



THE GOOD NEWS

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

September 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 FPC family and friends,

Do you remember your "Star Word" you received from the worship service back in January celebrating Epiphany? The word I received was "play". I was disappointed in my word because I knew it would be a difficult one for me.

It may seem like having a four year old would make me good at it, but I'm not. I have to purposely "work" at playing if it gets included in my life. It may have seemed I played a lot this summer. Some of it was really fun and a lot of it was work with fun mixed in. I have to say I ended my summer feeling exhausted for so many reasons, including personal ones as well as work.

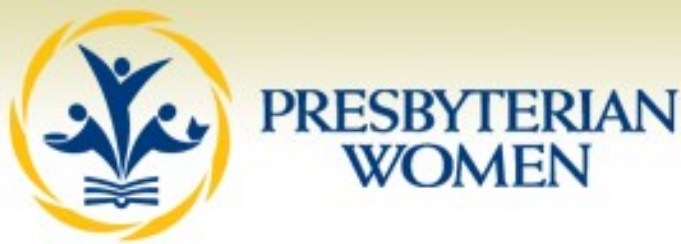
Then I thought about taking a class at the University of Texas A&M –Commerce. I decided on Introduction into Ceramics with Professor Barbara Frey (who attends our church). The class sounded fun, engaging, and challenging (my type of fun)! However, I can't just leave it at just having fun. I'm also taking it to try and find better connections between the community of Commerce, our church, and the university.

Having had the first class this past Tuesday, I'm excited about the course. Taking this course makes me feel like the start of this class, and the start of September, means a new beginning for me. Sometimes we can all use a new beginning or a new start. Luckily, we are of a faith that encourages and believes in such events!

Not only does September represent a new school year, or a new start I have also deemed it a month of creativity and play! Therefore, I'm excited to share that for the month of September (and if it goes well I may extend it

(Continued on page 3)





Officers of FPC's PW Circle met on Monday, Aug. 29, to approve the budget and to make plans for our next year which begins Sept. 1, 2016.

Several PW events are scheduled in the next few weeks and all women are invited to participate in them.

- On **Saturday, Sept. 10, at Noon in Fellowship Hall**, we will hold our annual **Fall Luncheon**. All women are invited to "bring a dish and bring a guest" and enjoy a brief program.

- On **Monday, Sept. 12, at 10a.m. in Fellowship Hall** we will begin our new Horizons Bible study entitled *Who Is Jesus: What a Difference a Lens Makes*. **Jane Cox** will present the first lesson which reflects who Jesus is according to the earliest Gospel, the Gospel of Mark. **Helon Razniak** is hostess. All women are invited.

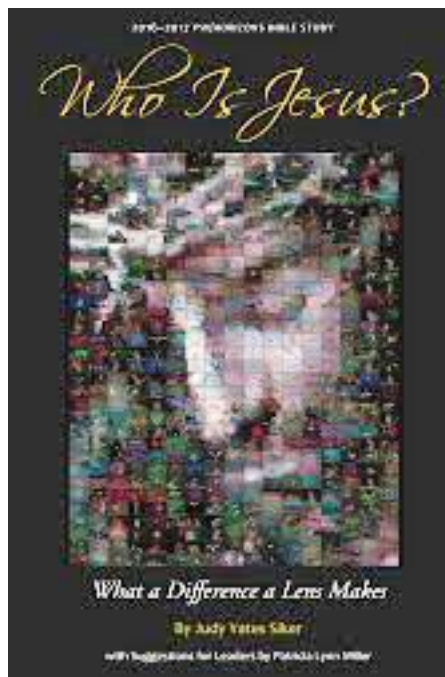
- On **Tuesday, September 20**, ladies from our Circle will be driving to FPC-Ft. Worth to hear guest speaker **Judy Siker**, the author of our current Bible study. The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.

We will leave from the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

Members of our Circle have been attending this special presentation sponsored by FPC-Ft. Worth for at least six years.

If you are interested in attending, please call Toni Deaton. Lunch will be served at a cost of \$7 per person.

Lynda Richey, PW Moderator of FPC-Ft. Worth, said, "Judy Yates Siker teaches New Testament at



Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA. She is much sought after as a speaker and a leader of spiritual retreats. Judy (in her Bible study) will guide us in learning about Jesus as he is seen through the eyes of each of the four Gospel writers as well as through the eyes of Paul, the author of Hebrews, and other sources. This is a fresh and eye-opening approach to the Person we call Lord and Savior. Those who have come in the past will testify about how much this 'morning with the author' helps your circle studies throughout the year."

- On **Monday, Oct. 10, at 10 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall, our PW Circle will meet to discuss the second lesson of the Horizons Bible study, through the lens of the Gospel According to Matthew. **Toni Deaton** is the leader and **Brenda Estes** is hostess. All women are invited.

- **Grace Presbytery's PW Fall Gathering** (which includes all the PW circles in the presbytery, will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 15**, at **Flower Mound Presbyterian Church**, in Flower Mound. The meeting is from 9 a.m.– 2 p.m., with registration at 8:30. Lunch will cost \$8.

The Keynote Speaker is **Rev. Angie Mabry-Nauta**, the Development Officer at Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Tex. Several of us met her at last year's Fall Gathering at Preston Hollow PC -Dallas.

"It will be a blessing to share with PW sisters in Christ about this 104-years-old-and-counting mission that blends evangelism and education for high school age youth," she said of her presentation.

We will leave the church parking lot here around 7:15 a.m. Please call Toni if you would like to go.

New FPC Photo and Address Directory Underway

For three weeks in August, forms were inserted into the FPC worship bulletin to help congregation members help us by providing information for an updated and on-line church directory.

A lot of information has already come in and the process of putting the directory together has begun. When it is finished you will be able to get an electronic or a printed version, whichever you prefer.

If you haven't filled out a form, you can get one from the church office or go online to fill it out yourself at www.fpc-commerce.com.

Did You Know? Designated Gifts Help FPC

By Bettina Zvanut

There are several opportunities available at First Presbyterian Church for designated gifts. At times, members make charitable contributions because they have been blessed, or as a memorial for someone they love or respect.

There are four designated funds designed for gifts to the church. They are: **Choir**, **Scholarship**, **Technology for the Sanctuary**, and **SCAMP**. Each is a worthwhile mission for the church.

The **Choir Fund** helps support the director, members, and University students. New music and care for the organs, and pianos can come from this fund.

The Scholarship Fund is through the University, and the Session directs the money to members of the church or to students attending the church.

The **Technology for the Sanctuary Fund** would help provide screens and more to update our sanctuary. It is a new fund which already has attracted a donation, and is viewed as an adjunct to the bulletin for use in worship, at funerals and weddings, and for Bible study.

The **SCAMP Fund** is used to support and grow SCAMP, an important mission that seeks to engage the children of the town in Christian music and art projects.

Pastor Krista and I hope this information will be helpful to the members in the coming years as they try to further the success of this church through designated giving.



LITTLE LIBRARY COMING TO FPC—We reported on this a little earlier, but thought you would like to see a picture of what a little library looks like. The Mission and Evangelism Committee has commissioned a little library to be placed on the church grounds on Monroe Street. The committee hopes that our members will donate children's books to be taken and read by children in the neighborhood. It will be built by United Way in Greenville.



A Message From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

into October), I will be doing a sermon and worship series based on the books of Dr. Seuss.

Don't forget that on September 11th we will kick off the new school year with Rally Sunday. We will have a breakfast and short presentation during the Sunday School hour (9:30 a.m.) and during worship we will do a blessing of the backpacks (or purses/totes/golf bags/whatever you would like to bring to be blessed). So come to worship and help me as I endeavor to include a little "playing" in worship this next month.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Krista Rasco

P.S. If you have any great stories that involve your "Star Word" please share them with me and consider having your story published in our newsletter!



It is still officially summer, believe it or not.



FPC members were had a large presence at TAMUC recently at the "Update Your Network" event for freshmen. **Pastor Krista Rasco**, who was busy meeting students and promoting our church, caught some of the FPCer's at different tables during the Aug. 29 event. Pictured at top, left, is **Janet Duncan** helping out a little potential customer. Could that be **Kaitlynn Rasco**? Above right, **Bob Johnson** and **Bettina Zvanut** help register voters at the C-CAP table. In the middle row at left, **Petra Strassberg** and **Kaitlynn** help at the FPC table, while below, **Sherry Johnson** and a helper provide information about lodging.



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



FPC's **Neal Stewart** made Aug. 25 edition of *The Commerce Journal* as he is one of three outstanding Commerce High School graduates who, along with a former Commerce High School football coach, make up the Class of 2016 inductees into the Commerce ISD Hall of Honor. The four will be inducted on Sept. 9 at the CISD Administration Building.

The criteria for selection include accomplishments while in CISD and beyond.

Joining Stewart in being honored are Commerce High School football coach and athletic director, Steve Lineweaver; Sharice Henry Chasi, a talented athlete and award winning UIL actress while at CHS; and Dr. Jerry Lytle, a gifted athlete and senior class president. All were highlighted in an article published in *The Commerce Journal* on Aug. 25.

Neal's list of accomplishments include leadership positions and football while in CISD, distinguished service in the Army National Guard (which included being mobilized for the Cuban Missile Crisis), a degree in industrial technology at ETSU, followed by an impressive list of career accomplishments in human relations positions with several nationally known businesses. Along the way, he also served in community leadership positions, including stints as president of the Commerce Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, and the Northeast Texas Hereford Association. He has also been a board member of the United Way.

At FPC, Neal continues to be active in many areas, including helping with worship in various capacities and with the Commerce Food Pantry. Plus,

he is just a nice guy!

Congratulations to **Neal Stewart**, CISD Hall of Honor Inductee!

Behind the Scenes at Welcome Back Luau

FPC's **Bob Johnson**, president of the Commerce Community Action Program, was a big force behind the Welcome Back Luau at TAMUC held Aug. 26. One of its goals was to introduce students to Commerce merchants at the event.

According to Bob, having local businesses mix with students will hopefully lessen what he calls the "weekend exodus" of students from Commerce.

Commerce Food Pantry Needs Your Help

The Commerce Food Pantry is in need of more volunteers on Thursdays.

"We need both in-take interviewers and grocery packers," said **Isabel Davis**. "The hours are 1:45 - 4:15 p.m."

"We have recently lost some regular volunteers and need to replenish our crew."

"We are serving an average of 30 families per week. We are also in need of funds to purchase food. We will gladly take any food donations as well."

"Interested people can call me at 903-886-2711 or send me an email at widavis7@gmail.com



FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpcccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpcccommerce

<https://twitter.com/fpcccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com

Odeana Stewart Hospitalized

Odeana Stewart is the latest addition to the FPC prayer list. She recently suffered a bad fall (fractured hip and broken pelvis). She was initially at the Medical Center of Plano (on 15th Street) where doctors treated her as they planned the best recovery options for her.

She has since been transferred to the Hunt Regional Rehabilitation Unit where she will continue her recovery.

Please pray for her and Neal as she begins her healing and recovery.

Also please pray for all those on our list, for a good start to the school year, and for our country and people around the world who are suffering.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Jace Carrington
Bruce Campbell	Sara Grace Pullen	Melba Blount
Amy Lopez	Billy Marshall	Joe Yeakley
John Paul Rhodes	Grace Byrd	Gayle Shumate
Gladys Gray	Pat Skauge	Missy Burns
Mildred Miller	Amanda Swanson	Gaye Furry
Preston Helton	Loretta Kibler	Joyce McCord
Joan Walvoord	Brad Rollins	
Family and friends of Diane Little		Burnie Burns
Odeana Stewart		

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

Upcoming Community Events



GriefShare Resumes in September

The GriefShare group hosted by First Baptist Church of Commerce will begin its Fall 2016 semester on Monday

night, Sept. 12, from 6-8 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

This nondenominational grief support/recovery curriculum focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Each DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small-group discussion.

GriefShare will be held every Monday night this fall at 6 p.m. beginning Sept 12. Most sessions last two hours. For more information about the course, call Jim or Teena Ayres at 903-886-8600.

Other GriefShare groups in this area meet this fall on Wednesday nights at First Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs; Thursday nights at Highland Terrace Baptist Church, Greenville; and Sunday nights at East Paris Baptist Church.

See www.GriefShare.org for information on the

GriefShare program and also for valuable resources for anyone experiencing grief.



The 28th class of the Commerce Leadership Institute (CLI) will hold its annual BBQ fundraiser as part of the Bois d'Arc Bash on Friday, September 23, at 5:00 p.m. on the square in downtown Commerce. A \$5 ticket purchased in advance will get you a BBQ brisket sandwich, chips, cookies, and bottled water. The ticket price on the square is \$6.

CLI is also taking group orders for lunch delivery on that Friday to Texas A&M University-Commerce and to local businesses, churches, and school campuses.

\$5 advance tickets are available anytime online at www.CLIBBQ.com and during business hours at either State Farm Insurance (1500 Live Oak Street) or Guaranty Bank & Trust (1108 Park Street). For more information or to ask about group orders for lunch delivery, e-mail sales@CLIBBQ.com.

Mark Your Calendar! Commerce's annual Bois d'Arc Bash is Sept. 23-24!

First Presbyterian Church
Staff, Session, and Committees

Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Krista Rasco
 Clerk of Session.....Wally Tucker
 Music Director.....Kim Nolen Wheelock
 Pianist.....David Vergara
 Nursery AttendantCarolyn McFarland
 SecretaryRoger 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
 Keith McFarland



**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.

Upcoming Bible Readings

In September and possibly into October, Rev. Rasco will present a Dr. Seuss-themed sermon series.

Sept. 4: Ezekiel 37:1-11

Green Eggs and Ham

Sept. 11: Exodus 35:30-35

Oh, the Thinks You Can Think

Sept. 18: Joshua 1:1-19

I was Scared Of

Sept. 25: Mark 4:26-34

The Lorax



The Rest of the Bible Readings

**This Sunday (Sept. 4) is the
16th Sunday After Pentecost & Communion Sunday**

New Testament: John 21:1-13 *Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples*

Psalter: Psalm 96:1-9 *Praise to God Who Comes in Judgment*

Epistle: Romans 14:10-11 *Do Not Judge One Another*

Old Testament (sermon focus): Ezekial 37:1-11

The Valley of Dry Bones (Green Eggs and Ham)

**Next Sunday (Sept. 11) is the
17th Sunday After Pentecost**

Gospel: Luke: 2:41-52 *The Boy Jesus in the Temple*

Psalter: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 *The Inescapable God*

Epistle: Philippians 1:3-11 *Paul's Prayer for the Philippians*

Old Testament (sermon focus): Exodus 35:30-35

Bezalel and Oholiab (Oh, the Thinks You Can Think)



Hymn of the Month for August

Page 488 — *I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*

Rally Day Sept. 11

Bring something to bless and come early, hungry and ready to learn when you come to FPC on Sunday, Sept. 11. It is Rally Day, a time to get excited about a new school year, including Sunday School at FPC.

Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m. and there will be a recognition of our Sunday School teachers as well as a ramping up of the new fall studies.

During the worship service, Pastor Rasco will include her special "Blessing of the Backpacks," so bring a backpack, pens, pencils, tablets or other objects you want to bless as we start the new school year.

Blessing
of the
Backpacks!



September Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 - Emily Parrish Jenson
- 8 - Sara Grace Pullen
- 10 - Jim Calvert
- 10 - Bettina Zvanut
- 10 - Joe McIntier
- 11 - Bubba Dickerson
- 14 - Scott Stewart
- 15 - Kim Fake
- 23 - Cassie Nicole Norwood
- 25 - Charles Dorsett
- 29 - Brenda Estes

Happy Anniversary to:

- 3 – Barbara & Wally Tucker
- 6 – Dean and Jim Calvert
- 25 – Beverly & Ben Housewright

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.

September Worship Leaders

September 4

Host Elder:Rick Selvaggi
Head Usher:Bob Johnson
Candle Lighter:Cal Conner
Liturgist:Martha Clevenger
Elements: Helon Razniak

September 11

Head Usher:Wendell Linton
Candle Lighter:Evie Conner
Liturgist:Lilly Selvaggi

September 18

Head Usher:Mason Howard
Candle Lighter:Matti Ritchie
Liturgist:Keith McFarland

September 25

Head Usher:Neal Stewart
Candle Lighter:Sally Walker
Liturgist:Martha Clevenger

September Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 4 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Ezekiel 37:1-11
- 11 **Rally Day**, breakfast & presentation in FH
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.,
including "Blessing of the Backpacks"
Sermon focus on Exodus 35:30-35
- 18 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Joshua 1:1-9
- 25 Morning Worship Service, 10:50 p.m.
Sermon focus on Mark 4:26-34

Other September events

- 10 **Saturday, noon**—Presbyterian Women's Circle's
Fall Luncheon. All women invited.
- 12 **Monday, 10 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting
- 14 **Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting
- 27 **Tuesday, 5 p.m.**—Food Pantry board meeting
- 28 **Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.**—Christian Education
meeting

Got Good News?

Our next mid-month edition of The Good News will be published on Sept. 15 or 16. Don't be late with your news and pictures.