



# The Good News

Weekly Edition

No. 20

November 21, 2014

Published (almost) weekly by the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Commerce

If you can't or don't want to cook a Thanksgiving meal, your visions of turkey and dressing can still happen. The community is invited to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the First United Methodist Church and Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (with help from the Commerce faith community) on Thursday, Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Day. The meal will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on at the First United Methodist Church, 1709 Highway 50 (across from the Texas A&M-Commerce campus).

If you need a ride to the church or you would like your meal delivered to your home, call the church early.

**Note:** Volunteers are needed to make this effort a success. You can volunteer to provide transportation to the church for people who can't get there or deliver the meal to those who are homebound. Or you can pitch in with serving and cleanup at the church. If you would like to help with this project contact, the FUMC office at 903-886-3220.

## Thanksgiving Basket Delivery Set for Nov. 22

Tomorrow (Saturday, Nov. 22) volunteers for Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH) will distribute Thanksgiving food baskets from several locations in the county to about 800 needy families who qualified and registered for the program. This is a separate program from the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. A similar distribution of Christmas food baskets will be distributed in December, making for over 1,600 food baskets handed out during the holiday season.

Here in Commerce, the Thanksgiving food baskets will be distributed at the First United Methodist Church. Volunteers are still needed to help with this effort. To volunteer, call the church office at 903-886-3220 right away.

### Sermon Focus

Rev. Rasco will once again be using the Old Testament as the source for her sermon this Sunday. Ezekiel 34:11-16 and 20-24 is given the subhead "God, the Good Shepherd." God watches over us just as a good shepherd watches over his sheep.

### Assisting With Worship This Week

Those assisting with worship this week are: Nancy McFarland, Head Usher; Matthew McFarland, Candlelighter; and Wally Tucker, Liturgist.

When you see these folks, don't forget to thank them for their service. If you would like to help FPC in some way as a volunteer, please let us know.

### In Memory of Jimmie and Ray Barto

Flowers today are provided by Bettina Zvanut in memory of her mother and father, Jimmie and Ray Barto.

There is a Flower Sign Up Sheet on the bulletin board near the FPC kitchen if you would like to honor or memorialize someone by providing flowers for the Sunday worship service.



### Mark Your Calendars!

#### Upcoming FPC Events

- **Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21-22** – Grace Presbytery Meeting, Canyon Creek Presbyterian in Richardson. *(Note: Rev. Rasco will be among those attending and will not be available those days.)*
- **Saturday, Nov. 22** – Ladies' Day Out. All women are invited to join the PW for our trip to Farmersville for shopping in the downtown area and lunch at the Sugar Hill Café. Those going will gather in the church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and leave from there.
- **Saturday, Nov. 22** – Youth campout at the Selvaggi house.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 25, 9 a.m.** – Teach the Preacher and Chrismon Tree Decoration. These are separate events. Anyone wishing to participate in either is welcome.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 25, 5 p.m.** – New Beginnings Training Class in Fellowship Hall.



### We Have Curbs!

It's a slow process, but it is now hard to curb (sure, pun intended) your enthusiasm if you are an optimist. Curbs (picture above) now exist in front of FPC. And it looks like a sidewalk is coming. Workmen continue to make progress on Monroe Street. One more thing to be thankful for.

### Christmas CDs Help PW Help Others

Our Presbyterian Women are making Christmas CD's available to support the Birthday Offering and Living Waters of the World (LWW). LWW trains and equips volunteer teams to provide clean water in needy areas throughout the developing world and the Birthday Offering supports up to five different projects each year that meet a critical need for persons who are truly hurting or disadvantaged.

Either of two different CDs which feature familiar Christmas songs and carols (vocal and instrumental) are available for a \$15 voluntary donation. Last year more than \$100,000 was raised. The music has been arranged and performed specifically for the Presbyterian project.

Last year's recording, "Legacy Christmas—Treasured Carols of the Kirk," will again be available as will a new CD entitled "Legacy Christmas—Nativity Carols and Hymns."

Said Helon Razniak, "We hope members of the congregation will join this endeavor to support God's work of providing for the poor and needy and at the same time enhancing your holiday listening pleasure."



### Sherlock's Quest — FPC Keeps Getting Better

If you figured out what the two new FPC improvements were that were mentioned, but not named, in last week's newsletter, then congratulations—you are indeed a Sherlock Holmes.



If you weren't at the church last week or didn't look closely, here's the answer. Both improvements are at the back door entrance—an aluminum ramp, which will help the wheelchair bound get over the threshold more easily, and a much needed doorbell.

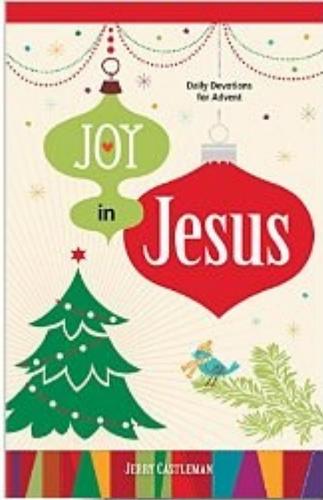
After the last newsletter went out, a third improvement was added at that location—a metal sign with important information on it.

It's all part of the on-going effort by church volunteers to improve the facility here and make it more useful.

At left, FPC's multi-talented Dennis White shows off the new improvements. He directed the projects. The new ramp was commissioned by FPC's Jim Rhodes and installed by Preston McDaniel.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
1216 Monroe Street  
Phone: 903-886-3783

**Rear Entrance**  
Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm  
Sunday 9 am - noon



### Advent Devotions

Advent daily devotion booklets, titled *Joy in Jesus*, are now available. You can pick up a copy on the table in the Sanctuary or in the back entrance hallway/

### Food Pantry News

The community continues to step up with contributions (food and money) for the Commerce Food Pantry. A.C. Williams Elementary School is the latest school to have a food drive. The school-wide student effort produced over 1,000 pounds of food, which was received this week.

Also this week, Individual and corporate donors have added more food and over \$1,500 in cash to the Food Pantry.

This Sunday at FPC, the fourth Sunday of the month, calls for canned meat—chicken, tuna, spam, etc. Place your items in the box at the back of the sanctuary. As always, thank you for your donation.

### Community Events

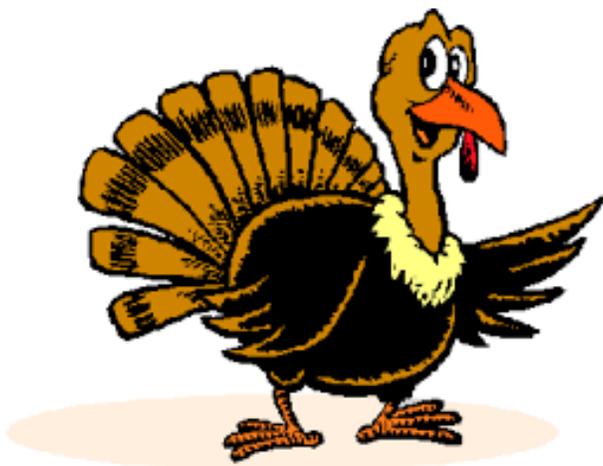
**Friday and Saturday, Dec. 5-6, 7:30 p.m.** – The Annual Holiday Gala will be presented by the TAMUC Department of Music in Finney Concert Hall.

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** – the First United Methodist Church in Commerce will host a special event. They are calling it *Merry Marketplace and Lunch for Missions*. Flyers are available on the table next to the FPC kitchen. All proceeds go directly to missions.

**Sunday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m.** – The TAMUC Department of Music Chamber Singers will present their Holiday Concert right here at FPC. Mark your calendar and bring friends!

**Thursday, Dec. 11** – Sherry Johnson will be leading a group of senior citizens to Jefferson on Dec. 11 for its Candlelight Tour of Christmas Homes. “We will pick up in Commerce at the Farmers Market at 10:30 a.m. and return back to Commerce/Greenville after the festivities have ended,” she said. There is a flyer on the church bulletin board. You can also call her at 903-886-1123 to obtain more information, including cost.

**Did we forget something? Don't forget to let us have your news items as soon as possible!**



**In observance of the  
Thanksgiving Holiday,  
the FPC office will be closed  
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27-28.**

