



THE GOOD NEWS

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

July 2014

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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

As we enter the official season of summer (although for most of us the season of summer started a month ago) we enter into a season known for rest, relaxation, reconnections with family and friends, and rejuvenation. I would add as we spend our time doing recreation we also should be in an intentional time of re-creation as well.

Sabbath, as many of you probably already know, has a long history with its roots in the Old Testament's story of creation when God rested on the "seventh" day. Today, for Christians, Sabbath is known for a time spent in worship and intentional rest, for reconnecting, and re-creation with God, family, and ourselves. Sabbath can be spent in different amounts of time including sabbaticals and vacations lasting from a year, or semester, to a week or just a few days. It can be spent as a whole day or even as short as an hour as long as it is intentional and provides you rest and rejuvenation in both body and soul, with yourself and with God.

I believe how each person goes about doing that is as unique and different as each human being out there. Just as introverts "re-charge" by time spent alone, extroverts "re-charge" with time spent around others. I also think in today's busy and consumerist society we constantly have to work at practicing intentional Sabbath. We will not always get it right, nor will it always go the way we plan for it.

For example, take the vacation I just returned from. I had planned to spend many hours outside in the sand and water with Kaitlynn but it decided to rain the entire week. It was a week of much needed rest and valuable family time and although some disappointments happened I returned ready to come back to you. The day I returned Grace Presbytery's Executive Presbyter, Jan DeVries, posted this link to facebook –

<http://www.ronedmondson.com/2014/06/5-goals-of-vacation-for-the-leader.html>

It is an article about Sabbath, and goals a leader should have for their

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Presbyterian Women News

Luncheon Honoring Kiley--A luncheon honoring graduating senior Kiley Towne was held on Saturday, June 14, in Fellowship Hall and hosted by PW. Decorations were provided by PW members and included megaphones that were used by Brenda Estes and her daughters Amber and Jordan when they were cheerleaders at CHS.

Eighteen people attended including the honoree and five members of her family. Kiley was presented a beautiful Study Bible, a gift from the members of PW.

Ladies' Day Out--Eight women from FPC-Commerce participated in the "Ladies' Day Out" event, a trip to downtown Sulphur Springs for shopping and lunch, on Saturday, June 21. The day, planned by Bettina, was enjoyed by Martha Clevenger, Toni Deaton, Joyce McCord, Nancy McFarland, Pastor Krista Rasco, Helon Razniak, Petra Stassberg, and Bettina Zvanut.



Rev. Rasco took this picture of the PW ladies standing before the Veterans Memorial Wall in Sulphur Springs. From the left are Joyce McCord, Helon Razniak, Petra Strassberg, Nancy McFarland, Martha Clevenger, Bettina Zvanut, and Toni Deaton.

The group visited the shops around the square, the renowned public restrooms, and had lunch at Main Street Winery. Some also shopped at Penny (Belcher) Muecke's new Merle Norman store which just opened recently. Thanks go to Bettina for doing the advanced planning.

Kitchen Clean-Up--On Monday, July 14, at 10 a.m., PW members will meet to clean, restock, and reorganize the kitchen. All are invited and welcome to participate.

In Sympathy

Please pray for Joyce Isaacs and her family as they mourn the death of her daughter, Cheryl Jimenez. Her passing came Friday, June 27, in the Paris Regional Medical Center.

Newsmakers

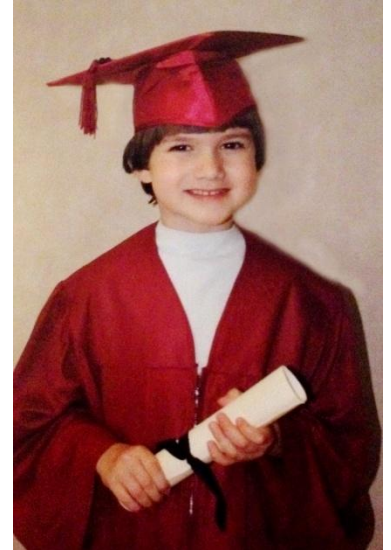
•Graduates

This is graduation season and a lot of people connected in some way to FPC have a lot to celebrate.

Here are some folks who have recently graduated.

Pierce Wells

Pierce Wells (age 5), son of Lance and Deborah Wells and grandson of Jim and Toni Deaton. Pierce completed 2 years of pre-school at First United Methodist Church of Wylie and was featured with the other graduates in a program marking the occasion the evening of May 19.



Clayton Tucker

Clayton Wallace Tucker graduated from Dunbar High School in Lexington, Kentucky on June 5, 2014. He has been accepted to the University of Kentucky as an engineering major. He is the son of Robert and Keri Tucker and grandson of Wally and Barbara Tucker. During high school he played baseball in sports and the bass in the orchestra.



•Special Accomplishments

David Walvoord II makes movie magic!

David Walvoord II, who grew up in Commerce First Presbyterian Church, was visual effects supervisor on the Dreamworks Animation film "How to Train Your Dragon 2" which is now

showing in theaters. Walvoord graduated from Commerce High School in 1989. He is the son of Joane and David Walvoord.



David Walvoord II

•Nostalgic reunion

Students remember their teacher

We all remember a teacher who made a difference in our lives. But getting together with that special teacher to say thanks doesn't happen that often.

It did recently, however, for FPC's Nancy McFarland. Tina Fletcher was there to get a picture of the reunion between two, now much older, former students, and their pre-school teacher.



On the left is Allison Miller, doctoral student at TAMU-C, with Rose Selvaggi Rhodes, visiting from Houston.

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

July Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 6** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
- 13** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
- 20** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
- 27** – Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Other June events

- 2** -- Wednesday, 6 p.m.—Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal—honoring FPC veterans
- 8** – Tuesday, 6 p.m.—monthly Session meeting
- 14** – Monday, 9 a.m. PW Kitchen Work Day
- 14** – Monday, 2-8 p.m—Visit from New Beginnings Assessor (he will meet with the congregation at 6 p.m.)

Card of Thanks

To FPC

Thank you for your prayers, cards, get-well wishes and food. I am doing well and hope to regain full use of my right arm after therapy.

Nila McQuary

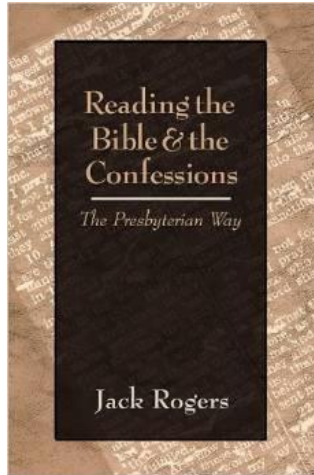
New Bible Study

A new weekly Bible study will begin on Wednesday evening, July 9, at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Walt and Isabel Davis will lead a study of the book, *Reading the Bible and the Confession: the Presbyterian Way* by Jack Rogers.

The book jacket describes the book this way:

"For Presbyterians, Holy Scripture and the *Book of Confessions* are the primary sources of authority and guidance. However, authorities are helpful only if they are interpreted correctly.

While much has been written about biblical interpretation, this is the first book to apply the same principles to understanding the *Book of Confessions*.



Jack Rogers sets forth seven guidelines.... Honest about past misinterpretations that sanctioned slavery and the subordination of women, he records positive changes from proof-texting to applying the totality of Jesus' message and ministry.... He builds upon the confessional and governmental heritage of the church in offering suggestions for practical application of these interpretations in the future.... He encourages us to use these resources to apply Christ's message in our own time and context."

The first session will be an overview of the study, and an organizational meeting. Books will be available at this first meeting for around \$6. Each session will be over by 8 p.m. Dessert and coffee will be served.

Participants may bring a brown bag or eat dinner before coming. For more information please contact Walt and Isabel at 903-886-2711 or widavis7@gmail.com.

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
Rev. Roy Ditmar	The family of Joyce Isaacs	

July Worship Leaders

July 6

Host Elder:..... **Barbara Tucker**
Head Usher:..... **Jim Calvert**
Candle Lighter: **Lily Selvaggi**
Liturgist: **Wally Tucker**
Elements:..... **Tina Selvaggi**

July 13

Host Elder:..... **Ric Estes**
Head Usher:..... **Scott Stewart**
Candle Lighter: **Matthew McFarland**
Liturgist: **Dennis White**

July 20

Host Elder:..... **Joyce Isaacs**
Head Usher:..... **Bob Johnson**
Candle Lighter: **Mason Howard**
Liturgist: **Martha Clevenger**

July 27

Host Elder:..... **Barbara Tucker**
Head Usher:..... **Jim Calvert**
Candle Lighter: **Paul Shatney**
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.

Celebrating our veterans

Our Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal on **July 2** at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall is a special event to honor all of those in our congregation who have served in the military. This is something you don't want to miss!



Veterans, if you have a picture of yourself in uniform, please bring it.

Hot dogs and brisket will be provided and we ask everyone else to bring a side dish –casserole, meat, salad, or dessert.

Community News You Can Use

•Commerce Fourth of July Celebration

Remember: free admission with one can of food benefits the Commerce Food Bank!



Actually, the Commerce celebration will be on Saturday, July 5 starting at 6 p.m. at the Eddie Moore Sports Complex in Centennial Park.

There will be live music, activities for the kids, and, of course, fireworks (starting at 9:30 p.m.)

•Godspell Coming to TAMU-C



Godspell, a musical depicting the life and times of Jesus, mostly according to the book of Matthew, comes to Commerce in July. Performances in the University Playhouse at Texas A&M—Commerce will take place July 8-12 at 8 p.m., with a matinee finale at 3 p.m. on July 13.

This is the school's annual summer production, where alumni, theatre students/faculty, and community members all come together for the departments annual summer program. This mixed group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comic timing.

This popular musical is a Broadway favorite—originally in 1971 and with subsequent revivals since. For ticket information, call the Box Office at 903-886-5900.

July Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 - Kent Norwood
- 3 - Joe Fred Cox
- 4 - Jennifer Duncan Pierce
- 6 - Katy Miller Whitaker
- 11 - Lindsey Priest
- 15 - Kerri Norwood Costa
- 19 - Irene Humfeld
- 20 - Jeff Towne
- 22 - Kylie Towne
- 28 - Katherine Harrington
- 29 - Dean Calvert
- 31 - Jimmy Rhodes

Happy Anniversary to:

- 3 – Jane & Joe Fred Cox
 - 3 – Jody and Joe McIntier
 - 3 – Sharon & Walter Sanders
 - 19 – Kay & Ron Davis
 - 24 – Tina & Rick Selvaggi
 - 28 – Janet & Danny Duncan
-

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

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!

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. Thanks for all your help!

General Assembly Elects Rada

Heath Rada was chosen and installed as moderator for the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s 221st General Assembly, but not without a taxing selection process brought on by a lack of Internet use and the need to vote by paper ballot.

Rada, a member of the General Assembly's Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB), was endorsed by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. He was selected by commissioners to serve as moderator for the remainder of this week's GA and the next two years.

(He is retired as CEO of the Greater Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross. Rada has also served as President of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary) in Richmond—the same school Rev. Rasco graduated from.)

"I cannot thank you enough for the faith you have placed in me tonight," Rada told the assembly. "I will do my best. We will give you everything we have to show the love we have for the PCUSA and Christendom around the world."

Larissa Kwong Abazia, currently pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills in Queens, N.Y., part of Presbytery of New York City, was tabbed as vice moderator. The tandem succeeds Neal Presa and Tom Trinidad as the public faces of the PCUSA.

Rada, a ruling elder from Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville, N.C., garnered 52.4 percent of the vote, capturing 331 of the 631 votes cast.

He spoke of being truthful and respectful within the church, overlooking political differences and a need to create ego challenges through seeking credit.



Outgoing and incoming moderators Neal Presa and Heath Rada are pictured above (third and second from the right.)

Speaking on the matter of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) persons in the church, Rada said, "We need to get beyond the fact that we need to label people. We need to focus on the needs of people. We have a glorious opportunity to move beyond being identified with anything that sets us apart instead of bringing us together."

In regard to congregations leaving the PCUSA, Rada noted a need to seek common ground in a gracious manner even when looking at things differently.

"I believe in family. We need to find ways to disagree but still live together as a family," he said. "If it gets to the point we cannot, we need to be gracious and loving, and celebrate our brothers and sisters."

Unusual Election Process

Internet issues at the Cobo Center forced General Assembly officials to resort to the use of hand-held clickers by advisory delegates and commissioners to cast votes, thus slowing the process.

Stated Clerk Grady Parsons (eventually) recommended that advisory delegates vote by clicker with paper ballots used by commissioners. But even that did not work.

So, to address that hiccup, delegates raised their red cards to advise commissioners, leading to the vote that Rada won on the first ballot.

More GA dialogue

Want to hear more about the 221st General Assembly? Let us know and we will have more of the decisions and dialogue coming out of the GA in the August newsletter.

Food Pantry Items

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

Message from the Pastor Continued from page 1

vacations in order to obtain the maximum results of that Sabbath keeping. Even though it is written for leaders and pastors, I believe everyone could use the advice printed below--tweaked to his or her needs and personalities--whether you are a working parent, a retired (but busier than you were before you retired) professional, a student, or in one many other situations.

I hope you find this helpful if you still have some summer trips coming up, or maybe even a weekend or a day planned of recreation. Please look at making it a time of intentional, "holy" rest. I pray that each one of you finds "holy rest" at some point this summer and comes back to our church family (who missed you while you were gone, I promise) rejuvenated and just that much closer in your relationship with God. If you would like more resources on how to have an intentional Sabbath, or just different ideas for how to spend your time of Sabbath come see me!

Grace and peace be with you,

Rev. Krista Rasco

The whole article can be found in the link above, along with other articles and information you may find helpful written by Baptist Minister Ron Edmondson. (Used with permission.)

5 goals of vacation for the leader:

Reconnect

Vacation should allow us time to restore relationships to maximum health. With God. With family. With ourself. The busyness of life can strain relationships. Vacation gives you the opportunity to pause and get back to optimum health with the most important relationships in our life. On vacation, I talk to God more. I spend deeper quality time with Cheryl. We date more intensely — ask each other more questions. In years past, I got to spend more time with my boys on vacation. (I'm an empty nester now.) But, vacation helps me reconnect to those I love the most.

Rest

God has actually given us a Biblical command to rest — to Sabbath — as if He knows something about what we need. (Duh!) You may not "rest" like everyone else, but everyone should rest. This particular friend who texted me was also returning from vacation. He does something that I think shows he understands his need for rest. He leaves his work cell phone with his administrative assistant when he goes on vacation. How cool is that? I know because I texted him while he was gone and she texted me back. Intentional. Love it. Rest should be a huge goal of taking a vacation. We all need it.

Play

We all need to play — regardless of our age. We fuel all the rest of these with this one. As I said already, I run more on vacation. That's my form of play. But, when I run, I'm better equipped for all the other goals. You may not be a runner, but you have things you enjoy doing that aren't work. (I tweeted from vacation that a friend of mine got a Lego set for Father's Day. Cool playing to come for that dad!) Playing enhances my mental energies, my creativity, and my enjoyment of life. Making time to play — with whatever you enjoy doing — is a great goal for vacations.

Dream

What's next for you? What are you looking forward to doing in the future? One of Cheryl and my greatest enjoyments on vacation is dreaming about where we see ourselves in a year, 5 years, 10 years, into retirement. We *also dream where we could see our boys and their families. We dream about careers, personal interests, places we'd love to travel. Dreaming stretches our mind and heart towards each other and energizes us about our future together. A great vacation goal is to take time to dream.*

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Rejuvenate

Vacation should help you reengage with your work when you return. That's the understanding my friend had about vacation. And, it is a huge goal. This will be hard to say to some, and some may disagree, but if you leave vacation dreading going back to work, it may be you don't know how to do vacation or you're in the wrong job. It's work. I get that. We all have Mondays we dread. The day back doesn't have to be the most fun day at work ever, but a goal of vacation is to help us recover so we can gather more energies to do the work we were designed to do.

Flower Calendar Reminder

Jane and Joe Fred Cox are providing flowers for the worship service on July 6 in celebration of their 54th anniversary.

Do you have something or someone to honor, celebrate, or memorialize? Of course you don't need a reason, but please consider signing up to provide flowers for the morning worship services.

Next Newsletter

Since this newsletter is going out on July 1 and Friday is a holiday (July 4), the next weekly newsletter will be sent out on Friday, July 11.