



THE GOOD NEWS

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

November 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

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A Message From the Pastor

Calling all ARTISTS!

"Let There Be Light" will be the theme this year for advent, which begins on Sunday, Dec. 3.

I invite everyone to create something that incorporates this theme of "Let there be light." Contributions could include any media such as paint, drawings, sculpture, music, food, flora, fabric, photography, woodwork, jewelry, and much more. Your choices are limited only to your imagination! Pieces should be submitted between Dec. 3-24. Some of the contributions will be incorporated into Sunday school and worship services, or other creative ways.

The theme comes from a group called *A Sanctified Art*, four artists in ministry that create artistic multimedia for congregations and other ministries. Below is what they have to say about the theme and the resources they have come up with for advent:

This world is full of beginnings—a baby's first cries, the light of sunrise, habits retrained, love singing your name, and hope breaking into our day to day. However, before a new beginning, there is always waiting. Thus, this Advent, we wait for the birth of the Messiah—that unfailing light. We'll seek a love that shoves away the shadows of night. We'll follow a star and trust that it shows us the way. We'll proclaim that God has the power to make us new each day.

Playing with the concept of "light" as both a verb and noun, we're treating Let There Be Light as:

- a statement of God's acts in the world (specifically in Genesis 1, birth of Christ, John 1).
- a prayerful plea for God's light to continue to break through the darkness (especially when hope, joy, and light are missing in our lives).
- a call to action for us to shift systems and shove away the shadows to "prepare the way" for a new creation.

This Advent, let there be color. Let there be peace. Let there be new beginnings. Let there be light—as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.

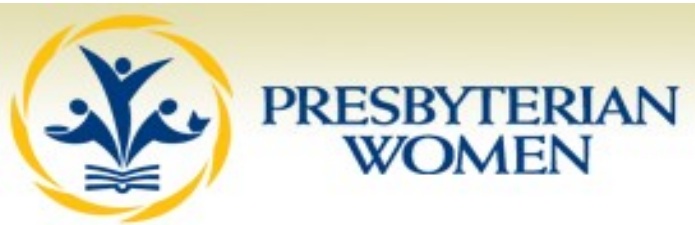
-from www.sanctifiedart.org

I'm looking forward to seeing what you will create and share with us this coming advent season.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Krista Rasco





By Toni Deaton
Moderator

Special Circle Meeting—At our next scheduled Circle Meeting on Monday, Nov. 13, in Fellowship Hall, we will be welcoming **Rev. Angie Mabry-Nauta**, Development and Marketing Coordinator for Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) in Kingsville. PPAS is a Christian college preparatory school that educates and empowers young adults for leadership in the global community. This year 11 countries were represented in the student body and 100% of the graduating students were accepted into college.



Rev. Angie Mabry-Nauta

In addition to presenting a “Minute for Mission” concerning PPAS, Rev. Nauta will be leading Lesson 3 in our study of *Hebrews*.

In an effort to reach out to other Presbyterian women in our “neck of the woods,” we have invited PW from a number of churches in our “cluster.” The event will begin at 10 a.m. and a luncheon will follow. As always, all women are invited to attend. So, even if you do not regularly attend circle meetings, you will want to join us for this special event as we welcome PW from other churches. RSVP by calling 903-886-3783 by Wednesday, Nov. 8

Brenda Estes is the new Cluster Leader for all these churches and our event will present a great opportunity for all of us.

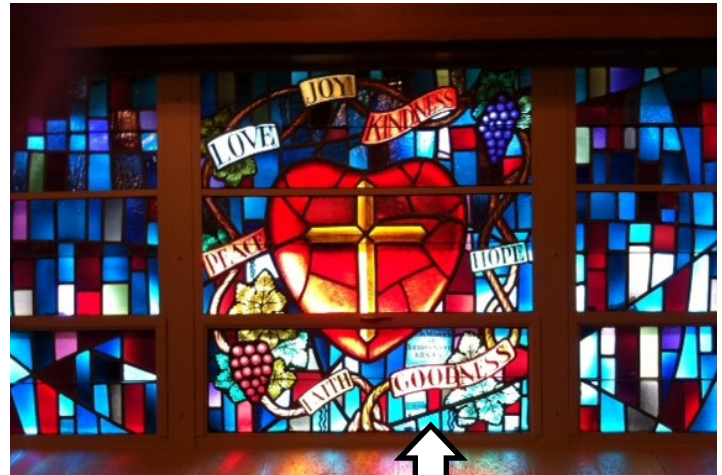
(Note: Our Thank Offering will be received at our December meeting rather than November due to this special event.)

PW Fall Gathering—Four women (**Bettina Zvanut**, **Brenda Estes**, **Tina Selvaggi**, and **Toni Deaton**) from FPC-Commerce several years back, gave the sermon and presided at Communion in the afternoon.

Keynote speaker was **Janet Theus**, who also presented a program at our Fish Fry on Sunday, Oct. 15. Rev. **Dr. Julie Adkins**, who was interim pastor for

FPC-Commerce several years back, gave the sermon and presided at Communion in the afternoon.

Stained-Glass Window at FPC-Mesquite in Memory of Kathryn Scott Krajca – Recently we learned that our Choir Director, **Micah Krajca**, grew up in First Presbyterian Church at Mesquite. When he heard that our PW Fall Gathering would be held at this church, he told us to look for the stained-glass window in memory of his mother. We made pictures of the window and we send our very special blessings to Micah.



Pictured above is the memorial window that honors Micah Krajca's mother. At

right above is an enlarged portion of the picture that says “In Memory of Kathryn Scott Krajca. Below, Toni, Tina, Bettina, Janet Theus, and Brenda pose in front of it.



Thanks to Wally Tucker—Grace Presbytery PW has a large Presbyterian Women banner that is displayed at each PW event. Unfortunately, there was no stand for the pole. Our own **Wally Tucker**

(Continued on page 3)

Meet Our TAMUC Student Choir Members

By Toni Deaton

FPC-Commerce is truly blessed to have a total of nine (9) TAMUC students participating in our choir program this year! If you missed the anthem on Sunday, Oct. 15, you missed something spectacular, as the students in the choir presented the anthem, *Give Me Jesus*. It was a beautiful and moving performance.

We are very pleased that the twins, **Danielle and Alexis Wright** are back with us this fall. Both girls are in their final year for their undergraduate music degrees, and will be doing internships Sunnyvale and Garland, respectively. We have been blessed with their lovely voices in our choir for three years. Both of them have also taught in our SCAMP program.

David Estrada, who has also been singing in our choir about three years, will be serving his internship year in Lovejoy High School in Lovejoy, a community near Garland. Both **David** and **Micah** taught in SCAMP.

Micah Krajca, who has been singing with us for three years, is now serving as FPC's Music and Choir Director. Micah is also a senior and will be completing his student teaching this school year at Plano West Senior High School.

Other voices we are hearing this fall are these students who are new to our choir:

Lilly Goucher, a senior who hails from Rockwall, is a Music Education major.

Edwin Henriquez, a junior Music Education major, is from Houston.

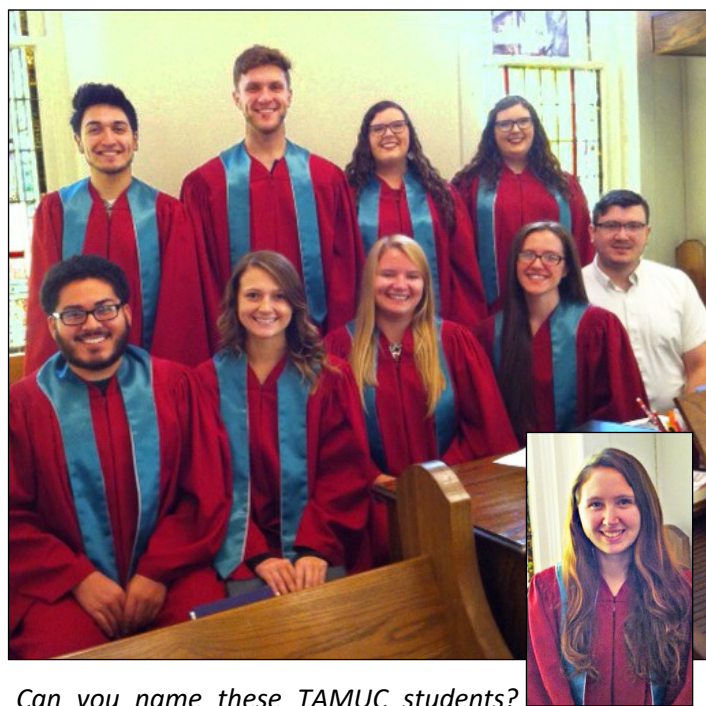
Sydney Mouton, from Garland, is a senior Business major.

Lauren Simmons is from Allen and is a senior Vocal Performance major.

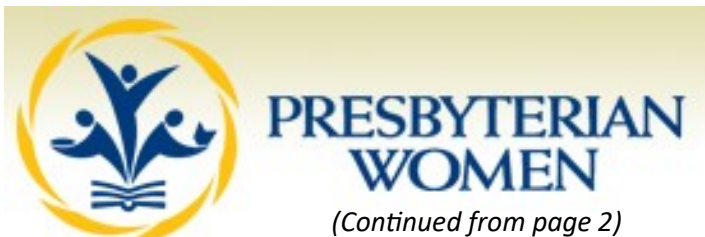
Sarah Smith is from Houston and is a junior Vocal Performance major.

Our pianist, **David Vergara** from Colombia, has been with us over a year and just recently completed his Master's in Piano Performance. Congratulations to David!

Please welcome and thank these young people. Their music talent is outstanding and we are so very fortunate to have them leading and assisting in our worship services each Sunday. Not only are they faithful in singing in the choir, but they also attend Sunday school and other special events at our church.



Can you name these TAMUC students? We'll give you a clue. Micha Krajca is standing second from the left and David Vergara, seated at right) is not a student, but a recent graduate. If you can't name the rest, just go introduce yourself and thank them for making a beautiful contribution to FPC's worship services.



(Continued from page 2)

graciously agreed to make a stand for the banner. Thank you, Wally, for sharing your talent, time and materials to build the stand. It works beautifully and was used at the Fall Gathering in October.

Nice job, Wally!



FPC in Action

Fish Fry!

The FPC Membership Committee sponsored FPC's annual Fish Fry on Oct. 15. In addition to the great food, participants heard Janet Theus (pictured at right) deliver an informative presentation about the very real problem of human trafficking in the United States.

It is a subject the Oklahoman learned a great deal about as a participant at the 2016 USA Mission Experience in San Francisco for Synod of the Sun



Janet Theus provided some food for thought after everyone enjoyed some food of the more traditional kind at the FPC Fish Fry on Oct. 15.

Jane Cox Wins First FPC Cake Contest

By Bettina Zvanut

The first Cake Bake-off at First Presbyterian Church occurred last Sunday (Oct. 22) at 6 p.m. Five cakes were judged and three ribbons were given: First Place—**Jane Cox** for an Italian Cream Cake; Second Place and most Original—**Tina Selvaggi** for a Triple Lemon Cake; and Third Place and People's Choice —**Kay Hatfield** for a German Chocolate Cake

About 30 people enjoyed eating the cakes for \$1 a slice. The high school class, which sponsored the bake-off, collected \$265 to donate to the Haiti Educational Fund (HEF). The money will cover three scholarships for children who will also get uniforms, shoes, school books, milk, and meals. Thanks to all of the bakers who donated and helped.



The best part: the eating—and raising money for children in Haiti.



Five cakes and everybody was a winner!

FPC in Action . . . continued

Commerce Food Pantry Honors Its Volunteers with Appreciation Dinner

Thirty people enjoyed a brisket and pork loin meal Tuesday (Oct. 24) evening in FPC's Fellowship Hall as the Commerce Food Pantry thanked its volunteers with an appreciation dinner.

"We are enjoying our biggest and best year yet," said CFP President **Isabel Davis**, "and it is in large part due to our volunteers."

The evening included distribution of Commerce Food Pantry T-shirts and certificates of appreciation to volunteers who had served from six months to 14 years. Door prizes were also awarded.

After recently joining the North Texas Food Bank, the number of volunteers has increased, as has CFP's volunteer training. Currently, the food pantry has about 37 volunteers on its rolls. It takes six workers each week to efficiently serve the neighbors who come for food assistance.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are an increasingly important part of the weekly offerings. Tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, onions, melons, strawberries, apples and more have all been found, at one time or another, on the food pantry's table of offerings, thanks to **The North Texas Food Bank, Delta Hope House in Cooper and the Wolfe City Food Pantry.**

Bread, hamburger and hotdog buns, have long been provided by **Jon Parker**. Recently the variety has grown because Panera Bread and Kristi Webber of the Congregational Methodist Church work together to bring a selection of artisan breads each week. Even eggs have appeared, thanks to local donors.

When there is more than can be handed out, volunteers have helped spread the bounty by sharing food with Campbell Community Outreach.

Angela Roberts and other helpers have been busy recently, signing up people for Hunt County Cares holiday food baskets. The pantry is now serving about 130 families each month.

It was a great night and President Davis was appreciative.

"Thank you to everyone who helped make our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner a big success. I think everyone had a good time and I know they enjoyed the good food," she said.

Special note: Because of growth, the Commerce Food Pantry is looking into purchasing a refrigerator and/or freezer to allow holding some foods for a week or so. Commerce Community Cares, Inc. has provided funds for this important addition.



The Commerce Food Pantry volunteers and their guests were treated to a night of fun and food for their efforts in helping those in need.



Upcoming Community Events



- **Saturday, Nov. 11—Veteran's Day.**
- **Sunday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.—Believe Anyway.**
TAMUC student Paul Bryan invites to a night of short films about faith. This free event is located in the Jack and Lou Finney Concert Hall on campus.
- **Monday, Nov. 13, 5:45-8 p.m.—GriefShare:** Surviving the Holidays, a one-night seminar for those who are grieving the death of a family member or friend, will be presented on Monday night, November 13, from 5:45 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church in Commerce. The local GriefShare group sponsored by FBC Commerce will be hosting the event for the entire region. The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance. Those who attend will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips and encouragement for surviving the holiday season. For more information, see www.GriefShare.org/holidays, or call 903-886-8600 or 214-729-7525.
- **Friday, Nov. 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.—Holiday Market** at Sam Rayburn Student Center, TAMUC
- **Thursday, Nov. 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.—Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner** at First United Methodist Church of Commerce.
- **Friday, Dec. 1, all day—Candle Light Tour of Homes.** The deadline for signing up for the Commerce Community Action Program's upcoming bus trip for Jefferson's Candlelight Tour of Homes on Friday, Dec. 1, has been extended to Nov. 8. The bus is almost filled, but there is still some room. The schedule gives participants time to enjoy lunch and some shopping in Jefferson prior to the tour itself. The cost of \$45 per person includes the luxury motor coach and a ticket to the tour. Call Dr. Bob Johnson at 903-468-2659 or 903-886-2700 for more information and to reserve your seat on the bus. You can also email him at reljo611@hotmail.com.

FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpcccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpcccommerce.

<https://twitter.com/fpcccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com.

November Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 5** Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m. (Be on time: remember to change your clocks due to the Daylight Savings time change)
All Saints' Day / Communion Sunday
Sermon focus on Revelation 7:9-17
- 12** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Joshua 24:1-3a; 14-25
- 19** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Judges 4:1-10
- 26** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday
Sermon focus on Ephesians 1:15-23

Other November events

- 8** **Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting
- 13** **Monday, 10 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting
(This is a special luncheon meeting with a special speaker. RSVP to 903-886-3783 by Wednesday, Nov. 8.)
- 16** **Thursday, 9 a.m. 4 p.m.**—Grace Presbytery Meeting at FPC-Arlington, 1200 Collins Street in Arlington
- 23-24** **Thursday-Friday**—FPC office closed for Thanksgiving.
- 28** **Tuesday, 5 p.m.**—Food pantry board meeting.

But you have a lot to be thankful for. We are thankful for you.



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	Aaron Senne
Jan Burns	Kristen Rueb	Jordan Moore	Janice Hale
Dub Holcomb	Family of Bob Lube	Family of Chris Hubbert	Jackie Book
Martha and Dan Reynolds	Ruth Green	Audrey Hucks	Larry Ratliff
Martha Clevenger	Jack Gray	Jean Angotti	Family of Carole McFarland
Joyce Isaacs	Jim Calvert	Deryl McKenzie	Family of Natalie Salisbury

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

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
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Stewardship and Finance:

Chair	Jordan Conner
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Personnel:

Chair	Wally Tucker
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Note: Some committees do not have co-chairs.

November Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 8 – Neal Stewart
- 10 – Madison Avery Tucker
- 14 – Joane Walvoord
- 14 – Zane Belcher
- 17 – Alexander Lucas Towne
- 19 – Eric McIntier
- 20 – Beverly Housewright
- 28 – Amy McIntier

Happy Anniversary to:

- 14 – Odeana & Neal Stewart
- 18 – Bettina & David Zvanut
- 22 – Kim and Mark Fake

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

Hymn of the Month

Page 616—Our God Is an Awesome God



Bible Readings for this Sunday and Next Sunday

This Sunday (Nov. 5) is the 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament: Joshua 3:7-17 *Israel Crosses the Jordan*

Psalter: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 *Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles*

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12 *The Beatitudes*

New Testament: Revelation 7:9-17 *The Multitude from Every Nation*



Next Sunday (Nov. 12) is the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13 *The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids*

Psalter: Psalm 123 *Supplication for Mercy*

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *The Coming of the Lord*

Old Testament: Joshua 24:1-3a, -14-25 *The Tribes Renew the Covenant*

November Worship Leaders

November 5

Host Elder: Petra Strassberg
Head Usher: Scott Stewart
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Bettina Zvanut
Elements: Helon Razniak

November 12

Head Usher: Ric Estes
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Keith McFarland

November 19

Head Usher: Walt Davis
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Matthew McFarland

November 26

Head Usher: Bob Johnson
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Bettina Zvanut

Be sure to thank these people for their service when you see them. If you would like to help as a worship leader, call the church office.

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 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

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.**



*Remember our veterans this
Veteran's Day and all year long.*