



# THE GOOD NEWS

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

September 2017

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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**

**Rev. Krista Rasco – Pastor**

Email: [revkristarasco@gmail.com](mailto:revkristarasco@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/krista.rasco](http://www.facebook.com/krista.rasco)

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And Editor, *The Good News*  
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## A Message From the Pastor

"Blessed to be a blessing" is the theme for our Rally Day next Sunday, Sept. 10. Rally Day is the day that we kick off the new academic year by recognizing our Sunday School teachers and students at breakfast during the Sunday School hour.



Then during worship we will have a "Blessing of the Backpacks." Remember to bring your backpacks, bags, totes, lunchboxes, or anything you want blessed for this coming academic year.

People will receive a tag for their bags (shown at right) that says "Blessed to be a blessing" on one side and on the other side is a blank for you to write your name,



followed by the words *"is loved and prayed for by First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas."*

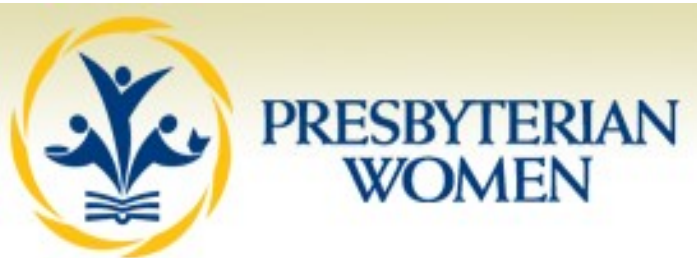
The people of FPCC are truly blessed, but we can't and shouldn't keep our blessings to ourselves. We are loved and cared for by God with such abundance that it overflows. So then, we are called to share that love and care with others.

We do this in many ways, not only through the giving of money, but also through our time and our own special talents that God has given us uniquely. FPCC is wonderful in sharing God's love, care, and abundance.

Through the sponsorship and guidance of the Commerce Food Pantry, our members work closely with volunteers and

*Continued on page 3*





**By Toni Deaton**  
**Moderator**

**Annual PW Fall Luncheon**—The annual Fall Covered-dish Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 9, at noon** in Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be **Commerce Mayor Wyman Williams** who will bring us up-to-date on proposed changes to make our downtown area and city more accessible and more attractive. Please bring a friend and a favorite dish, and join us for this informative event.

**Circle Meeting**—The PW Circle will meet on **Monday, Sept. 11, at 10 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall for our first Bible study meeting of our year. The title of the study this year is *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. I will lead Lesson One and **Helon Razniak** is hostess. All women are invited to join us for this very interesting and inspiring study.

**Quilt Raffle**—PW is sponsoring a raffle at the **Bois d'Arc Bash on Saturday, Sept. 23**. Two antique quilts, donated by **Dr. Jim Norwood**, will be in the raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. All

proceeds will be used to fund projects of PW including the purchase and installation of much-needed new flooring for the church nursery. Cookies and other baked goods will also be sold. Please come by our “booth” and help us reach our goals. The estimate of the cost for the purchase and installation of the nursery flooring (which would include a section that is vinyl and a section that is carpet) is \$2,000.

**Volunteers**—Volunteers are needed to work at the raffle booth during the Bois d'Arc Bash on Saturday. Please see **Nancy McFarland** to sign up for a time to help, as the booth will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The drawing for the winning ticket will be held there at 4 p.m.

Here are some enticements:

- ◆ Our booth area includes an outlet for electricity, so there will be a fan to cool us.
- ◆ **Bettina and David Zvanut** are setting up a pup tent, so we will have shade!
- ◆ There will also be a cooler filled with ice and bottled water!

Now, what could be better.....maybe cookies???

**Bakers Needed Before the Bash!**—There will be a sign-up sheet at church for those who can bake cookies, brownies and other “finger” desserts. Please sign up, listing what you will bake along with the quantity. All baked items should be placed in “baggies” and should be sized for one serving to make it easier to price and sell.



*Entrance to the sanctuary at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church*

## **Fort Worth Church Bounces Back Stronger**

**FPC's Toni Deaton and Bettina Zvanut** attended a “Topping Out” Celebration at Fort Worth's St. Stephen Presbytery Church on Aug. 27. The 2 p.m. celebration marked the completion of repairs from a violent vandalism and fire that occurred last January.

The education building, which houses St. Stephen's pre-school program, Sunday School, and other facilities, was extensively damaged by a person who broke into their facility and remained there six hours wreaking mayhem. Along with much other damage, windows were broken and an attempt was even made to start a fire in the kitchen. St. Stephen, located near the Texas

*Continued on page 3*



## Bouncing Back Stronger....continued from page 2

Christian University campus, is a large, beautiful old church with stained glass windows and a resounding pipe organ. It sits on a 25 acre campus that is quite impressive.



Education wing entrance

Part of the "Topping Out" ceremony was conducted in their spacious sanctuary. It concluded in Fellowship Hall. This year, our PW made a contribution to help with their repair efforts and the offerings collected at both of the Grace Presbytery PW Spring Meetings were given to St. Stephen.



Ceremony conclusion in Fellowship Hall

## Whose Hard Working Hands Are These?

FPC has many unsung heroes. People who work behind the scenes, and without the need for recognition, to make FPC great! The dirty hands (at left) doing lovely work belong to one such person. You should be able to tell what this person is doing. But can you guess who this FPC hero is?

The first person to correctly identify who these hands belong to by telling the church secretary will earn themselves a prize!



## A Message From the Pastor Continued from page 1

donors to help feed those in need. The people of FPCC also do this in the outpouring of love, care, food, and supplies when people are grieving or in need. This Sunday, Sept. 3, we will have the opportunity to share God's love and care by collecting special donations that will go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) fund. All (100%) of your donations designated for Harvey will go towards the assisting those effected by Hurricane Harvey.

Your support will be long lasting and long appreciated because the PDA stays on location 4-6 years after the disaster. That is long after the Red Cross (which does wonderful work) and other organizations like them leave.

Keep up the good work God's good and faithful servants. Remember you are blessed and continue to be a blessing to others.

*Grace and peace be with you all,*

*Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor*





## Ways You Can Help Heal the Hurt of Hurricane Harvey



There are many ways to help the relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Harvey. Grace Presbytery lists a variety of options online. To see them, click [here](#).



*Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. — Song of Solomon 8:7*

Hurricane Harvey may have been downgraded, but the torrential rains are still pounding parts of Texas and Louisiana. Historic flooding has forced rivers and streams from their banks and submerged homes, churches, businesses and roads, stranding thousands of people. We are relying on the generosity of Presbyterians to provide financial and hands-on support to help the whole church stand with these communities and the Presbyterian family as it responds to its neighbors.

**The needs for the response are great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.**

**GIVE:** Please give generously to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's emergency response and long-term recovery work in the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Designate gifts to DR000169-Harvey.

**ACT:** Put together Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas — hygiene kits and cleanup buckets are especially needed. For more information, go to [pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/](http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/).

Contact the PDA Call Center to be notified of volunteer opportunities.  
Call (866) 732-6121 or email [pda.callcenter@pcusa.org](mailto:pda.callcenter@pcusa.org).

**PRAY:** God, our Shelter, be a strong presence in the lives of neighbors who, having survived the winds and rains of Harvey, now face grief, uncertainty and weary days. May our generosity in prayer and in tangible signs of support overflow more than floodwaters, to sustain your work of healing and rebuilding and to bring comfort and strength to those who suffer. Amen.

Keep up to date on long-term recovery efforts at [presbyterianmission.org/pda](http://presbyterianmission.org/pda) or [facebook.com/PDACARES](https://facebook.com/PDACARES)

☐ \$500 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

US Hurricane Response – Harvey – DR000169 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

HH17-BI

## Harvey Facts—taken from CNN and other sources

- The Category 4 hurricane had a diameter of 280 miles with winds of 130 mph during its first landfall. After going back to the Gulf of Mexico, Tropical Storm Harvey went ashore again near the Louisiana-Texas border.
- Final totals are still being tallied, but Harvey broke the continental U.S. record for rainfall from a single storm. By Sunday, it had dumped an estimated 11 trillion gallons of rain over the state, enough according to one television newscaster, to fill Lake Lewisville five times. The rate of rainfall was tremendous. The coastal cities of Beaumont and Port Arthur received 26 inches of rain in 24 hours. According to the National Weather Service, 49.2 inches of rain fell from midnight Aug. 25 to 9 a.m. Aug. 29.
- So far 41 deaths have been attributed to Hurricane Harvey, but the total is rising. Many thousands of people have suffered losses ranging from minimal to devastating. Property damage could potentially reach as high as \$190 billion, which would make it the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history.



## Additions to Our Prayer List

Larry Ratliff and Martha Clevenger are the latest additions to our prayer list. Rob and Chris McWhorter have asked that Chris's father, Larry, be put on our prayer list following his being diagnosed with liver and pancreatic cancer. FPC's Martha Clevenger is having surgery next week. Please pray for them and 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 Skauge
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
Jordan Moore	Janice Hale	Dub Holcomb	The family of Bob Lube
The family of Chris Hubbert	Jackie Book	Martha and Dan Reynolds	Ruth Green
Audrey Hucks	Larry Ratliff	Martha Clevenger	

### Bible Readings for this Sunday and Next Sunday

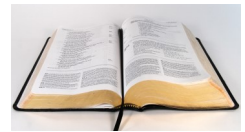
**This Sunday (Sept. 3) is the 13th Sunday after Pentecost and Communion Sunday**

**Epistle: Romans 12:9-21** *Marks of the True Christian*

**Psalter: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b** *God's Faithfulness to Israel*

**Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28** *Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection / The Cross and Self-Denial*

**Old Testament: Exodus 3:1-15** *Moses at the Burning Bush / The Divine Name Revealed*



**Next Sunday (Sept. 10) is the 14th Sunday after Pentecost and Rally Day**

**Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:8-15** *The Collection for Christians at Jerusalem*

**Psalter: Psalm 67** *The Nations Called to Praise God*

**Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20** *The Commissioning of the Disciples*

**Old Testament: Exodus 4:10-17, 27-31** *Moses' Miraculous Power*



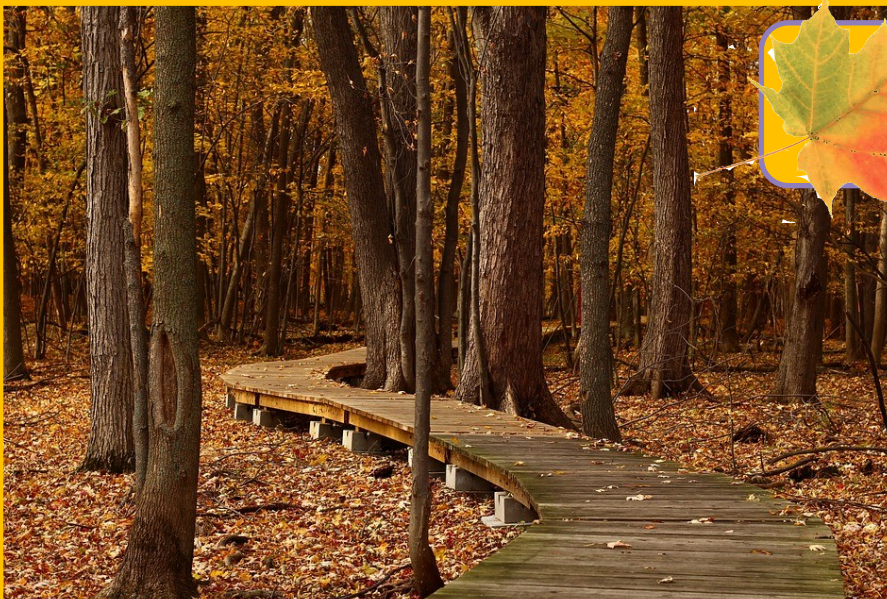
*Blessing of the Backpacks!*

### Fall Pictures



We didn't do so well with summer pictures. The ones we got were great, but we just didn't get very many.

Fall will be here before you know it (September 21). So crank up your camera (or phone) and start those fall pictures coming in!





## Upcoming Community Events



### Bois d'Arc Bash, Arthropods, and GriefShare

#### ♦ The Bash

September marks the return of Commerce's annual Bois d'Arc Bash. There is a host of events, including a pageant (Sept. 16), golf tournament (Sept. 22), and all the Bash events on Saturday, Sept. 23, including a pancake breakfast, booths, and the big parade.

#### ♦ Arthropods Opens Sept. 8

Arthropods? Oh yeah, those insects, spiders, crustaceans, and those guys related to centipedes. You know, the icky creatures most of us go out of our way to avoid. It turns out these little guys with the exoskeletons are intricate and, at least sometimes, beautiful.

So how to show that? Why not by showing them off in a mixed media art show? Better yet when that show includes FPC's **Walt Davis**. He and the other 10 artists invited



to put their work on display will kick off the show on **Friday, Sept. 8, from 5-7 p.m. at North Haven Gardens in Dallas**. It will continue through Nov. 3.

North Haven Gardens is located at 7700 Northhaven Road and its hours are Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Their website is [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com).

Walt says, "From the work I have seen, it will be an eye-opening exploration of the beauty and intricate design of creatures often shunned and maligned."

#### ♦ Grief Share Resumes Sept. 11

Sharing God's love with others includes helping others cope with grief. We can all do this, but in the Commerce area, this task is particularly lifted up by

the GriefShare support/recovery group hosted by the **First Baptist Church**. The GriefShare group there will begin its Fall semester on Monday, Sept. 11.

Nationally-recognized grief experts teach via the video-based curriculum developed by a non-denominational group, Church Initiative.

The Commerce group will meet every Monday night, beginning September 11, in the Church Parlor from 6 to 8 p.m. for thirteen weeks.

Books are provided free of charge to participants in our local group. For more information, contact **Jim or Teena Ayres** at 903-886-8600 or 214-729-7525. Get more information by going online or clicking on the following link: [www.GriefShare.org](http://www.GriefShare.org).

### FPC Is Online!

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

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

<https://twitter.com/fpcccommerce>

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

“ The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up. ”

— Mark Twain

Quotable  
Quotes



In observance of

# Labor Day

Our office will be closed

**Monday, September 4, 2017**





## Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

The Commerce Food Pantry serves between 35-45 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

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

**3rd Sunday**—Can of chili or beef stew

**4th Sunday**—Cans of tuna, spam, chicken



Not all of FPC's members are lifelong area residents. In the previous newsletter, we kicked off what we hope will be a regular attraction.

We discovered how **Bart and Nancy Green** came to end up here at FPC from a suburb of Atlanta, GA.

What path did you take to Commerce and/or its surrounding area and thus to First Presbyterian Church?

We need you to help us keep this going. Let us hear from you so we can make you a part of our series. Just contact the church secretary.

## 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 Attendant ..... Carolyn McFarland  
Secretary ..... Roger McKenzie

### Session Members

<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Walter Davis	Martha Clevenger	Brenda Estes
Helon Razniak	Jordan Conner	Tina Fletcher
Petra Strassberg	Wally Tucker	Russ Garmon
	Bettina Zvanut	

### Session Committees

#### **Worship:**

Chair ..... Martha Clevenger  
Co-Chair ..... Helon Razniak

#### **Christian Education:**

Chair ..... Walt Davis  
Co-Chair ..... Bettina Zvanut

#### **Membership and Pastoral Care:**

Chair ..... Brenda Estes  
Co-Chair ..... Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

#### **Mission/Evangelism:**

Chair ..... Bettina Zvanut  
Co-Chair ..... Petra Strassberg

#### **Buildings and Grounds:**

Chair ..... Russ Garmon

#### **Stewardship and Finance:**

Chair ..... Jordan Conner

#### **Personnel:**

Chair ..... Wally Tucker

**Note: Some committees do not have co-chairs.**

## September Dates to Remember

### *Happy Birthday to:*

1 – Emily Parrish Jenson

8 – Sarah 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

**If we forgot you or got a date wrong,  
contact the church secretary.**



## September Worship Leaders

### Sept. 3

Host Elder: ..... Russ Garmon  
 Head Usher: ..... Monty Howard  
 Candle Lighter: ..... TBD  
 Liturgist: ..... Toni Deaton  
 Elements: ..... Helon Razniak

### Sept. 10

Head Usher: ..... Jordan Estes  
 Candle Lighter: ..... TBD  
 Liturgist: ..... Martha Clevenger

### Sept. 17

Head Usher: ..... Ric Estes  
 Candle Lighter: ..... TBD  
 Liturgist: ..... Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

### Sept. 24

Head Usher: ..... Scott Stewart  
 Candle Lighter: ..... TBD  
 Liturgist: ..... Susan Reeves

## September Community Events

- 8 Friday, 5-7 p.m., North Haven Gardens in Dallas—Opening Reception for *Arthropods* (see story this issue)
- 11 GriefShare begins its Fall Semester at First Baptist Church in Commerce
- 16 Saturday—Miss Bois d’Arc Bash Pageant
- 22 Friday—Bois d’Arc Bash Golf Tournament
- 22 Friday—Commerce Leadership Institute Barbecue Fundraiser—Buy your barbecue from FPC’s own Rev. Krista Rasco.
- 23 Saturday morning—Commerce Masonic Lodge Pancake Breakfast
- 22-23 Friday and Saturday, all day—Commerce’s Annual Bois d’Arc Bash

### Recurring

Each Thursday, 6-8 p.m.—Family Night at the Commerce Public Library.

Next time we’ll add your monthly event if you tell us!

## September Calendar

### Worship Schedule

- 3 Last day of combined Teach the Preacher Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m. ( *Sermon focus on Exodus 3:1-15* )
- 10 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
**Rally Day**, Blessing of the Backpacks  
*Sermon focus on Exodus 4:10-17, 27-31*
- 17 Sunday School Classes resume 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Exodus 14:1-12*
- 24 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Exodus 16:2-15*

### Other September events

- 4 Monday, Labor Day—FPC office closed
- 9 Saturday, noon—Presbyterian Women’s Fall Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
- 10 Sunday, 9:45 a.m.—Rally Day Breakfast
- 11 Monday, 10 a.m.—PW Circle meeting
- 17 Sunday, 6 p.m.—Ice Cream Social
- 26 Tuesday, 5 p.m.—Food Pantry Board meeting
- 27 Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.—CE Committee meeting

## Hymn of the Month

Page 726 – *Will You Come and Follow Me*



**Please keep us informed and let us know about news items we can use for our next newsletter. Call or email (we prefer email) the church office with your news.**

