



Published twice monthly by the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas

You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach

The title above refers to this year's theme for **One Great Hour of Sharing**, which comes from **Isaiah 58, verse 12**. A breach is a break in something, usually with the connotation of coming on suddenly. These breaks are not good for the people they affect. The tornadoes that struck Alabama and surrounding states this month are a good example. They destroyed homes, property, and lives.

There are a lot of equally applicable examples of sudden breaches that you could probably come up with—hurricanes, fires, floods come to mind. Some breaches are definitely breaks, in that they disrupt and damage lives, but they are not always immediate or sudden—grinding poverty, devastating illness, wars.

We are blessed to have many resources to call upon to repair, or at least mitigate, any breaches that damage us. But what about others who lack such resources? Isaiah 58 issues a challenge—to help repair the breaches of others. Individually, our ability to reach out is limited. But one way we can reach out and help repair the breaches of others is to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing.

One Great Hour of Sharing is a multi-denominational fund-raising effort that extends throughout the year. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four church wide offerings each year. For most Presbyterian Churches, the timing of this offering is concentrated around Lent and Easter. It focuses on allowing the people of the church to come together to “share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world” by providing disaster relief, food, and empowerment for the poor and oppressed.”

A world map showing places where One Great Hour of Sharing is having an impact on “repairing the breach” is impressive. See it by clicking [here](#).

If you haven't already, you will soon be seeing around FPC some special blue offering envelopes

(pictured at right) from One Great Hour of Sharing. Please consider answering the challenge in Isaiah 58 to become a repairer of the breach by using one of them to make a donation to One Great Hour of Sharing during the Lenten season.



Going the Extra Mile

FPC's Isabel Davis, board member, former president, and volunteer at the Commerce Food Pantry, saw some foods were not being selected much by clients of the pantry. She found a way to increase the acceptance of pumpkin and "Latin Rice," a nutritious staple often handed out in the field in emergency situations—by preparing and setting up tastings of these foods, complete with recipes and bags of ingredients at the Mar. 14 food pantry.



Food pantry volunteer Becky Hair tastes some pumpkin soup while Isabel Davis looks on. Hair deemed the soup "delicious."

Food Pantry Donation 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.

Here are suggested donations. There is a box just inside the sanctuary for your donation.

- 1st Sunday**—Instant Oatmeal
- 2nd Sunday**—Ranch Style Beans
- 3rd Sunday**—Spaghetti sauce (in cans)
- 4th Sunday**—Chili without beans
- 5th Sunday**—Canned pineapple

In addition to the above, the Commerce Food Pantry is always in need of grocery paper bags with handles (Braum's paper bags are perfect). If you have any spare paper bags, please consider donating them at any time.

A Lenten Devotional by Christopher M. Graham, Jr.

Editor's note: There are many good Lenten devotionals. FPC has copies of one of them — "Awakening to God's Beauty" (mentioned in the previous newsletter.) Here is a sample of another. Below is one of a series of free daily Lenten devotionals from Pittsburg Theological Seminary, a gift of its Class of 2018. If you would like to read more, go online to www.pts.edu/devotional.

"For we ourselves were . . . passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another."

Such is our modus operandi, our standard operating procedure, our way of living in the world. In our fallen world, we do not come pre-programmed with the way of love for other people. This place of malice is where we start and where we stand. Yet "according to his mercy" we need not stand, sit, or stay there. For the Spirit of God is poured out on the world through Jesus to enable our doing of good works. Speaking a bad word about our companions in the fellowship of humanity is at best stupid, Paul reminds us, while at worst such speech is a death-dealing false witness.

So let us work on this flaw. Not that anything we do merits the kindness of our savior, but let us act as the heirs we are—heirs who are productive even though our inheritance is assured. Let us learn the new way of our Lord and Master: the way of subjection, obedience, benediction, gentleness, tenderness, and consideration to the taking on of our full humanity in him until we know no other way than his.

PRAYER God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge you as the one God who made humanity of one blood for your own inheritance. Might we be made good and kind to our fellow creatures, indeed to your whole creation, even as you have shown us goodness and kindness in the appearance of your Son. Have mercy upon us and forgive us according to your goodness and loving kindness. Renew us by your Spirit that we might be justified by your grace, leading us to the one hope of eternal life in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Sara Grace Pullen	Melba Blount
Amy Lopez	Joe Yeakley	Grace Byrd	Gayle Shumate
Glady's Gray	Mildred Miller	Gaye Furry	Preston Helton
Catherine King Robertson	Bennie Neve	Ron Davis	Jan Burns
Audrey Hucks	Larry Ratliff	Jack Gray	Jean Angotti
Tammi Fucci	Adele Reeves	Bob Wilkins	Joe Dipiazza
Deryl McKenzie	Danny Spruel	Kristen Anderson	Family of Freda Lambert
Nancy Smith	Gary and Melba Strobel	Pat Skauge	Joe Tincher
Layne Rylander	Eddie Fuller	Alfredo Muniz	Patricia Welch
Shirley Lam	Odeana Stewart	Family of Charles Jon Adams	

Addition to Prayer List

Since our last newsletter, we've added the to the FPC Prayer List the **Family of Charles Jon Adams**. "Coach" Adams, as he was known by many people, attended FPC when he lived in Commerce. He died Mar. 3 at age 83.



Please remember to pray for all those (and their families) on our list.

Don't Forget!



Assisting with Worship

The following people are assisting with worship the next two Sundays.

March 17

Head Usher:.....**Russ Garmon**
 Candle Lighter:.....**TBD**
 Liturgist:.....**Susan Reeves**

March 24

Head Usher:.....**Scott Stewart**
 Candle Lighter:.....**TBD**
 Liturgist:.....**Toni Deaton**

Please remember to let our worship leaders know how much you appreciate them. If you would like to help with worship in some capacity, please contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

...Return Your Survey

The FPC Personnel Committee has sent out surveys in an effort to help promote quality in the operation of church functions..

Don't forget to fill it out and return it to Bob Johnson or Russ Garmon no later than Mar. 26.

...Give Lilly Support

Lily Selvaggi is in need of loving thoughts sent her way as she continues her first year at the United States Air Force Academy.

See **Rick and Tina Fletcher Selvaggi** for more information on what is needed and where and how to send it.

...Garden Organizational Meeting on Mar. 19

The Commerce Community Garden Association is seeking gardeners for Spring 2019 for its 45-plot community garden behind the First United Methodist Church. The brown bag lunch meeting is at noon in the Magnuson Hotel Conference Room.



SPRING PHOTOS WANTED
 for upcoming newsletters. Send them to
fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com

Deadline for Next Newsletter

Our April newsletter will be published on April 3. The deadline for getting something in it is Friday, March 26.



Newsmakers

FPC's **Barbara Tucker** was pictured and written about in the Feb. 21 issue of The Commerce Journal. Dr. Tucker, who is heads the Nursing Department at TAMUC, and Dr. Debbie Mahoney, who coordinates the Master of Nursing program there, both spoke to the Rotary Club here on Feb. 6 about the university's nursing school.

Because of the popularity of the program and the rapidly expanding number of students entering nursing school, a big, brand new nursing building is nearing completion on the TAMUC campus.



FPC's **Bob Johnson** and two other representatives of the Commerce Community Action Program were pictured receiving a \$1,000 check from Atmos Energy in the Mar. 7 issue of the Commerce Journal.

Dr. Johnson was pictured with Harry Turner and Amy Welch. The check received by the trio will support C-CAP's summer arts program.

We Need Plastic Bags!

Don't throw away those clean, plastic bags from Walmart, the grocery store, drug store, or department store. Instead, bring them to FPC for a new project—making mats for the homeless.

The durable but lightweight mats made from the plastic bags are easy to carry and store and make life a little easier for those times when the someone has to sleep on the ground.



Matthew McFarland Earns Top Scout Honor

Matthew McFarland, grandson of FPC's **Keith and Nancy McFarland** and nephew of FPC's **Carolyn McFarland**, will be honored at an **Eagle Scout Court of Honor** on Mar. 17 in Greenville.

This very special ceremony, recognizing Matthew's achievement of Scouting's highest rank, will be held at Wesley United Methodist Church at 2 p.m.

Only about four percent of all Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout.



**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE
EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR FOR**

MATTHEW MCFARLAND

SUNDAY, MAR. 17, 2019 AT 2 P.M.

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1200 E. JOE RAMSEY BOULEVARD

GREENVILLE, TEXAS 75402

RECEPTION FOLLOWING CEREMONY

Hurry for a Free Ticket to Interfaith Seder

Grace Presbytery is honored to once again support and participate in the **7th Annual Interfaith Seder**, hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas.

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.**, and let Grace Presbytery know if you want to attend. One hundred tickets are available, at no cost, for Grace Presbytery members.

You can view a welcome message from **Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie and Rabbi Ari Sunshine** by clicking [here](#). To ask questions or to make reservations contact Grace Presbytery's Gloria Beard via email to Gloria Beard at gloria@gracepresbytery.org no later than March 28.

Tuesday, April 9, 2019
6:30 pm
6 pm Check in - 6:15 pm Musical Performance - 6:30 pm Seder
Congregation Shearith Israel | 9401 Douglas Avenue, Dallas

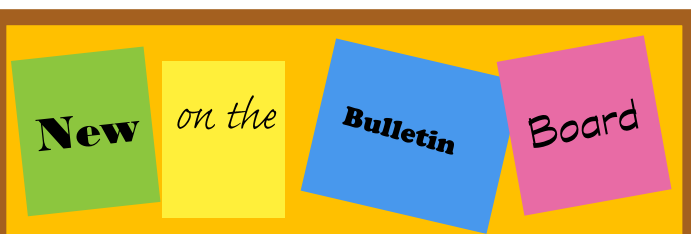
Hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council
of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas

led by



Rabbi Ari Sunshine
Congregation Shearith Israel

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie
Tenth Episcopal District of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church



- ♦A **Thank-You Note** from **Kindred Hospice** for the robes and slippers, etc. recently delivered to them recently by FPC's **Bettina Zvanut** following a church wide collection effort.
- ♦A Commerce Community Action Program informational flyer inviting you to a **C-CAP and Senior Center Resources and Public Transit opportunity** to visit the **Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden on May 8**. Tickets (\$10 and \$20) include admission and transportation from either Commerce or Greenville. Last day to pay and reserve a spot is April 24.

Upcoming Bible Readings

Sunday (March 17) Is the Second Sunday in Lent

Old Testament: Genesis: 15:1-12, 17-18 *God's Covenant with Abram*

Psalter: Psalm 27 *Triumphant Song of Confidence*

Epistle: Philippians 3:17-4:1 *Pressing Toward the Goal*

Gospel (and sermon focus): Luke 13:31-35 *The Lament over Jerusalem*

Sunday (March 24) Is the Third Sunday in Lent

Old Testament: Isaiah 55:1-9 *An Invitation to Abundant Life*

Psalter: Psalm 63:1-8 *Comfort and Assurance in God's Presence*

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 *Warnings from Israel's History*

Gospel (and sermon focus): Luke 13:1-9 *Repent or Perish / The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree*

Sunday (March 31) Is the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Old Testament: Joshua 5:9-12 *The New Generation Circumcised / The Passover at Gilgal*

Psalter: Psalm 32 *The Joy of Forgiveness*

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *The Ministry of Reconciliation*

Gospel (and sermon focus): Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 *The Parable of the Lost Sheep / The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother*

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!