

The Good News

Mid-Month Edition

No. 8

April 13, 2016

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



Bible Readings for this Sunday and Next Sunday

This Sunday (April 17) is the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

New Testament: Acts 9:36-43 *Peter in Lydda and Joppa*

Psalter: Psalm 23 *The Divine Shepherd*

Gospel: John 10:22-30 *Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews*

New Testament: (and sermon focus) Revelation 7:9-17 *The Multitude from Every Nation*

Next Sunday (April 24) is the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

New Testament: Acts 11:1-18 *Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem*

Psalter: Psalm 148 *Praise for God's Universal Glory*

Gospel: John 13:31-35 *The New Commandment*

New Testament: (and sermon focus) Revelation 21:1-6 *The New Heaven and the New Earth*

Assisting with Worship

Our worship leaders this Sunday (April 17) are: **Nancy McFarland**, Head Usher; **Cal Conner**, Candle lighter; and **Keith McFarland**, Liturgist.

Next Sunday (April 24) our worship leaders will be **Monty Howard**, Head Usher; **Sally Walker**, candle lighter, and **Martha Clevenger**, liturgist.

Please thank these volunteers when you see them for helping to make the worship service meaningful. If you would like to assist in worship or some other way, please contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

Treasurer's Report

Income for the months of January through March totaled \$36,166.23. This is 4% above the budget for the quarter. All of the increased giving occurred in January. Thanks to those for contributions to help catch up.

Expenses for the quarter were \$31,435.94. This is more than 8% below our quarterly budgeted expenses. January expenses were on budget and February and March were below budget. The combined effect is that year-to-date income has exceeded expenses by \$4730.29.

Are You Headed to the Fair?

Are you planning on participating in an event at the Hunt County Fair and Livestock Show? We would like to know. The fair, for those planning to attend, is set for April 22-May 1.

Just call or email the church office and let us know when you are competing. And good luck!



Newsmakers

FPC's **Lily Selvaggi** was the first place winner locally in the Commerce Rotary Club's Four-Way Test Essay Contest this year. She was one of three finalists, along with Alan Galicia and Madison Shaw. But it was Lily's interpretation of the Rotary Club's Four-Way Test that judges here deemed the most effective presentation, earning her the top prize and sending her on in the completion to a district level judging.

The District 5810 (McKinney) contest will be held April 23 at Collin College's Spring Creek campus (2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano). There, Lily will face-off with local winners from over 60 Rotary Clubs. Good Luck, Lily!

The Four-Way Test

This test of what we think, say, or do was the brainchild of Herbert J. Taylor in the 1930's as a way to change his company's ethical climate to keep it from going bankrupt.

It was adopted by the Rotary International in the 1940's after Taylor, who was a member, offered it to them.

It has never changed from its original wording.

Four Way Test

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOOD WILL**
and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



Six members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity at TAMUC brought in a very large food donation for the Commerce Food Pantry on April 6. The group posed with food pantry volunteers Sherry Chennault, Isabel Davis and Jim Norwood (at left) and Richard Smith (at right) for this picture, taken by Rev. Krista Rasco. The young men look happy at being able to provide the food pantry with help to fulfill its mission of helping those in need of assistance.

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, both food and money, 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.

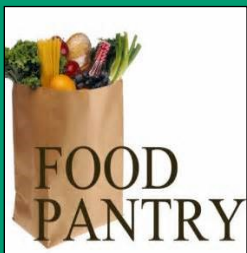
1st Sunday—Peanut butter and/or jelly

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, etc.



Got Some Free Time and an Interest in Service?

We are all busy, but if you have some free time, you might be interested in attending one (or more) of the following events. Two of them are hosted by Synod of the Sun, which includes Grace Presbytery and 10 other Presbyteries (and approximately 800 Presbyterian congregations in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. It's exists to connect, equip, and empower Presbyterians within and beyond its boundaries. The other event is a Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch.



April 25-26—Leadership Forum: The Presbyterian Church in a Changing Landscape at the Presbyterian Mission Center in Irving, Texas.

The Synod of the Sun is hosting this presentation from Greg Smith, Associate Director of Religion Research at Pew Research Center on their latest survey - Religious Landscape Study.

All are invited to participate. The Synod will cover the cost of room and board for up to four from each presbytery. Presbyteries are encouraged to send additional participants at an extra cost of \$20 for meals and \$45 for accommodations (double occupancy/per night). Individuals, local or not representative of presbytery, are encouraged to register and attend at the same cost.

Following the presentation, participants will reflect and discuss its implications, seeking creative ways for congregations and presbyteries to reach all generations with the gospel.

For registration information, look under events at the Synod of the Sun website.



April 29-May 1, 2016—The Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch is a gathering of men who on a weekend meet to worship together in Word, song and Sacrament. United in their bond with the Lord and moved by His Spirit, they engage in fellowship, study, recreation and ministry to each other.

[Click here to register.](#)



*an ecumenical network
of Synod of the Sun*

May 5 at 7 p.m.—Solar Under the Sun's Symposium on Energy Poverty

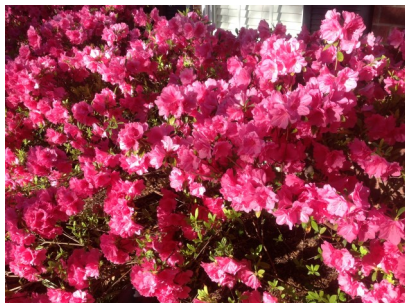
At the Presbyterian Mission Center, Irving, Texas

Did you know roughly a fourth of the world's population lives without access to reliable electricity? Come meet Solar Under the Sun staff and board members and hear a presentation by keynote speaker, James Allison, about energy poverty and its effects on communities worldwide.

Discuss tangible ways that people of faith can respond, both as individuals and congregations, and how Solar Under the Sun is sharing God's gift of solar energy with people who need it desperately.

Click on [this link](#) to register for this free event. You are welcome to share this invitation.

Spring blooms are bursting forth in Commerce. These beautiful azaleas are being nurtured by Keith and Nancy McFarland at their home.



Reception for Frieda Branom

Please mark your calendar for a reception honoring FPC's Frieda Branom on Saturday, April 23, at the Magnuson Hotel, (2207 Culver Street in Commerce (next to the Wal-Mart) from 2-5 p.m. Frieda wants to say thank-you to those who have helped her and her sisters now and in the past.



Rev. Krista Rasco was among a diverse group of spiritual leaders, including rabbis, pastors, and imams) who attended the **Fourth Annual Jewish Community Relations Council Interfaith Seder** on April 6. The event was held at Congregation Shearith Isreal in Dallas. It was led by **Rabbi David Stern** (front row, fifth from the left) of Temple Emanu-El and by Grace Presbytery's General Presbyter, **Dr. Jan DeVries** (front row, sixth from left). If you can't find Rev. Rasco, here's a hint—from the left, she is the second woman you see in the picture.

Additions to Prayer List

Pat Skaug and the family of Peggy Hogan have been added to our prayer list. Pat, who attends the Methodist Church here, has been recently diagnosed with stage one bladder cancer.

Peggy Hogan, a former FPC member, passed away early in the morning on Tuesday, April 12. Her funeral will be held at FPC on Friday at 10 a.m., with the graveside service in Redwater, Texas at 2 p.m.

Please pray for all the people on our prayer 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	John Paul Rhodes	Kade Daniel Campbell
Grace Byrd	Charles Rogers	Gayle Shumate	Gladys Gray
Family of Christopher Cosby	Ken White	Family of Dennis White	Family of Adam Ward
Family of Michael Walker	Pat Skaug	Family of Peggy Hogan	

Upcoming FPC Events

- **Wednesday, April 13, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting
- **Saturday, April 16, 8:30-2:30 p.m.**—Presbyterian Women Spring Workshop at Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church in Dallas
- **Saturday, April 23, 10-2 p.m.**—Grace Presbytery New Beginnings event in Irving.
- **Sunday, April 24, 6 p.m.**—SCAMP Fish Fry at FPC
- **Tuesday, April 26, 9 a.m.**—Teach the Preacher



Got a committee meeting or church event on your schedule?