



THE GOOD NEWS

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

June 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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A Message From the Pastor

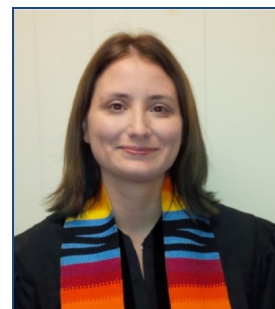
Dear friends and family of FPCC,

It's summer time and it means a lot of people are traveling. I have already been to Montreat, North Carolina and Lake Tahoe at conferences, and plan on going to one more conference in July in Boston, MA. This month my plans are to be on vacation with my family at the beach then in Portland, Oregon, at the 222nd General Assembly, the national gathering and meeting of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The General Assembly is held every two years in a different city and it gathers Presbyterians from not only all over the nation but the world as well. This year I get to go as an alternate, so if one of the commissioners from Grace Presbytery is not able to go for some reason, then I get to take their place. I will still get to go and observe all the meetings along with the daily worship services that take place. I can't forget about all the socializing that will go on and the connections and relationships that I will make and build.

Some of the issues that will be discussed this year are issues such as divestment from companies such as Motorola and Caterpillar because of their influence on the destruction of Palestinian homes and deaths. This was a hotly debated topic two years ago at the 221st General Assembly and barely passed by 6 votes. We will hear several overtures on it again, as there has been confusion about whether this means that we support Israel (which we do and the decision to divest never suggested otherwise) and the best way to go forward supporting both Israel and all and any innocent lives being lost in this state of affairs.

Another hot button issue revolves discussion about



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FPC Celebrates Jim & Toni Deaton

The worship service on May 29 was very special. It marked the last official duties of Jim and Toni Deaton, after a combined 50 years of service to FPC as its choir director and organist, respectively. A special celebration of those years of dedication was held in Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. Here are some pictures taken that day and a letter from the Deatons thanking FPC and their many friends here.



Pastor Krista Rasco captured the Deatons, accompanies on the bass guitar by Wally Tucker, (raised, at right) as they practiced with the choir before the worship service began.

To The Congregation of First Presbyterian, Commerce

It is impossible for Toni and me to adequately express our gratitude to the congregation for the wonderful way in which you honored us on May 29th in a celebration of our final music worship service. We were stunned by your generosity and outpouring of love. The gift cards will certainly come in handy on our vacation trip to California and we will cherish the Waterford Crystal Bowl. The framed copy of "Morning Has Broken" from the students in the choir will find a special place in our home. I think we may have received enough bouquets to start our own flower shop.

The barbecue luncheon with all the side dishes was as good as it gets, and like a well known Bible story, there was enough to feed the overflow crowd. We are especially grateful to those who were the "boots on the ground" and got everything organized. We were honored by old friends and former members who came for the occasion.

It has been a wonderful fifty years with the choir for Toni and me. We started in the choir as singers, and circumstances eventually put us in the positions of leaders of the music program. The congregation has been

(Continued on next page)

To the Congregation *(Continued from previous page)*

incredibly supportive of our efforts, and we sincerely appreciate the many ways that support has been manifested. When we joined the choir it was a strong group led by Dr. Neill Humfeld. Toni and I have done our best to keep that tradition alive.

In closing, please know that we are profoundly grateful to this church which adopted us when we were just students many years ago and has continued to nurture and support us ever since.

May God continue to bless this church.

We love you!

Jim and Toni Deaton



Brenda Estes captured Jim (above with Jim Calvert) and Toni at the family table (at left) as she talked with Nancy McFarland.



Additions to the FPC Prayer List

Preston Helton, the grandson of **Jan Helton**, is the latest addition to the FPC prayer list. The four-year-old has been diagnosed with a lymphoma and will be undergoing treatment.

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		Pat Skauge
Nila McQuary		Lillian Selvaggi
Family of Scott Williams		Missy Burns
Family of Dan Jones		Mildred Miller
Amanda Swanson	Gaye Furry	Family of Jean Follis
Preston Helton		

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

June Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 5** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Psalm 146
- 12** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus to be determined by guest preacher
- 19** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus to be determined by guest preacher
- 26** Morning Worship Service, 10:50 p.m.
Sermon focus to be determined by guest preacher

Other June events

- 8 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting
- 18-25**—222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Portland, Oregon
- 26 Sunday, noon**—SCAMP meeting
- 28 Tuesday, 5 p.m.**—Food Pantry Meeting

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



Update on Commerce Food Pantry

From CFP Board President Isabel Davis

The Food Pantry has operated without **Dennis White** for 11 weeks. Dennis is sorely missed. He did everything! He was there for stocking every Wednesday and was in charge every Thursday when the clients came for food. He spoke at local organizations, wrote requests for funding, and ramrodded the application for 501(c)(3) non-profit status. The Pantry received over \$2700 in memorial contributions that recognized the impact Dennis had on this important community service. In the wake of Dennis' death a lot of changes had to be made in order to keep going.

The Board of Directors has been enlarged from seven to 11 members. New officers were elected. **Isabel Davis** is President, **Sandra Medrano** is Vice President/Pantry Manager, **Jane Cox** and **Angela Roberts** are co-Treasurers, and **Betty Bedgood** is Secretary. Other board members are **Paula Blow**, **Lamar Bridges**, **Lisa Jones**, **Bob Monday**, **Jim Norwood**, **Neva Young**, and alternate member **Sherry Chennault**.

A new bank account is being opened at Inwood Bank with funds from the First Presbyterian Church special account for the Commerce Food Pantry. The Board meets the 4th Tuesday of every month.

In the meantime, the Food Pantry has been open every Thursday from 2-4 p.m.. **Neal Stewart** has picked up the food order from Brookshire's on Wednesday mornings. **Jim Norwood**, **Jim Rhodes**, and others including **Sandra Medrano**, **Richard Smith**, **Walt Davis**, **Krista Rasco**, and **Isabel Davis** helped stock the pantry.

Some of our Thursday volunteers stepped up to work extra hours to serve the people of Commerce

and the surrounding area who are short of food on a regular basis. Volunteers include **Lisa Jones**, **Lee Riddle**, **Jim Norwood**, **Sandra Medrano**, **Pinky Guthrie**, **Helon Razniak**, **Martha Clevenger**, **Todd Klieboer**, **Angela Kleiboer**, **Sherry Chennault**, **Angela Roberts**, **Walt** and **Isabel Davis**, **Dean Calvert**, and occasional students from TAMU-C. It takes five people each Thursday. More volunteers are always needed. Approximately nine volunteers from the First Baptist Church fill bags for purchase at Brookshire's grocery store. **Roger McKenzie** keeps track of money and food donations to the pantry and writes many, many thank-you notes. **Susan White** has kept Food Pantry financial records in addition to her FPC duties.

Now that the pantry has its 501(c)(3) non-profit status, we are in the process of looking into ordering food from the North Texas Food Bank. The earliest we can apply is in the Fall with ordering beginning in January 2017 if the board approves. On June 28, we will meet to do some long-range planning. **Walt Davis** will facilitate the meeting to set some goals and identify the steps we must take to reach them.

Thanks to everyone who volunteers, makes donations, goes the extra mile, and keeps the pantry in your thoughts and prayers.

***The Good News* is currently published twice a month. The next edition will be sent out on Friday, June 17.**

If you have something to submit for that edition, please get it to the church office no later than Wednesday, June 15.



Summer Pictures

Got a picture you would like to share. Send it to us. Even if it wasn't taken in summer, we'll pretend it was.



Straight from the Deaton's garden is this picture of a beautiful hibiscus.



Here's a souvenir was an Italian vacation taken by the Selvaggi's—a Pope towel. He not only breaks bread, he now keeps it warm!

While the picture at right may look like **Lily Selvaggi** is in the middle of lambing season, the Selvaggi family is beginning the summer with a new Great Pyrenees puppy named Alexander Hamilton. They found him at the pound, partially paralyzed after a run-in with a goat, but he has made a full recovery and is busy driving the Selvaggi family crazy—in a good way, of course. The Selvaggi family would also like to credit (or blame!) **Helon Razniak** for starting this since she too has a charming Great Pyrenees puppy.



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fossil fuels, our use of them and whether it would be wise to advocate for cutting back on their use. This issue will include discussion about global warming and our use or stewardship of God's creation.

There are many other issues, including but not limited to, the number of synods we have, the make up of the General Assembly offices, and discussion around the results of a churchwide listening effort in which there were 3,427 participants.

You can find out more, and even the details of all the overtures at the 222nd General Assembly at www.pc-biz.org. That website will contain more than you ever want to know. You can also keep up to date on news at oga.pcusa.org or through *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazine. Two years ago I kept up with the most recent news by following #GA221 (this year it will be #GA222) on Twitter.

I am also planning on doing a "daily check-in" by video every day while Im at GA in Portland and plan to give a report when I get back. So be watching our website and facebook page for those live updates!

Please pray with me and thousands of others for the commissioner, advisory delegates, alternates, staff, workers, and representatives who will be busy praying and working for the church during the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, Oregon.

I will leave you with these words by Anne Lamotte, from her book *Traveling Mercies*, as you and your loved ones are busy traveling this summer: "*Traveling mercies: love the journey, God is with you, come home safe and sound.*"

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Krista Rasco

First Presbyterian Church
Staff, Session, and Committees

Staff

Pastor Rev. Krista Rasco
Clerk of Session Wally Tucker
Music Director
Pianist David Vergara
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-Chairs Wendell Linton
Rick Selvaggi

Stewardship and Finance:

Chair Jordan Conner
Co-chair Scott Stewart

Personnel:

Chair Wally Tucker
Co-Chairs Brenda Estes

Bible Readings for this Sunday and Next Sunday

**This Sunday (June 5) is the
Third Sunday After Pentecost**

Old Testament: 1 Kings 17: 8-16 (17-24) *The
Widow of Zarephath / Elijah Revives the
Widow's Son*

New Testament: Galatians 1:11-24 *Paul's
Vindication of His Apostleship*

Gospel: Luke 7:11-17 *Jesus Raises the Widow's Son
of Nain*

Psalter (and sermon focus): Psalm 146 *Praise for
God's Help*

**Next Sunday (June 12) is the
Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Note: These are the lectionary reading for June 12.
However, because we will have a guest pastor, they may or
may not be the readings for our worship service.*

Old Testament: 1 Kings 21:1-21a *Naboth's
Vineyard / Elijah Pronounces God's
Sentence*

Psalter: Psalm 5:1-8 *Trust in God for
Deliverance from Enemies*

Epistle: Galatians 2:15-21 *Jews and Gentiles Are
Saved by Faith*

Gospel: Luke 7:36-8:3 *A Sinful Woman Forgiven
/ Some Women Accompany Jesus*

FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com.

*Jason Rasco
caught the
congregation
in a rare
moment.
Everyone
was paying
attention at
the same
time!*



June Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

3 - Brian Miguel Majera
5 - Eric Clevenger
7 - Mason Howard
8 - Sean McIntier
8 - Carol Lee Parrish
10 - Rebecca Dickerson
11 - Robert (Bob) Johnson Jr.
13 - Walt Davis
16 - Linda Roosevelt
25 - Keith McFarland
27 - Deborah Deaton Wells
27 - Joyce McCord
30 - Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

Happy Anniversary to:

8 – Amber & Jay Porterfield
12 – Nancy & Keith McFarland

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.

June Worship Leaders

June 5

Host Elder:..... Martha Clevenger
Head Usher:..... Rick Selvaggi
Candle Lighter: Jack Walker
Liturgist: Tina Selvaggi
Elements: Helon Razniak

June 12

Head Usher:..... Wendell Linon
Candle Lighter: Carrigan Oats
Liturgist: Barbara Tucker

June 19

Head Usher:..... Bob Johnson
Candle Lighter: Cal Conner
Liturgist: Martha Clevenger

June 26

Head Usher:..... Nancy McFarland
Candle Lighter: Sally Walker
Liturgist: Keith McFarland



It is a wonderful thing that God loves us. Although with all this rain, I wonder if He would consider spreading it around a little more.