



THE GOOD NEWS

**The Good News is published weekly and monthly by
the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas.**

March 2017

Inside this Edition:

A Message from the Pastor
Presbyterian Women's News
Lent Is Here!
Passing of Dorothy Eleanor Sanders
Barbecue
March Birthdays and Anniversaries
Newsmakers
Thank You
FPC Pictures
FPC's Online Presence
March Worship Leaders
March Calendar
Odean Stewart Is Home
Prayer List Addition
Staff, Session, and Committees
In Our Prayers
Treasurer's Report
Keep Us Informed
Food Pantry News
Don't Forget Food Pantry Items
Upcoming Bible Readings
Congrats to Matthew McFarland

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

Rev. Krista Rasco – Pastor

Email: revkristarasco@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/krista.rasco

Roger McKenzie – Church Secretary

And Editor, The Good News

Office: (903) 886-3783

E-presence

fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce

Website: www.fpc-commerce.com

A Message From the Pastor

Dear FPC Family,

Have you acquired your passport yet?

I realize it's that time of year to make sure you have a passport, or that it is updated if you plan on traveling this summer, but I'm not actually speaking of the U.S.A. Passport.

I'm talking about the "Journey through Lent" Passport. That is right! FPC will have special passports that have a place for a sticker or stamp for each service you attend throughout Lent. The services started on Ash Wednesday (March 1st) and go through Easter (April 16th).

And that is not all! If you get 7 out of 10 stickers we will print your name in the Easter bulletin and mention it out loud during the Easter service. There will be a special gift for anyone who has all 10 stickers! (If you end up being sick or traveling, please let me know so we can mark your passport accordingly.)

Throughout the passport there are pictures to color and more information about some of the worship services and activities we participate in during the season of Lent.

This idea was originally geared toward the youth, to help them be engaged throughout the Lenten season. Excitingly enough, I have quite a few adults interested as well. So, if you are young at heart, or feel like you really want to participate, please feel free to get one.

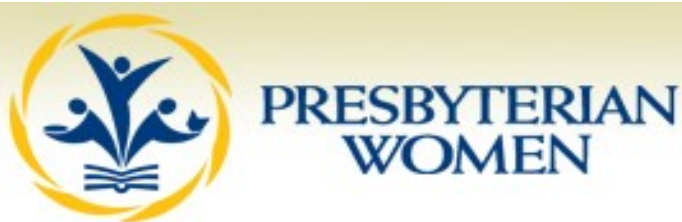
FPC and I look forward to journeying with you through this Lenten journey as we accompany Jesus to Jerusalem and the resurrection!

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor

P.S. Don't forget your sticker after each service!





By Toni Deaton, Moderator

PW Circle Meeting

Our next Circle meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Hostess is **Mona Towne** and the lesson will be given by **Bettina Zvanut**. You may recall that our study this year is entitled, "Who Is Jesus?" Each lesson looks at "who Jesus is" through a different "lens." In this lesson we will read stories about Jesus from the non-canonical gospels that circulated during early Christianity. Some of this literature was only discovered during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and has shed new light on the the wide diversity among early Christians.

The non-canonical gospels we will study this month include infancy Gospels, passion Gospels and sayings Gospels. We will also learn more about the "time-line" in the process of the "canonization" of our Bible as we know it today.

All women are invited to attend and guests are welcome.

PW Book Share Event Held

On Friday evening, Feb. 10, a *Book Share* event was held at the home of Toni Deaton. The women of

FPC were invited to attend and to be prepared to give a brief description of a book or books they had found to be both enjoyable and memorable. Six ladies were present and shared the titles of books ranging from fantasy, American history, novels and memoirs.

In addition to the hostess, those who attended were **Martha Clevenger, Gaye Furry, Nancy McFarland, Helon Razniak, and Tina Selvaggi**. This marks the third time that a book share has been held. A list of the books discussed was sent to all women of our church. If you would like a copy, please contact **Toni Deaton**.

PW-sponsored Spaghetti Luncheon

On Sunday, March 5, immediately following



morning worship, the PW is sponsoring a spaghetti lunch to raise funds for new flooring in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Donations will be accepted at the luncheon and all monies received will go for this project. It is hoped

(Continued on page 5)



Pictured from left to right at the Book Share are Toni Deaton, Helon Razniak, Tina Fletcher-Selvaggi, Gaye Furry, Martha Clevenger, and Nancy McFarland. Photo by Jim Deaton

†Lent Is Here!

The following is a condensed version of an article taken from the Presbyterian Mission website. It has also been posted in its entirety on the FPC website on the Church Talk page.

Lenten practices 101

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. What is the purpose of Lent in the Reformed tradition? A basic guide to Lenten practices may be helpful.



Lent

The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, **not** counting the Sundays in between. Many denominations encourage disciples to renew and strengthen their faith during Lent through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fasting, and service.

This preparation is a historical model from the early church. The idea of giving something up for Lent came out of this tradition, when fasting was used to raise one's spiritual consciousness and empty oneself before God. Fasting or giving up something for Lent can be a good way to explore a deeper expression of faith, if not adopted as a show of piety, martyrdom, or moral righteousness. Presbyterians may find it meaningful to give something up for Lent, but it is not required.

Some may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent—a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, the entry point for Lenten preparation, is a service rich in ritual and symbolism. Palms waved at the previous year's Palm Sunday service are saved and burned to create ashes for the next Ash Wednesday. These are used by a minister or elder to mark participants' foreheads with the sign of the cross, saying the words, "You are dust,

and to dust you shall return," from Genesis 3:19." It is a reminder of our mortality and the hope of the resurrection.

Christians receive the sign of the cross to focus on who they are as human beings, bound in death and life to Christ. Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent provide time to explore the mystery at the heart of the gospel that being a Christian means a new life through Christ.

Maundy Thursday

The Thursday before Easter Sunday commemorates the *Last Supper of Jesus* with his disciples. The story of Jesus breaking and blessing bread at the Passover meal, as a reminder of his life given freely for all, is told in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This Passover act became the sacrament of holy communion in the Christian church. Celebration of communion is usually the centerpiece of a Maundy Thursday service.

Another, less celebrated, element of a Maundy Thursday service may be the act of foot washing. The observance of foot washing is practiced in some Presbyterian churches as a reminder of the kind of love and servanthood Christ asks of his disciples today.

Good Friday

The Friday before Easter marks the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Many wonder why this day is called good. This Friday is sometimes called Holy or Black Friday, but the term *good* reminds us of Jesus' blameless, good, and pious life. Many congregations base Good Friday worship on Jesus' last words from the cross.

Tenebrae

One other Lenten practice often observed during Holy Week is Tenebrae, Latin for "shadows" or "darkness," marked by the extinguishing of one candle after each reading until the room or sanctuary is totally dark. The darkness symbolizes the days Jesus spent in the tomb. This service can be held on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday.

Dorothy Eleanor Sanders Succumbs to Alzheimer's Disease

Former FPC member **Walter Sanders** let us know recently that his sister **Eleanor**, who also attended FPC for about eight years (2006-2014) , has died . She passed away on Dec. 29, 2016.

The Reverend Dorothy Eleanor Sanders

July 31, 1932 – December 29, 2016

Dorothy Eleanor Sanders was born to Hugh Walter and Dorothy Newsom Sanders. The family resided in Forrest City, Ark., but she was born in Memphis, Tenn., the closest birthing hospital.

Eleanor, as she has been known her entire life, attended school in Forrest City and graduated as salutatorian of her class. She continued her education in Maryville College in Maryville, Tenn., until her family relocated to Austin, Tex.

There she enrolled in the University of Texas, and, graduated with a Degree in Education. Eleanor then pursued a Masters in Christian Education at the Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Va. After graduation she served Presbyterian churches as Director of Christian Education in Little Rock, Ark.; York, S.C.; Kilgore, Tex.; Lake Charles, La.; and Jonesboro, Ark..

After working about 20 years, Eleanor entered the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and successfully earned her third degree, a Masters of Divinity. She served in Anderson, Ind. and Charleston, S.C., then was called home to care for her mother. After her mother's death, she served in various positions in several churches in the Austin area needing help and also served as a hospice chaplain in the Texas Hill Country. Not being willing to completely retire, she took a position with the Internal Revenue Service. She also allowed herself to engage in one of her many loves, traveling to all parts of the United States as well as the world. She enjoyed her journeys to Ireland, Scotland, France, Italy and Mexico. She traveled to China and taught English to students in their school system, and followed the Apostle Paul's journeys as he spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and established churches in what is now Syria, Turkey and Greece.



A big part of Eleanor's teen years was spent as a camper and counselor at the Girl Scout camp at Texlake. Her love of Texlake became a tradition carried on in her name through the third generation of Sander's girls. She was a woman ahead of her time who decided on a career of Christian service when few women were welcomed and recognized for their leadership abilities. She traveled as a woman alone in areas of the world where independence and freedom were denied to women.

Eleanor loved the Hill Country and the Federated Church in Sunrise Beach, Texas, that her father helped to establish. She loved nature, being with her family, and her Lord Jesus Christ.

Eleanor recognized the beginning signs of Alzheimer's herself and chose to leave the Austin area in order to be close to family in Commerce, Texas. As the disease progressed she chose to move again as her family moved from Commerce, Texas, back to the Hill Country and the Windchime in Kingsland.

She leaves her brother, Walter Sanders and his wife Sharon, and numerous nieces and nephews who will always be in awe of her courage, determination, faith and love.

The family held a private burial with a memorial service at a later date. Those wishing to honor her may send memorials to the Sanders Family Scholarship Fund at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary or to the Federated Church of Sunrise Beach, TX.

Putnam Funeral Home in Kingsland, TX, was in charge of arrangements.



that new flooring can be installed by early summer.

Please note, this is not a covered dish event. Unless you have been specifically asked, you do not have to bring anything. Thank you in advance for your participation.

PW Missions

●**Fleece Baby Caps:** Our baby cap project continues, as 100 fleece caps were given to the newborn nursery at Hunt Regional Medical Center on Feb. 25. Two hundred caps have been donated so far this year in this mission project which was begun in the spring of 2013. Thanks to all the ladies who help trace and cut out the caps and to those who sew them!



Pictured after a recent cut and sew fleece cap session are (from the left) Nancy McFarland, Martha Clevenger, Nila McQuary, Helon Razniak, Brenda Estes, and Toni Deaton.

●**Sole Hope, new mission project:** We are just beginning a new project called **Sole Hope**. For this mission activity we will cut out the parts for making simple shoes for children and adults who live in Uganda, AFRICA. The parts we cut out will then be sent to the location where they will be constructed. From there they are sent on to Uganda.

The aim of Sole Hope is to allow children and adults to live healthy lives and be free of foot-related diseases through education, jobs, and medical relief. Jiggers is a parasite (a sand flea) that enters the feet of children and adults who do not wear shoes. Having jiggers is painful and debilitating and is also a social stigma.

The Sole Hope shoes are made from denim material and parts of the sole of the shoe are made from plastic gallon jugs. PW will soon be asking for donations of old denim jeans and gallon plastic jugs.

However, please do not bring them to the church

just yet! We are planning a "Sole Hope" party soon at which time you may bring your old jeans and plastic jugs. There will be more news about this in the near future! In the meantime, to learn more about Sole Hope, check online at solehope.org.

Satisfy Your Barbecue Cravings and Help People

Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH) has moved its annual BBQ fundraiser from September to March, and for the first time, there will be a satellite location in Commerce at the First United Methodist Church. A \$15 plate includes three meats and all the trimmings from Hunt County restaurants judged the "Best of the Best." Proceeds will help FISH provide food and emergency financial assistance to those most in need in our community and county.

The Friday, March 31, barbecue lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to promote the event, welcome diners, serve food, box to-go orders, and clean up. Contact **Angela Roberts** at 972.765.6547 for more information.

March Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 4 - John Harris
- 12 - Scott Harvey
- 15 - Debra Jones
- 17 - Jackie Book
- 17 - Bruce Shatney
- 19 - Elizabeth Rasco
- 20 - Trevor Elijah Wells
- 22 - Lucia Simonelli
- 25 - Kyle Keahey
- 25 - Matthew Charles McFarland
- 30 - Jason McFarland Champion

Happy Anniversary to:

- 16 – Kathy & Ken Miller
- 20 – Paula & Charles Elliott

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



The list of newsmakers this month is a long one.

Congratulations to **Angela Roberts** for being named Citizen of the Year at the recent Commerce Chamber of Commerce awards banquet. Though not a member of FPC (she's a Methodist), Angela is an important part of the Commerce Food Pantry and has helped with the SCAMP summer program. Angela made the front page of the Feb. 23 Commerce Journal with a very nice picture.

Rev. Krista Rasco and her husband Jason also attended that event and were pictured in the Journal as well. Rev. Rasco is a member of the current class of the Commerce Leadership Institute.

FPC's **Bob Johnson** and **Lily Selvaggi** were also part of the Feb. 23 Journal issue. Bob commented about the planned community garden which is being revived at the First United Methodist Church.

Lily was featured prominently in the issue's *Rotary Corner*. She not only was a participant in the Rotary's annual writing contest interpreting its Four Way Test, she was declared the winner! The newspaper article said she will compete next at the district level.



Rotary Club writing finalists (l-r) Merlia Villanueva, Lily Selvaggi, and Raquel Medrano. Lily was declared the winner. Courtesy photo printed in the Commerce News Journal.

Also making the news and deserving of a hearty congratulations is the **Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers** organization. Its 120 members, gave almost 8,000 hours of volunteer service to the community in 2016. **Commerce Mayor Wyman Williams** recognized that effort with a city

proclamation naming the week of Feb. 19-25 as *Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers Week*.

According to the proclamation, presented on Feb. 21, the group's donation of 7,681 volunteer hours was estimated to be the monetary equivalent of a \$78,610 donation to the city. The proclamation noted the group's members as living in Commerce, Cumby, and Wolf City, and listed the food pantry, the Bargain Box, the Children's Museum, Hunt County Regional Hospital, the Auxiliary, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Boys and Girls Club, the United Way, Commerce Library, and local churches as recipients of this public service.



Commerce Mayor Wyman Williams presents the proclamation at City Hall to President **Bettina Zvanut and Ann Julian**, both FPC'ers. Ann serves the group as a vice president.

Last, but not least, **Nancy and Bart Green** made the news at FPC, by making a big improvement to the safety of those using our facilities.

After Nancy tripped over the lip of the threshold and fell recently at the side front door here, the Green's wanted to make the entrance safer. They paid for repairs to lower the threshold and make an accident much less likely. New rubber was also added to keep water out. They have also offered to pay part of the cost of a proposal to do a similar



repair for the outside back door. Please join in a big thank-you to the Greens for their caring and generosity.

Contractor **Phil Robles** grinds down the lip at the front side door to help lessen the chance of someone tripping.

Thank You



Thank you to the women who brought coats for people at Mosaic Family Services. I immediately took them to the shelter and people met me with open arms and told me how happy they were to see those coats. They wanted me to convey their appreciation for what the Presbyterian women do.

One of the interesting things they brought up is there's never enough clothing for the teenage boys. Because the shelter is typically thought of as a woman's shelter, people forget the women's children can get pretty big!

—Tina Fletcher Selvaggi



FPC Pictures



At nine months of age, Alexander Hamilton the puppy (above, with Lily Selvaggi) has created a new text messaging phenomenon in the Selvaggi household— "Can you pick up more dog food?"

Photos by Tina Fletcher Selvaggi



Lily Selvaggi and her friend Claire Dobbs represent part of the mighty Commerce Tigers tennis team. They're enjoying some nice spring weather here.

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce
www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce
<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>
www.fpc-commerce.com

March Worship Leaders

March 5

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

March 12

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

March 19

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

March 26

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

March Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 1 Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 6 p.m.
- 5 Sunday Worship Service, 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
- 12 Sunday Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 3:1-17
- 12 19 Sunday Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 4: 5-42
- 26 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 9:1-41

Other March events

- 5 Sunday, noon—Spaghetti Luncheon
- 7, 14, 28 Tuesdays, 9 a.m.—Teach the Preacher
- 8 Wednesday, 6 p.m.— Session meeting
- 13 Monday, 10 a.m.—PW Circle meeting
 TBA—Site visit of Commerce Food
 Pantry by North Texas Food Bank
- 28 Tuesday, 5 p.m.—Food Pantry Board meets
- 29 Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.—Christian Education
 committee meets

Odeana Stewart Back Home

After surgery and hospitalization, FPC's **Odeana Stewart** is back home and recuperating. Get well soon, Odeana.

Addition to Prayer List

FPC's **Bob Johnson** is the latest addition to our prayer list. He will be having surgery on Mar. 7 to fuse vertebrae in his spine. Please keep Bob and all the other people on our list in your prayers.

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 Skauge
Mildred Miller	Amanda Swanson	Gaye Furry
Preston Helton	Loretta Kibler	Joan Walvoord
Donald R. Smith	Catherine King	Robinson
Odeana Stewart	Bennie Neve	Frieda Branom
Ron Davis		Janice Sigur
Family of Jace Carrington	Family of Brad Rollins	
Bob Johnson		

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	Kim Nolen Wheelock
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 Salvaggi

Mission/Evangelism:
Chair Bettina Zvanut
Co-Chair Petra Strassberg

Buildings and Grounds:
Chair Russ Garmon

Stewardship and Finance:
Chair Jordan Conner

Personnel:
Chair Wally Tucker



FPC Treasurer's Report By Susan White

2016

Income for the entire year was \$129,411.31. This was 6.75% below the budget of \$138,779.00 for the year. Expenses for the 12 months were \$134,632.60. This was 2.99% below the budgeted expenses.

2016 expenses exceeded income by \$5,221.29. The shortfall was covered by existing funds in our checking account balance. We did a good job controlling most operating expenses. Also note that there were no special projects funded in 2016.

January

Our new budget for 2017 is \$140,747.00, or \$11,729 of operating expense per month. January receipts were \$22,833.92, including several members' annual donations in entirety. Expenses were \$10,462.45. This increased our bank balance by \$12,371.47 in January.

WHAT IS YOUR
MISSION?

Grants and Scholarships

Does you have a ministry idea that needs some seed money to get started? The Synod has money available. Check out the Grant list to see if your idea fits one of our many categories. Scholarships are available, too.

If you are reading this on your computer, click for [More information](#).

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.



Upcoming Bible Readings

This Sunday (Mar. 5) is the First Sunday in Lent and Communion Sunday

New Testament: Matthew 4:1-11 *The Temptation of Jesus*

Psalter: Psalm 32 *The Joy of Forgiveness*

Old Testament (and sermon focus): Genesis 2: 15-17, 3:1-7 *Another Account of the Creation / The First Sin and Its Punishment*

Next Sunday (Mar. 12) is the Second Sunday in Lent

Old Testament: Genesis 12:1-4a *The Call of Abram*

Psalter: Psalm 121 *Assurance of God's Protection*

Gospel (and sermon focus): John 3:1-17
Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Progress in Effort to Partner with NTFB

Commerce Food Pantry Board President Isabel Davis termed the latest progress in the Commerce Food Pantry's efforts to become a partner with the North Texas Food Bank "very exciting!"

She revealed that the food pantry here will receive a site visit from NTFB's Desiree Dillon on Monday, March 13, at 10 a.m.

Plans call for Isabel and another member of the Commerce Food Pantry board of directors to show their important visitor around.

Good luck!

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

5th Sunday—Can of fruit: peaches or fruit cocktail



Last, But Not Least . . .

Confirmation

Congratulations to **Matthew Charles McFarland**, whose confirmation was celebrated during the worship service on Feb. 26!