

The Good News

Weekly Edition

No. 11

September 5, 2014

Published (almost) weekly by the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas

Grief Share

In a community like Commerce, different groups all try to help. Sometimes the effort is a duplication, which is certainly okay. We need more of just about everything when it comes to helping our friends and neighbors. Sometimes, the effort belongs to just one or two groups. That's very good, too, because it allows different groups to have different focuses.

The First Baptist Church contributes to our Food Pantry because they do not have one of their own. But they have something we don't have—a group especially designed to help people with their grief. So in the spirit of helping the Baptist Church be the best that it can be in this area, you should know that First Baptist's GriefShare seminar/support group begins its new semester this Monday evening, Sept. 8, at First Baptist Church, Commerce, 1401 Washington.

Its coordinator is Beverly Burrow. She asked if we could help her get the word out about GriefShare.

Here's a description in her own words.

GriefShare is a national program hosted by churches of various denominations. It is video-based, and discussion centers on topics raised in the videos. While it is called GriefShare, participants certainly do not need to share if they do not feel like it. They can also come on a drop-in, drop-out basis. There is no obligation to attend a full semester. We repeat the video series in the spring. Anyone should feel free to drop in for any session in any semester.

The videos feature interviews of nationally recognized grief experts, and they describe their own grief journeys while sharing universal principles.

We have a policy of "what is said in GriefShare, stays in GriefShare." If people choose to "share," their privacy will be respected.

Dr. Wendell Edwards, retired accounting professor and long-time Commerce resident, leads the group. Light refreshments are served. Kleenexes and water bottles are always available. We meet in the church parlor, across from restrooms where people can go to be alone if the grief is too intense. However, the videos and the group are never as intimidating as people anticipate.

Much valuable information is available at www.GriefShare.org, even for people who do not attend the video seminar. They can sign up for a devotional email series, read articles, watch videos, and read about grief-related books.

Participation is 100% free. The church provides a workbook for each participant. Although the website mentions a cost for those workbooks and also for the special holiday workbook, our church wants anyone to be able to come without the barrier of one more thing to pay for.

If you have questions, you can call Ms. Burrow at 214-460-8998.

FISH BBQ

Hunt County Shared Ministries, known by many simply as FISH, is another effort to help people. They serve Hunt County which includes us. They are having a fund raising barbecue on Friday, Sept. 26 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Greenville.

Sermon Focus

In her sermon on Sunday, Rev. Rasco will be using **Exodus 3:1-15**. In these verses, God reveals himself to Moses in the burning bush.

Prayer Requests

Suzanne Dickinso, who has been coming to FPC, has been added to our prayer list with health concerns. Please pray for her, as well as all of those on our prayer list.

Church Activities and Meetings This Week

- Monday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m., the Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet.
- Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 9 a.m., a Teach the Preacher session will be held. This is a chance to discuss the previous week's sermon and take a look at the upcoming one.
- Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m., FPC's monthly session meeting will be held.

New Beginnings Continues

Our New Beginnings' journey continues later this month. Remember to mark your calendars if you are attending the New Beginnings Training Event. It will be held this coming Friday and Saturday. The event will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Richardson, 271 N. Walton Street in Richardson. Events for all are at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

FPC on Facebook

Yes, we are on Facebook. Visit at www.facebook.com/fpccommerce.

Communion Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks

Communion will be observed this Sunday. As a special event in observance of Labor Day and back to school, Rev. Rasco will conduct a special blessing of Backpacks, Totebags, and Laptop/Tablet Cases" during the worship service Be sure to bring these important work aids with you next Sunday.

Assisting This Week

The following are helping with the worship service on Sunday (Sept. 7). As always, thanks to these folks for their help. You might want to give them a pat on the back or even a hug.

--Joyce Isaacs, Host Elder; Ric Estes, Head Usher; Lily Selvaggi, Candlelighter; Tina Selvaggi, Liturgist; Name, Scott Stewart, Elements.

This Sunday's Food Pantry Items

Don't forget to bring something to church this Sunday for the Commerce Food Pantry. Fourth Sunday item peanut butter and or jelly. These items may be placed in the box at the back of the sanctuary.

Keep us informed

I'm sure we left something out, but time ran out as well. If you have some news or information that needs to go out, please let us know as soon as possible. We can't print what we don't know about. Also, if you know of someone who would like to receive our church newsletters, but is not getting them, send us their email address and we will put them on our mailing list.