



THE GOOD NEWS

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

November 2014

Inside this Edition:

A Message From the Pastor
Mourning
Another Loss
Surviving the Holidays
Advent Season
Food Pantry
Youth at Play
November Birthdays and Anniversaries
In Our Prayers
Remember
November Calendar

Worship with us!

“A Christian Community
of Faith”


**9:45 a.m. Sunday School
for all ages**

10:50 a.m.

Sunday Worship

Rev. Krista Rasco – Pastor


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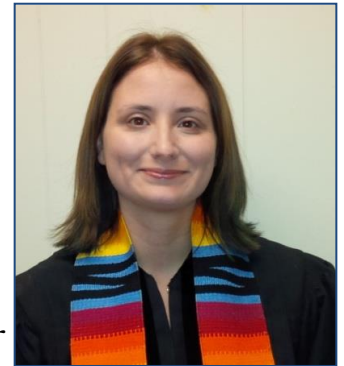
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A Message From the Pastor



Halloween has always been one of my favorite holidays. There are so many traditions around it and I want to share with you all a few. When I lived in Scotland I was able witness the celebrations around Samhain (pronounced sa-win), which is a Gaelic festival.

It marks the end of one season or time period (originally the end of harvest) and the beginning of another. Samhain (like Beltane) was also seen as a liminal time when the spirits fairies could more easily come into our world or a time that the veil between the world of the living and the world of the spirits was thin allowing them to easily pass over.

On the night of Oct. 31st, there is a big parade down the streets of Edinburgh and they traveled up to a high point in the city. There are witches and goblins, among a lot of other “characters”. It is thought that winter and death battle summer and life and winter/death wins. Then when Beltane comes a long (I believe it is May 1st) they come back and battle again and summer/life wins on that day.

I’m not going to go into all the different customs and histories but I did want to share with you the Christian version of celebrating this time. We have All Saints Day, traditionally celebrated on November 1st, in which we pay tribute and honor to those who were members of our church who passed away the year before.

My favorite custom, is the one in Mexico where they celebrate the Day of the Dead or Día de los Muertos.

Continued on page ??

Mourning the Loss of Dave Walvoord

The FPC family was delivered an unexpected blow on Sunday, Oct. 26, when it was learned that John David (Dave) Walvoord had died suddenly.

A memorial service that filled the sanctuary was conducted on Thursday, Oct. 30. A reception for the family was held afterward.

Dave and his wife Joane are longtime active FPC members. He was a former session chair and will be remembered for, among other things, his work in the news department at TAMUC and his excellent photography.

Another loss, Larry Harris

As you share with Joan Walvoord, the loss of her husband, share also with FPC member John Harris the loss of his son Larry, who passed away on Oct. 28 after a battle with cancer.

He was 44 and living in Dallas when he succumbed. He was preceded in death by his mother, FPC's Sue Harris.

Surviving the Holidays

It has been a hard time recently for FPC. But everyone, not just the FPC family, loses loved ones. And no matter when the loss occurs, it can be even harder to bear during the holiday season.

That's why it is especially appropriate that the First Baptist Church here in Commerce is offering help for those dealing with grief during the holidays.

A special program, *Surviving the Holidays*, is being offered on Nov. 10 from 6-8 p.m. at First Baptist Church, which is located at 1401 Washington. Eric Whitmore, long-time and recently retired U.S. Air Force broadcaster, journalist, and chaplain, is the guest speaker/facilitator.

Major Whitmore spent most of his childhood in northeast Texas and retired after 27 years of military service, including service abroad in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. He now works for the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas.

Our Facebook Presence Is Growing!

FPC now has a presence on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/fpccommerce.

Come for a visit!

Advent season will be here soon

Some things to look forward to include:

- Advent study guides "*Joy in Jesus*" will be placed on the entry tables on Nov. 23. Congregation members are encouraged to use them for their spiritual preparation during Advent.
- Church groups will be asked to light the Advent candles each Sunday of Advent:
 - Nov. 30th – Presbyterian Women
 - Dec. 7th – Choir
 - Dec. 14th – Youth
 - Dec. 21st – Food Pantry
 - Dec. 24th – Reverend Rasco and Family
- Helon Razniak and Wally Tucker will decorate the Christmon Tree on Saturday, Nov. 29. Other volunteers are encouraged, of course.
- Poinsettias will be used to decorate the front of the church during Advent. Helon Razniak will place order forms in the bulletin, giving the cost and deadline for ordering.
- The TAMUC Chorale will perform Sunday, Dec. 7th at 5 p.m. in our sanctuary. Jim Deaton will coordinate between the church and the university. The Presbyterian Women have volunteered to host a reception in the Fellowship Hall for chorale members and concert attendees following the concert.



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

You can leave items in the box at the back of the sanctuary.

A Message From the Pastor

Continued from page 1

This is the day that they honor the dead by making altars called "ofrendas" with pictures, marigolds, food, drinks, and placing other items on the altar and graves to honor and remember their loved ones.

We have all been touched by death in some way. However as Christians we believe that death does not have the final victory--just as come May 1st death and life battle it out again and this time life and summer wins.

It is important to honor and celebrate the lives of our loved ones gone on before us. We believe in life and in eternal life through Jesus. There is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes) and right now is a good time for mourning, remembering, and honoring, only because we know that there will be a time for life and the living soon to follow.

Grace and peace be with you all!

Rev. Krista Rasco



The picture at left is from the Beltane festival. Marching in the parade are the May Queen and the Green man.

Youth at play

The Middle School/High School Sunday School Class enjoyed a campout held at Bettina Zvanut's house on Saturday, Oct. 18th. They extended thanks to Rick Selvaggi for helping out in the early evening and Nancy McFarland for the tasty chicken.

Everyone had a few homemade chocolate chip cookies from Tina Selvaggi, and Mason McFarland

supplied grilled dove that he prepared himself.

The weather was perfect for the bonfire, the hide and go seek, and several games like ninja and sevens. The seven kids participating enjoyed the fireworks and the karaoke provided by David Zvanut

It was a memorable time! =

November Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 8 – Neal Stewart
- 10 – Chloe Potter
- 14 – Zane Belcher
- 18 – Ken McCord
- 20 – Beverly Housewright
- 21 – Lowell Ballew

Happy Anniversary to:

- 14 – Odeana & Neal Stewart
- 18 – Bettina & David Zvanut
- 22 – Kim and Mark Fake

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!

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	Peri Poole	Todd Shinn
Suzanne Dickinson	Joyce McCord	Nancy Green
The Family of Dave Walvoord	The Family of Larry Harris	
The Families of All Our Saints Who Have Passed On		

November Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 2— Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Communion Sunday
Guest pastor Rev. Dr. Ron Wood
Sermon focus on Mark 10:46-52
- 9— Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Joshua 24:1-3a; 14-25
- 16— Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Judges 4:1-7
- 23— Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday
Sermon focus on Ezekial 34:11-16; 20-24
- 30— Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Isaiah 64:1-9

Other November events

- 2— Daylight Savings change of time
- 10— 10 a.m. Presbyterian Women
- 11, 18, 25—Tuesdays at 9 a.m. Teach the Preacher (*Note: Nov.4 meeting cancelled*)
- 12— Session meeting, 6 p.m.
- 21, 22—Grace Presbytery Meeting at Canyon Creek Presbytery Church in Richardson