



# The Good News

MID-MONTH EDITION

No. 6

March 16, 2017

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## Bible Readings for this Sunday and Next Sunday

**This Sunday (Mar. 19) is the Third Sunday in Lent.**

**Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-7** *Water from the Rock*

**Psalter: Psalm 95** *A Call to Worship and Obedience*

**Gospel: John 4:5-42** *Jesus and the Woman of Samaria*



**Next Sunday (Mar. 26) is the Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Old Testament: 1 Samuel 16:1-13** *David Anointed as King*

**Psalter: Psalm 23** *The Divine Shepherd*

**Gospel: John 9:1-41** *A Man Born Blind Receives Sight / The Pharisees Investigate the Healing / Spiritual Blindness*

## In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

<b>Our Troops</b>	<b>Gordon Hunter</b>	<b>Bruce Campbell</b>	<b>Sara Grace Pullen</b>
<b>Melba Blount</b>	<b>Amy Lopez</b>	<b>Billy Marshall</b>	<b>Joe Yeakley</b>
<b>Grace Byrd</b>	<b>Gayle Shumate</b>	<b>Gladys Gray</b>	<b>Pat Skauge</b>
<b>Mildred Miller</b>	<b>Amanda Swanson</b>	<b>Gaye Furry</b>	<b>Preston Helton</b>
<b>Loretta Kibler</b>	<b>Joan Walvoord</b>	<b>Donald R. Smith</b>	<b>Catherine King Robertson</b>
<b>Odeana Stewart</b>	<b>Bennie Neve</b>	<b>Frieda Branom</b>	<b>Ron Davis</b>
<b>Janice Sigur</b>	<b>Family of Jace Carrington</b>	<b>Family of Brad Rollins</b>	<b>Bob Johnson</b>
<b>Tina Fletcher Selvaggi</b>	<b>Aaron Senne</b>	<b>The Gao family</b>	

## Additions to Prayer List

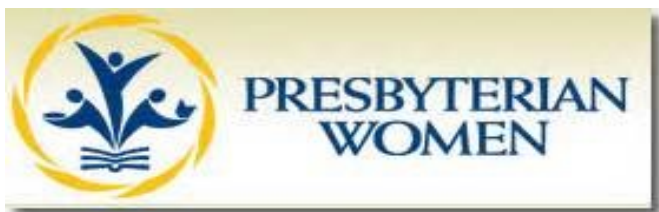
**Aaron Senne** and the **Gao extended family** (here and in China) are the latest additions to our prayer list. Aaron is **Petra Strassberg's** ex-husband. He has esophageal cancer. His prognosis is not encouraging.

Mr. Gao passed away recently. He is **Hui Clevenger's** uncle. Hui is the wife of Martha Clevenger's son Eric.

**Tina Fletcher Selvaggi** was added to our prayer list last week. She is recovering after undergoing a procedure.

Please pray for all of those on our list. If you know of someone who should be on our list, please contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.





## Yum, Fun, Thanks Everyone

A overflow crowd of about 55 hungry and generous people gathered in Fellowship Hall (and the nursery) here on March 12 for the Spaghetti Fundraiser Luncheon sponsored by the Presbyterian Women.

Thanks to all those who prepared the spaghetti and sauce, and brought salads and desserts. You

didn't disappoint the crowd who obviously enjoyed the meal—and responded with generosity.

The PW also extends a big thank you to those diners/donors. They showed their appreciation by donating a total of \$2,512.00 that day.

God is good!

Other fundraiser events are in the works, including an auction. Long-time church member **Jim Norwood** donated some beautiful quilts and hot pads to PW for auctioning.

Funds raised from all of these events will go to cover the cost of replacing flooring in Fellowship Hall.



*Good food  
and  
fellowship!*





## Helping Those in Need

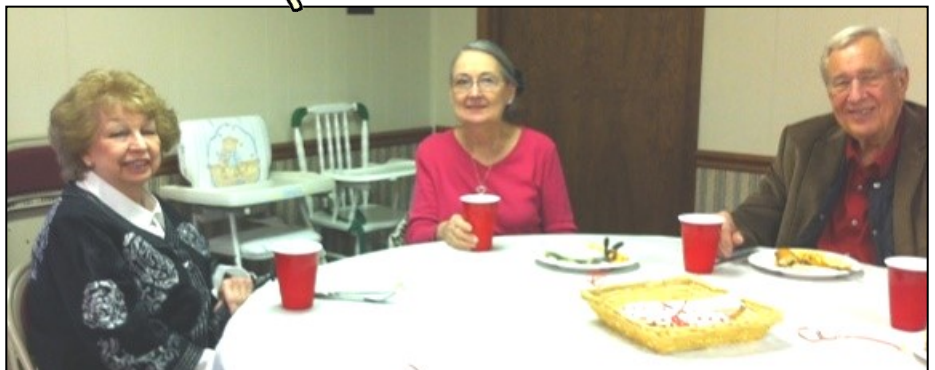
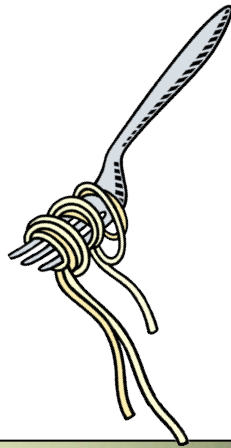
Two more gift bags have been delivered to Kindred Hospice in Greenville for a total of 23 robes and slippers delivered to Hospice patients from the members of this church. Thanks to all who participated!

## Matthew Says Thanks!

If you haven't seen it on the bulletin board by the kitchen, look for **Matthew McFarland's** Thank-You note. Written to the FPC congregation, his note inside gives thanks for the Bible he received, as well as all the support given to him during his confirmation process.



## More Spaghetti Luncheon Pictures



## FISH Serving Up Hunt County's Best BBQ

*Lunch in Commerce on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>*

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 serving lunch in Commerce on Friday, March 31, at the First United Methodist Church. The “Best of the Best” BBQ offers a selection of winning meats from Hunt County restaurants as judged by a panel of tasters, including FPC’s own **Isabel Davis**.

The \$15 ticket price includes your choice of three meats, traditional sides, and banana pudding. The proceeds will help FISH provide food and emergency financial assistance to those most in need in our community and county. FISH serves approximately 50 families from Commerce each month and in 2016, distributed over \$45,000 in resources to Commerce families. In addition, 135 local families received Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets in 2016 through FISH and Hunt County Gives.

The “Best of the Best” BBQ will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, March 31, in the Family Ministry Center at the First United Methodist Church of Commerce located at 1709 Highway 24 across from Texas A&M University – Commerce. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.hcsmfish.org](http://www.hcsmfish.org) or at the door. Guests are welcome to dine in or take plates to go. Dinner will also be served at Wesley United Methodist Church in Greenville from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

### Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH) brings our annual "Best of the Best" BBQ to Commerce!

**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Lunch from 11:00 - 1:00 Dine In or Carry Out

**First United Methodist Church**  
**1709 State Hwy 50, Commerce, Texas**  
(across from Texas A&M University—Commerce)

**Enjoy the Ultimate Hunt County Combo Plate!**  
Brisket • Sausage • Ribs • Pulled Pork • Chicken  
Beans • Cole Slaw • Potato Salad • Banana Pudding  
(Ticket price includes your choice of 3 meats plus sides and dessert!)

Food provided by these award-winning restaurants:

**Baker's Ribs • Soulman's Bar-B-Que**  
**Tanner's Smokehouse BBQ • Rib Crib**

Tickets \$15—available at the door or online at [www.hcsmfish.org](http://www.hcsmfish.org)

sponsored by



Mission Integration



### Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

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, chicken





## Assisting with Worship

This Sunday's (Mar. 19) worship leaders are Scott Stewart (head usher), Cal Conner (candle lighter), and Martha Clevenger (liturgist).

Leading worship the following Sunday (Mar. 26) will be Russ Garmon (head usher), Evie Conner (candle lighter), and Keith McFarland (liturgist).

When you see them, tell our worship leaders know how much you appreciate them. If you would like to serve FPC in some way, let us know.

## Upcoming Community Events

- **Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.**—Family Night at the Commerce Public Library.
- **Mondays, 6-8 p.m.**—GriefShare at the First Baptist Church in Commerce.
- **Saturday, Mar. 31, 11 a.m. –1 p.m.**—Best of the Best BBQ, a fundraiser for Hunt County Shared Ministries, at the First United Methodist Church in Commerce (see the larger article in this issue).

## Travel Pictures



### Riding the River

FPC's **Jane Cox** is back from one of those trips that she will always remember. Jane and a friend traveled the Mississippi River on the Amercian Queen, a paddle wheel river boat. She traveled from New Orleans to St. Francisville, La., stopping along the way at Notoway Plantation. The trip featured great food, musical entertainment, and lectures on Mississippi River lore.



## Happy St. Patrick's Day

In addition to kicking off the season of Lent, March is the month we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Not only those of us in Ireland and the United States, but over most of the world. In fact, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries than any other [national festival](#).

Held on Mar. 17, the date commemorates not the birth of St. Patrick, but his death. Born in fifth century Britain, he went to Ireland as a missionary dedicated to converting the pagans (Druids) to Christianity. And he was pretty successful at it. Legend has it he used the shamrock (three-leaf clover) to explain the Holy Trinity to his converts.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day began as a religious feast day in the 17th century. Today in the U.S., it is a celebration of all things Irish marked by parades, special food, music, dancing, and lots of green.



**Isabel Davis** was pictured in the March edition of the Commerce Chamber of Commerce publication—Commerce Connection. She posed with the other barbecue tasting judges who selected the winners for the upcoming Best of the Best BBQ fundraiser for Hunt County Shared Ministries.

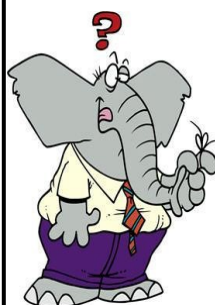
**Neal Stewart and Jack Walker** were pictured in The Commerce Journal's Mar. 9 edition. Neal is in a picture of last year's CISD Hall of Honor Winners. It was included as part of a story about nominations being opened for the 2017 CISD Hall of Honor.

Jack, who is one of FPC's candle lighters, was pictured among the students selected as Commerce Elementary School's Student of the Month for March. Jack, who is the son of **Sam and Alison Walker**, was the selection for the school's second grade. Congratulations, Jack!

**Barbara Tucker**, Chair/Director of the TAMUC School of Nursing, must have been mighty proud when she helped with the groundbreaking for her department's new Nursing and Health Sciences building on Friday, March 10. A weather scare prompted the ceremony to be held indoors at the Sam Rayburn Student Center.

Also there were FPC's **Keith and Nancy McFarland**. He spoke earlier in the day about the history of TAMUC as part of the "Our Century as Lions" celebration at TAMUC.

### 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!**



*Barbara Tucker (fifth from the left) and her faculty and staff members ceremonially break ground at TAMUC's ceremony for its new Nursing and Public Health building which will be open in January of 2018.*