



# THE GOOD NEWS

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

**May, 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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E-presence

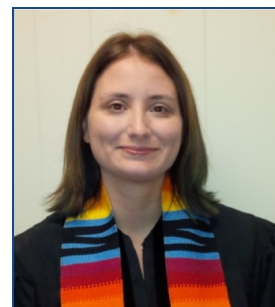
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## A Message From the Pastor

*"See, I am making all things new."*  
 —(Revelation 21:5)



Dear FPC family and friends,

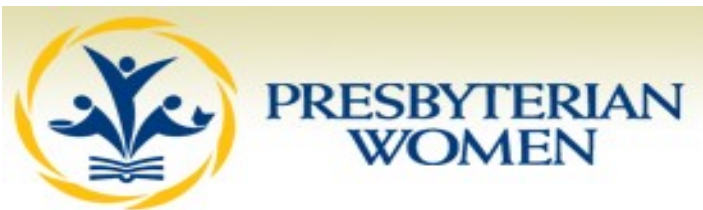
As I was walking through the airport on my way to Montreat, NC, for a continuing education conference I came across an adult coloring book that was full of pictures with scripture to color. I bought it and on the two and half hour plane trip to Charlotte I found a page that had Revelation 21:5 on it, which I had planned to preach on the Sunday I came back. Coloring this page throughout the week helped me meditate and pray on the scripture while I was still busy learning new things, helping others learn new things, and catching up with old friends while making new friends.

It was a beautiful week all around. What kept reoccurring in my mind was the idea of making all things new and how learning new things, making new friends (and seeing old ones), and especially resting allows for one to be re-invigorated, re-created, and re-newed.

I realize I came back physically exhausted as I'm slowly learning the hard way I'm not as young as I once was. Yet, I did come back "new" in ways of motivation, and especially in connection with my colleagues, with God, and with the Holy Spirit.

I've included some pictures that I took while on my trip. The picture of the creek with the large boulder in was a place that I sat, prayed, and meditated for a good hour during one of my breaks. It was here that I finished coloring that page with the Revelation scripture and came up with a few things I shared with you on that following Sunday. The day I did this also happened to be

*Continued on page 6*



## Upcoming Circle Meeting

PW will meet on Monday, May 9, at 10a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our final lesson in the 2015-2016 Horizons Bible study will be discussed. The title of the lesson is "River of Life---Hope." During the business meeting which will follow, the PW slate of officers for 2016-2018 will be presented for a vote. All women are invited to attend.

### ***Skit Was a Hit!***

At our last Circle meeting, **Nila McQuary** presented our lesson which was about the Samaritan woman who had a conversation with Jesus at the well. Nila wrote a skit and directed us all in our roles from this story. It was a great lesson! Let's keep Nila, Circle Chair, in our prayers as she recuperates from surgery to repair her broken foot.



*The Nila McQuary Absolutely Ready for Prime Time Players (pictured left to right) were Nila, Jane Cox, Brenda Estes, Nancy McFarland, Martha Clevenger, and (not pictured because she was snapping the photo) Toni Deaton.*

### **Thanks to All!**

Special thanks go to all who prepared food and/or helped serve for the family of Peggy Hogan on Friday, April 15.

### ***Recent area meeting***

On Saturday, April 16, **Bettina, Martha and Toni**

attended the Grace Presbytery PW Spring Workshop Meeting held at Oak Cliff PC in Dallas. Workshops they attended including ones on the following topics:

- Introduction of 2016-17 Horizons Bible Study
- Nuts and Bolts of PW Leadership Training
- Getting in Touch with 21st Century Technology
- Cluster Leaders Working Together
- Assembling PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) Kits ---Each kit contains the bare necessities: towel, wash cloth, bar of soap, toothbrush, comb, nail clippers & band-aids
- Sharing Mission Projects with Joy!
- Feeling Blue about the Environment? Green Up Your Congregation with EarthCare Certification • God's Children...Not for Sale (covering human trafficking in our area and throughout the U.S.)



*Toni Deaton and former FPC PW member Paula Adams caught up with each other at still another Spring Workshop meeting, in Tyler on April 9. Adams now attends the United Presbyterian Church of Greenville.*

## Upcoming Meeting

**Synod of the Sun PW Gathering:** All Presbyterian Women are invited to attend the SOS PW Gathering on July 21-23, to be held at FPC-Fort Worth. Early registration continues until June 1st.

For more information about registration fees, nearby hotels, workshop titles and names of presenters, go to [www.sospwconnect.com](http://www.sospwconnect.com). You may also register at the website.

Scholarships to pay for registration are available to all women in Grace Presbytery, through a special fund set aside by Grace Presbytery PW. The application form for the scholarship is also available on the website.

The Synod of the Sun PW gathering occurs every three years. Since this one is in our area, it is a good opportunity for women in Grace Presbytery to attend. Our Synod is made up of all of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

## Additions to the FPC Prayer List

The family of Scott Williams and Missy Burns have been added to the FPC prayer list. Mr. Williams is the brother of a friend of Anna Yoder, our cleaning lady. He died earlier this week in Kentucky when his tractor was struck by a semi-trailer truck.

Ms. Burns, the niece of Toni Deaton, hurt her shoulder in a home accident earlier this week. Surgery may be needed. Please pray for all the people on our list.

### A Late Addition

Too late to put in the Sunday Worship Bulletin for May 1, but not too late for this newsletter is the sad news of the unexpected death of Texas A&M University—Commerce President Dan Jones. He died on Friday morning. Please keep his family and the staff and students of TAMUC who felt his positive influence in your prayers.

## 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	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		
	Family of Kade Daniel Campbell	
Nila McQuary		Lillian Selvaggi
Family of Scott Williams		Missy Burns
Family and friends of Dan Jones		

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

## May Calendar

### Worship Schedule

- 1** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Revelation 21:22-27 & 22:1-13*
- 8** Mothers Day  
Intergenerational Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Deuteronomy 4:1-10*
- 15** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*A quest preacher will determine this*
- 22** Morning Worship Service, 10:50 p.m.  
Sermon Focus on Romans 5:1-5
- 29** Morning Worship Service, 10:50 p.m.  
Sermon Focus on Psalm 96

### Other May events

- 3, 17, 24, 31 Tuesdays, 9 a.m.**—Teach the Preacher
- 4 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Mission/Evangelism Committee meeting
- 6:30 p.m.**—Christian Education Committee meeting
- 18 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Session Meeting
- 22 Sunday, noon**—Graduation Potluck Luncheon
- 26 Thursday—10 a.m.-6 p.m.**—Grace Presbyterian meeting at Trinity Presbyterian, 5871 Virginia Pkwy., in McKinney
- 29 Sunday, noon**—Luncheon marking Jim and Toni Deaton's last Sunday as FPC choir director and organist.

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Note: Pastor Rasco will be gone from Monday, May 9, through Monday, May 16 for a New Pastor's Final Retreat at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center at Zephyr Cove, Nevada.

## Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

The Commerce Food Pantry serves between 30-45 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**



*FPC's herb garden has rosemary, oregano, and mint. Eventually, it will be introduced to food pantry patrons.*



## Working in the Community We Live In

In addition to the **Commerce Food Pantry** and the **Presbyterian Women**, FPC shows its support of the community we live in through a variety of efforts. Here are two of them.

.....

### *Fish Fry Helps Keep Arts Program Alive*

**Walt Davis** issued the following report on the SCAMP fundraising fish fry held on April 24. It was a big success.

"We needed to raise \$1,500 to put on a scaled down version of SCAMP again this summer. Generous members donated more than \$1,700 and we signed up eleven children for camp. It is not too late to donate however. Additional



Above, **Jeremy Conner** and **Ric Estes** are busy frying fish, while **Bart Green** gives support and talks about the one that got away.. Below, **Walt Davis** talks about SCAMP to the gathering.

funding will allow us to put back some of the features we cut out as a cost saving measure.

"**Ric and Brenda Estes** underwrote the cost of the event, so all of the proceeds go directly to SCAMP. **Ric, Brenda, Jeremy Conner, and the rest of the Membership Committee** pitched in on short notice to make the evening a financial success and a great opportunity to spend some quality time with members we otherwise see only on Sunday morning. Thanks also to all who brought side dishes and desserts. No one went away hungry.

"**Angela Roberts**, 2015 SCAMP photographer set up a slide show of pictures of the kids from last year, and we were entertained throughout the evening with happy faces of enthusiastic children.

"The well deserved reputation of FPCC for stepping up to meet a need was certainly on display Sunday evening.

.....

### *Sharing Warm and Fuzzy Things*

The **Caring Committee** goes about the business of helping people in a quiet, reserved way. But that doesn't mean that there is no emotion involved. For instance, when it oversaw the delivery of eight more bags of robes and slippers to Greenville's Gentiva Hospice recently, the recipients got excited.

The volunteer coordinator for the Hospice said that their patients get very excited to see the gift bags, likening it to Christmas for the folks who receive a gift of clean, fresh, clothes for greeting the doctors and nurses who attend them.

We'll bet that in addition to the warm and fuzzy robes and slippers, the recipients probably felt some warm and fuzzy feelings, as well.

Thanks to **Jane Cox** for donating these items.



## Newsmakers

•FPC's **Bob Johnson**, who is president of the Commerce Community Action Program, was quoted in the April 28 edition of The Commerce Journal. He addressed about the city's first Cinco de Mayo celebration which will be held on May 7.

He noted the importance of an event which will increase understanding and participation with the area's Hispanic community, and expressed the desire for it to grow in the coming years. "We are hoping to expand on this in the future," he told reporter Ryan Scott.

•FPC's **Tina (Fletcher) Salvaggi** recently worked with the Dallas Zoo to put on an event which helped autistic children enjoy a special day among the animals.

Sensory-Friendly Day on April 24 was a collaboration between the Dallas Zoo and Dr. Salvaggi and her occupational therapy students at Texas Women's University. Tina and her students trained zoo staff and helped with all of the event's activities.

Extensive news coverage of the event took place. It was designed, according to Tina, "to provide children and their families with an exciting, meaningful, and sensory-friendly experience."

For more information and a brief look at this event, click on the following link: [Sensory Day at the Zoo.](#)

### Got Good News?

If you have a submission (church or community news, or news that involves FPC, an event notice, pictures, a blessing, etc.) for *The Good News*, please email it to us at [fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com](mailto:fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com). We only publish twice a month, so please bear in mind our deadlines and send submissions in early. We reserve the right to edit.

We would love to hear from you.

#### Deadlines

Our next two editions are scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, and June 3. The deadline for getting items to us to make those editions are Monday, May 16, and Wednesday, June 1. Items received after those dates cannot be guaranteed to appear.

### Bible Readings for this Sunday and Next Sunday

**This Sunday (May 1) is the  
Sixth Sunday of Easter / Communion Sunday**  
**Gospel:** **Luke 24:44-53** *Jesus Teaches and Heals / Blessings and Woes / Love for Enemies*  
**Psalter:** **Psalms 47** *God's Rule Over the Nations*  
**New Testament:** **Acts 1:1-14** *The Promise of the Holy Spirit / The Ascension of Jesus*  
**New Testament (and sermon focus):**  
*Revelation 21:22-27; 22:1-13* *Vision of the New Jerusalem / River of Life / Epilogue and Benediction*

**Next Sunday (May 8) is the  
Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**It is also Mothers Day.**  
**New Testament:** **Acts 16:11-15** *The Conversion of Lydia*  
**Old Testament:** **Isaiah 66:7-14** *The Lord Vindicates Zion*  
**New Testament:** **1 Peter 4:8-11** *Good Stewards of God's Grace*  
**Old Testament: (sermon focus)** **Deuteronomy 4:1-10** *Moses Commands Obedience*



We would like to use them!

Thanks to all those who help lead worship, our elders and committee members who work to improve FPC, and volunteers who make our events successful.

If you would like to fill a larger role in the life of FPC, please contact Rev. Rasco or someone you see working hard for FPC.

### FPC Is Online!

[www.facebook.com/fpcccommerce](https://www.facebook.com/fpcccommerce)

[www.facebook.com/group/fpcccommerce](https://www.facebook.com/group/fpcccommerce)

<https://twitter.com/fpcccommerce>

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

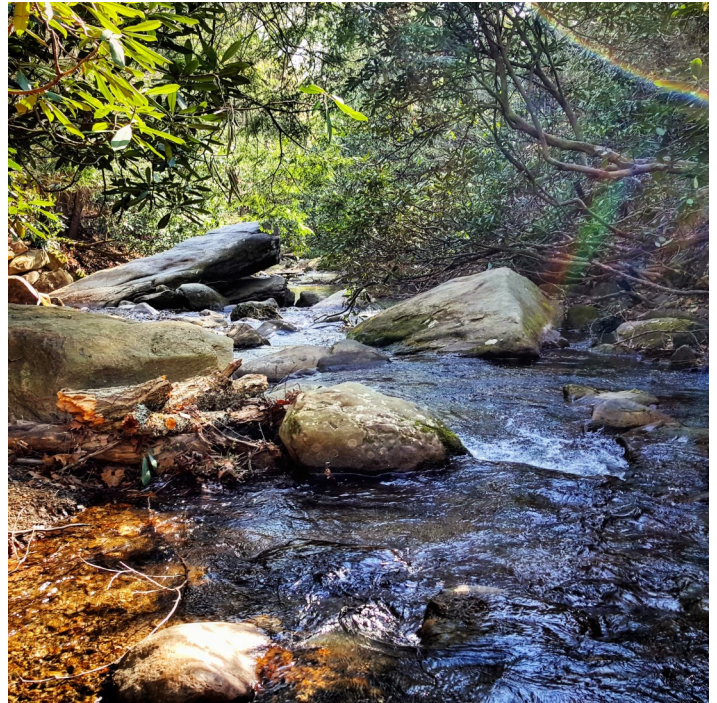


## A Message From the Pastor *Continued from page 1*

my birthday. It was a wonderful birthday present to be able to do this in such a holy place.

There is a picture of a font, pulpit and communion table at the last worship service we had before we left the conference. The table is covered in painted silk strips that was the result of several tasks done in each worship service up until that last one. We were able to each take a strip and pass them around telling each other “you are loved” (and we could include “whether you like it or not”). I have mine tied to a tote if you ever catch a glimpse of it.

The final picture I want to share more with you about is of the sunset as I was landing in Dallas on my way home. Home. Commerce. Family. First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas. This is where I hoped to come back “new”. Having the sense of how God created, and is still creating I was not only full of fresh ideas and perspectives, I was also aware of that the wonderful, holy, time at a beautiful place and with beautiful friends and colleagues was ending, and I was grieving for the many losses made recently.



*My meditation rock*



One of my favorite hymns is “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” found in our hymnal #250. The last verse tells us this, “In the end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in the our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the



last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.” I don’t know what is in store in the future, but I do know that I have hope, a lot of hope. I also know that as worn out as you and I get in our everyday struggles, and even with the big battles, we hope, we know that God is always making all things new.

***Grace and peace be with you all,***

***Rev. Krista Rasco***

## Upcoming Community Events



### Saturday, May 7

- 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.—** City Election Voting, at City Hall, 1119 Alamo Street.
- 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.—** Cinco de Mayo Festival, Eddie Moore Sports Park, 370 Sterling Hart Drive.
- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.—** Recycle Day in Commerce  
City containers will be in the T AMUC parking lot at Campbell and

Walnut in the same area as the university recycle units.

### Saturday, May 28

- 5K Walk to benefit the American Cancer Society, sponsored by the Griffith Chapel CME Church.
- 9 - 10 a.m.—** Last Saturday Community Pancake Breakfast at Wesleyan Campus Ministry, 1504 Lee Street.

### 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  
Helon Razniak  
Petra Strassberg

##### 2018

Martha Clevenger  
Jordan Conner  
Wally Tucker  
Bettina Zvanut

#### Session Committees

##### **Worship:**

**Chair**..... Helon 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

### May Dates to Remember

#### ***Happy Birthday to:***

**3—***Paul Shatney*

**12—**Helena Christine Ballew

13—Wally Tucker

14—Jordon Estes Conner

21 - Quint Madewell

23 - Whitney Madewell

24 - Kayla Keahey

25 - Bryce Norwood

25 - Katherine Duncan

27 - Paula Elliott

27 - Mark Fake

#### ***Happy Anniversary to:***

**24 –** Rebecca & Quint Madewell

**30 –** Donna & Bubba Dickerson

*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.*



## Special Mother's Day Event

Don't forget the intergenerational Sunday school hour coming up on Mother's day, May 8. Children and adults will all meet together in the fellowship hall for conversation and a show-and-tell about mothers and mother figures who have been important in our lives.

Please bring a tangible reminder of the person who best personifies motherhood for you. It might be a portrait or photograph, a family bible, a quilt, a cookbook, an apron, a piece of jewelry, a pair of garden gloves--whatever reminds you of that special person.

Even new arrivals at the Selvaggi home enjoy reading the newspaper!



### May Worship Leaders

#### May 1

Host Elder:..... Jordan Conner  
Head Usher: ..... Ric Estes  
Candle Lighter: ..... Evie Conner  
Liturgist: ..... Walt Davis  
Elements: ..... Bettina Zvanut

#### May 8

Head Usher: ..... Scott Stewart  
Candle Lighter: ..... Matti Richie  
Liturgist: ..... Barbara Tucker

#### May 15

Head Usher: ..... Wendall Linton  
Candle Lighter: ..... Jack Walker  
Liturgist: ..... Neal Stewart

#### May 22

Head Usher: ..... Walt Davis  
Candle Lighter: ..... Carrigan Oats  
Liturgist: ..... Bettina Zvanut

#### May 29

Head Usher ..... Petra Strassberg  
Candle Lighter ..... Evie Conner  
Liturgist ..... Wally Tucker

## A Googled Explanation

Like any good news purveyor, *The Good News* strives to go a little beyond the expected. In that light, we present a Googled explanation about how to spell the holiday coming up that honors mothers. It may not convince you to change your mind, but it will enlighten you. This was taken from [www.betterwritingskills.com](http://www.betterwritingskills.com)

Take any group of people and ask them this question. Does *Mother's Day* need an apostrophe, and — if so — where does it go?

After the fighting stops, the combatants will have settled into three camps. Let's look at all three in turn.

Incidentally, because the names of holidays are written with an initial capital, we write *Mother's Day*, not *Mothers day*, regardless of where you put the apostrophe, if any.

#### **Choice 1. Mothers Day: no apostrophe**

The argument here is that Mothers do not own the day, so no possession is involved. No apostrophe is thus needed. We are describing a day *for* Mothers, not a day *belonging to* Mothers.

#### **Choice 2. Mother's Day: apostrophe before the s**

Here the argument is that the day belongs to one specific Mother (yours presumably). So, because possession is involved, Mother's Day needs an apostrophe.

#### **Choice 3. Mothers' Day: apostrophe after the s**

Here the argument is that the day is shared among all Mothers collectively. We thus need an apostrophe after the s.

#### **And the winner is...**

As shown above, you can make a reasonable case for all three of the choices. This article makes clear, though, that the original campaigner for creating Mother's day, Anna Jarvis, explicitly wanted an apostrophe, and she wanted it to be *before* the "s":

... it was to be a singular possessive,  
for each family to honour their mother,  
not a plural possessive commemorating  
all mothers in the world.

Having said this, you will continue to see all three forms.

Let's just say for now: You Are the Greatest,

