the kingdom feast God calls us to won't keep until morning, but requires an immediate response. We will experience the grace and discomfort of that homecoming table the prodigal was welcomed back to.

We will witness the fury of Jesus overturning a table of greed in the temple, and we will gather Maundy Thursday to remember what the table of remembrance we come to in the Lord's Supper is really all about. Finally, when our journey is complete, and we find our stomachs and souls hungry for the bread of heaven, we will walk alongside those bewildered disciples who recognized our risen Lord when they gathered at a table and broke bread together.

Pull up a chair this Lent, friends. There is plenty of room at the table.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Krista Rasco

**Adapted with permission from Rev. Whitney Wilkinson*

Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

The Commerce Food Pantry serves between 35-45 different families in need each week—over 150 families each month. Donations are a major source of its ability to help these people. Remember to help out the food pantry with a donation of food each Sunday.

1st Sunday—Peanut butter and/or jelly

2nd Sunday—Bag of pinto beans and/or rice

3rd Sunday—Box of cereal or oatmeal

4th Sunday—Cans of tuna, spam, chicken

5th Sunday—Cans of fruit: peaches, fruit cocktail

First Presbyterian Church

Staff, Session, and Committees

Staff

Pastor..... Rev. Krista Rasco
Clerk of Session Wally Tucker
Music Director Jim Deaton
Organist..... Toni Deaton
Nursery Attendant..... Carolyn McFarland
Secretary Roger McKenzie

Session Members

2016

Ric Estes
Rick Selvaggi
Scott Stewart

2017

Walter Davis
Helon Razniak
Petra Strassberg

2018

Martha Clevenger
Jordan Conner
Wally Tucker
Bettina Zvanut

Session Committees

Worship:

Chair..... Helon Razniak
Co-Chair..... Martha Clevenger

Christian Education:

Chair..... Walt Davis
Co-Chair..... Jordan Conner

Membership and Pastoral Care:

Chair..... Ric Estes
Co-Chair..... Bettina Zvanut

Mission/Evangelism:

Chair..... Bettina Zvanut
Co-Chair..... Petra Strassberg

Buildings and Grounds:

Chair..... Scott Stewart
Co-Chair..... Rick Selvaggi

Stewardship and Finance:

Chair..... Jordan Conner
Co-chair..... Scott Stewart

Personnel:

Chair..... Wally Tucker

Grace Presbytery Upcoming Events

Get more details about these and other upcoming events at the Grace Presbytery website or via the Grace eNews, the Presbytery's bimonthly newsletter. You can sign up to receive Grace eNews on the website.

February

14 (Sunday) **Children's Choir from Africa**—at FPC in Grapevine, free, at 7 p.m.

20 (Saturday) **Get Connected**—for anybody who is involved in planning or leading youth activities and events, free, lunch provided—topics covered: mission, curriculum, communication, intergenerational.

March

5 (Saturday) **Grace Presbytery Stated Meeting**—at Austin College in Sherman.

February Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

2—Susan Reeves

3—Penny Belcher Muecker

5—Joyce Isaac

5—Helon Razniak

8—John Walvoord, II

14—Danny Duncan

17—Kaitlynn Rasco

22—Castleton Walker Porterfield

25—Garrett Michael Chastain

Happy Anniversary to:

7—Walt & Isabel Davis

*If we forgot you or got a date wrong,
contact the church secretary.*