



THE GOOD NEWS

The Good News is published twice each month by the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas.

March, 2016

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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,

We are doing great things at FPC.

Last year's SCAMP (Summer Creative Art and Music Program) for kids was a big success and such a blessing for all those involved in it—children and adults. It will continue this summer.

This year, FPC is revisiting another past successful venture—one that also is a blessing to all involved. The Mission and Evangelism Committee met with the director of the United Way in Greenville. Her name is Francis Dalbey. She asked if our church would be willing to serve meals to disadvantaged kids this summer.

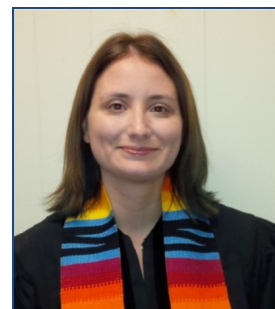
The United Way would deliver the meals to the church. The meals would be served for one hour from 11 to noon. Any leftover meals would be sent to the Commerce Public Library where they would be frozen until Thursday and then given to the food pantry for their patrons.

The request was submitted to the Session and it was approved.

One or two persons will be needed each day to oversee the distribution of food. If the church has no volunteers, the United Way has volunteers to help watch while the children eat the food. Most of the children would be from the neighborhood around the church. The Boys and Girls Club would also be serving lunch, so the number of children might be small.

Each outreach by itself might be considered a small step.

(Continued on page 4)



Prayer List Information

Petra Strassberg will have her eye surgery on 3/3. It is a fairly simple procedure but please pray for a successful surgery, healing, and recovery.

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 & Friends of Joe Fred Cox		Dana Ryer
Family & friends of Frances Robinson		
Family of Kathleen Dickerson Smith		
Gayle Shumate	Gladys Gray	Petra Strassberg
The family of Christopher Cosby		

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



Bible Readings for this Sunday

This Sunday (Mar. 6) is Fourth Sunday in Lent.

Old Testament: Isaiah 56:1-8 *The Covenant Extended to All Who Obey*

Psalter: Psalm 63 *Comfort and Assurance in God's Presence*

New Testament (and sermon focus): Luke 14:15-24 *The Parable of the Great Dinner*



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Report from the Moderator

Circle Meeting

PW Circle will meet for Bible study and a brief business meeting on Monday, March 14, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The leader for Bible study is **Toni Deaton**; **Helon Razniak** is hostess. All are welcome to attend. At the meeting, we will begin making plans to attend one of the Spring Workshop Meetings.

Following the Circle meeting, there will be a trace-and-cut time for preparing baby caps to be

sewn for the newborn nursery at Hunt Memorial Hospital District in Greenville. Making the fleece caps is an ongoing mission project for PW at FPC-Commerce. Our circle adopted this project in 2013. Since May of 2013 we have made 2,370 fleece caps for the newborn nursery. Many thanks to all who help with this!

Note: Don't forget to bring a box of macaroni and cheese, or any item of your choice, for the Food Pantry

Grace Presbytery PW Spring Workshop Meetings

Two area Workshop Meetings have been planned by the Grace Presbytery PW Coordinating Team. Each meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 2:15 p.m. Dates, locations, and workshop descriptions are listed below.

Dates: Saturday, April 9 at FPC in Tyler **or**

Saturday, April 16, at Oak Cliff PC in Dallas.

The workshops include the following:

- Assembling hygiene kits for PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)
- 2016-2017 Horizon's Bible Study Overview
- The problem of Human Trafficking within the borders of our presbytery
- The requirements for becoming an "earth-care" church which will include a discussion of environmental issues
- Mission Sharing
- Technology
- Officer Training for all PW officers, whether you are a new officer or a "seasoned" one

Synod of the Sun PW Gathering, July 21-23, 2016

As women of Grace Presbytery, we have a very special opportunity to co-host the **Synod of the Sun PW Gathering** with our sisters at FPC-Ft. Worth. Presbyterian Women from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas will be attending this inspirational event. We, the PW of FPC-Commerce, will have plenty of opportunities to volunteer. As plans are made, we will receive more information on how our PW can help. Registration information will also be available soon.

First Quarter Innovator is available for download

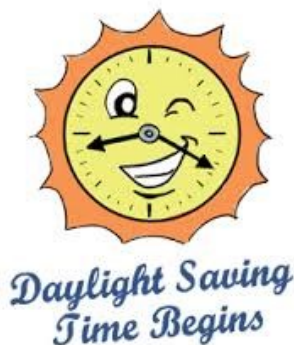
[Click here to download the Innovator.](#)



Showing off their handiwork, these Presbyterian Women (left to right, **Nancy McFarland, Martha Clevenger, Nila McQuary, Helon Razniak, Brenda Estes, Toni Deaton**) show off the baby caps that keep tiny heads warm and comfortable at Hunt Regional Medical Center's nursery.

Spring Forward Time

The Daylight Savings Time switch is Sunday, Mar. 13. To be on time for the FPC worship Service, just set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed Saturday night.



March Worship Leaders

March 6

Host Elder:..... Scott Stewart
Head Usher:..... Petra Strassberg
Candle Lighter: Carrigan Oats
Liturgist: Keith McFarland
Elements: Wally Tucker

March 13

Head Usher:..... Ric Estes
Candle Lighter: Evie Conner
Liturgist: Bettina Zvanut

March 20

Head Usher:..... Monty Howard
Candle Lighter: Sally Walker
Liturgist: Walt Davis

March 27

Head Usher:..... Dennis White
Candle Lighter: Cal Conner
Liturgist: Martha Clevenger

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.

Cookies for Students

The FPC Mission and Evangelism Committee will have a table in the Sam Rayburn Student Center at TAMUC on Tuesday, Mar. 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will hand out cookies and talk with students who come by.



On Saturday, Mar. 12, the Aglaia Culture Club is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt in City Park. The free event is open for all children through second grade. In case of rain, Mar. 19 is the rain date.

March Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 6** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 14:15-24
- 13** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
- 20** **Palm Sunday**
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Matthew 21:1-17
- 24** **Maundy Thursday**
Worship Service, 5:30 p.m.
Sermon Focus on Luke 22:7-23
- 27** **Easter Sunday**
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 24:1-35

Other March events

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m.**—Stock food pantry
- 2 Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.**—Christian Education meeting
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.**—Food Pantry
- 5 Saturday, all day**—Grace Presbytery Stated meeting at Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church, 903 N. Grand Ave., in Sherman, Texas (Austin College campus)
- 8, 22, 29 Tuesdays, 9 a.m.**—Teach the Preacher
- 9 Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.**—FPC Session Meeting

The Good News is currently published twice a month. The next edition will be sent out on either March 15 or March 16.

CCC Supports Food Pantry

Commerce Community Cares, Inc. supports the Commerce Food Pantry, as well as many other organizations which give back to the community. That support was made vivid recently, when Constable Wayne “Doc” Pierce, representing CCC, presented Commerce Food Pantry president Dennis White with a \$1,000 check, representing half of its 2016 allocation for the food pantry.

Commerce Community Cares needs your support as well as it goes about trying to raise the rest of its funds for 2016—all of which goes to assist Commerce area organizations that give back to the community—such as the food pantry.



Constable Wayne “Doc” Pierce, representing Commerce Community Cares, Inc., presented a check for \$1,000 to the Commerce Food Pantry on Feb. 25. Pictured at the presentation were (l-r) Constable Pierce, Dennis White, Pinky Guthrie, and Rev. Krista Rasco.

Food Pantry News

Congratulations to **Dennis White and the volunteers of the Commerce Food Pantry**. The food pantry is now officially a public charity. It has received its designation and an EIN (Federal Tax ID) number. The new designation will hopefully help it attract more donations from state and local entities.



You’re Gonna Like It, They Guarantee It

Jim Deaton, Jim Calvert, and Rick Selvaggi, looking like triplets from Men’s Warehouse, were especially dapper on Sunday (Feb. 28) when this photo was taken. This proves that you can’t get too much of a good thing.

FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce

[www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce.](http://www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce)

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

[www.fpc-commerce.com.](http://www.fpc-commerce.com)

A Message From the Pastor Continued from page 1

But as FPC continues to serve its community, the impact on lives grows. I’m looking forward to taking more small steps in the future.

I’m finishing up today an exciting continuing education conclave with pastors in Glen Rose, Texas, so I don’t have time for a longer article. Let me say, however, I am equally excited to be making small steps in my growth as a pastor—excited for me and for FPC as we grow and learn and serve together.

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
Helen Razniak
Petra Strassberg

2018

Martha Clevenger
Jordan Conner
Wally Tucker
Bettina Zvanut

Session Committees

Worship:

Chair..... Helen 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

Caring Committee Report

The Caring Committee has delivered 18 gift bags of robes and slippers to Gentiva Hospice in Greenville. Thank you to **Jane Cox, Nila McQuary, Toni Deaton, Brenda Estes, and Bettina Zvanut** for their contributions.

March Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

4 - John Harris

12 - Scott Harvey

15 - Debra Jones

17 - Jackie Book

17 - Bruce Shatney

19 - Elizabeth Rasco

20 - Trevor Elijah Wells

22 - Lucia Simonelli

25 - Kyle Keahey

25 - Matthew Charles McFarland

30 - Jason McFarland Champion

Happy Anniversary to:

16 – Kathy & Ken Miller

20 – Paula & Charles Elliott

Help us make sure our birthday and anniversary information is up to date. If we forgot you or you have not given us the birthday and anniversary information for your family, please let us know so that in the future we can include your dates to remember in our monthly newsletter.

Thanks for reading The Good News. If there is something we left out, let us know. And remember, call or email (we prefer email) the church office with your news, blessing, prayer concern, committee meeting, etc.