

The Good News

MID-MONTH EDITION

No. 12

June 15, 2017

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

What Does It Mean to Be a Veteran?

If you are not a veteran, the answer to that question will be hard to pin down. If you are a veteran, the answer that question may still be very hard to pin down.

There is, of course, no one answer. Every veteran is different. The best way to find out is to ask a veteran—a lot of them.

But as a group, these are the facts.

Veterans have served their country. They have given a significant and meaningful part of their life in service to you and I. In serving, a great many have seen things that you and I will never see—good and bad things. A great many have sacrificed much.

Veterans are a community—a band of brothers and sisters, who, like most of us, tear up at a patriotic event or at a military funeral. But at those things, while we non-veterans are being touched, they are being reminded of their service, of fellow veterans known and unknown with whom they share something special. Our tears are inspired by the moment. Theirs come from a well-spring deep within of shared memories and emotions.

Unless they are wearing a uniform or an old service cap or something else that is readily identifiable as military, you probably won't be able to tell when you pass by a veteran. They come in all shapes and sizes, are affected by all kinds of different circumstances. But know that you pass them and they pass you each day. These are people to whom we all owe a debt.

Be mindful of all veterans—those you know and those “incognito” veterans you encounter. Give them the respect they deserve and be thankful always for their service.



Honor FPC's Veterans

On Wednesday, June 28, at 6 p.m., the FPC Membership Committee is sponsoring a Hot Dog Dinner to honor our veterans.

Please come and bring a side dish or a dessert. The committee will provide hot dogs and buns.

Get ready for SCAMP 2017!

FPC's third SCAMP (Summer Creative Art & Music Camp) will be held July 17-21. The SCAMP program features art, instrument, choir, movement, and drama instruction for kids who have completed kindergarten through the fifth grade. It is limited to 40 students.

Hours are 9 a.m. to noon. The registration fee of \$20 includes a SCAMP t-shirt and lunch each day. Some scholarships are available. If you would like to register your child call the church secretary at 903-886-3783 to get information or come by at the church office (1216 Monroe Street in Commerce) between 9:15 a.m. through 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Once SCAMP is filled, registration will end.



Summer Lunch Program Off to a Good Start

The United Way of Hunt County's Summer Lunch Program at FPC is off to a good start.

Numbers are up in the program's second year here, averaging almost eight children per day.

Program coordinator **Bettina Zvanut** said she was pleased with the turnout so far.

"I also want to thank **Susan Reeves and Brenda Estes** for helping with the program," she said.

"**Jane Cox and Dean Calvert** will also be helping while I'm on vacation."

Lunches are delivered to FPC and served here Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, beginning through Aug. 3.

Children 18 years old and younger will be served on a first come, first served basis as long as the meals are available.

There is no cost and no enrollment is required.

Upcoming Events at FPC

- **Monday, June 19, 9 a.m.**—Planning meeting for the officers of the Presbyterian Women's Circle. A kitchen cleanup will follow.
- **Tuesday, June 27, 5 p.m.**— Food Pantry board meeting. This is a special two-hour training meeting (related to the North Texas Food Bank) open to volunteers and anyone interested. Pizza will be served. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Isabel Davis or Angela Roberts so there will be enough food on hand.

Thirty Hygiene Kits Assembled

On June 11 during the worship service, the congregation helped put together 28 hygiene kits. Since then two more have been assembled. These kits, for individuals to use for personal hygiene after a disaster, will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Hymn of the Month

Page 280 — *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*





Newsmakers

FPC's **Keith McFarland** gave an explosive talk to the Commerce Rotary Club on May 24. His timely and thorough presentation on the secret development and ultimate use of the atomic bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II was thought provoking. His detailed description of the utter destruction those bombs wreaked on the population of those cities was a much needed reminder and a warning that the use of such weapons now and in the future should be avoided at all costs.

Keith's picture and a description of his presentation was printed in the June 1 issue of *The Commerce Journal*.



FPC's **Ann Julian and Helon Razniak**, both members of the Louise Drake Garden Club, were a part of the Arbor Day Celebration at the Commerce Library recently. Ann is the garden club's Arbor Day chairman and Helon is on her committee. Together, they presented, on behalf of the garden club, two contributions to the library—Howard Garrett's book *Texas Trees* and a \$100 donation.

Ann wrote the story of the event, which was captured photographically for the June edition of *The Commerce Connection*, the monthly publication of the Commerce Chamber of Commerce.



Another story in that edition, also written by Ann, was about the Northeast Hunt County Chapter of Retired Teachers. It noted two contributions at the group's recent meeting, a financial one of \$100 given to TAMUC for student scholarships and an entertaining contribution by FPC's **David and Bettina Zvanut**—a slide presentation of their trip to Italy.

David and his art assistant (**Bettina**) also made news in May in a different locale—Colorado. David won a contest which had the dynamic art duo placing his sculpture "*Iron Tree*" in Wrangler Park in Castle Rock, Colorado, after Memorial Day.



Last, but not least, is the most recent newsmaker, FPC's **Bob Johnson**. His letter to the editor was published in the June 15 edition of *The Commerce Journal*. It's topic, inspired in part by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, was a list of 15 dreams—the "*Confessions of a Dreamer*."

Each was inspiring of itself. The final one was "I dream of a day when children will grow up in a psychological, educational, and ecologically safe and friendly environment."



Iron Tree in its new location in Castle Rock's Wrangler Park.

News From Other Sources



Grace Presbytery e-News

Click on the following link to see the latest [Grace eNews](#). You find information about Philippines Mission Co-Worker Cathy Chang, who is visiting Grace Presbytery from June 9-23.

You can also learn about Commissioned Elder Training, how to apply for New Church Leadership Financial Grants, and an upcoming Sacred Music and Worship Summer Workshop (a workshop for clergy, musicians, and laypersons).

In addition, there are resources for learning about the Reformation (which has its 500th anniversary this year and youth activities

Of special note, considering our recent mission emphasis, is a call (under the "Wanted" section) for local mission teams to help people in the Garland and Rowlett areas who were impacted by tornadoes.

Presbyterians Today

The June edition of the magazine *Presbyterians Today* has an interesting article in it by Charles Wiley about prosperity gospel. No matter where you stand on this controversial topic, you might want to take a look. Click on the following link to read ["What Presbyterians Believe: Blessed!"](#)

Upcoming Bible Readings

Sunday (June 18) Is the Second Sunday after Pentacost

Epistle: Romans 5:1-8 *Results of Justification*

Psalter: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 *Thanksgiving for Recovery from Illness*

Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:15 *The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few / The Twelve Apostles / The Missions of the Twelve*

Old Testament (and sermon focus): Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 *A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah / The Birth of Isaac*

Sunday (June 25) Is the

Third Sunday after Pentacost

Epistle: Romans 6:1b-11 *Dying and Rising with Christ*

Psalter: Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 *Supplication for Help Against Enemies*

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39: *Coming Prosecutions / Whom to Fear / Not Peace, but a Sword*

Old Testament (and sermon focus): Genesis 21:8-21 *Hagar and Ismael Sent Away*



Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

Remember to help out the food pantry with a donation of food each Sunday.

1st Sunday—Peanut butter

2nd Sunday—Bag of pinto beans and/or rice

3rd Sunday—Can of chili or beef stew

4th Sunday—Can of tuna, spam, chicken

The House of Hope Food Pantry in Cooper and some local home gardeners have been responsible for a plentiful supply of fresh fruits and vegetables (pictured at left) that have greatly increased the variety of food available at the Commerce Food Pantry.

Upcoming Community Events



- **Monday, June 24, 5-8:30 p.m.**—The second **Juneteenth Celebration** in as many years kicks off in Commerce's Ivory Moore Park. Music with DJ Bennie Barrett (The Chosen) and barbecue by Man Man's BBQ in Sherman are featured, along with the event's special guest speaker Billy Scott, who grew up in the Norris Community here. All are invited.
 - **Saturday, July 1, 6-10 p.m.**—**Celebrate Independence Day** at the Eddie Moore Sports Complex in Centennial Park. There will be live music, food concessions, and activities for kids. Of course, there will be fireworks—starting at 9:30 p.m.
 - **Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.**—**Family Night at the Commerce Public Library.** Every Thursday, staff and volunteers will be available for assistance in the areas of GED preparation, homework help, reading for children and adults, computer literacy, e-reader/Overdrive tutorials, and more. There will also be special programs each Thursday.
- June 22, 6-7 p.m.**—**BLOCK Party.** Come play with all kinds of blocks for some constructive fun!
- June 22, 6-8 p.m.**—**Computer Class.** Bring three questions about computers that you need answered! No registration required.
- June 29, 6-8 p.m.**—**German Cooking!** Taste favorite family recipes from Oma's kitchen.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Additions to Prayer List

The family of **Bob Lube** has been added to our prayer list. Mr. Lube died recently after an extended illness. He is the husband of **Toni Deaton's sister Dorcas**. A memorial service for him is being held in Santa Barbara, California, on June 22. Please pray for all those on our list.

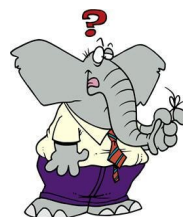
In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Bruce Campbell	Sara Grace Pullen
Melba Blount	Amy Lopez	Billy Marshall	Joe Yeakley
Grace Byrd	Gayle Shumate	Gladys Gray	Pat Skaug
Mildred Miller	Gaye Furry	Preston Helton	Loretta Kibler
Donald R. Smith	Catherine King Robertson	Bennie Neve	Ron Davis
Janice Sigur	Aaron Senne	Jan Burns	Kristen Rueb
Walt Davis	Jordan Moore	Jerry Ann Harris	Kathryn Miller
Joyce McCord	Deryl McKenzie	Janice Hale	Dub Holcomb
The family of Bob Lube			

WANTED

The church is in need of a fireproof, waterproof cabinet. If you have one you would like to donate, please contact Rev. Rasco.

Did We Forget Something?



Maybe we forgot an event you are organizing for FPC or a committee report you wanted to get in The Good News. Whatever it is, let us know. If you forgot, remember to remember next time!