



The Good News

MID-MONTH EDITION

No. 16

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Change, Don't Be Afraid of It

The year is advancing and change is starting to be upon us. Welcome rain and cooler weather have visited. High temps are still coming, but it won't be long before we leave them behind. Summer activities are ending and fall activities are gearing up. A few examples: schools are preparing to start, which will have its usual big changes on the schedules of lots of people; football practice is underway, which means Friday nights at the high school and Saturdays at the college are coming; and a lot of anticipation is in the air as the city, Chamber of Commerce, and civic organizations prepare for the 2018 Bois d'Arc Bash.

Here at FPC, it is no different. The choir will soon be back. Women's Circle will start a new year's worth of activities, and special events (social and otherwise) will start appearing on the church calendar as the liturgical year continues its countdown to Advent and Christmas.

For some, change is something to look forward to. For others, change may bring some things that are unwanted—disruption, confusion, uneasiness, stress. No matter how you feel about change, two things are certain. Change is constant and it happens to everyone. It is important to remember what the Bible says about change. Here are just a few reminders that change is nothing to be afraid of.

- Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9, NIV)
- ...I will never leave you or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5, NRSV)
- Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV)

You can find your own verses of assurance. Isn't it wonderful to know we have help to cope with whatever change brings us.

If you have a late summer picture to share (your latest visitors, a family reunion, an accomplishment, or an enjoyable vacation you've recently taken) with our readers, email it to: fpc-commerce@embargmail.com along with pertinent information to help us explain who or what is happening.



When was the first woman of color ordained by The United Presbyterian Church (predecessor of the PC (USA))?

Who was it?

Answers: *April 24, 1972,
The Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon*
Dr. Cannon died on Aug. 8, after battling leukemia. She was 68.



Annual Luncheon Kicks off New Year and Celebrates 30th Birthday of PW

By Toni Deaton, moderator

PW of FPC-C will host the annual PW Salad Luncheon at 12 Noon on Saturday, Sept 8, in Fellowship Hall as we start our new year. Since Presbyterian women all across the country will be celebrating the 30th birthday of Presbyterian Women as an official Presbyterian organization, our program for the luncheon will focus on highlights of our history.



Of course, Presbyterian women organizations have played a vital role and been very active in the life of the church for approximately 230 years, but have had various titles through the years. Once called Ladies' Auxiliary, then later United Presbyterian Women or Women of the Church, we are now simply *Presbyterian Women* following the unification of the Northern PC(US) and the Southern PC(USA) in 1988.

All women are invited to attend the luncheon. So, circle September 8 on your calendar, and bring a friend and your favorite salad as you join us for this celebration.

PW 2018-19 Schedule

The Presbyterian Women's Circle has a schedule which is on the bulletin board located in the hallway next to the inside sanctuary entrance.



It lists the study lesson, lesson leader, hostess, and food pantry item to bring for the following dates: Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, and May 13.

All women of FPC are invited to attend these meetings and encouraged to become active members of the Presbyterian Women.



SCAMP is over, but the improvements made to the choir robe room—which was used for music and instrument instruction for the SCAMP kids—will make that room more enjoyable for everyone who uses it from now on. In addition to painting the room, the old draperies on the windows needed replacement.

That's where **Brenda and Ric Estes** took over. Thanks go to both for their combined services in overseeing the replacement of the draperies with new modern, easy to use blinds.

The blinds, which Brenda selected and Ric installed, were paid for with PW funds. With the freshly painted walls and the new blinds, this room is looking 100% better. Thanks to all who assisted with this much-needed improvement.



Jim Estes pauses to allow a picture to be taken as he works on installing new blinds to the room's two windows. The blinds when fully closed still let diffused light into the room. They are easily opened with one hand and can be set to any desired opening.



In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops
Melba Blount
Gayle Shumate
Preston Helton
Jan Burns
Jean Angotti
Bob Wilkins
Kristen Anderson

Gordon Hunter
Amy Lopez
Gladys Gray
Catherine King Robertson
Audrey Hucks
Jim Calvert
Joe Dipiazza
Family of Freda Lambert

Bruce Campbell
Joe Yeakley
Mildred Miller
Bennie Neve
Larry Ratliff
Tammi Fucci
Deryl McKenzie
Nancy Smith

Sara Grace Pullen
Grace Byrd
Gaye Furry
Ron Davis
Jack Gray
Adele Reeves
Danny Spruel
Petra Strassberg

Additions to Prayer List

We've had several recent additions to the FPC Prayer List.

So recent that it didn't make the Sunday bulletin for Aug. 19, is the addition of **Petra Strassberg**, who has requested prayers.

Since our last news letter, **Nancy Smith** has been added to our list. She is recovering from knee surgery.



Jim Calvert has been on our list, but he recently had several stents put in. All went well and he is back home recovering from the surgery.

Please continue to pray for all those (and their families) on our list.

Rally Day and Ice Cream Social

Coming in September

Mark your calendars for two always special events that will be coming to FPC in September.

On **Sunday, Sept. 9**, we continue our custom of blessing backpacks and other tools for success during the worship service. **Rally Day** is both a recognition and a prayer for God's blessings as our children are back in school. Please feel free to bring items to be blessed.



But also remember to come early because the **Christian Education Committee** is getting things off to a great start with **breakfast at 9 a.m.** If you would like to help, there will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary starting soon. Enjoy the food and be sure to thank its members for their efforts.



The very next Sunday at 6 p.m., the **Membership Committee** presents its yummy **Ice Cream Social**. You may be asked to help with some items. If you aren't, but want to help, contact **Brenda Estes**.

Assisting with Worship

The following people are assisting with worship the next two Sundays.

August 19

Head Usher: **Bob Johnson**
 Candle Lighter: **TBD**
 Liturgist: **Keith McFarland**

August 26

Head Usher: **Monty Howard**
 Candle Lighter: **TBD**
 Liturgist: **Nancy Green**

Please remember to let our worship leaders know how much you appreciate them. If you would like to help with worship in some capacity, please contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

Prayer Requests for FPC Sought

We pray each week for people around us. Our prayer list is ever changing, but always a reminder that people are in need of our prayers.

But how about another church praying for FPC? That's what Westminster Presbyterian Church is doing this week. Pastor Kate McGee sent FPC a letter (it is on our bulletin board) letting us know that her church prays for a different Grace Presbytery church each week. This week, it is us.

You can send them specific prayer requests for FPC to kate@wpcarlinton.org or call their office at 817-460-3841.





FPC in Action

Hymn Sing

If you weren't here on July 29, you missed out on a very special Hymn Sing worship service that featured FPC's own Jim Deaton and his music partner, Joe Knight.



Newsmakers

The **Selvaggi family** is having some great excitement right about now. We'll let Tina Fletcher Selvaggi tell it in her own words.

"Our nephew Ryan Selvaggi will playing his first international Little League baseball game tonight (Friday, Aug. 17)!

We are on the way up to Pennsylvania to see him play. Ryan is the son of Rick's brother Ross. He's been to church many times. I know some of the church members were asking us about this because they had seen Ryan on TV. He's 12 years old."

What Tina didn't say was just how good Ryan is. She included a picture of him in a *Williamsport Sun-Gazette* story about the top 10 U.S. players to watch.

By blowing up the picture (shown with Ryan circled at right), we can show you what the writer wrote about Ryan. Here's what he said.

"Tall, explosive and versatile, Selvaggi displayed his entire arsenal at the Southwest Regional. The sweet-swinging 12-year-old hit .500 in four games,

slamming two home runs, driving in four runs and scoring eight times. He also stole two bases and played flawless defense whether he was pitching, playing third base or roaming center field. As good as he is offensively, Selvaggi might be even better on the mound. The hard-throwing right-hander threw four no-hit innings in an 8-0 regional championship win and also threw a six-inning perfect game during districts. Selvaggi struck out nine in four innings against Oklahoma in the final and finished regionals 2-0 with a 0.00 ERA and 16 strikeouts in 9 1/3 innings. He also allowed just two hits.



Upcoming Community Events



You are invited to attend a **free cooking class** led by **Kelly Current**, a registered dietitian and gourmet chef on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon at the First United Methodist Church on State Highway 24 in Commerce. The focus will be on summer vegetables and compatible meats. You may even learn some new cooking techniques.

This class has been organized and sponsored by C-CAP, under the direction of its president, FPC's own **Robert (Bob) E. L. Johnson, Jr.**

Some information and a sign-up sheet has been added to the church bulletin board. If you still have questions about the class, call Bob at 903-468-2659.

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Make Your Connection is a TAMUC campus event and a mission opportunity that FPC will be a part of on Monday, Aug. 27, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Contact Rev. Rasco if you want to help.



- ♦ Information and a sign-up sheet for a C-CAP sponsored free cooking class taught by Kelly Current, a registered dietitian and trained gourmet chef. Look for more information in the Upcoming Community Events section of this newsletter.

- ♦ The 2018-19 Presbyterian Women's Circle schedule of regular monthly meetings. Look on the hallway bulleting board next to the inside sanctuary entrance.

- ♦ A letter from Hunt County Shared Ministries thanking FPC for its April donation of \$350.

- ♦ A letter from Westminster Presbyterian Church to FPC letting us know that they are praying for each church in Grace Presbytery. This week their prayers are for us and seeking prayer requests!

Upcoming Bible Readings

**Sunday (Aug. 19) Is the
13th Sunday after Pentacost**

Old Testament: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 *Death of David / Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom*

Psalter: Psalm 111 *Praise for God's Wonderful Works*

Gospel: John 6:51-58 *The Bread from Heaven*

Epistle: (and sermon focus): Ephesians 5:15-20
Renounce Pagan Ways

**Sunday (Aug. 26) Is the
14th Sunday after Pentacost**

Old Testament: 1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43 *Solomon's Prayer of Dedication*

Psalter: Psalm 84 *The Joy of Worship in the Temple*

Gospel: John 6:56-69 *The Bread from Heaven / The Words of Eternal Life*

Epistle: (and sermon focus): Ephesians 6:10-20
The Whole Armor of God

FPC Is Online!

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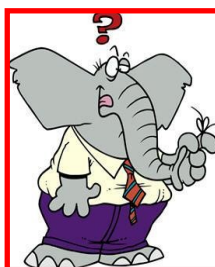
<https://twitter.com/fpcccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com.

**Deadline for the September
newsletter is Aug. 29!**

If you have something, send it in!

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!