



THE GOOD NEWS

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

February 2017

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Did We forget Something?

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

Sometimes a new or different perspective may be called for. Day to day living can cause us to make routines. Routines can be beneficial and good, but they can also leave us stuck doing the same thing over again, or even cause us to miss seeing something new that can be as valuable as "the way we have always done things".

That is just what the session has tried to do the last two years, by having their elder training events outside of the walls of the church building. Last month, four of our elders attended an Elder Training Event at Camp Gilmont. Retired Stated Clerk of PC(USA), Gradye Parsons, lead the retreat.

Rev. Parsons gave the pastors and ruling elders at the retreat space to reflect on the church and its mission in a little different way. He asked us to think of each person in the church, to imagine where they sit on Sunday morning, and then think of the spiritual assets each individual gives to the church. He mentioned assets such as "spiritual insight; encouragement; practical help; life wisdom; and simply being an example—of someone who has overcome struggles to keep the faith; someone who makes your burdens seem lighter, or who nurtures children or mentors teens, or who cares for older people."

So that is just what these four elders and I did. We ended up with a large list of assets this church has, even though we didn't have time to "assess" everyone or consider such things as physical resources (our time, our money, our beautiful building and its contents).



(Continued on page 6)



By Toni Deaton

FPC PW Moderator

PW Circle Meeting

PW Circle will meet on Monday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m. for Bible study and a brief business meeting.

The leader for the lesson, a view of Jesus as presented in the Book of Hebrews, is **Helon Razniak**. Early on, this book was thought to have been written by Paul. However, it became clear by the second century that the style, vocabulary and theology reflected in this book was vastly unlike what is found in Paul's letters. To learn more about Hebrews, you are invited to join us to hear Helon's lesson. Guests are welcome.

Mission Focus

●PW members met on Monday, Jan. 30, to trace and cut out fleece for baby caps. Every two months 100 caps made by our members are taken to the newborn nursery at Hunt Regional Medical Center.

More than 100 caps were traced, cut out and pinned together in less than an hour at Monday's meeting by seven members. The "stitchers" will have almost 4 weeks to complete them in order to meet the March 1st deadline.

A big thank you goes to all those who help with

this mission endeavor.

●In early December of 2016, **Beverly Housewright** and **Nila McQuary** spent time recycling old Christmas cards. The fronts of the cards were "re-purposed" and placed on new paper.

After the cards were completed, they were taken to Country Home Estates and Oak Manor and delivered to residents there. Thanks Beverly and Nila for doing this project each year.



Beverly Housewright and Nila McQuary show off some of their beautiful "re-purposed" Christmas cards.

Completing PW History for 2016

We would like to recognize **Bettina Zvanut** for her dedicated and time-consuming work in completing our annual history report, which is turned in by the end of January. She has served as historian for several years. We all thank you, Bettina.

Upcoming Book Share

A reminder—on Friday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m., all ladies of FPC are cordially invited to attend a "Book Share" at the home of Toni Deaton.

Each person will have an opportunity to share information about a book that she has read and enjoyed.

Guests are welcome. Please RSVP to Toni so she will know how many to expect.



At the Jan. 30 cutting session were (left to right) Mona Towne, Nila McQuary, Toni Deaton, Brenda Estes, Martha Clevenger, Nancy McFarland, and Helon Razniak.



Prestigious Opera Program Accepts Micah

First Presbyterian worship service attendees on Jan. 29 got an expected, and very nice, announcement from **Micah Krajca**, a TAMU-C student who is in his third year of singing in our choir. He has been accepted into a very prestigious summer program for young artists called The College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, Massachusetts, on beautiful Cape Cod.



Founded in 1969, CLOC strives to provide high-quality musicals and operettas to summer audiences on Cape Cod, while at the same time giving young talent from around the world a chance to begin a career in music theatre. This independent, not-for-profit, educational theatre provides a community where young artists have the opportunity to practice and perfect their art in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Micah said he came across The College Light Opera Company on-line using an app. He applied and was accepted, which is an honor because CLOC's company is selected annually from applicants across the country and around the world. A description of the company taken from its website, says it consists of "32 talented singers, an 18-piece orchestra, 12 dedicated technicians, two box office representatives, two accompanists, two associate conductors, a choreographer, a stage manager, a co-op work director, a chef, a business manager, a marketing director and a bullpen of professional directors and conductors."

Each member will spend the summer working in a professional atmosphere free of other academic responsibilities—with the goal of refining their craft.

"I was attracted to this company because I

longed for an *opportunity* to practice and perfect my art in a supportive and nurturing environment," Micah said. "I am incredibly excited, but I can also say that I am equally as nervous."

It will be a big challenge, in part that is because of the rigor of the schedule, but also in part because Micah said this will be "the first time that I will be in a place where I will not have any friends or family beside me."

"I decided to take on this challenge to prove to myself that I am capable," he said.

Everyone who knows him at FPC can certainly predict only success for him.

His summer in Maine—from June 9 until Aug. 27—will certainly be almost non-stop.

"We will perform nine operettas/musicals, Micah explained. "When we get there we will receive an audition binder for the summer. The first audition will be on June 14 for the first three shows of the season. The rest of the auditions will occur throughout the summer.

"We will be coached before each audition. This will be quite the learning process since I am more familiar with the education world. These shows include *The Zoo* and *Trial By Jury*, *Patience*, *Anything Goes*, *Cabaret*, *Grand Hotel*, *My Fair Lady*, *Pippin*, and *The Desert Song*."

Micah provided a glimpse of what he will be doing. As part of weekly rehearsals, he will receive vocal and dance training each week. While one show is being performed, the following week's show is being rehearsed during the day. His average day will begin at 10 a.m. with a break for lunch at 12:30 and then continues from 2-5:30 p.m.—with a performance in the evening. There are five evening performances, Tuesday through Saturday, and a matinee performance on Thursday. A technical rehearsal takes place on Sunday evening and a dress rehearsal on Monday evening."

Performances are in the historic Highfield Theatre in Falmouth, and are frequently sold out.

"We will be staying in an old resort complex in West Falmouth and it is about four miles from the theatre," he said. "Meals will be served in the dining room. In addition to the shows, we will have small work assignments to help with the food and cleaning process."

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Sunday School News

FPC's Mission Outreach Revealed

On Sunday, Jan. 28, during the Sunday school hour an intergenerational class was held instead of our normal Sunday School classes. Participants enjoyed an interactive time together while creating a bulletin board highlighting some of the mission outreach accomplished by members of FPC.

The event was planned by the Christian

Education Committee, which is chaired by **Walt Davis**.

Organizations, schools, businesses and community support groups were listed on the board and names of people who volunteer with these groups were added to the board. The display will remain in the Fellowship Hall for the next several weeks. You are invited to add your name to the list of those volunteers already posted. Extra "petals" and pens are available for your use.

Take a look and see what the members of FPC are doing in our community!

Another "intergenerational" Sunday school day is planned for the next "5th" Sunday and plans will be announced soon.



Evie Conner (left) and her friend Jolene call attention to the bulletin board display showing the what and who of FPC's mission outreach to the local community.



The Christian Education Committee stands before the bulletin board display created at the Intergenerational Sunday School meeting on Jan. 29. Pictured from left to right are Jordan Conner, Bettina Zvanut, Keith McFarland, Toni Deaton, Walt Davis, Brenda Estes, and Carolyn McFarland.

Community News and Events



Community Garden, Food Education Proposal

The Commerce Community Action Program, TAMU-C, CISD, area churches, and a variety of social services hope to sponsor an Agri-Life/Lifestyle-changing program during the spring, summer, and early fall of 2017.

The program, if implemented fully, would consist of the following:

- ♦Assignment of a community garden activity and/or plot.
- ♦The care, nurturement, and harvest of crops.
- ♦Lessons in safe canning, freezing, dry food preparation for storage.
- ♦Food preparation, cooking, and service advice from trained providers and chefs.



The goal is to teach self-sufficiency in an enjoyable way that will include family and/or friends in meaningful lifestyle changes for healthy living.

If you are interested and would like to join in this effort to make Commerce a healthier place to live, call **Dr. Bob Johnson** at 903-468-2659 for additional

GriefShare Returns Feb. 6

GriefShare, hosted by First Baptist Church of Commerce will begin its spring semester on Monday, Feb. 6,

The Commerce group will meet every Monday night, beginning Feb. 6, 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. More information and resources are also provided at www.GriefShare.org.

Other February Community Events

- 4 Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.—Recycle Day**
University Parking Lot, Campbell and Walnut
- 11 Saturday, 6:30 p.m.—Hearts for the Arts**
Banquet, Emerald Ballroom, Greenville. This event raises funds and allows artists like FPC's **David Zvanut** to bring to the public their art.

Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

The Commerce Food Pantry serves many families in need each week. 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—Can of tuna, spam, or chicken

“ Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened. ”

— Dr. Suess



Upcoming Bible Readings

This Sunday (Feb. 5) is the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Old Testament: Isaiah 58:1-12 *False and True Worship*

Psalter: Psalm 112:1-10 *Blessings of the Righteous*

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 *Proclaiming Christ Crucified / The True Wisdom of God*

Gospel (and sermon focus): Matthew: 5:13-20
Salt and Light / The Law and the

Next Sunday (Feb. 12) is the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Exhortation to Choose Life

Psalter: Psalm 119:1-8 *The Glories of God's Law*
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 *On Divisions in the Corinthian Church*

Gospel (sermon focus): Matthew 5:21-37
Concerning Anger, Adultery, Oaths



**Grace Presbytery to Host
Rev. Dr. Luke Powery
on Feb. 24 & 25 in Fort Worth**

Grace Presbytery is honored to host **the Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery** of Duke University Divinity School at two events in Fort Worth this month. Dr. Powery will speak at a dinner hosted by Grace Presbytery and he will also preach at the **Stated Presbytery Meeting**.

Dr. Powery is a nationally known and sought-after speaker. Grace Presbytery invites guests from throughout Dallas-Fort Worth to attend these special events.



Dr. Powery will speak at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth at a dinner on Friday, Feb. 24. The dinner, which is hosted by Tarrant Churches Together, Grace Presbytery, and Westminster Presbyterian, will be at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Powery will discuss "Spirituals for Lent."

The following morning, on Saturday, Feb. 25, Dr. Powery will preach at the opening worship service of the Stated Presbytery Meeting, at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth at 9 a.m. He will also speak later that morning about "Preaching in Our Own Time and Culture," at 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth is located at 1000 Penn St, Fort Worth, 76102.

To attend the Feb. 24 dinner at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth, 7001 Trail Lake Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76133, please make your reservation with Vandee DeLeon, 214-393-5610, or email her at Vandee@gracepresbytery.org **by Feb. 16th**. Dinner is provided.

No reservation is required to attend the Feb. 25 worship service or the second presentation that day.

A Message From the Pastor

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I'm pretty sure I can speak for all of us that we left that retreat energized, and uplifted about the mission and direction of FPC and confident that we have resources to get there.

It happened, in large part, because we were given the opportunity to leave our everyday surroundings and see things from a different perspective.

Are you feeling "stuck" lately? Maybe giving yourself a different perspective to think things through, such as going somewhere new, or some place you haven't been to in a while, might be just what you need.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor

Prestigious Opera Program Accepts Micah

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Speaking in the vernacular of a performer, he said, "This is not a paid gig. I am responsible for all travel expenses, but once I get there everything should be taken care of.

"I could not pass up such a wonderful learning opportunity. I hope that it will give me a little taste how my life could be as a performer."

Hopefully, Micah will keep in touch, and maybe even send in a report and picture now and then for *The Good News* to relay to its readers. We all wish Micah the best in what may well be the summer of a lifetime and perhaps the start of a career in theatre.

If you would like to write, send cookies, or whatever, to Micah once he is there, the address is:

Micah Krajca

c/o College Light Opera Company

P.O. Box 906

Falmouth, MA 02541-0906

(Note: Only send things through the USPS, because anything else will be returned.)

**Don't
forget!**

**To send us your news or pictures for the
The Good News as soon as possible.
Also, let us know what is coming.**



FPC choir members practicing in the Parlor on Jan. 29.

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

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

Session Committees

Worship:

Chair Helon Razniak
Co-Chair Martha Clevenger

Christian Education:

Chair Walt Davis
Co-Chair Jordan Conner

Membership and Pastoral Care:

Chair Ric Estes
Co-Chair Bettina Zvanut

Mission/Evangelism:

Chair Bettina Zvanut
Co-Chair Petra Strassberg

Buildings and Grounds:

Chair Scott Stewart
Co-Chairs Rick Selvaggi
..... Wendell Linton

Stewardship and Finance:

Chair Jordan Conner
Co-chair Scott Stewart

Personnel:

Chair Wally Tucker
Co-Chairs Brenda Estes

February Worship Leaders

February 5

Host Elder: Russ Garmon
Head Usher: Wendell Linton
Candle Lighter: Jack Walker
Liturgist: Barbara Tucker
Elements: Helon Razniak

February 12

Head Usher: Jordan Conner
Candle Lighter: Evie Conner
Liturgist: Tina Selvaggi

February 19

Head Usher: Brenda Estes
Candle Lighter: Cal Conner
Liturgist: Lily Selvaggi

February 26

Head Usher: Bob Johnson
Candle Lighter: Matti Ritchie
Liturgist: Walt Davis

February Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

2 - Susan Reeves
3 - Penny Belcher Muecke
5 - Joyce Isaacs
5 - Helon Razniak
8 - John Walvoord, II
14 - Danny Duncan
22 - Castleton Walker Porterfield

Happy Anniversary to:

7 – Walt & Isabel Davis

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

VOL NTEER
all that's missing is U!



FPC choir members practicing in the Parlor on Jan. 29.

Passing—Jace Carrington (born Feb. 21, 1936)

Jerry “Jace” Clisto Carrington, 81, who was on the FPC Prayer List, passed away peacefully on Jan. 18, 2017 in Dallas, Texas. He is survived by his wife Susan, three sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren.

An active Texas A&M University Commerce alumnus, he helped raise scholarship funds for the university’s Tejas Club/Sig Ep Endowment fund.

A funeral service was held Jan. 20 in Cooper at the First United Methodist Church. A memorial service was held Jan. 24 at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano.

A complete obituary is available online. Control click [here](#).

February Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 5 Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Matthew 5:13-20
- 12 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Matthew 5:21-37
- 19 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Matthew 5:38-48
- 26 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Transfiguration of the Lord
Sermon focus on Matthew 17:1-9

Other February events

- 1 **Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Caring Committee meeting
- 4 **Tuesday, 9 a.m.**—Teach the Preacher resumes
- 8 **Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.**—Session meeting
- 13 **Monday, 10 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting
- 21 **Tuesday, 9 a.m.**—Teach the Preacher
- 22 **Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.**—Christian Education Committee meeting
- 24 **Friday, 5:30 p.m.**—Grace Presbytery dinner featuring Rev. Luke Powery at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth
- 25 **Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**—Grace Presbytery Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth
- 28 **Tuesday, 9 a.m.**—Teach the Preacher

Note: Teach the Preacher will not meet on Feb. 14.

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 Skaug
Mildred Miller	Amanda Swanson	Gaye Furry
Preston Helton	Loretta Kibler	Joan Walvoord
Donald R. Smith	Catherine King	Robertson
Family of John Paul Rhodes	Odeana Stewart	
Bennie Neve	Family of Edwin Chambers	
Frieda Branom	Ron Davis	Janice Sigure
Family of Don Acker	Family of Jace Carrington	
Family of Brad Rollins	Jason Rasco	

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

Odeana Stewart Now At Home

Following surgery and several days of recovery in the hospital, FPC’s Odeana Stewart is back home. She had undergone a lengthy surgery to remove a spot on her lung.



Did We Forget Something?

Maybe we forgot an event you are organizing for FPC or a committee report you wanted to get in The Good News. Whatever it is, let us know. If you forgot, remember to remember next time!