



# THE GOOD NEWS

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

July 2016



## Inside this Edition:

A Message from the Pastor  
PC(USA) Post General Assembly Letter  
Presbyterian Women's News  
Memorial Service  
Meals for Children  
In Our Prayers  
July Calendar Notes  
Food Pantry Items  
PDA Responding to W. Va. Flooding  
Deadlines  
Pictures from the General Assembly  
FPC Staff, Session, Committee Members  
SCAMP Is Coming!  
Bible Readings  
FPC Is Online!  
Talent Search  
Summer Pictures  
July Birthdays and Anniversaries  
July Worship Leaders  
Prepping for Hotdog Supper  
July Birthdays and Anniversaries  
Celebrate the Fourth With Commerce

## 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

Rev. Krista Rasco – Pastor

Email: [revkristarasco@gmail.com](mailto:revkristarasco@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/krista.rasco](http://www.facebook.com/krista.rasco)

Roger McKenzie – Church Secretary

And Editor, *The Good News*

Office: (903) 886-3783

E-presence

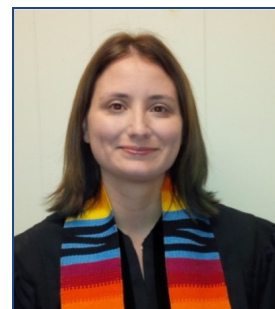
[fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com](mailto:fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/fpccommerce](http://www.facebook.com/fpccommerce)

Website: [www.fpc-commerce.com](http://www.fpc-commerce.com)

## A Message From the Pastor

Dear friends and family  
of FPC-Commerce,



Thank you for allowing me the time and funds to be able to go to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, a bi-annual, national, meeting of the PC(USA), held this year in Portland, Oregon. The city was beautiful, and the public transportation was easy to navigate (although I'm not sure one GA participant didn't get off at the wrong stop at least once).

The GA meeting itself did not stir up too much controversy this year, but not to say that there were not controversial overtures and subjects discussed and voted upon. One such subject, having many overtures presented was on the decision to divest from fossil fuels.

The one thing everyone seems to agree on is that climate change is a reality and needs to be addressed, and that we, as Christians, are called to be good stewards of creation. This is addressed in the very first book and chapters of our Bible (Genesis 1 & 2). The moderator of committee 9, Immigration and Environmental Issues, started her report to the main body late Friday night by stating this agreement.

However, addressing the question, "what is the most faithful and effective Christian response to global climate change?" seems to be the point of contention, as Greg Allen-Pickett in *The Presbyterian Outlook* article, "A tale of two approaches to global climate change: Preview of environmental issues business" states.

The committee, which met earlier in the week, voted to approve divesting, yet, in a turn of events that took place during the plenary session (the main body of GA) a

*Continued on page 5*

## PC(USA) Leaders Issue Post-General Assembly Letter to the Church



*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a new season in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as witnessed by the actions of the 222nd General Assembly (2016). The body of 594 commissioners who gathered June 18-25 in Portland, Oregon, elected Co-Moderators Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, and J. Herbert Nelson as the Stated Clerk. Both were historic, and both signal a new way forward for our church.

The business decisions made by the body also were transformative for the 1,572,660 members and 9,642 churches of the PC(USA). The work wasn't easy, and involved careful deliberations. Collectively, the body acted on nearly 100 overtures by discerning the will of Christ.

Among other things, we now have a new addition to our *Book of Confessions* – the Confession of Belhar. It is the first of our confessions that comes from the global south. And, the PC(USA) has a new Directory for Worship; and Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures. God is truly guiding us to be more faithful and just to all of God's creations.

Much discussion has been taking place around the identity and purpose of the denomination, and this week the assembly voted to create a 12-member Way Forward Commission *“to study and identify a vision for the structure and function of the General Assembly agencies of the PC(USA),”* and a 15-member 2020 Vision Team to *“develop a guiding statement for the denomination and make a plan for its implementation.”*

To quote Stated Clerk-elect J. Herbert Nelson, “We are not dead ... we are alive, we are reforming and we are transforming this world, one person at a time.”

Looking outward, the assembly voted to engage in selective, phased divestment from fossil-fuel companies through the PC(USA)'s Mission Responsibility Through Investment committee, and re-affirmed a two-state solution for Israel-Palestine.

Please know this is only a snapshot of the actions taken, and just a glimpse at where God is leading this denomination. Complete business actions can be viewed at [www.pc-biz.org](http://www.pc-biz.org).

We are, brothers and sisters, in a new season. It's exciting, but also a little scary. Yet in the midst of it all, take comfort that God is still guiding and controlling all – and we need not fear. God is calling us to hope, and to God be the glory!

**The Reverend Gradye Parsons**  
**Stated Clerk of the General Assembly**

**The Reverend Denise Anderson and the Reverend Jan Edmiston**  
**Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016)**

**Ruling Elder Tony De La Rosa**  
**Interim Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency**

For more reporting on what took place at the 222nd General Assembly in Portland,  
go to the website for the *The Presbyterian Outlook*.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### Upcoming Area Events

#### ● **July 21-23—Synod of the Sun PW at FPC-Ft. Worth.**

Both **Bettina Zvanut** and **Toni Deaton** will be attending this conference and will give a report upon their return.

#### ● **September 20, 2016—Introduction to next Bible Study (Who Is Jesus?) written by Judy Siker – hosted by FPC-Ft. Worth, at 10:30 a.m.**

Our circle members have been attending these introduction events each year for a number of years. Lunch (at a cost of \$7 per person) will be provided and reservations are due by Sept. 12.

Plans for a car-pool are underway and will be finalized in early September. All ladies are invited to attend.

### Local Happenings

#### **Lunch for SCAMP attendees:**

Following the example of last year's very successful program, our ladies will be providing lunch for SCAMP students and teachers. Brenda Estes is in charge of the food and is planning a daily menu.

SCAMP will be held Monday through Friday, July 25-29. On the last day, Friday, July 29, parents will be in attendance for the wrap-up activities and will

stay for lunch.

Everyone is asked to help provide food for each day and extra food will be needed on Friday, of course. Walt Davis, Chair of Christian Education and the entire CE committee have been making plans for this for several months. Around 30 students and 15 teachers/helpers participated last year.

#### **PW Circle meetings to Resume in September**

A luncheon, on a Saturday in September, is in the planning stages and will start our calendar year which runs from September through the following August. PW officers will be installed at this time. More information will be available as plans are finalized.

### **Memorial Service for Jim Major**

**James A (Jim) Major**, 55, was a Commerce resident who at one time worked for the Commerce Food Pantry and continued to support it. He died June 23 from injuries incurred in a recent automobile accident.

A long-time friend, Bro. Robert Allen, will officiate a memorial service for him on Saturday, July 2, at 2 p.m. at the Lynch Funeral Home, 4238 State Hwy. 34 South. (between Greenville and Cash.

### ***Meals for Children***

The **Mission Committee** continues to provide United Way lunches to the community with the help of **Helon Razniak, Lilly Selvaggi, Nancy McFarland, Keith McFarland, Matthew McFarland, Martha Clevenger, Brenda Estes, Evie Conner, Cal Conner, Janet Fuller, Eddie Fuller, April Thomas, and Lynda Hammack**. Thanks to all of these volunteers.

This program has drawn a big cross section of volunteers who are very committed to feeding the children in this community.

An unexpected benefit of the program is that on Thursdays, any food not given out has been made available to the clients of the Commerce Food Pantry.

### **In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian**

<b>Our Troops</b>	<b>Diane Little</b>	<b>Gordon Hunter</b>
<b>Jace Carrington</b>	<b>Bruce Campbell</b>	<b>Sara Grace Pullen</b>
<b>Melba Blount</b>	<b>Amy Lopez</b>	<b>Billy Marshall</b>
<b>Joe Yeakley</b>	<b>John Paul Rhodes</b>	<b>Grace Byrd</b>
<b>Gayle Shumate</b>		<b>Gladys Gray</b>
<b>Family of Christopher Cosby</b>		<b>Pat Skauge</b>
<b>Nila McQuary</b>	<b>Family of Scott Williams</b>	
<b>Missy Burns</b>	<b>Family of Dan Jones</b>	<b>Mildred Miller</b>
<b>Amanda Swanson</b>	<b>Gaye Furry</b>	<b>Family of Jean Follis</b>
<b>Preston Helton</b>	<b>Monty Howard</b>	<b>Loretta Kibler</b>
<b>Joyce McCord</b>	<b>Friends and family of Jim Major</b>	

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

### **July Calendar Notes**

There will be no Teach the Preacher, no Session meeting, and no Presbyterian Women's Circle meeting in July.

There will be a SCAMP meeting on July 21 and a Commerce Food Pantry meeting on July 26.

## Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

The Commerce Food Pantry serves as many as 35 different families in need each week—nearly 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**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Is Responding in West Virginia**

***Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.***

**—Song of Songs 8:7**

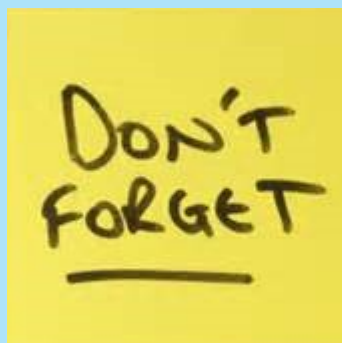
Thoughts, prayers, and relief aid are going out go out to the people of West Virginia in the wake of catastrophic flooding. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has deployed the National Response Team to support the Presbytery of West Virginia and Synod of the Trinity as they begin outreach to those affected.

If you would like to help with a financial donation in this effort, you can do so by [clicking here](#). You'll be taken to the Presbyterian Mission Agency web site.

If you prefer to mail a check, you may send it to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700

You may also call Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (ET), at 1-800-872-3283 and donate by phone.



***The Good News is currently  
published twice a month.***

***The next edition will be  
sent out on Friday, July 15.***

***If you have something to  
submit for that edition,  
please get it to the church office no later than  
Wednesday, July 13.***



*Pictures from the General Assembly . . .*

*At left, attendees filter in the main assembly area for the assembly's opening worship session.*

*Below left, one of the newly elected co-moderators, Denise Anderson, talks with Rev. Rasco and takes time for a picture.*

*Below right, Susan Andrews gives Rev. Rasco a hug. Said Rev. Rasco, she was "the moderator of the 215th General Assembly of which I attended as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) from Mission Presbytery in 2003. I met her on the Max Rail (public transit system I used a lot while in Portland)."*



## **A Message From the Pastor** *Continued from page 1*

minority report from that committee ended up becoming the main motion and passing with over 70% of the vote. This left the PC(USA) deciding not to divest from Fossil Fuel companies, but for the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to "pursue its focused engagement process on climate change issues with all corporations, particularly with those in the oil, gas, and coal sectors, and report back to the 223rd General Assembly (2018) with recommendations, including possible selective divestment."

I realized, trying to write this article, there is a lot that I need to learn, and want to learn about when it comes to being faithful stewards of God's creation and leaving a better world for our children and their children. However, I wonder if divestment is the best option. Are there other, better, maybe more effective options? Is there a way we can better "walk the walk" instead of just "talking the talk"? How can we be better at "focused action" that builds upon all the studying, research, and debate, as individuals, as a small church, and as a large denomination?

What do you think? I would love to hear your thoughts. I hope to keep well informed as this subject matter returns to the 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis, MO in 2018 as a commissioner from Grace Presbytery.

***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 (July 3) is the  
 Seventh Sunday After Pentecost  
 And Communion Sunday**

**Old Testament: 2 Kings 5: 1-14** *The Healing of Naaman*

**Epistle: Galatians 6:1-10** *Bear One Another's Burdens*

**Gospel: Luke 10:1-11; 16-20** *The Mission of the Seventy / The Return of the Seventy*

**Psalter (and sermon focus): Psalm 30** *Praise for God's Help*

**Next Sunday (July 10) is the  
 Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Old Testament: Amos 7:7-17** *Plumb Line / Amaziah Complains to the King*

**Psalter: Psalm 82** *A Plea for Justice*

**Gospel: Luke 10:25-37** *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*

**Epistle (and sermon focus): Colossians 1:1-14**  
*Paul Thanks God for the Colossians*

**FPC Is Online!**

[www.facebook.com/fpccommerce](http://www.facebook.com/fpccommerce)

[www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce](http://www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce)

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

[www.fpc-commerce.com](http://www.fpc-commerce.com)

Summer Creative Art & Music Program

**SCAMP** <sup>2016</sup>  
 For Kids

Is coming this month!!

July 25-29

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed!



**We would  
 like to use them!**

Thanks to all those who help lead worship, our elders and committee members who work to improve FPC, and volunteers who make our events successful.

If you would like to fill a larger role in the life of FPC, please contact Rev. Rasco or someone you see working hard for FPC.



**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.**



*FPC's Jim and Toni Deaton took these pictures while on a recent trip to visit relatives in Santa Barbara, California. At left, Toni visits a bakery in Solvang, a town about 30 miles north of Santa Barbara, which Jim noted is "filled with places to spend money on gifts and food."*

We ran out of room, but we have more summer pictures to show you soon, including one of an alligator you might not believe!

*In the picture at right, Jim stands in a garden area at an old Spanish Mission in Santa Barbara.*

*Needless to say, the trip provided some beautiful sights in addition to the joy of seeing faraway relatives. However, as they prepared to leave, Jim also voiced what has become an all too familiar and tragic sight in California in summer—wildfires.*

*When the picture was taken, he said, "There is a fire burning in the mountains near Santa Barbara that has filled the sky with smoke. Ashes from that fire are falling like a light snow. Our car was covered with ashes this morning."*



## July Worship Leaders

### July 3

Host Elder: ..... Rick Selvaggi  
Head Usher: ..... Nancy McFarland  
Candle Lighter: ..... Jack Walker  
Liturgist: ..... Tina Selvaggi  
Elements: ..... Scott Stewart

### July 10

Head Usher: ..... Bob Johnson  
Candle Lighter: ..... Carrigan Oats  
Liturgist: ..... Wally Tucker

### July 17

Head Usher: ..... Nancy McFarland  
Candle Lighter: ..... Cal Conner  
Liturgist: ..... Keith McFarland

### July 24

Head Usher: ..... Monty Howard  
Candle Lighter: ..... Sally Walker  
Liturgist: ..... Bettina Zvanut

## July Dates to Remember

### ***Happy Birthday to:***

1 - Kent Norwood  
4 - Jennifer Duncan Pierce  
6 - Katy Miller Whitaker  
11 - Lindsey Priest  
15 - Kerri Norwood Costa  
20 - Jeff Towne  
22 - Kylie Towne  
28 - Katherine Harrington  
29 - Dean Calvert  
31 - Jimmy Rhodes

### ***Happy Anniversary to:***

3 - Jody and Joe McIntier  
3 - Sharon & Walter Sanders  
19 - Kay & Ron Davis  
24 - Tina & Rick Selvaggi  
28 - Janet & Danny Duncan

*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.*

## CELEBRATE JULY THE FOURTH WITH COMMERCE

Music, food, kids activities, and fireworks. What better way to celebrate Independence Day?

Activities get underway at 6 p.m. at Centennial Park's Eddie Moore Sports Complex. Fireworks start at 9:30 p.m.



*Bettina Zvanut knows how hardworking and helpful young people can be and she took a picture to prove it. Matthew McFarland, with his grandparents behind him (providing encouragement or instructions), cleans up a spill in the FPC kitchen in preparation of the hot dog supper held June 29 to honor our veterans.*