

The Good News

Mid-Month Edition

No. 4

Feb. 17, 2016

Published twice monthly by the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas

Lenten Sermon Series Eight Tables begins this Sunday.

Rev. Rasco wrote about tables and her Lenten Sermon Series that will focus on different types of tables in the February newsletter earlier this month. This past Sunday she kicked off the series, entitled "Eight Tables."

She will be taking us on a New Testament journey that will allow us to experience Jesus and his disciples through a unique metaphor. Along the way, we will learn and experience the feelings and traits that are key to a better understanding of the life and mission of Jesus here on earth, including discipline, steadfastness, eagerness, grace, humility, anger, temptation, and triumph.

The seven Sunday (and Maundy Thursday) journey prepares us to feel what Jesus went through as he encountered "eight tables" during his journey among us.

We will be sure to save you a seat.



Join us at 10:50 a.m. on Sundays for the
First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas

Lenten Sermon Series

eight
TABLES

2/14 *A Table of Fasting and Fellowship* Luke 5:27-39
2/21 *An Interrupted Table* Luke 7:36-50
2/28 *A Testing Table* Luke 14:1-14
3/6 *A Timely Table* Luke 14:15-24
3/13 *A Table of Forgiveness* Luke 15:1-2, 11-32
3/20 *An Overturned Table* Matthew 21:1-17 (Palm Sunday)
3/24 *A Passover Table* Luke 22:7-23 (Maundy Thursday, 5:30 p.m.)
3/27 *An Easter Table* Luke 24:1-35 (EASTER!)

***On Good Friday, 3/25, The Stations of the Cross will be available from 5-8pm**



Bible Readings for this Sunday and Next Sunday

This Sunday (Feb. 21) is the 2nd Sunday in Lent.

Old Testament: Exodus 30: 17-32 *The Bronze Basin / The Anointing Oil and Incense*

Psalter: Psalm 51:1-12 *Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon*

Epistle: Galatians 2:15-21 *Jews and Gentiles Are Saved by Faith*

Gospel: (and sermon focus) Luke 7:36-50 *A Sinful Woman Forgiven*

Next Sunday (Feb. 28) is the 3rd Sunday in Lent.

Old Testament: Proverbs 22:1-9

Psalter: Psalm 112 *Blessings of the Righteous*

Epistle: Hebrews 13:1-9 *Service Well Pleasing to God*

Gospel: (and sermon focus) Luke 14:1, 7-14 *Humility and Hospitality*

Assisting with Worship

Our worship leaders this Sunday are: **Bob Johnson**, Head Usher; **Cal Conner**, Candle lighter; and **Wally Tucker**, Liturgist.

Next Sunday (Feb. 28) our worship leaders will be **Rick Selvaggi**, Head Usher; **Matti Ritchie**, candle lighter, and **Tina Selvaggi**, liturgist.

Please thank these volunteers for their service when you see them. If you would like to assist at FPC , please contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

Additions to Prayer List

Gladys Gray, a long-time friend of **Nancy McFarland** and FPC's **Petra Strassberg** are the latest additions to the FPC Prayer List. Gladys (who was mentioned in last Sunday's worship bulletin) is recovering from throat surgery performed on Feb. 8 at Hunt Regional Medical Center in Greenville, while Petra is having eye surgery this week. Please pray for them and all the others on our list.

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	Wendell Edwards	Kade Daniel Campbell	Grace Byrd
Family of Virginia Holley	Betty Holloway	Family and Friends of Joe Fred Cox	Tyrus Dolese
Dana Ryer	Family and friends of Frances Robinson	Family of Kathleen Dickerson Smith	
Rick Selvaggi	Charles Rogers	Gayle Shumate	Gladys Gray
Petra Strassberg			

We Have Reduced the Frequency of *The Good News*.

We are now producing two newsletters a month. So if you have news, a blessing, or a photo to share, please bear our new schedule in mind. Whatever you have for *The Good News*, be sure to send it in early!

The next newsletter is the monthly edition. It will be published March 1 or 2.

Davis's Welcome New Arrivals

Lee and Melissa Davis are the proud parents of twins, giving **Walt and Isabel Davis** two new grandchildren! **Ruby Lee Davis and Charlie Evans Davis** were born Feb 9.

The babies weighed 6 lbs 1 oz and 6 lbs 3 oz. **Max and Quin** are their proud brothers.

Here are pictures of the already being spoiled newborns, with Ruby on the left and Charlie on the right.



Ruby



Charlie



Thanks Petra!
Petra Strassberg sent us this photo of FPC's presence at the audience at the Feb. 2 TAMUC event—"Getting to Know You: Addressing Islamophobia through Mutual Understanding, Building Trust & Respect." Pastor Krista Rasco (just barely in the picture at left) and David Zvanut, Bettina Zavanut, Bob Johnson, Walt and Isabel Davis, and Martha Clevenger are all listening intently.

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



Upcoming FPC Events

- **Tuesday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m.**—Teach the Preacher.

Got a committee meeting or church event on your schedule.

Put it on ours so everyone can know about it!

Newsmakers . . . Helping Those Less Fortunate

Tina Fletcher Selvaggi and some of her occupational therapy graduate students spent a recent Saturday checking the developmental skills of children of women who are victims of human trafficking.

Most of the mothers in the safe house are unable to speak English and are from the Middle East. Despite how sad it sounds, the mothers, kids, and students all had a great day!

All agreed it's something that should be done regularly, so for a summer event is being planned. The students are also holding two Autism Awareness Family Celebrations at the Dallas Museum of Art and a sensory-friendly event for children with autism at the Dallas Zoo.



News from Gilmont

- **Kidquake and Youthquake Registrations** now open! This is an opportunity to come with your church and enjoy time at Gilmont and to prepare to come back for summer camp!
- **Men's Work Crew Weekend** is March 17-19. Join the FPC Garland Men and come out to camp to make upgrades, repair and remodel.
- **Gilmont Fun Run** is March 26, to benefit Circle of Friends Camp for children with developmental disabilities and their families. Come run, skip, walk or stroll through the forest with us!
- **Spring Workshops Retreat** April 29-May 1
- **Mickey Melton Memorial Golf Tournament**, May 16 at Pine Crest Country Club in Longview.
- **Volunteer May 20-21** Bring your friends and come be a volunteer! We will have work projects for all ages and skill levels. Please RSVP so we can plan for you!

Check out these events, plus **Summer Camp**, at Gilmont's new website: gilmont.org



2016 Youth Programs at Mo-Ranch

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly is a Christian camp and conference center located along the Guadalupe River on almost 500 acres of Hill Country property.

Go to <http://www.moranch.org> for more information.

- **Mo-TLC, Teen Leadership Conference** June 12-17, 2016—Guided by encouraging adult mentors, youth participants select from five leadership groups (worship, music, drama, small-group or recreation) to plan and implement the conference activities. Registration per church is limited.
- **Youth Celebration** June 26-July 1, 2016—In small groups youth are guided by adult leaders who facilitate building community, Bible study and discussions on matters of faith and life. For youth who have completed 9-12th grades.
- **Jr. High Jubilee** Session I: July 3-7, 2016, Session II: July 10-14, 2016—With 1 Timothy 4:12 as its theme, both sessions offer participants an opportunity to experience God's loving kindness, discover God's mission and how to live a life of love and take their mission to the world around them.
- **Multi-Cultural Youth Conference** July 7-10, 2016—A God-filled weekend celebrating cultural differences through food, song, dance and skits, with speakers from a variety of ethnic origins.