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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
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 And Editor, The Good News
 Office: (903) 886-3783

A Message From the Pastor

Dear friends and family of FPCC,

We have decided to continue our "Gathering Around the Word" Bible study during the Sunday School time (9:45 a.m.) through the fall season. This Bible study has allowed me as your pastor to hear what individuals in the congregation think and feel about the text that I will preach on the following Sunday.

This time has been inspiring, educational, and informative. I have come to greatly value this time with you all. I learn so much not just about the scripture but about the individuals that share their stories and feeling, even if the topics of conversation don't quite make it into the sermon each week.

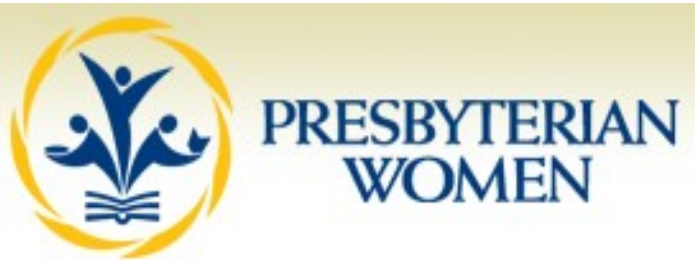
The past few weeks we have had some of our college students join this Sunday School class, so the Christian Education Chair, Walt Davis, decided that introductions would be helpful. Instead of introducing ourselves, however, we decided we would introduce each other. It was a lengthy process, but even though we never got around to studying scripture per se, the whole time felt incredibly holy.

Although I knew a lot of what people shared about each other, I still learned a few new things and I learned what was important to others about each person there. I also heard stories of long lasting friendships and fellowship that is unique to this congregation. Most importantly, I felt the love between each one of the people there. The Holy Spirit was definitely present, and is present through the people in this congregation. Thank you for letting me be a part of it, and sharing those stories with me. I look forward to witnessing and participating in the stories to be told in the future.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor





By Toni Deaton
Moderator

PW Circle Meeting

The PW Circle will meet on Monday, Oct. 9, at 10 a.m. for Bible study. **Jane Cox** is the leader and **Brenda Estes** is hostess. All women are invited to attend.

Upcoming Area Meeting

On Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., the annual Grace Presbytery PW Fall Gathering will be held at FPC-Mesquite. The Keynote Speaker is **Janet Theus** from Oklahoma City. In 2016, Janet was a participant in the Synod of the Sun USA Mission Experience in the San Francisco Bay Area. She will tell of the efforts being made in that area to combat human trafficking, a world-wide problem.

In the afternoon, **Rev. Julie Adkins** and **Rev. Lucia Kremzar** will conduct the Worship and Communion Service. All women are invited to attend. Costs for lunch is \$8 and the deadline to register is Oct. 7. If you would like to attend the Fall Gathering, please call **Toni Deaton**.

Brenda Estes to Be Installed

Brenda Estes has accepted a position with the Grace Presbytery Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team and will be installed as Cluster Leader for two clusters (groups) of churches in the northeast area of our presbytery at the Fall Gathering on Oct. 14.

As Cluster Leader, she will be keeping in touch with all the Presbyterian churches (approximately 15 churches) in these clusters and making sure that the PW groups have up-to-date information regarding meetings, literature and websites that will be helpful.

Thank you, Brenda, for accepting this important position.

Fall Coaster

Speaking of Brenda, everyone who attended our Fall PW Luncheon on September 9 received a beautiful and useful coaster made by **Brenda Estes**. Thank you, Brenda, for taking the time to make these for everyone. We appreciate your creativity and your thoughtfulness very much!



Four FPCers Travel to Ft. Worth on Aug. 29 to Hear Bible Study Author

Toni Deaton, Bettina Zvanut, Brenda Estes and Helon Razniak all attended a meeting at FPC-Ft. Worth on Tuesday, August 29, to hear **Melissa Bain Sevier**, author of the current Horizons Bible Study, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. Rev. Sevier discussed how the study is organized and gave



explanations and study helps for women who are both studying the lessons and presenting the lessons to their local PW Bible study groups.

Members of our PW have been attending this special event for a number of years and are grateful that FPC-Ft. Worth extends an invitation to women throughout our presbytery to meet and hear the author each year.

Following the presentation, a delicious lunch was served.

Raffle and Bake Sale Raise Big Bucks for PW Missions

By Toni Deaton

Two beautiful antique quilts, donated to PW by **Dr. Jim Norwood**, were the center of our booth at the annual Bois d'Arc Bash in downtown Commerce on Saturday, Sept. 23. The quilts, made by Jim's mother and mother-in-law, were raffled off with the proceeds going to support the mission projects of FPC's Presbyterian Women.

The quilt raffle, sponsored by FPC-Commerce PW, was a great success in spite of the extremely warm weather. Proceeds from this effort totaled \$659.25. These funds will help pay for replacing the flooring in the church nursery.

Thanks so much to **Bettina and David Zvanut** for setting up (and taking down) the tent and table and for bringing chairs, and to **Ric and Brenda Estes** for bringing chairs and a box fan, and helping to organize as the Bash began. Thanks to **Nancy McFarland** for being in charge of the cookies and for getting people to work at the booth from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also, many thanks to all the women in our church who provided the delicious cookies and/or worked at the booth. It was truly a group effort and we appreciate all who helped. Also, many thanks go to **Roger** for making copies of the quilt brochure which was designed by **Bettina**, and for making the

raffle tickets. We appreciate all you do for us, Roger!!

The drawing was held around 4:30 p.m. the day of the Bash and the lucky winners are **Tina Fletcher Selvaggi and Sue Nixon**. Tina won the quilt, Grandmother's Pride, that was made by **Ann Norwood's mother, Myrtle Barlow** in the 1940's. The quilt, Grandmother's Fan, constructed by **Jim Norwood's grandmother, Gertrude Gully**, was won by Sue Nixon. Congratulations to these two ladies who truly appreciate the beauty and value of these handmade quilts.



Lily and Tina Selvaggi show off the two handmade antique quilts that were the prizes in a fund-raising raffle held by the FPC's Presbyterian Women's Circle at the recent Bois d'Arc Bash.



Fall Pictures



Fall has arrived! So crank up your camera (or cell phone) and start those fall pictures coming in! Be sure to list who took them and some information to go with them.



all that's missing is !

Sunday School Class Idea Helps Haiti

Bettina Zvanut's Sunday School class has come up with an mission fund-raiser that is sure to have people smiling in Commerce as well as Haiti.

The class is sponsoring a Cake Contest, complete with prizes and a chance for the public to taste all of the confections.

The contest is open to the public, so if you know of a cake master, encourage them to submit one (or more cakes). The flyer, reprinted below, gives all the details.

Happy Cooking (and Eating)!

Cake Contest!!



All CHEFS are invited to enter a
Cake Contest

October 22nd 6:30pm at

First Presbyterian Church, Commerce, TX Entrance is Free
1st, 2nd, 3rd Place, Most Creative, and People's Choice Prizes!

All cakes will be cut and served to
spectators for \$1.00 a slice after judging.

**Proceeds will be given to the
Haiti Education Foundation**

for school scholarships
Call 903-886-3783 to register.

Jefferson Candlelight Tour of Homes

Editor's note: This is an annual community event by the Commerce Community Action Program. Normally, we don't plug an event so early, but the deadline for signing up for this popular event is just a month away and a bus can fill up fast.

The Commerce Community Action Program is inviting you to get into the Christmas holiday spirit by being part of the group's visit to the 35th annual Candlelight Tour of Homes in Jefferson, Texas, on Friday, Dec. 1. This annual event will certainly get

you in the mood as tour guides dressed in Victorian era costumes guide you through lavishly decorated candlelit homes, including homes from the mid-1800's. There is also an enchanted Christmas tree forest.

It is an all-day event, leaving from Commerce and Greenville on a luxury motor coach in the morning, with time for lunch in Jefferson on your own, scouting out the antique shops, or taking a carriage ride before starting the tour. The group will arrive back at your departure points late Friday night.

Cost is \$45 per person including the tour and bus transportation. For information and to secure tickets, contact FPC's **Bob Johnson** at 903-468-2659 or 903-886-2700. Deadline to sign-up is Nov. 1.



If you think now that summer is over and school has started, the list of youth ministry opportunities at Grace Presbytery is limited, think again.

Here is just a sample of what is coming up:

- **The Pulse—Youth Leadership Development Ministry** for 9th to 12 grade students.
- **Youth Fest West—Clen Lake Camp**, 6th-12th grades
- **Fall Youthquake—Camp Gilmont**, grades 6-8.
- **Grace Presbytery College-Age Mission Trip—Texas Gulf Coast**

For details, call Grace Presbytery or click [here](#).

Mo-Ranch Offers Fall Activities for Adults



[Click here](#) for some adult opportunities you can find in the September Mo-Ranch newsletter.

You'll find retreats for couples, bereaved parents, holiday gift-making, and more. All in the beautiful Texas Hill country.

Additions to Our Prayer List

Jack Gray and Jean Angotti are the latest additions to our prayer list. Jack, a friend of Keith and Nancy McFarland, is recovering from hip surgery. Jean, a Pennsylvania cousin of church secretary Roger McKenzie's wife Carole, is being treated in an ICU for respiratory failure. 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	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	Jordan Moore
Janice Hale	Dub Holcomb	Family of Bob Lube	Family of Chris Hubbert
Jackie Book	Martha & Don Reynolds	Ruth Green	Audrey Hucks
Larry Ratliff	Martha Clevenger	Jack Gray	Jean Angotti

Bible Readings for Oct. 1, 8, and 15

This Sunday (Oct. 1) is the 17th Sunday after Pentecost and World Communion Sunday

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32 *The Authority of Jesus Questioned / The Parable of the Two Sons*

Psalter: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 *God's Goodness and Israel's Ingratitude*

Epistle: Philippians 2:1-18 *Imitating Christ's Humility*

Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-1 *Water from the Rock*



Next Sunday (Oct. 8) is the 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46 *The Authority of Jesus Questioned / The Parable of the Two Sons*

Psalter: Psalm 19 *God's Glory in Creation and the Law*

Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14 *Breaking with the Past*

Old Testament: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-20 *Water from the Rock*

The following Sunday (Oct. 15) is the 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 *The Parable of the Wedding Banquet*

Psalter: Psalm 106; 1-6, 19-23 *A Confession of Israel's Sins*

Epistle: Philippians 4:1-9 *Further Instructions (continuing Rules of Christian Households)*

Old Testament: Exodus 32:1-14 *The Golden Calf / The Sabbath Law*



Disaster News

Hurricanes and a terrible earthquake are keeping Presbyterian Disaster Assistance leaders very busy. Here's the latest we know.

Click on the following links to follow these stories or search on line at the website for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help with earthquake recovery efforts in Mexico](#)

[Presbytery leader in Puerto Rico reports on damage from Hurricane Maria](#)

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

5th Sunday—Canned fruit.

First Presbyterian Church

Staff, Session, and Committees

Staff

Pastor Rev. Krista Rasco
Clerk of Session Wally Tucker
Music Director Micah Krajca
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.

We Want Your Story. How Did You



Get to FPC?

Life is a path that takes us to where we are and sends us to where we know not. Not all of FPC's members are lifelong area residents. In a 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.

October Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Jody McIntier
- 2 – Jim Norwood
- 2 – Wendell Linton
- 5 – Paula Ballew
- 7 – Pierce Taylor Wells
- 13 – Toni Deaton
- 22 – Amber Estes Porterfield
- 24 – Ennis McIntier
- 30 – James Rhodes

Happy Anniversary to:

- 2 – Sherry & Bob Johnson
- ? – Joel & Leeza McIntier
- 11 – Deborah & Lance Wells
- 19 – Wendell & Charlene Linton

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

October Worship Leaders

October 1

Host Elder: Brenda Estes
 Head Usher: Petra Strassberg
 Candle Lighter: TBD
 Liturgist: Walt Davis
 Elements: Wally Tucker

October 8

Head Usher: Jordon Conner
 Candle Lighter: TBD
 Liturgist: Toni Deaton

October 15

Head Usher: Monty Howard
 Candle Lighter: TBD
 Liturgist: Susan Reeves

October 22

Head Usher: Bob Johnson
 Candle Lighter: TBD
 Liturgist: Neal Stewart

October 29

Head Usher: Russ Garmon
 Candle Lighter: TBD
 Liturgist: Barbara Tucker

October Community Events

- 13 Friday**—Commerce High School Homecoming
- 14 Saturday**—TAMUC Homecoming
- 22 Sunday 6:30 p.m.**—Cake Contest open to the community, FPC Fellowship Hall. Proceeds go to Haiti Education Foundation.
- 31 Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.**—Halloween on the Square

Recurring

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

Each Monday from Sept. 23-Dec. 16, 6-8 p.m.—GriefShare at First Baptist Church

Don't see your event here? Please let us know about it so we can include it next time.

October Calendar

Sunday School..... 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service10:50 a.m.

1 World Communion Sunday

Sermon focus on Exodus 17:1-7

8 *Sermon focus on Exodus 20:1-4, 7-20*

15 *Sermon focus on Exodus 32:1-14*

22 *Sermon focus on Exodus 33:12-23*

29 Fifth Sunday Intergenerational Sunday School

Sermon focus on Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Other October events

8 Sunday, following worship—Congregational meeting to elect the Elder Class and Trustee of 2020 and the Nominating Committee of 2018

9 Monday, 10 a.m.—PW Circle meeting

11 Wednesday, 6 p.m.—Session meeting

14 Saturday, all day—PW Fall Gathering at the First Presbyterian Church, 1028 S Beltline Rd, Mesquite, TX

17 Tuesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.—Mission Committee handing out cookies at TAMUC

15 Sunday, 6 p.m.—Fish Fry in Fellowship Hall

22 Sunday, 6:30 p.m.—Cake Contest (open to the public, see story this edition) with proceeds going to the Haiti Education Foundation

Hymn of the Month

Page 315 — *In the Midst of New Dimensions*



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.

