



THE GOOD NEWS

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

September 2014

**Blessings to all those going
back to school!**

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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

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

This last week was "Back to School" week and what a week it was! Now I didn't have any children in my home I was whisking off to their first day of school (I'm sure that day will come too soon), but I did get to witness for the first time how this town completely changes during this first week of school.



This small town is now a center for flourishing activity. Not only are there school buses out, but there are college students in all the businesses and walking around everywhere! (Be careful out there for those college students crossing streets!) Not only do we have a lot of new college students in town, but we have two of our own youth, Lily and Mason, who have started their first year of high school. They are both in the marching band and have their first half time performance this week at the away football game. By the way, Kaitlynn and I plan to make it to next week's home game. I think she will have a lot of fun and I look forward to showing her what a social life in a small town is really like! For me I can't believe I have already been serving this congregation for almost six months. It feels like I just started yesterday, and yet this little town and church already feels like home.

Transitions in the lives of individuals are important to note and celebrate, and nowhere is it more special to celebrate than within the context of worship and with your church family. Next Sunday, September, 7th, 2014, we will have a "Blessings of the Backpacks" during the worship service to mark this time of transition and the new beginning of a school year. I ask all students, whether in day care, secondary, college, or taking any type of class this year, to bring your backpacks, totes, briefcases, or whatever you use to carry around your books and school supplies, but I also would ask that all teachers, including Sunday School teachers, staff, and faculty to bring something that they work with to be blessed

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Presbyterian Women News

All women are invited to attend the following events:

Saturday, September 6, 12:00 Noon – Fall Covered Dish Luncheon in Fellowship Hall marking the beginning of our 2014-2105 year. Officers will be installed by Rev. Krista Rasco and the program will be given by Tina Selvaggi. Guests are welcome.

Monday, September 9, 10:00 a.m. – Circle Meeting and 1st Bible study, Lesson 1, in study book entitled ***Reconciling Paul, A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*** by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. If you need a copy of the book, contact Nila McQuary, Circle Chair.

Tuesday, September 17 – Trip to First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth to attend the annual overview of this year's Bible study. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. and we will gather at our church parking lot at 7:15 a.m. and then car-pool to Fort Worth. The meeting concludes with lunch (\$7 per person).

Saturday, October 25 – Please save this date to attend the Grace Presbytery PW Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church of Athens. There will be a business meeting/gathering where Sherry Hardwick, who will share highlights and details of her recent mission trip to the Appalachian area, will be the keynote speaker. The Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins, one of our former interim ministers, is in charge of the Communion service in the afternoon. The offering will be evenly divided between Global Exchange and "The Farm", a facility for battered/displaced women and children. Plans for the car pool will be finalized later.

Local PW Mission Projects – We are continuing our involvement with making fleece baby caps for the New-born Nursery at Hunt Regional Medical Center. One hundred caps were donated on August 28. A big thank you goes to all who helped with the tracing, cutting and sewing.

We also continue to bring specified items for the Food Pantry each month and to donate gently used magazines to local institutions. Eye glasses are collected to be donated to the Rotary Club project. Please bring the magazines and eye glasses to the church.

Our Facebook Presence Is Growing!

In addition to finding Pastor Krista Rasco on Facebook at www.facebook.com/krista.rasco, FPC now has a presence on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/fpccommerce.

Come for a visit!

New Beginnings

Two Leadership Training Days on **Sept 12-13** are the next step FPC is taking in the New Beginnings program to discover ourselves as a church, what we want to do for the future and where we will focus our energies.

The training begins with a meeting for pastoral leaders on Sept. 12 (Friday) at 3 p.m. Congregational leaders will join in at a 5:30 p.m. dinner that evening. Training for both groups will continue through Saturday afternoon.

According to Grace Presbytery's Ronnie Holland, Senior Director of Ministry and Church Transitions) some of those who participate will lead House Meetings (small group conversations) in the phase to follow.

Catching Up

•Up-date on Bert and Betty Davis Family

Many of you will remember the late Bert and Betty Davis, former members of our congregation, and their two talented daughters, Elizabeth and Sally. Both Elizabeth and Sally graduated from CHS and received bachelor's degrees from TAMU-C. Dr. Bert Davis was a Musicologist in the Music Department at TAMU-C until his retirement and served as elder here at FPC-Commerce. Betty was our organist for many years.

Dr. Elizabeth Davis Mazzocco, married to Dr. Angelo Mazzocco, resides in Amherst, MA, where she heads up the Foreign Language Resource Center for the five college consortium of University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Smith, Mt. Holyoke and Hampshire. She and Angelo have recently built a new house and enjoy traveling to Angelo's hometown of Cerreto, outside of Rome, in addition to their scholarly endeavors which are ongoing.

While Elizabeth lived in Commerce with



Deborah Wells, Elizabeth Mazzocco, and Kim Fake

her parents, she taught Sunday school, Bible school, and directed the children's Christmas programs at FPC-

Commerce. Elizabeth also “babysat” for at least two families in our congregation, the Deatons and the McFarlands.

Sally married Jim Faires, a Commerce native, in



Jim and Sally Faires

November of 2012. (*Many of you most likely remember the Faires family of Commerce. Jim’s father, James Faires, was the city attorney for over 40 years, and his mother Dee was quite active in the town.*) Between them, Jim and Sally have four children: Ben, 22, Annabella, 18, Taylor, 16, and Jay, 13.

Jim works in downtown Dallas as senior sales executive for the Ticket for Cumulus Radio. Sally is a portrait artist and works from her studio at home. Sally’s son Ben just graduated from Amherst College in May of 2014 with a double major in music and geology and is continuing his studies at Harvard where he will pursue a Master’s and PhD in Earth and Planetary Sciences. Annabella, Sally’s daughter, also graduated in



Ben and Annabella

May from Booker T. High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas and will be near Ben in

Massachusetts at Smith College in Northampton. Smith College is a liberal arts women’s college and Annabella is excited to study rare books, art history, and studio arts. Taylor (Jim’s) is finishing high school this year in NC as is Jay, who is finishing 8th grade. Jim and Sally reside in Mesquite at the present time.

Newsmakers

• Tina Fletcher

FPC’s Tina Fletcher is pictured in the new TWU brochure used for graduate school recruiting. Dr. Fletcher, an occupational therapy professor at the Dallas campus, is pictured with Ana Anonetti, one of her graduate students in Occupational Therapy.



Dr. Tina Fletcher (left) and her graduate student Ana Antonetti

Dr. Fletcher and Ana are conducting research at the Dallas Museum of Art to find ways the museum can be more accessible to children on the autism spectrum.

In the picture of them above, which is in the brochure, the red exercise balls are the background for quotes from both professor and student as follows:

“I want my students to be confident, persistent, intellectually curious, independent and compassionate occupational therapists. I want them to look at a challenge from multiple points of view and find many solutions for it.”

**--Dr. Tina Fletcher, Occupational Therapy,
Faculty – Dallas**

“Dr. Fletcher is my greatest mentor at TWU. We are research partners, and we feed off of each other’s energy. Dr. Fletcher encourages me to challenge myself and helps me to succeed in areas I didn’t know were possible.”

**--Ana Antonetti, Occupational Therapy,
Master’s Student – Dallas**

•Jason Rasco

Jason Rasco, husband of FPC's pastor, made the Commerce Journal's Aug. 26 issue as part of a story about the first ever Commerce Citizen's Police Academy. The class of men and women, which graduated earlier this month, spent 10 weeks and about 30 hours learning about the Commerce Police Department—who it is, what it is, how it operates, and what police officers face when they go out on the streets each day.

Another class is in the making. Call Lieutenant Jason Rector at 903-886-1139 or email him at jrector@commercepolice.net if you are interested in being a part of that class.

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

September Worship Leaders

September 7

Host Elder:.....Joyce Isaacs
Head Usher:..... Ric Estes
Candle Lighter:Lilly Selvaggi
Liturgist: Tina Selvaggi
Elements: Scott Stewart

September 14

Host Elder:..... Sherry Johnson
Head Usher:..... Monty Howard
Candle Lighter: Paul Shatney
Liturgist: Dennis White

September 21

Host Elder:..... Sherry Johnson
Head Usher:..... Scott Stewart
Candle Lighter: Mason Howard
Liturgist: Neal Stewart

September 28

Host Elder:..... Monty Howard
Head Usher:..... Bob Johnson
Candle Lighter:Matthew McFarland
Liturgist: Keith McFarland

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.

September Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 7—** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Communion Sunday
Blessing of the Backpacks, Totebags,
Laptop/Table Cases
Sermon Scripture focus on Exodus 3:1-15
Moses at the Burning Bush / The Divine Name Revealed
- 14—** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Exodus 14:19-31
Crossing the Red Sea
- 21—** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Exodus 16:2-15
Bread from Heaven
- 28—** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon Scripture focus on Exodus 17:1-16
Water from the Rock / Amalek Attacks Israel and Is Defeated

Other September events

- 1—** Monday, Labor Day, FPC Office closed
- 2, 9, 23, 30—** Tuesdays, 9 a.m.—Teach the Preacher
- 3—** Wednesday, Volunteers needed to help stock the Food Pantry
- 6—** Saturday, noon, Fellowship Hall
Presbyterian Women's Covered Dish Luncheon and Installation of Officers
- 8—** Monday, 10 a.m. PW meeting
- 10—** Wednesday, 6 p.m.—Sept. Session Meeting
- 12-13—** New Beginnings Leadership Training Days, First Presbyterian Church of Richardson
- 16—** Tuesday, 7:15 a.m. Presbyterian Women leave to go to Fort Worth to attend the annual overview of this year's Bible study.
- 27—** Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Grace Presbytery meets in Longview at First Presbyterian.

Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

- 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

A Message From the Pastor

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as well. Not only is this an important time for students but it is important, and a blessing, to those working with students. We will "bless" and commission all the items presented, and the people presenting them so that they have a reminder for the rest of the school year how much they mean to God, and to our church family, and that God will be with them through all the trials and tribulations that education brings.

I look forward to traveling this journey of the new school year with this congregation and in this particular university town—Commerce, Texas.

*Grace and peace be with you all,
Rev. Krista Rasco*

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		Family of Joyce Isaacs
Pat McFadden	Peri Poole	Beverly Housewright
Nila McQary	Family of Larry Yearwood	Todd Shinn
Charles Burns	Edwin Greene	Nancy Green

**Stay out of the heat, come to
church on Sunday! You'll stay cool
and you'll be cool!**

Way to go—Bible Study Class!



Bible Whizzes!

Congratulations to the recent Adult Bible Study Class at FPC. The group was led by Walt and Isabel Davis and studied the book, *Reading the Bible and the Confession: the Presbyterian Way* by Jack Rogers. Pictured at left from left to right are Bible Study members Barbara Tucker, Toni Deaton, Wally Tucker, Dean Calvert, Krista Rasco, Jim Calvert, Walt Davis, David Walvoord, Susan White, Dennis White, Isabel Davis, and Helon Razniak.

People not available for the picture were Jim Deaton (the photographer), Bettina Zvanut, Martha Clevenger, Neal Stewart, and Odeana Stewart.

Office Closed

**The FPC office will be closed on
Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of
Labor Day!**



More PW News

Back on Aug. 9 some of FPC's women visited the Bradley House, a Presbyterian Children's Home, as part of a trip for a Grace Presbytery PW Coordinating Team Meeting.

Here is a description of that visit.

The Children's Home has several buildings spread over a large expanse of acreage. There was a pretty little church built of stone, a swimming pool, playground, soccer field, and a meeting hall. There are three or four large, modern ranch style houses with front porches, plants, and outdoor chairs for the children.

We toured one home which had a backyard with a fenced in area for a dog, barbecue grills, and a porch with a picnic table. Inside was a large family room with a dining area and a kitchen. Four bedrooms surrounded that living area. On one side was a laundry, on another was a study with two computers. We saw two large-screen televisions and a closet full of board games. A nice young man who lives there gave the tour.

A gentleman discussed the Homes in Itasca and Waxahachie as well as other services that Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) offers. He mentioned that 25 of their high school graduates are in college at this time. One just graduated from Austin College, others are at junior colleges, and a couple are at the University of Texas. PCHAS tries to follow and help each kid even after they turn 18 to make sure that they are successful as young adults. The young man who gave us a tour said that his friend at the Home had recently graduated, found a job, and moved into an apartment this summer.

The visit was very enlightening, and it was good to know that our Presbyterian Women provide ongoing support to PCHAS programs.

September Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 - Emily Parrish Jenson
- 8 - Sara Grace Pullen
- 10 - Jim Calvert
- 10 - Bettina Zvanut
- 10 - Joe McIntier
- 11 - Bubba Dickerson
- 14 - Scott Stewart
- 15 - Kim Fake
- 23 - Cassie Nicole Norwood
- 25 - Charles Dorsett
- 29 - Brenda Estes

Happy Anniversary to:

- 1 - Dennis & Susan White
- 3 - Barbara & Wally Tucker
- 6 - Dean and Jim Calvert
- 25 - Beverly & Ben Housewright

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

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!