

The Good News

Mid-Month Edition

No. 10

May 18, 2016

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

FIFTY YEARS OF MUSIC AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, COMMERCE

After an association of 50 years with the choir, **Jim and Toni Deaton** are ready to turn their reins over to new leadership. They began singing with the choir in 1966 when it was under the capable leadership of **Dr. Neill Humfeld**. Choir rehearsals were on Wednesday evenings in 1966 and the choir was large, filling both the front and back rows of the choir loft.

The choir presented a Cantata every Christmas, along with other special music. And there was no "time off" during the summer months for choir members.

The FPC choir was (and still is to a certain extent) a family affair for many of those who participated. Members of our congregation who have been around for a long time probably remember the family groups who sang in the choir, such as the



Williams', the Harney's, the Humfeld's, the Bidwell's, the Razniak's, the Clevenger's, the Lam's, the Reeves', the Rhoades', the Selvaggi's, and the Deaton's, just to mention a few.

After short leaderships with other directors at FPC, Jim took over as "interim" choir director in 1991. He has held that position for the past 25 years. Soon after Jim's move to choir director, Toni moved from the soprano section in the choir to the organ console, where she has served for over 20 years.

During their 50-year association with the choir, they have served with seven different pastors and dozens of volunteer choir members. They have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity they were given to use their musical and leadership talents to serve FPC.

Be Sure to Stay, Eat, and Regale the Deatons after Church on May 29

The **FPC Membership Committee** is providing barbecue and drinks and you are invited to bring a favorite dish, covered or otherwise, for a special luncheon honoring **Jim and Toni Deaton** for their years of faithful service providing beautiful and inspiring music for the FPC congregation. It all happens in Fellowship Hall on May 29, immediately after the worship service.

It will be a time of good food, conversation, and beautiful memories.



Bible Readings for this Sunday and Next Sunday

This Sunday (May 22) is Trinity Sunday.

Old Testament: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 *The Gifts of Wisdom / Wisdom's Part in Creation*

Psalter: Psalm 8 *Divine Mercy and Human Dignity*

Gospel: John 12:12-15 *The Work of the Spirit*

Epistle: (and sermon focus) Romans 5:1-5 *Results of Justification*

Next Sunday (May 29) is the Second Sunday After Pentecost.

Epistle: Galatians 1:1-12 *There Is No Other Gospel / Paul's Vindication of His Apostleship*

Old Testament: 1 Kings 18:20-21, 30-39 *Elijah's Triumph Over the Priests of Baal*

Gospel: Luke 7:1-10 *Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant*

Psalter: Psalm 96 (and sermon focus) *Praise to God Who Comes in Judgement*

Assisting with Worship

Our worship leaders this Sunday (May 22) are: Walt Davis, Head Usher; Carrigan Oats, Candle lighter; and Bettina Zvanut, Liturgist.

Next Sunday (May 29) our worship leaders will be Petra Strassberg, Head Usher; Evie Conner, candle lighter, and Wally Tucker, liturgist.

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

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 Skauge	Family of Peggy Hogan		Family of Kade Daniel Campbell
Nila McQuary	Lillian Selvaggi	Family of Scott Williams	Missy Burns
Family of Dan Jones	Mildred Miller	Amanda Swanson	Gaye Furry

From the Presbyterian Outlook

What has Heath Rada, moderator of the 221st General Assembly, heard?

The Presbyterian Outlook wants you to join them on **May 26 at 7 p.m. for a LIVE 90-minute webinar** with Heath Rada as he reviews what he's heard at the listening sessions he held across the denomination.

Rada will give his full report to the General Assembly in June. This webinar is an opportunity to hear a preview from him in addition to hearing some information from the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly survey and the next Church survey.

The *Presbyterian Outlook* is offering this webinar at no charge so that as many Presbyterians as possible may participate in this time of discernment in the life of the PC(USA).

[Click here to register](#)

Heath Rada will present for 45 minutes and there will be 45 minutes for questions and answers.

Upcoming FPC Events

- **Wednesday, May 18, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting
- **Monday, May 23, 9 a.m.**—Presbyterian Women's Circle trace and cut baby cap session
- **Tuesday, May 24, 9 p.m.**—Teach the Preacher
- **Thursday, May 26, 9-3 p.m.**—Grace Presbytery Stated Meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church in McKinney.
- **Sunday, May 29, noon**—Luncheon to honor Jim and Toni Deaton following their last official day as choir director and organist.
- **Tuesday, May 31, 9 p.m.**—Teach the Preacher

Is a committee meeting or church event on your schedule? Let us know!



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

Memorial Day Observance at FBC

DAR members invite you to the Memorial Day Service at the First Baptist Church in Commerce, at 6 p.m. on Memorial Day. In their own words, "*We welcome your participation. Invite your friends and church family. Thanks.*"

Here is some Memorial Day information taken from Wikipedia.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday, which is observed every year on the last Monday of May, originated as **Decoration Day** after the American Civil War in 1868. The Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois, established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers.

By the 20th century, competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions, celebrated on different days, had merged. Memorial Day was eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service. It typically marks the start of the summer vacation season.

Many people use this day to visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day, which is observed on Nov. 11 each year. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who *died* while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, living and dead.

Bring a Rock and Party with Petra

Petra Strassberg sent us the following invitation and asked us to pass it on.

Hi, All,
The patio (at 3010 Charlinda Street in Commerce) is almost finished, just a few more touches. The unveiling is Saturday, June 4th, from 2-6 p.m. This is a come and go so whatever time works for you. There will be snacks and drinks. Please, bring a small rock, with your initials on it, to display in the openings in the wall. Jordan and Sandy will be town for a couple of days so I am excited for them to meet my wonderful friends in Commerce and for y'all to meet them.

Please, RSVP by calling 903-274-9444.

Petra



Training Held for Summer Meal Program Here

One of programs at Hunt County United Way provides summer meals for children. This year there will be two summer lunch program sites in Commerce providing these meals. One site is the Commerce Public Library. The other, thanks to the commitment of the **FPC Mission Committee**, is Fellowship Hall right here at FPC.



A training session for volunteers at these meal sites was held at FPC on Monday, May 16. Eight people attended, including one from a site in Quinlan. United Way's **Frances Dalbey** provided the training. However, if you did not attend, but are interested in helping, you can still be a part of FPC's site if you contact **Bettina Zvanut** right away.

A limited number of meals will be served here from 11 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, beginning June 6. United Way will deliver the hot food in special containers which our workers will give to the children. United Way will also provide books and coloring sheets for the children to take if they are interested.

Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

The **Commerce Food Pantry** serves families in need each week. 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.



Summer Camp Opportunities

Summer will be here soon and that means summer camp for many children and youth. FPC has its own camp—SCAMP—which will soon get underway. It's right here and you can't beat the price. But if a faith-based camp in the woods is something you want for your child or grandchild and can afford, there are two camps in particular that FPC gets information on regularly—**Camp Gilmont and Mo-Ranch**.

Camp Gilmont is closer, located on 400 Piney Woods acres in Northeast Texas near Gilmer. It's summer camp theme for 2016 is *Fearless Faith*. Eight different camps for ages 6-17 are held periodically with start times from June 19 to July 10.

Need some help covering the cost to camp? Camp Gilmont accepts payment plans and has a limited number of 1/3 1/3 scholarships through Grace Presbytery and a Gilmont fund. Visit www.gilmont.org to learn about the camps. For more information, send an email to info@gilmont.org or call 903-797-6400.

Mo-Ranch is a Presbyterian Conference Center located on nearly 500 acres along the Guadalupe River in the Texas Hill Country west of Hunt, Texas. It operates summer camps for children and youth from 8-17. Camp starting dates range from June 5 to July 17.

For more information, go online to www.moranch.org, or call 1-800-460-4401.

Report from Spring Fling—Earth Care Congregation

Bettina Zvanut was among the women who represented FPC at the attended the Presbyterian Women's recent Spring Fling, which was held at Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church in Dallas on April 16. She was asked by FPC moderator Toni Deaton to report on a workshop Bettina took part in at that meeting.

Here is her report on Earth Care Congregations.

There are six of them in Texas, most of them in the Fort Worth-Dallas Area. To qualify, you have to complete an Earth Care questionnaire divided into several areas. If you can check off enough of the bullets to gain 25 points in each area, you can apply for a certificate, if the Session approves. Or the Session can direct its committees to work together to complete some of the requirements in order to attain the certification.

There are easy requirements like adding Earth Care materials to Sunday School classes or Vacation Bible School. There are requirements that suggest Earth Care Bible readings for a service. Then the suggestions get more interesting. One suggestion was that churches use ceramic coffee cups instead of styrofoam and the glass communion cups instead of the plastic ones. They suggest an energy efficient water heater, and appliances in the kitchen with an Energy Star sticker. One other suggestion that I noticed was that a church could install automatic controls for turning off the water in the kitchen and the bathrooms.

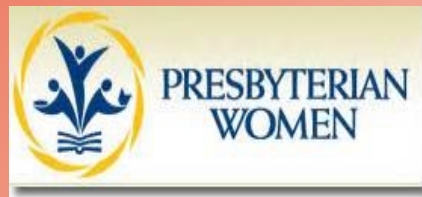
The Earth Care speaker was a Session member from Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church in Richardson. She said that they decided to do an energy audit for their church which was one of the suggestions, and the audit helped them save money by putting an insulating blanket around their water heater. It also identified windows that were leaking air in the Sunday School building. She said that they were able to get the Earth Care Certification without changing their plastic communion cups because there were so many other ways to qualify!

I found this workshop to be interesting, but i think it was way too easy to qualify as an environmental Earth Care Church.

Helping Newborns

The **Presbyterian Women's Circle** will have a "baby cap trace-and-cut" session on Monday, May 23, at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who would like to help is welcome; please bring your own scissors and pins. The caps go to Hunt Regional Medical Center and wind up keeping the heads of newborns there nice and warm.

This is just one of the many activities that make the PW Circle a vibrant and dynamic organization. If you are a woman who could use a little extra "zing" in your routine, or you just want to help, consider becoming active in the FPC Presbyterian Women's Circle.



The Second Quarter Innovator is available for download.

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



Summer Pictures Wanted

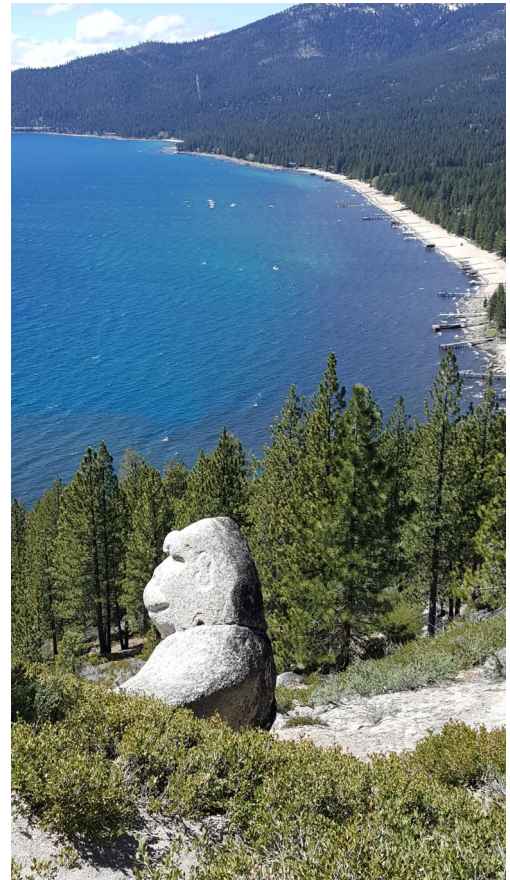
Do you have a picture that perfectly captures the essence of summer—at least the essence of your summer? Maybe you have a picture of a garden or a relative you don't get to see as often as you like but they came or you went and it was really nice to be with them. Let us know with a summer picture. Rev. Rasco starts things off on the next page with some pictures she took while on a trip out West to a conference on Lake Tahoe.

Email your picture(s) to fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com. Be sure to provide adequate information, so our newsletter readers will know what they are looking at.

Good Weather and Beautiful Scenery Makes You Want to Stay Longer

There's no place like home, as they say. But there is a lot of beauty out there that could tempt you to visit for a loooooong time. Rev. Rasco experience that when she was out West recently visiting San Francisco briefly before a week long stay at Lake Tahoe's Zephyr Point Conference Center where she took part in a "Company of New Pastors Conference.

She brought back some beautiful pictures and we give you a taste of what the learning environment she experience was like. More pictures will be in the June newsletter. For now, just enjoy.



Rev. Rasco met a lot of new pastors, including the those with her top left photo. She also enjoyed meeting Sarah Howard and her sister Morgan. Sarah lives there and is the daughter of FPC's Monty Howard. She and Sarah enjoyed S'mores around a campfire with the lake as a backdrop. A hiking trip with Sarah took Rev. Rasco to Monkey Rock (above, right). Every night practically demanded that she stay up to see a beautiful sunset.