



THE GOOD NEWS

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

February, 2018

Inside this Edition:

Lent: Preparing the Way
Presbyterian Women's News
Mission/Evangelism: Robes & Slippers
Upcoming Community Events
February Hymn of the Month
Volunteer
Bible Readings
Prayer List Addition
In Our Prayers
Food Pantry Items
Staff, Session, Committees
GriefShare
February Dates to Remember
Good News Deadline
February Worship Leaders
Pictures
February Calendar
FPC Is Online!
Grace eNews Link
Keep Us Informed

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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Lent: Preparing the Way

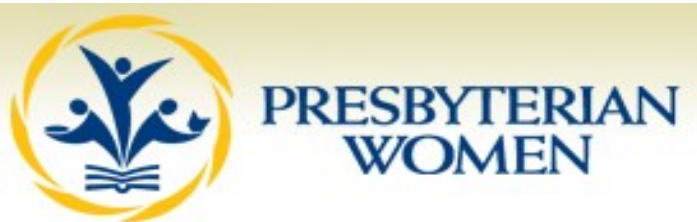
Ash Wednesday is rapidly approaching, marking the beginning of Lent. The Lenten season sets us on a journey to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Lent lasts 40 days, from Ash Wednesday (not counting Sundays) to dusk on the Saturday before Easter. The symbolism of 40 comes from the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert after his baptism by John, being tempted and tested. As we all should know, Jesus did not succumb to sin, and continued his path to the Cross.

As his time in the desert prepared Jesus, Lent is a time for us to strengthen and prepare ourselves for our life as Christians. On Ash Wednesday, when Rev. Rasco marks our foreheads with ashes, it is a reminder that life on earth is momentary. We come from dust and to dust we will return. But our spirit will endure and that is what God sent his Son to save. Just as Christ died and was resurrected, so shall we be if we believe.

Lent is meant to give us time to reflect on and examine our lives, comparing our actions and priorities with the example set by Jesus. Of course, we will always come up short. But that is not the goal. It is to strengthen our spirit and rid ourselves of the things that hinder us—that keep us from following the example Jesus set for us. Self-examination, prayer, confession, and repentance are the tools that we use during Lent to shine brightly and rejoice loudly as we celebrate the victory over death that was Christ's and that is ours if we make ourselves his true disciples.





By Toni Deaton

Trace-and-Cut Day--- On Monday, Feb. 5, PW will meet in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. to trace and cut out baby caps. One hundred caps need to be completed by March 1. If you would like to help with



Nancy McFarland, Martha Clevenger, Nila McQuary, Helon Razniak, Brenda Estes, and Toni Deaton were pictured last year after a cut and sew fleece cap session showing off some of the 600 baby caps that were donated in 2017.

this mission project, please join us. Bring your scissors and straight pins. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

This project was begun in May of 2013 and since that time we have made 3,370 caps.

Bible Study---On Monday, Feb. 12, at 10 a.m., the PW Circle will meet to discuss Lesson 6 of our current study of the book of Hebrews. The Leader is **Helon Razniak** and the hostess is **Jane Cox**. We are asked to bring a can of chili or beef stew for the food pantry. All women are invited to attend.

Grace Presbytery PW --- On Saturday, Jan. 20, **Brenda and I** attended a Coordinating Team meeting at Flower Mound PC. There were 19 CT members present as plans were completed for the two spring workshop meetings in April. Although she could not attend, **Bettina Zvanut**, as Vice Moderator for Programs, submitted information regarding the workshops to be offered. Upon her recommendation, the theme and scripture passage were both selected and approved by the CT. Dates and places for the workshop meetings are scheduled as follows:

—April 14 at FPC-Kilgore

—April 28 at St. Stephen PC-Fort Worth

More information regarding the meetings will be published in the 1st quarter *PW Innovator* which will be available March 1.

Women in Faith Conference --- On Sunday, Jan. 27, I attended a “*Women in Faith Conference*” which was held at St. Andrew PC-Denton from 2:30-4:30 pm. The four-member Panel from the Christian, Jewish, Catholic and Islamic faiths led discussions around the *Changing Roles of Women* in their respective religions. Questions from the audience followed the panel discussion. Approximately 150 women and men from churches around the area attended. A reception followed. **Paula Adams** of United PC-Greenville also attended.



Panel shows diversity at Women in Faith Conference.

FPC—Mission/Evangelism



Robes and Slippers

Bettina Zvanut, co-chair of the Mission/Evangelism Committee has announced that FPC will be collecting robes and slippers again this year. Everyone is encouraged to help in this annual church-wide effort. If you have gently used items or would like to purchase new one, these items will be taken in a nice gift bag to Kindred Hospice in Greenville for distribution to the patients in mid-March.

You can give your donation to Bettina Zvanut or leave it at the office.

A special thanks goes to **Helon Razniak** for the first donation given.

Upcoming Community Events



- **Saturday, Feb. 3, 6:30-9 p.m.—2018 Daddy Daughter Dance** at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum. Sponsored by the Thalian Culture Club. Tickets available at the door.
- **Sunday, Feb. 4, noon—Souper Bowl of Caring** at the First United Methodist Church in Commerce. Donations benefit the two food pantries here.
- **Mondays (for the next 13 weeks), 6-8 p.m.—GriefShare** at the First Baptist Church in Commerce (see article this issue).

February Hymn of the Month

Page 783 — *When We Are Tested*



VOLUNTEER
all that's missing is **U!**

Upcoming Bible Readings

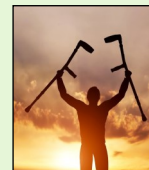
This Sunday (Feb. 4) Is the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:21-31 *God's People Are Comforted*

Psalter: Psalm 47:1-11, 20c *Praise for God's Care of Jerusalem*

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 *The Rights of an Apostle*

Gospel (and sermon focus): Mark 1:29-39 *Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House / A Preaching Tour in Galilee*



Next Sunday (Feb. 11) Is Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday



Old Testament: 2 Kings 2:1-12 *Elijah Denounces Ahaziah*

Psalter: Psalm 50:1-6 *The Acceptable Sacrifice*

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 *Treasure in Clay Jars*

Gospel (and sermon focus): Mark 9:2-9 *The Transfiguration*

New Addition to the Prayer List

The family of TAMUC's Richard Fulkerson has been added to our prayer list recently. A friend and co-worker of FPC's Petra Strassberg, Richard passed away on Jan. 22. He was the university's video specialist in the office of Academic Technology. "His father Dick Fulkerson is a former faculty member at A&M-Commerce. Richard's passing is a great personal loss for me and a loss for the university," Petra said.

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	Mildred Miller	Gaye Furry
Preston Helton	Loretta Kibler	Donald R. Smith	Catherine King Robertson
Bennie Neve	Ron Davis	Jan Burns	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	Joyce Isaacs	Jim Calvert
Deryl McKenzie	Family of Natalie Salisbury	Tammi Fucci	Walt Davis
Family of Judy Vanderpool	Southern Californians affected by the wild fires and mud slides.		
Adele Reeves	Jordan and Clelie Senne	Family of Jackie Lair	Family of Janice Hale
Family of Madeline Sullivan	Brandon and Kate Pullen Hall	Family of Richard Fulkerson	

Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

The Commerce Food Pantry typically serves between 30-40 different families in need each week—over 120 families each month. Donations remain an important 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

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>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Martha Clevenger	Brenda Estes	Nancy Green
Jordan Conner	Tina Fletcher	Bob Johnson
Wally Tucker	Russ Garmon	Neal Stewart
Bettina Zvanut	Lily Selvaggi	

Session Committees

Worship:

Chair Martha Clevenger
Co-Chair Nancy Green

Christian Education:

Chair Bettina Zvanut
Co-Chair Nancy Green

Membership and Pastoral Care:

Chair Brenda Estes
Co-Chair Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

Mission/Evangelism:

Chair Bob Johnson
Co-Chair Bettina Zvanut

Buildings and Grounds:

Chair Russ Garmon
Co-Chair Neal Stewart

Stewardship and Finance:

Chair Jordan Conner

Personnel:

Chair Wally Tucker

Note: Some committees do not have co-chairs.

GriefShare at First Baptist Church Begins Feb. 5

The GriefShare support/recovery group meetings hosted by First Baptist Church of Commerce will begin the Spring semester on Monday, Feb. 5.



Nationally-recognized grief experts teach via the video-based curriculum developed by a non-denominational group, Church Initiative.

Starting then, the Commerce group will meet every Monday night in the church parlor from 6 to 8 p.m. for 13 weeks.

Books are provided free of charge to participants in the local group. For information, contact Jim or Teena Ayres at 903-886-8600 or 214-729-7525. More information and valuable resources are provided at www.GriefShare.org.

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

25 - Garrett Michael Chastain

Happy Anniversary to:

7 – Walt & Isabel Davis



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

Deadline for Next Good News

*Get your news, pictures, meeting
notices, etc. in by Feb. 14 please.*

February Worship Leaders

February 4

Host Elder: Nancy Green
Head Usher: Scott Stewart
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Toni Deaton
Elements: Martha Clevenger

February 11

Head Usher: Neal Stewart
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Susan Reeves

February 18

Head Usher: Barbara Tucker
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Keith McFarland

February 25

Head Usher: Monty Howard
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Bettina Zvanut

These people are volunteering their time and talents. When you see them, thank them for their contributions to worship. If you would like to help FPC in any way as a volunteer, please contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.



FPC Pictures



Yes, we know it is winter. But tell that to Toni Deaton's beautiful Christmas Cactus, which is showing off its blooms.

February Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 4** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Mark 1:29-39
- 11** Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Mark 9:2-9
- 14** Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 6 p.m.
- 18** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Mark 1:9-15
- 25** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Mark 8:31-38

Other February events

- 4** Monday, 9:30 a.m.—PW Trace & Cut Baby Cap Session
- 7** Wednesday, 6 p.m.—Session meeting
- 12** Monday, 10 a.m.—PW Circle meeting
- 24** Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.—Grace Presbytery Stated Presbytery meeting at FPC, 1835 Young St. in Dallas
- 28** Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.—Christian Education Committee meeting

FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com

FYI—Some Reading For You

To see the Jan. 5 edition of Grace Presbytery's Grace eNews, click [here](#).



Don't Forget!

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.