



The Good News

Weekly Edition

No. 22

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WOW!!!



Photos
taken
Thursday,
Dec. 11.

Monroe Paving Begun!

Road work on north Monroe Street may not all be done in time for Sunday's Worship Service, but paving in front of FPC should be. Work has been ongoing for a long time, but the actual paving caught the FPC office by surprise. A look out the front door on Dec. 11 to see what all the noise was about, provided these pictures.

As you can see, asphalt on both halves of the road in front of FPC was being applied. Work on sidewalks and the intersection of Monroe and Caddo remain to be done, but the long wait is nearly over!





Advent Season Well Underway

Can you believe this coming Sunday will be the third Sunday in Advent?

We've already lit two of the Advent candles with the help of the FPC Youth (not the Presbyterian Women as was stated incorrectly in the December monthly calendar) and the FPC Choir. Volunteers with the Commerce Food Pantry will be here to light the third candle this Sunday. Then on Sunday, Dec. 21, it will be the Presbyterian Women lighting the fourth candle. Finally, on Dec. 24 at our Christmas Eve Service, Rev. Rasco and her family will light the Christ candle.

Advent study guides "*Joy in Jesus*" are still available on tables in the Sanctuary and the rear entry area.

Pointsettias Brighten the Sanctuary

In addition to the Chrismon Tree and all the other decorations in the Sanctuary, a sea of red poinsettias has been added, thanks to the generosity of some of our FPC folks. An insert is being placed in the Sunday bulletin with names of those who ordered poinsettias and who they ordered them for.

Here's the list. If you ordered a poinsettia and we got the information wrong, contact Roger McKenzie in the church office so that he can correct the mistake.

In Memory of:

Stephen Razniak by Helon Razniak

Kenneth McCord by Joyce McCord

Richard & Zona Clevenger and W.C. & Louise
Hogenson by Martha, Eric & Hui Clevenger

Jack and Eva Duncan and Jack and Louis Duncan by
Danny & Janet Duncan

Jack and Lois Chapin and Eddie Chapin by Danny &
Janet Duncan

Janie Fuller by Danny & Janet Duncan

John McQuary by Nila McQuary

Mr. and Mrs. D. O. McFadden and Mr. and Mrs. W. R.
Stewart by Neal and Odeana Stewart



Leona Germany by Bart and Nancy Green

Clara Stovall Smith by Monty Howard & family

Fred & Lucille Cox and Frank & Doris Dickson by Joe
Fred & Jane Cox

Ian Hunter-Reeves & Walter Reeves by Susan Reeves

Alice Procter (Bob's sister) by Dr. and Mrs. Robert
Johnson, Jr.

Kenneth & Billie Pirtle (Kathy's parents) by Ken and
Kathy Miller

Lee Leonard by Brenda & Ric Estes

Our parents Vern and Honey Fletcher by Rick and Tina
Fletcher Selvaggi

Robert Morgan Scaff by Hoyle & Ann Julian

In Honor of:

My grandchildren, Alex, Stephen, Sophia, Izzy and
Thomas by Helon Razniak

Diane Little by Monty Howard & family.

Karen & Steve & Andy & Aaron Bohl by Joe Fred and
Jane Cox

My grandkids Kiley, Zachary, and Alex by Mona Towne
Dudley Miller & Barbara McCoy (Ken's parents) by Ken
& Kathy Miller

Our children by Brenda & Ric Estes

Rev. Krista Rasco, Jason, & Kaitlynn by Jim & Toni
Deaton

Our parents Rossi and Lillian Sevaggi by Rick and Tina
Fletcher Selvaggi

The descendants of Robert Morgan Scaff by Hoyle & Ann
Julian

Our grandchildren, Matthew, Jason and Meredith by
Keith and Nancy McFarland

Sermon Focus

We are moving quickly toward Christmas. This Sunday is the third Sunday in Advent. Rev. Rasco will use the Old Testament words of Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 in her sermon. The subhead for these verses is "The Good News of Deliverance."

Assisting With Worship This Week

Those assisting with worship this week are: Joyce Isaacs, Head Usher; Food Pantry Volunteers, Candlelighters; and Keith McFarland, 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.

Added to Our Prayer List

Paula Elliott, wife of Charles, has been added to our prayer list. She is recovering at home after surgery. Please keep her and all the people on our list in your thoughts and prayers.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Diane Little	Gordon Hunter	Jace Carrington
Bruce Campbell	Sara Grace Pullen	Melba Blount	Amy Lopez
Billy Marshall	Barbara Leonard	Riley Isom	Joe Yeakley
Rev. Roy Ditmar	Peri Poole	Todd Shinn	Bill and Lisa Rhoades
Sammy Elwell	Paula Elliott		

An invitation to a Longest Night Service at FPC in Bonham

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or anguish of broken of unemployment, the pain of isolation. All these in the midst of the We need the space and sadness and concern; we not alone.



Spirits can sink, as the days grow shorter. If we feel the darkness growing deeper around us, we may need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

For these reasons, **First Presbyterian Church of Bonham** (818 N. Main St. Bonham, TX) will offer a special "**Longest Night**" service on **Sunday, December 21st at 6 p.m.**

Come out, and join in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone is welcome.

Pastor Rasco will be going to this service and will offer carpooling if wanted. Plan to meet in the parking lot of FPC in Commerce at 5 p.m. and we will leave no later than 5:10 p.m.

Three Big Thank You's

Thanks to Wally and Barbara Tucker for the new Christmas tree in the sanctuary! It was a lovely gift which included lights and has been beautifully decorated with Chrismons created by our church women.

We also wish to show our appreciation to Joe Fred and Jane Cox who donated a lovely silver service to our Presbyterian Women so that they can use it for receptions in the coming years. The service includes a punch bowl, tray, and cups as well as a teapot, coffee server, sugar bowl, creamer, and tray. The Coxes purchased the set from Irene Humfeld's estate sale, so many members may remember this set in her home.



Finally, thanks to Carolyn McFarland for supplying her Christmas tree to the church for the Fellowship Hall. The inner pole for the old tree was missing, so Carolyn stepped in and helped the Middle School Sunday School Class finish the decorating job.

FCP people are second to none. Thanks again to Wally and Barbara Tucker, Joe Fred and Jane Cox, and Carolyn McFarland.

News from the Kiss the Pig Contest

An anonymous donor has saved Rick Selvaggi from kissing the pig!!!! For now Reverend Krista Rasco is in the lead. However, Rick Selvaggi, Joe Fred Cox and Sherry Johnson are still in the running and with a little last second help could end up smooching Sir Little Bacon. We'll try to have an up-to-date compilation of where each stands in next week's newsletter.



Andddddddd to make it more interesting, Sir Little Bacon may be misnamed. He is a little older, so he can't be held or put on a table. He's going to be on a leash, and Mason is training him to be calm. The Dec. 21 kissing ceremony after church may have to be held outside. (Please bring your cameras to the stew luncheon.)

A stew luncheon (by donation only) is planned that day. Although the stew will be provided, breads, salads, veggies, or desserts to accompany the stew are requested. Thanks to all who donated to this project!

If you don't know, all the money raised will help send our youth to SHY-C in late January. SHY-C is a gathering of about 600 Presbyterian High School kids from our Grace Presbytery. They meet at Austin College for Bible study, singing, games, and worship.

Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m.** – Teach the Preacher. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m.** – Care Committee meeting.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.** – New Beginnings Leadership Training.
- **Friday, Dec. 19, 6-9 p.m.** – FPC members and friends are invited to a Christmas gathering at the home of Pastor Rasco, 3007 Tanglewood in Commerce.

Food Pantry News

This Sunday at FPC, the second Sunday of the month, calls for a bag of pinto beans (or other beans if you want to add variety) and/or a bag of rice. Place your items in the box at the back of the sanctuary. As always, thank you for your donation.

Last week we mentioned a little boy (and his family) who wanted to help and a group from TAMUC who donated 1,000 cans. We didn't specify the group because we really didn't have much information. Here's what we know now, although it is not a lot. The group of students came from the Biology Department. Our thanks to all those who contributed to this big donation.

As we said, last week, however, all donations are welcome and needed. Some of those even come from out of state. Pennie Embry of Oklahoma made such a donation recently—giving 35 pounds of food to the Commerce Food Pantry.



For such a simple dish, there must be hundreds of different recipes for red beans and rice. Google it and click on images and you will see for yourself. Here's one taken off the internet at random.

RED BEANS AND RICE

Ingredients

1 lb. red beans
1 lg. onion, chopped
1 lg. green bell pepper, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 bay leaves
½ – ½ cup bacon grease
Salt and pepper to taste.
For more spice use a little cayenne pepper if desired.

(Feel free to experiment with other seasonings)

Directions

1. Place beans in a large round pot (dutch oven), add water to 4 inches above beans, soak overnight. Discard water after overnight soaking.
2. Add water to 4 inches above beans. Add onion, bell pepper, garlic, bay leaves and bacon grease.
3. Cover pot and bring to a rolling boil, reduce heat to a gentle boil and cook until beans are tender and water has turned creamy (3 – 4 hours). Stir often to avoid beans from sticking to bottom of pot. Add water as needed.
4. Discard bay leaves and serve over white rice.

Christmas CDs Help PW Help Others

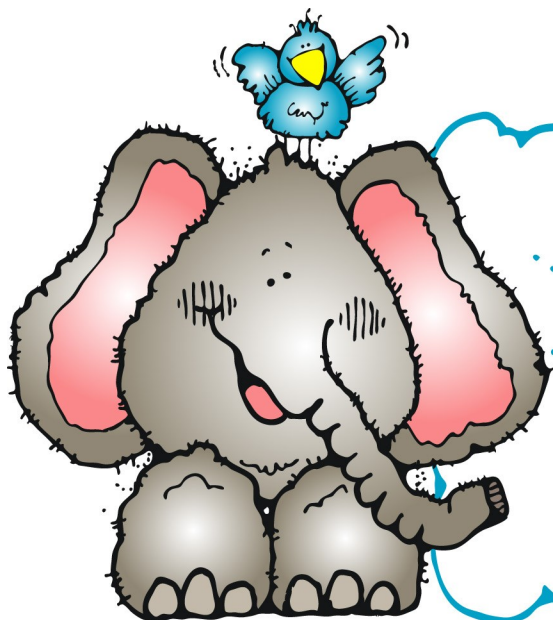
Our Presbyterian Women still have Christmas CDs available for a donation of \$15 to support the Birthday Offering and Living Waters of the World (LWW). The CDs feature familiar Christmas songs and carols (vocal and instrumental).





Christmas Gathering at Rev. Rasco's house

You are invited to stop by Krista and Jason Rasco's home (3007 Tanglewood) from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19 for a come and go Christmas gathering.



Don't
Forget!

to let us have your news items as soon as possible!