



THE GOOD NEWS

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

June 2014

Inside this Edition:

A Message From the Pastor
'New Beginnings' Effort Underway
June Calendar
Presbyterian Women News
In Our Prayers
Newsmakers
Action Notice
Kiley Towne Introduces Herself
News You Can Use
WANTED
WANTED
Birthday/Anniversaries
Grace Presbytery Prayer Requests
Worship Leaders for June
Catch the Reverend on Facebook
Coming in July
Keep Us Informed


Worship with us!

"A Christian Community
of Faith"

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

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

Rev. Krista Rasco – Pastor

 mail: revkristarasco@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/krista.rasco

Roger McKenzie – Church Secretary
Office: (903) 886-3783

E-mail:
fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com

A Message From the Pastor

I feel like my entire life has been one discernment process after the other. These times of discernment have included a lot of prayer and listening, and even more, they have included a sense of hope and trust that I am following God's direction for my life. Of course it is a never ending process as we grow and change personally and as the world changes around us. It takes a lot of discipline to notice where the Holy Spirit is working and leading us and sometimes it is easier just to look back and see where the Holy Spirit was working rather than to respond to where the Holy Spirit is leading us today.

Throughout the book of Acts, we hear stories about people responding to and being filled with the Holy Spirit. One of my favorite commentaries "Feasting on the Word" says that "the embodiment of the church that we find here in Acts represents the people's discernment in response to the spirit. Our churches today are called equally to this task of discernment, to be a spirit led community and to explore with worshipers ways in which the spirit is calling them to embody Christ's church in the present."

Recently, Barbara and Wally Tucker, Bettina Zvanut, and I went to an informational session to learn about a program called "New Beginnings". After learning about the program we became aware and excited for what it could do for our church. We came back and presented it to the session where they approved unanimously. And I have been letting the congregation know a little bit about it here and there in the midst of sermons, but I wanted to share even more in this newsletter so you have a better understanding about what is to come.

"New Beginnings" is a program offered by the Office of Church Growth of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in partnership with the Church Extension Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It assesses the strengths and challenges for your congregation as it seeks to engage in significant ministry in your community. The assessment and follow-up training intend to help your congregation gain a realistic picture of your resources for ministry, your demographic strengths, your potential for change, and your potential for vital ministry in order to put you on the road to sustainable Christian witness and action in your community. The New Beginnings Assessment Service seeks answers to the question, "What is God calling your congregation to do and to be

Continued on page 7

'New Beginnings' Effort Underway

With the support of Grace Presbytery, FPC has taken the first step on a journey to strengthen its leaders and map out its future direction and ministries.

That step was taken back on April 26, when four FPC representatives were part of an audience of 143 leaders representing 31 churches. The group was introduced to "New Beginnings, a program of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

FPC was represented by Rev. Krista Rasco, Barbara and Wally Tucker, and Bettina Zvanut. They learned that New Beginnings is not a strategic planning initiative, but a deliberate process designed to help a congregation make decisions about its future and the ministries it will undertake.

FPC signed up early. A total of 25 churches joined the program before the final deadline. It is not an effort to be taken lightly. A lot of hard work and self-examination is required. And the cost is not cheap. The program costs \$2,800 for each participating church. However, Grace Presbytery has stepped in to take most of that financial burden away.

"We believe so much that this program offers the possibility for you to wrestle with the possible – that Grace Presbytery is prepared to invest \$2,300 for each one of your churches – so that the total cost of the program to you is \$500," said General Presbyter the Rev. Dr. Janet DeVries.

There are four phases to the program. The first phase is on-site assessment. Program leaders will meet with pastor, clerk, and a group from the congregation; tour the city of Commerce; review finances and church calendar, and look at the church building.

Phase two is a leadership training retreat with other participating churches.

Small group meetings, involving about half of the congregation make up phase three. The meetings will focus participants in analysis, discussion, and prayer that leads the church to making decisions about its future.

The final phase is finalizing those decisions and initiating the church's new beginnings.

Change is hard sometimes. According to Ann M. Philbrick, Associate for Church Growth and Transformation with the Presbyterian Mission Agency,

churches that are successful in this program must have the spiritual and emotional ability to make hard choices.

"If you can make choices that you don't like, your church will probably thrive. But if you can't make choices that you don't like, you probably won't. Because the only way to begin to reach new people is to do things that aren't our cup of tea but might be theirs," said Philbrick.



Pictured from the left at the New Beginnings meeting are FPC's Bettina Zvanut, two representatives from Mineola, and FPC's Barbara Tucker, Wally Tucker, and Rev. Krista Rasco.

June Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 1** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Acts 1:6-14
- 8** – Pentecost
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Acts 2:1-21
- 15** – Trinity Sunday/Father's Day
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Matthew 28:16-
- 22** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Romans 6:1-11
- 29** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Guest Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins

Other June events

- 4** --_Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. – Caring Committee
- 9-13** – 10 a.m. to noon Vacation Bible School at Bread of Life-Church of the Nazarene
- 11** – Session meeting, 6 p.m.
- 14** – Wednesday, noon. – PW luncheon honoring Kiley Towne

Presbyterian Women News

Bible Study – At the regular Circle meeting on Monday, May 12, members completed the 2013-2014 Horizons Bible Study. Nila McQuary presented the final lesson. Members also had the opportunity to contribute to the annual Birthday Offering.

Plans for Ladies' Day Out – It has been several months since we have participated in a Ladies' Day Out. To remedy this, Bettina Zvanut has volunteered to plan a special event for a Saturday in June or July. A trip to a nearby town for shopping/visiting antique stores and enjoying lunch together is being investigated and planned. Last summer six ladies had a fun day in Paris, Texas. When plans are finalized, an email or postcard will be sent to notify everyone. A Saturday has been chosen so that women who work will have the opportunity to participate.

Mission Project – Our PW Circle continues to sew around 100 fleece caps each month for Hunt Regional Medical Center. So far this year we have made 453 caps. An additional 100 will be taken to the hospital before the end of May. A big thank you goes to all who help with tracing, cutting, pinning and sewing these caps.

Upcoming PW Events:

- **Saturday, June 14, 12:00 Noon** – Covered-dish Salad Luncheon in Fellowship Hall honoring Kiley Towne, our CHS graduate. All women are invited to attend. Guests are welcome.
- **Monday, July 14, 10:00 a.m.** – Kitchen Clean-Up Day to organize and re-stock any needed supplies or utensils.

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	Amy Lopez
Billy Marshall	Barbara Leonard
Riley Isom	Joe Yeakley
Ronnie Davidson	Rev. Roy Ditmar
Petra Strassberg	

Newsmakers

Clevengers earn doctorates

Eric and Hui Clevenger both received Ph.D. degrees from Texas Tech University on May 16, 2014. His degree is in organic chemistry and hers is in nutrition. They are in the process of job-searching. His mother is very proud (naturally).

Keahey is magna cum laude

Kyle Keahey, son of Mark and Stephanie Keahey and grandson of FPC's Neal and Odeana Stewart graduated magna cum laude from Tarleton State University of May 10, 2014, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Services and Development.

Kyle will begin teaching agriculture at Wills Point High School on July 1.

Lam marries Luna



This picture expresses the joy and happiness of a newly married couple. Former FPC minister **Bob Lam's** son **Brian** was married in May to **Nadia Luna**. The ceremony took place in central Texas.

Do you know someone related to FPC in some way who has made good news lately? Let us know!

Action Notice

- **Prayer Group change**

The prayer group that usually meets on Friday mornings will now be meeting Tuesday mornings at 8am.

- **Teach the Preacher change**

The preacher's bible study "Teach the Preacher" will be postponed until the month of July, and then it will move to Tuesdays at 9am (after the prayer group meets).

- **To do list addition**

Remember to wear, if possible, red, yellows, oranges (fire/bright colors) to church for Pentecost Sunday, June 8.

- **Pastor to Detroit**

Rev. Rasco is going to a continuing education/leadership event in Detroit, Michigan. It is a pre-General Assembly event. She said, "I have the exciting opportunity to attend the opening worship service for the General Assembly on Saturday before heading back home. I will be at FPC on Sunday (June 15) to lead worship.

- **Pastor on vacation**

Rev. Rasco will be on vacation from June 23-29 and will be back in the office on June 30.

Kiley Towne introduces herself

For those women and guests who will attend the luncheon honoring scholarship winner Kiley Towne hosted by the Presbyterian Women on June 14, the graduating senior has provided the following letter as an introduction to some of her activities.

As you will note, Kiley has been very active in extra-curricular school projects as well as school clubs and organizations. She also has helped with local community projects and organizations including the Commerce Food Pantry and participated in making quilts for the IISan Orphanage in South Korea.

Kiley's letter

As a student at Commerce High School, I was a varsity cheerleader my junior and senior years, a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the Drama Club, and a member of Rachel's Challenge.

As a Drama Club member, I participated in community projects such as the "Clothe a Child" program and Relay for Life. The Salvation Army's "Christmas Kettle" program is a National Honor Society project. Rachel's Challenge is a student mentoring program in which our school participates as part of their national program.

Most of my community activities revolve around dance. I started taking lessons at age three, and continue to this day--both learning and teaching dance at the Academy of Dance in Greenville.

Over the years, our dance troop has participated in fund-raising programs for the Hunt County CASA Program, benefitting abused children; Drug Free Greenville and Rally Round Greenville--drug prevention programs; and the MICAH Program at Oklahoma State University---a program for disabled children.

I have also helped in the Commerce Food Pantry and the "quilt-making" project sponsored by our church's Mission Committee. The completed quilts were sent to an orphanage in South Korea.

At this time, I am not really focused on any particular college major, but want to explore the options available. My dream is to someday have my own dance studio. With that in mind, perhaps a business degree would be appropriate. Right now I just want to get adjusted to college.

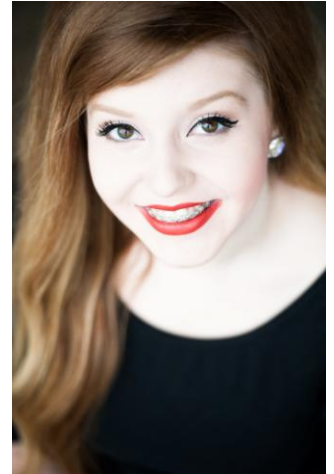
Thank you for the scholarship you have awarded me. I will do my best to prove myself worthy.

News You Can Use

Summer is here and summer camps are calling. In many cases, scholarships are available and prices are discounted. But late registration will cost more.

MO-Ranch will conduct Family Camp from July 20-24 and GrandCamp from July 27-31.

For information, schedules, and registration, go to www.moranch.com.



WANTED

Kids of all ages!
to

Volunteer

& help donate Craft supplies
for



Vacation Bible School

June 9th - 13th

10am to 12pm

At Bread of Life-Church of the Nazarene
301 Hwy 224 Commerce, TX 75428

The Church of the Nazarene, First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church have teamed up to produce VBS free of charge this year. FPC has been asked to take charge of Crafts. We need help with set up and clean up (June 9th and 13th), as well as people to help the little ones with the crafts each day. (Even teens/pre-teens can help!) Please call (903) 886-3783 for more information or to let us know you are willing to help!

WANTED

Kids like you!

(ages 4 through 11)

for



Vacation Bible School

June 9th - 13th • 10am to 12pm

At Bread of Life-Church of the Nazarene (BOLCN)

301 Hwy 224 Commerce, TX 75428

(903) 886-3783

(for more information or to register)

Sponsored by Bread of Life-Church of the Nazarene,
First Christian Church, and First Presbyterian church

Free • Lunch provided for kids



VBS Kickoff Rally

Sunday, June 8th @5pm

At First Christian Church

1101 Sycamore Street

Get excited about VBS
with music and more!

Country Western Festival & Flea Market

Saturday, June 14th 10am - 3pm

At BOLCN

Vendors • Bounce house • Band

(903)886-1515 for more information

*Donations accepted to help the children's
ministry and VBS program at BOLCN*

A Message from the Pastor Continued from page 1

in this time and in this place?"

This program will not force change on a congregation. Any change made will be decided and implemented by you, the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce Texas only after going through a discernment process that includes a lot of prayer and listening for where God is calling us in our particular culture and time period.

And this is not a program that works fast. In fact, this initial phase of this program will take six to eight months and then after the discernment process and decisions are made it can take up to seven years to fully implement whatever decisions were made.

While this program was originally designed for churches in decline, this process can also be helpful to congregations that are not necessarily in numerical decline but are looking for new energy, direction, and focus.

It will help us to realize what we are capable of doing in a particular time and place, to be matched up with ministry opportunities available in our community. It will help train leaders in the congregation on how to engage in a discernment process in order to discern a new direction of the future. It will help them discuss change opportunities in a healthy and open manner and make compelling cases for change based on realistic options for the future, and then set the course for strategic and visionary ministry planning.

In other words, it will help us discern where the Holy Spirit is working in the life our congregation, to have the resources and training in order to be capable, and to have the power to make the changes needed.

We are a blessed congregation. We are one that is alive and working towards God's goal of a God's kingdom come. I believe as a new pastor, working with a new congregation this program will not only help me to learn about you through the assessment, but also learn more about the community of Commerce in ways I would not have been able to otherwise. It will help us as a congregation to discover together where God is leading us, to feel where the Holy Spirit is working among us and in Commerce, and to be able to tap into that power and be capable to making those changes and going where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

*The first part of this program will ask us to send them information about our church calendar (where are we spending our time), the church's financial records (not any personal financial records), and a list of our members' addresses and ages so they can see who goes to church here right now and where do they live in relation to the church, versus the demographics of the town. Then a New Beginnings assessor will come out to our church and community on **Monday, July 14**, to look at our church building and use, to review the information we sent them, to have a "windshield" tour of Commerce and to meet with the congregation to seek to understand the church's programmatic and missional strengths. They will then send us comprehensive 45 to 65 page report.*

*Then, on the weekend of **September 12-15**, the members of FPC, Commerce who have signed up to be key leaders in this program will attend a Follow-Up Training that will delve into the various dynamics that affect the ministry revisioning process. This training will prepare them to lead the small group meetings while also introducing them to cultural, generational and theoretical shifts that will guide our congregation to a New Beginning.*

The leaders will come back home with a meeting format that is prescribed for the program but can be individualized in formats particular to our church's lifestyle. It is recommended that this part of the program take four to ten weeks but again it is up to our church how we want to do it. This process will generate the conversation, prayer and idea sharing needed to explore all the options available to the congregation.

After the completion of the small group meetings, the church will begin the decision-making portion of the program and each group's decision will be brought to the church's session for review, and eventually to vote to approve and begin the difficult work of living into the decision. After a decision is made, the Office of Church Growth will work with our congregation and Grace Presbytery to refer us to the available mission planning resources.

This will not be a fast and easy process, but I believe it will be one that will provide us with a lot of information, resources, and direction. It will give us the power and capability to discern where the Holy Spirit is working and to be able to follow where it is leading us. I hope you will keep FPC, the session, the key leaders who have volunteered to work with the small groups and myself, your pastor, in your prayers as we go through this process. I appreciate your willingness to go through this as we work together to discern where and what the Holy Spirit is calling our church in today's society.

I am so happy and excited to be here and working with you all. You are always in my prayers and I appreciate your prayers and time you have given to me and this church. I look forward to the many years ahead.

Grace and peace be with you,

Rev. Krista Rasco

June Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 3** - Brian Miguel Majera
- 5** - Eric Clevenger
- 7** - Mason Howard
- 8** - Sean McIntier
- 8** - Julian Rasco
- 8** - Carol Lee Parrish
- 10** - Rebecca Dickerson
- 11** - Robert (Bob) Johnson Jr.
- 13** - Walt Davis
- 16** - Linda Roosevelt
- 25** - Keith McFarland
- 27** - Deborah Deaton Wells
- 27** - Joyce McCord
- 30** - Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

Happy Anniversary to:

- 8** – Joane & Dave Walvoord
- 8** – Amber & Jay Porterfield
- 12** – Nancy & Keith McFarland

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

Grace Presbytery Prayer Requests

Grace Presbytery has received requests for prayers for the following

- Joshua Baer, son of the Revs. Amy and Ryan Baer (Pastor, Fort Worth, Ridglea), was born on April 10 and had surgery on April 23 to repair a congenital condition. He is still in the hospital because of an infection and complications since his surgery.
- the Rev. Craig Sanders (Pastor, Arlington, Grace). He had surgery on May 15.
- the Rev. Bill McNatt, H.R. has returned to Baylor Hospital with complications following heart surgery a month ago.

June Worship Leaders

June 1

Host Elder: **Dennis White**
Head Usher: **Jim Calvert**
Candle Lighter: **Matthew McFarland**
Liturgist: **Walt Davis**
Elements: **Joyce Isaacs**

June 8

Host Elder: **Dave Walvoord**
Head Usher: **Ric Estes**
Candle Lighter: **Mason Howard**
Liturgist: **Neal Stewart**

June 15

Host Elder: **Joyce Isaacs**
Head Usher: **Jim Norwood**
Candle Lighter: **Lily Selvaggi**
Liturgist: **Helon Razniak**

June 22

Host Elder: **Monty Howard**
Head Usher: **Nancy McFarland**
Candle Lighter: **Paul Shatney**
Liturgist: **Martha Clevenger**

June 29

Host Elder: **Scott Stewart**
Head Usher: **Jim Calvert**
Candle Lighter: **Matthew McFarland**
Liturgist: **Bettina Zvanut**

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.

Rev. Krista's on Facebook!

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



www.facebook.com/krista.rasco

See you there!

Coming in July!



We will have a Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal on July 2 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to honor all of those in our congregation who have served in the military. Hot dogs will be provided and we ask everyone else to bring a side dish or dessert.

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

Thanks for all your help!