



# THE GOOD NEWS

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

**May 2014**

## Inside this Edition:

A Message From the Pastor  
Reverend Becomes Official  
Presbyterian Women News  
Middle School Sunday School News  
Elders to Be Installed  
I CAN Help  
Session Awards Scholarship  
In Our Prayers  
May Birthdays/Anniversaries  
Sympathy  
Flower Calendar Reminder  
Camp Gilmont Fun Day  
Community News You Can Use  
Don't Forget  
May Worship Leaders  
May Calendar  
Rev. Krista's on Facebook!  
Coming in June

## 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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## A Message From the Pastor

*Grace to you and peace from God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*I cannot believe I have been here for two months already (it feels like only a few weeks) and in that time we have gone through the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. What a busy time!*

*I thought I would be trying to write this article for the May Newsletter at home with a sick toddler. I took Kaithlynn to the doctor and she did not have any contagious disease and was allowed to go back to day care. So I am blessedly at the office getting some work done with some peace and quiet.*

*I tell you this little bit of information, that I have already shared with the members of the Session, because I want you to know how grateful I am that I am allowed such a flexible schedule to be able to stay at home with my sick toddler when need be. I am also grateful to my husband and family who allow me the flexibility of being at the church when I need to be there outside of*

*Continued on page 5*



*Rev. Krista Rasco breaks the bread for Holy Communion on April 6 for the first time as an ordained pastor. Helping her is Rev. John Pflug, a former FPC member, who is now the Teaching Elder at the First Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro, Texas.*

## Reverend becomes official

Sunday, April 6, was a great day in the history of FPC. A special service was held at 4 p.m. celebrating the ordination of Krista Welch Rasco to the ministry of word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and her installation as FPC's newest pastor.

The event gave FPC a full-time pastor for the first time in over a year and was attended by not only the congregation, but a host of Presbyterian pastors and elders from near and afar to help with the service and usher Rev. Rasco into her first pastoral position in the Presbyterian Church. Rev. Rasco's milestones were witnessed by numerous family members as well.

Following the service, a reception for Rev. Rasco was held.



*Kaitlynn Rasco moves in for a closer look at her mom (far left) during the April 6 service.*



*There was a lot of good food, but not much was left when this picture of the ladies who helped at the April 6 reception. Pictured from the left are Dean Calvert, Nila Mc Quary, Nancy McFarland, Joyce Isaacs, Odeana Stewart, and Jane Cox. Thanks ladies!*

## Presbyterian Women News

**Circle Meeting** – The next Circle Meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bible Study leader is Nila McQuary and hostess is Toni Deaton. In addition to leading the Bible lesson, Nila will present information regarding the annual **Birthday Offering** which will be taken at the meeting. All women are invited to attend.

**Birthday Offering – History of the Offering:** In 1922 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary (PCUS), it was decided that an offering should be made for a definite cause. That year, Hallie Paxson Winsborough, superintendent of women's work, visited Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan. She challenged members of the Woman's Auxiliary to give one penny for each year of their lives (or a dollar if a woman preferred not to reveal her age) as a birthday gift to the school. The tradition continued when the Woman's Auxiliary became Women of the Church in 1948, and then Presbyterian Women in 1988. The offerings have enabled a long succession of new and innovative mission projects throughout the world.

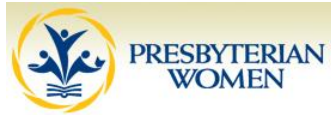
While projects and donation amounts have changed, the commitment of Presbyterian Women to improving the lives of others has not. The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women annually reviews proposals and selects up to five projects to fund through the gifts to the Birthday Offering. For the 2014 Offering, one project will be funded, so the grant will be larger and make more of an impact.

The actual grant amount awarded to Blue Corn Mothers Alliance will depend on gifts offered during 2014. **The goal for the 2014 Birthday Offering is \$500,000.**

**Blue Corn Mothers Alliance** – The Blue Corn Mothers Advocacy Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the chosen project for 2014. Blue Corn Mothers Alliance provides a range of services for Albuquerque's Native American women who experience domestic violence. This multifaceted program offers advocacy; crisis intervention, health counseling and education services, and referrals to legal and shelter services to Native American women and children who have suffered domestic violence.



Continued from  
previous page



This program is the only one in the Albuquerque area that offers domestic violence counseling with a focus on Native American cultural sensitivity. Research shows that Native American women are more likely to experience domestic and sexual violence than non-Native women. More than one in three Native American women will experience sexual violence in their lives, and 39 percent of Native American women experience domestic violence in some form.

Through the Birthday Offering gift, this once-a-week program, currently run by volunteers out of La Mesa Presbyterian Church, will be available five days a week with staff. The money received will be leveraged and allow them to compete for funding locally from the City of Albuquerque and nationally from the Department of Justice and the Administration for Children and Families. Blue Corn Alliance hopes that these additional funding sources can be secured to help open a shelter.

**In May of 2013, our PW circle contributed \$165 to last year's Birthday Offering.** If you would like to donate to the 2014 project, you may do so by giving your check to Irene Humfeld, treasurer, or to Toni Deaton, moderator. Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women and "Birthday Offering" should be written in the reference line on the check.

**Special Event on June 14** – On Saturday, June 14 at Noon, the PW Circle will host a covered-dish luncheon in honor of our Commerce High School graduate, Kiley Towne. All women are invited to attend and guests are welcome. Please mark this special date on your calendar!

**Election of Officers** – At the business meeting on Monday, April 14, Nominating Chair Brenda Estes, presented the slate of officers for 2014-2016. Those presented are as follows and were elected by acclamation.

*Moderator ..... Toni Deaton*  
*Co-Moderator..... Helon Razniak*  
*Circle Chair..... Nila McQuary*  
*Secretary..... Martha Clevenger*  
*Treasurer ..... Irene Humfeld*  
*Historians..... Beverly Housewright*  
*Bettina Zvanut*

The officers will be installed at a Saturday luncheon (TBA) in early September.

**On-going Mission Projects** – Our PW circle continues to sew 100 baby caps each month for the newborns at Hunt Regional Medical Center. Gently used magazines are also being collected to be donated to Draughn's Assisted Living. Please notify Helon Razniak if you want to donate magazines.

Eyeglasses that you are no longer wearing can be donated to the Lion's Club project and Mona Towne is the contact person.

## ***Middle School Sunday School News***

The Middle School Sunday School Class held a Work/Play Day on Saturday, April 19, in the play yard behind the church. Mason Howard, Lily Selvaggi, and John Benner attended.

They began by staining the new outdoor playset. It was hard work, and everyone took turns on the ladder,



*The Middle School Sunday School Class workday started with painting the playset. At work are (l-r) Mason Howard, John Benner, and Lily Selvaggi.*

crawling around on top of the playhouse to complete the job.

Then the boys started the fire, and Mason presided over cooking hamburgers. Dr. Rick Selvaggi arrived with his nephews: Ross, Ryan, and Nathan Selvaggi. He brought more hamburgers and buns as well as more paintbrushes!

While some of the group worked to finish the painting, others cut down trees and brush that had been growing in the fence.

After lunch, Rick showed the class how to set up a croquet court on the lawn. The kids began a spirited game of croquet according to "Selvaggi House Rules". It took one and a half hours to play the game. John won!

## **Middle School . . .continued from previous page**

Everyone had a blast. Thanks to Monty Howard and Tina Selvaggi for cleaning up the table and yard and again to Tina for the chocolate chip cookies!

Speaking of the play-yard, Joyce McCord has graciously purchased a climbing rose for the Sunday School class to plant along the back fence of the play yard. They have described it as their " Secret Garden!" Thanks to Joyce for the lovely red bush.

The Middle School Sunday School Class would also like to give a huge thank you to Barbara Fry. She graciously took their ceramic projects and fired them in the kiln at the University. It made their ceramic pieces look professional and beautiful!



*Showing off their finished work! Pictured from the left are Mason Howard, Rick Selvaggi, Lily Selvaggi, John Benner, Bettina Zvanut, and the Selvaggi nephews—Ross, Ryan, and Nathan.*

## **Elders to be installed May 4**

As April neared its end, the session met to hear nominations for and discuss filling the vacant elder positions at FPC. Three elders were subsequently elected at a congregational meeting on April 27.

As a result, part of the worship service on May 4 will be the ordination and installation of Rick Selvaggi and the installation of Jim Deaton and Dave Walvoord.

Congratulations to all three!

## **I CAN Help (Did they ever!)**

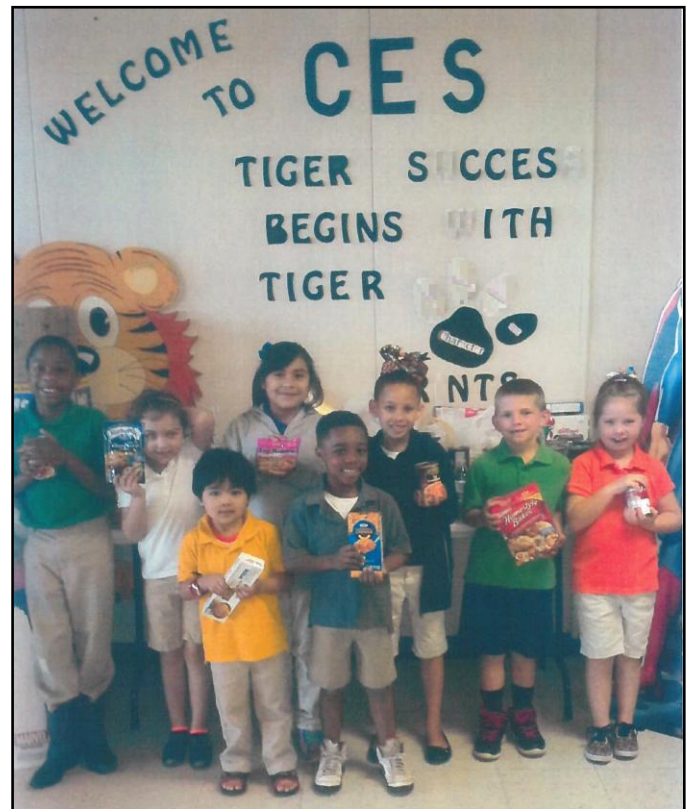
Students (and their parents) and teachers at Commerce Elementary School were busy April 7-18 collecting cans of food for the school's annual food drive. The "I CAN Help" campaign was a big success and the Food Pantry here at FPC reaped the benefits when Dennis White and volunteers picked up and delivered over 1,250 cans and other items of food to the Food Pantry.

Counselor Belinda Miller coordinated the drive with an initial goal of 500 cans of food. The effort more than doubled that goal as students learned some important lessons.

"The canned Food drive is a tangible way for our children to learn about caring for others," wrote Miller, adding that "The Food Pantry helps many families in Commerce each week.

Some of those families might even have children who attend Commerce Elementary School.

Parents were asked to send donations of food to their child's classroom. A pizza party was promised to the classroom that contributed the most food.



*These smiling Commerce Elementary students were among those whose efforts resulted in over 1,200 cans of food being donated to the Food Pantry.*



## Session Awards Scholarship to Towne

Hard work most often pays off and it has for FPC's Kiley Towne, who is graduating from high school this month. The senior, the daughter of Jeff and Missy, and granddaughter of Mona Towne, has been awarded a scholarship by the Session.

Kiley will be attending Texas A&M-Commerce.

Congratulations Kiley!



Kiley Towne

### In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

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

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	David Purkiss
Ronnie Davidson	Rev. Roy Ditmar	

## May Dates to Remember

### Happy Birthday to:

**3** – Paul Shatney  
**12** – Helena Christine Ballew  
**13** – Wally Tucker  
**14** – Jordan Estes Conner  
**21** – Quint Madewell  
**23** – Whitney Madewell  
**24** – Kayla Keahey  
**25** – Bryce Norwood  
**25** – Katherine Duncan  
**27** – Paula Elliott  
**27** – Mark Fake

### Happy Anniversary to:

**24** – Rebecca & Quint Madewell  
**30** – Donna & Bubba Dickerson

If we overlooked your birthday or anniversary,  
please let us know.

## Message from the Pastor

*Continued from page one*

*"office hours". I am also grateful for having such a flexible schedule to be able to do things outside of the office, besides the reasons of a sick toddler or family issues. I have been in and out of the office for many different reasons including pastoral care visits with some of our active and non-active members, including homebound members and some in assisted living centers around town.*

*I have enjoyed lunch dates and dinner dates that have allowed my family and I to get to know you better. I have attended many religious and community meetings and events at the church, and around town. I have used these events to get to know the church better as well as the community, and a few just to have fun.*

*There have been many, many, things keeping me busy here and there is still so much more to do. I am honored to have become a part of your church and I am still in the process of learning more about you and the history of this church and dreaming up together what this church may be called to in the future by God.*

*As time goes by I will settle into a routine and will have more specific hours as to when I will be in and out of the office (but remember there are always days when something will come up unexpectedly). I know one thing I will add to my schedule next school year is to hold "office hours" at least once a week on the campus of Texas A&M-Commerce. I look forward to working with the university and getting to know the students and how we as a church can better assist them.*

*In the meantime, I have ordered a "message board" that I will put on the outside of my office so that I can leave notes letting you know where I am and what I am doing. This will also give you an opportunity to leave a note for me if I am not there.*

*I have truly enjoyed working with you and being your pastor these past two months. I have felt your love and encouragement and appreciate you all very much. I look forward to our future together.*

*The theme that has run through the scripture passages used in worship these past months ("come and see") has been very appropriate for my time here. I have come and seen, and I have seen a church that is active not only within its own walls but even more in the community of Commerce. You are a church full of love, compassion and hope. I'm so happy to be a part of that.*

*May you live each day with the assurance that God's love and peace is with you!*

*Rev. Krista Rasco*

## Sympathy

Condolences are extended to FPC's Sara Grace Pullen on the death last month of her brother, James Harold Reynolds.

## 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.

## Free Family Fun Day at Camp Gilmont

An invitation has been extended to attend Camp Gilmont's Gilmont Community Jamboree on Saturday, May 17, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Sponsors described the open house as "a great day for the family to come out and get to know the camp while enjoying the East Texas forest in May."

There will be carnival games, a dunking booth, fishing, canoeing, a ropes course, and mountain biking (bring your own or ride one of theirs). Cost for Zip Line: \$10 and T-shirt: \$5. Donations will be accepted for food. Want to volunteer?

"We need you, just call and let us know. Come on out and take a walk on the greener side of life!" said camp representatives.

Camp Gilmont is located northeast of Gilmer at 6075 State Highway 155.

## Community News You Can Use

### \* Health Fair May 7

Hunt Regional Community Hospital is hosting a health fair on May 7, starting at 8:30 a.m. at 2900 Sterling Hart Drive in Commerce.

A mobile mammography unit will provide mammograms. Also available will be screenings for Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) and blood pressure checks.

Health care vendors will also be on site.

To schedule a mammography screening, call 903-408-5010. A low \$100 fee, which may be covered by your insurance company, will be charged. If you don't have insurance or can't afford a fee, there is an option for assistance. Call 903-408-5730 and ask for Judy Quan.

Mammography screening is available to women over 40 who have not had one in the past year.

To register for a PVD screening, which measures blood flow in the lower extremities, call 903-408-1688. This screening is free.

To schedule a PVD screening, call 903-408-5010.

### \*Youth Sports Fundraiser

A local car retailer, a local energy company, and the City of Commerce are teaming up to raise funds for Commerce Youth Sports on Saturday, May 10 at the youth baseball fields at the Eddie Moore Sports Complex, 2800 FM 3218.

Commerce Auto Group has dubbed the event "Drive 4 UR Community"—donating \$20 to the youth organization for every test drive of one of its new Ford vehicles taken from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., up to \$6,000.

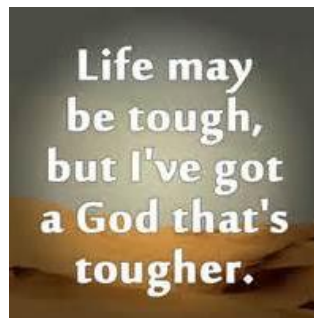
In addition, Atmos Energy will serve hotdogs, chips and a drink, with donations accepted to help Commerce's youth sports program.

If you need more information, call 903-886-4014

### \*Farmer's Market Opens

Fresh! Just out of the ground or off the vine, bush, or tree. Yes, harvesting is about to begin and fresh fruits and vegetables will be available at the Farmer's Market in Commerce when it opens on Saturday, May 24.

Each Saturday, the Farmer's Market will be open from 7:30-noon at the Bonham Street location. If you want to sell your fruits and vegetables, you can get registration information by calling 903-886-1123 (ask for Sherry) or 903-886-8214 (ask for Luann).



## 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

## May Worship Leaders

### May 4

Host Elder: **Neal Stewart**

Head Usher: **Rick Selvaggi**

Candle Lighter: **Lily Selvaggi**

Liturgist: **Walt Davis**

Elements: **Dean Calvert**

### May 11

Host Elder: **Barbara Tucker**

Head Usher: **Scott Stewart**

Candle Lighter: **Paul Shatney**

Liturgist: **Dennis White**

### May 18

Host Elder: **Sherry Johnson**

Head Usher: **Nancy McFarland**

Candle Lighter: **Matthew McFarland**

Liturgist: **Wally Tucker**

### May 25

Host Elder: **Dean Calvert**

Head Usher: **Rick Selvaggi**

Candle Lighter: **Mason Howard**

Liturgist: **Tina Selvaggi**

*Thanks to these folks 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 or Pastor Rasco.*

## May Calendar

### Worship Schedule

**4** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.

*Scripture focus on Luke 24:13-35.*

*Ordination and Installation of Elders  
Communion*

**11** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m..

*Scripture focus on Acts 2:42-47.*

**18** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.

*Scripture focus on Acts 7:55-60*

**25** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.

*Scripture focus on Acts 17:22-31*

### Other April events

**12** -- Monday, 6 p.m. – Presbyterian Woman's luncheon meeting in Fellowship Hall

**14** – Wednesday, 6 p.m. – Session meeting

**18** – Sunday, noon – Mission and Evangelism Potluck Dinner

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*If you have an event that you would like to see in next month's newsletter, contact the church office with your information.*

### **Rev. Krista's on Facebook!**

Now there's another way to reach Rev. Krista Rasco. She's on Facebook!



[www.facebook.com/krista.rasco](http://www.facebook.com/krista.rasco)

See you there!

## Coming in June!

We don't know everything. Keep us in the loop and let us know about news items we can use for our next newsletter.

Thanks for all your help!