



# THE GOOD NEWS

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

**May, 2017**

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## 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](mailto:revkristarasco@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/krista.rasco](http://www.facebook.com/krista.rasco)

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E-presence

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Website: [www.fpc-commerce.com](http://www.fpc-commerce.com)

## A Message From the Pastor

*Dear Friends of the First Presbyterian  
Church of Commerce, Texas,*



*First Presbyterian of Commerce, TX  
would like to invite you to choose a long  
-loved, favorite hymn in dedication/memory/honor of a  
loved one. Starting Sunday, June 4, 2017 we will have a  
place in the worship service when we sing a "Dedication  
Hymn". This provides a special opportunity to honor our  
departed loved ones by making a donation in their  
memory through sponsoring of a favorite hymn. In the  
same special way, you may wish to honor a living person  
you admire by making a similar dedication.*

*The hymn title, the name of the person honored and the  
donor's name will be written in the bulletin to be used  
during the worship service.*

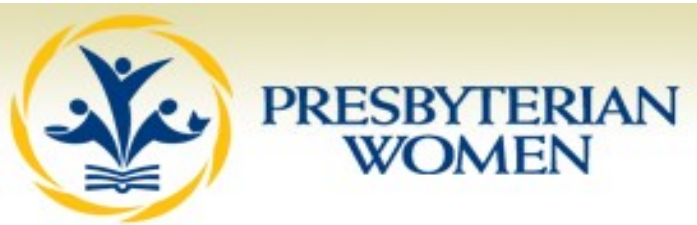
*A donation made payable to the First Presbyterian  
Church in any amount of would be greatly appreciated  
and will be used for the new floors of the church  
fellowship hall, and other church needs. Official receipts  
for income tax will be issued at the end of the fiscal year.*

*A few hymn suggestions are listed below, but the  
choice is yours. Copies of this information and form will be  
available soon in the Narthex or in the church office.*

**His Eye Is On the Sparrow**  
**Church in the Wildwood**  
**In the Garden**  
**Old Rugged Cross**

**I Know who Holds Tomorrow**  
**Because He lives**  
**What a Friend we Have in Jesus**  
**I'll Fly Away**

*Continued on page 5*



#### • PW Circle Meeting

PW Circle will meet for Bible Study on Monday, May 8, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Nila McQuary** will lead the final lesson of the study ***Who Is Jesus*** as we explore a contemporary interpretation of a familiar story in Matthew's Gospel through the eyes of a woman whose cultural context may differ from that of many of us. All women are invited to hear Nila's presentation.

**The 2017 Birthday Offering**, which celebrates Presbyterian women's history of mission giving, will be collected at the Circle meeting. This offering was launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Since that time it has become an annual tradition and has funded nearly 100 major mission projects that continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children.

**This year three projects have been selected to receive donations to the 2017 Birthday Offering:**

- ♦ **The Family Justice Center in Georgetown and Horry Counties in South Carolina**, which is a Safe Haven for Victims of Domestic Violence. This Center can only house 11 people and is frequently at capacity. Our PW Birthday Offering grant will assist FJC in achieving its goal of constructing a new domestic violence shelter for victims of abuse living in these two counties of northeastern South Carolina.
- ♦ **Navajo Water Project in New Mexico**, which will eventually provide water systems to 205 families at the Smith Lake Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. This Birthday Offering grant will provide a running water system for 40 families that do not have access to running water in their homes. The grant will provide each household with a cistern, pump, sink, shower and all pipes for the installation of their water system.
- ♦ **First Hand Aid in Cuba**. First Hand Aid Rural Clinic Development Initiative exists to diminish the suffering of the most marginalized Cuban citizens by providing them hope, dignity and the basic necessities of life and health. The Rural Clinic

Development Initiative is designed to establish six medical clinics in partnership with, and located at, Presbyterian Churches in rural Cuba that will provide medicine and care not available, or difficult to get, from Cuban sources in those communities.

*If you do not attend PW Circle but would like to donate to the 2017 Birthday Offering, please see Brenda or Toni. Checks should be made to Presbyterian Women with a note in the memo line: PW Birthday Offering.*

#### • Grace Presbytery PW meetings

Both **Bettina Zvanut** and **Toni Deaton** attended the Spring Workshop Meeting at First Presbyterian Church at Granbury on Saturday, April 22. The day began with rain and wind but that didn't dampen



*Several members of FPC (shown above) were immortalized at the Grace Presbytery Spring Workshop on April 22 when Bettina Zvanut created the bulletins for the participants in Granbury and Dallas when she used them as models for the front cover. The picture was used to illustrate Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God".*

the spirits of the 46 women from 13 different churches who attended!

Bettina is Vice-Moderator of Programs for Grace Presbytery PW and had arranged many interesting and timely workshops which were enjoyed by all. During lunch, participants could also make a stained glass brass-wrapped star to take home!

The second Spring Workshop meeting, following the  
(Continued on page 3)



## Presbyterian Women's News

.....continued from page 2

same format, will be held on Saturday, April 29, at Preston Hollow PC—Dallas. We are hoping for good attendance there as well. Bettina and Toni will be attending this one along with Krista and Tina.

### • PW Missions

#### ♦Craft Supplies for St. Stephen PC – Ft. Worth

Those attending the two Spring Meetings of PW in Grace Presbytery were asked to bring craft items for the Day Care and School Programs at St. Stephen PC-Fort Worth. You may recall that St. Stephen's education building, including the classroom and kitchen areas, was severely damaged by vandalism in January of this year. The suggested items included pipe cleaners, feathers, "googly eyes", and other glue-on decorations. The mission offerings received at both FPC-Granbury and Preston Hollow-Dallas will be given to St. Stephen for their school programs as well.

#### ♦Synod of the Sun PDA Project

Several of our local PW members participated in a recent Synod of the Sun special project. Requested articles for PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) school kits were donated. Items collected were pencils, erasers, scissors, rulers and composition booklets. These items were taken to the Presbytery Mission Center in Dallas in March by Toni who attended the Synod of the Sun PW Coordinating Team meeting. From there the items were taken to the PDA headquarters in Arkansas by a member of the CT who lives near the PDA headquarters.

### •Local Mission Activities

♦**Baby Caps** – Three hundred fleece baby caps have been sewn by our PW this year and taken to the Hunt Regional Medical Center newborn nursery. Thanks to all who have participated in tracing, cutting out, and sewing these caps.

♦**Food Pantry** – Members of PW bring canned goods for the pantry to every Circle Meeting and many work "behind the scenes" and help when the pantry is open.

♦**Bargain Box** – Several women donate their time each week at the downtown Bargain Box which does a brisk business in providing inexpensive gently used

items for those who shop there.

### • New Mission Project: Sole Hope

On Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m., all church members are invited to be involved in a multi-generational mission called **Sole Hope**. Using patterns, we will be cutting out "parts" that will be used in making simple, but effective, shoes for children and adults who live in Uganda, AFRICA.

Denim from old blue jeans and parts of plastic milk or water jugs will be repurposed for the shoes.

The parts we cut out will be

clipped together and sent to the location where they will be constructed. From there they will be 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 because they have no shoes. The result is painful and debilitating.

You can learn more about Sole Hope by checking online at [solehope.org](http://solehope.org). Please come and help us with this project.



*FPC's growing collection of denim and plastic jugs for Sole Hope is located just outside the kitchen.*



**Grace  
Presbyterian  
Women**

If you didn't already know, our own **Toni Deaton** is the new moderator for the Grace Presbytery's Presbytery Women's organization. She has many duties that are keeping her very busy. Among those duties is writing a column for the organization's newsletter, The PW Innovator. Here's a link you can click on to see the latest newsletter...and Toni's column: [2017 1st Quarter Innovator](#)



# Letters

**Congratulate Rev. Beverly Hughes on her retirement and share a memory**

Dear FPC,

My mom, **Reverend Beverly Hughes**, who was the pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce for a time, is retiring from ministry at the end of May. We are working on a memory book for her and would like any messages, pictures or favorite memories any of the congregation may have that they would like to share. Please email them to me at [saragodecke@gmail.com](mailto:saragodecke@gmail.com) by May 15th and I will work to get them incorporated.

Thank you,  
Sara Godecke

*Editor's note: From 2002 through the 2008, Rev. Hughes was the minister at First Presbyterian Church Commerce in Commerce Texas with activities in Rotary, Garden Club, The Commerce Ministerial Association, The Committee for Human Treatment of Animals at A&M Commerce, and performs the church ministry for Draughns Retirement Center.*



Rev. Beverly Hughes

*She left to minister at West Fork Presbyterian Church in Grand Prairie and has since served several other Presbyterian churches, most recently as the Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church in Richardson, Texas.*

*Rev. Hughes has also come back to preach here on several occasions as a fill-in pastor, each time renewing old friendships and being warmly and enthusiastically received.*

## Grace eNews, Subscribe or Read It Here

Grace eNews is out! To sign up to receive the Grace Presbytery newsletter, go online to [www.gracepresbytery.org](http://www.gracepresbytery.org). Or you can click [here](#).

## May Worship Leaders

### May 7

Host Elder: ..... **Petra Strassberg**  
Head Usher: ..... **Wendell Linton**  
Liturgist: ..... **Lily Selvaggi**  
Elements: ..... **Tina Fletcher Selvaggi**

### May 14

Head Usher: ..... **Ric Estes**  
Liturgist: ..... **Keith McFarland**

### May 21

Head Usher: ..... **Bob Johnson**  
Liturgist: ..... **Wally Tucker**

### May 28

Head Usher: ..... **Walt Davis**  
Liturgist: ..... **Bettina Zvanut**

*Note: Until changed, each Sunday's candle lighter will be selected on Sunday prior to the worship.*

## May Calendar

### Worship Schedule

- 7** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Acts 2:42-47*
- 14** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on 1 Peter 2:2-10*
- 21** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus Acts 17:21-31*
- 28** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Acts 1:6-14*

### Other May events

- 2 Tuesday, 2 p.m. in FH**—United Way training for the Summer School Lunch Program
- 8 Monday, 10 a.m.**—Presbyterian Women's Circle meeting
- 10 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—FPC Session meeting
- 15-17 Mon-Thurs**—Flooring installation
- 21 Sunday, 6 p.m.**—Church wide pattern cutting for Sole Hope project
- 25 Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**—Grace Presbytery's Stated Presbytery meeting at Preston Hollow PC in Dallas
- 25 Thursday, 5 p.m.**—Food Pantry board meeting
- 29 Monday**—The FPC office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

**Note: There will be no Teach the Preacher in May.**

## Thanks for Supporting the Food Pantry

The community in and around Commerce—from Cooper, to Wolfe City to Campbell (and even folks from Greenville)—provide great support for the Commerce Food Pantry. Just this week, TAMUC's Kappa Alpha fraternity brought by about 300 cans of food from a food drive. Other sororities and fraternities, as well as campus organizations are regular donors.

Churches, civic clubs, and individuals are also big supporters. And food is not all that is donated. At right is a picture of Angela Price, the new Community Resource Officer for Commerce. She came by recently to donate Red Cross personal hygiene kits.



Thanks to all those who help out. And if you get a chance go by the city hall, make it a point to meet Angela. She has been on the job about two months, and as far as we are concerned, is doing a great job.

## 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**



## New Additions to the Prayer List

Two people have been added to the FPC's prayer list recently, including **Nancy Nichols Smith**, who is being treated for a brain aneurysm. The latest is **Deryl McKenzie**, aka Santa Claus, (the brother of FPC secretary Roger McKenzie) who rejoins our list because he is in the early stage of congestive heart failure and is a candidate for a heart pacemaker.

### In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

#### Our Troops

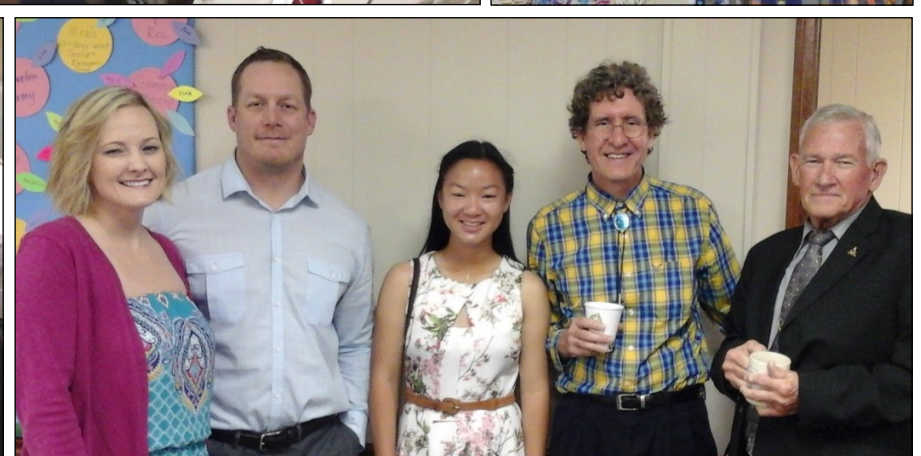
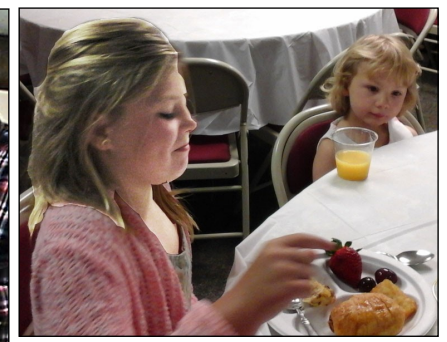
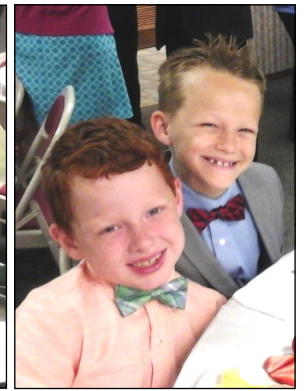
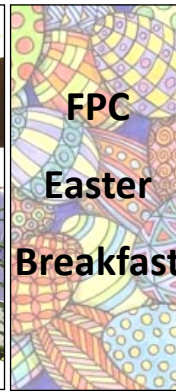
Sara Grace Pullen  
Billy Marshall  
Gayle Shumate  
Mildred Miller  
Loretta Kibler  
Catherine King Robertson  
Ron Davis  
Family of Brad Rollins  
The Gao family  
Kristen Rueb  
Jerry Ann Harris  
Nancy Nichols Smith

Gordon Hunter  
Melba Blount  
Joe Yeakley  
Gladys Gray  
Gaye Furry  
Joan Walvoord  
Odeana Stewart  
Janice Sigur  
Tina Fletcher Selvaggi  
Jan Burns  
Walt Davis  
Kathryn Miller  
Deryl McKenzie

Bruce Campbell  
Amy Lopez  
Grace Byrd  
Pat Skauge  
Preston Helton  
Donald R. Smith  
Bennie Neve  
Family of Jace Carrington  
Aaron Senne  
Family of Amanda Swanson  
Jordan Moore  
Joyce McCord



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



## Upcoming Bible Readings

**Sunday (May 7) Is the  
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25** *The Example of Christ's  
Suffering*

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

**Gospel: John 10:1-10** *Jesus the Good Shepherd*

**New Testament (and sermon focus): Acts: 2:42-47**  
*The First Converts / Life Among the Believers*

**Sunday (May 14) Is the  
Fifth Sunday of Easter (and Mother's Day)**

**New Testament: Acts 7:55-60** *The Stoning of  
Stephen*

**Psalter: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16** *Prayer and Praise  
for the Deliverance from Enemies*

**Gospel: John 14:1-14:** *Jesus the Way to the  
Father*

**Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2-10:** *The Living Stone and a  
Chosen People*

## May Dates to Remember

### *Happy Birthday to:*

- 3—Paul Shatney
- 12—Helena Christine Ballew
- 13—Wally Tucker
- 14—Jordan Estes Conner
- 21—Quint Madewell
- 23—Whitney Madewell
- 24—Kayla Keahey
- 25—Bryce Norwood
- 25—Katherine Duncan
- 27—Paul Elliott
- 27—Mark Fake

### *Happy Anniversary to:*

- 24—Rebecca & Quint Madewell
- 30—Donna & Bubba Dickerson

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

## 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 ..... 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

## FPC Is Online!

[www.facebook.com/fpccommerce](http://www.facebook.com/fpccommerce)

[www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce](http://www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce)

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

[www.fpc-commerce.com](http://www.fpc-commerce.com)

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The Youth Ministry Committee of Grace Presbytery works with individuals and congregations to enable ministry that is multi-directional. If you are able, click [here](#) to go to the Grace Presbytery Youth eNewsletter which provides information on upcoming events.

You can also click on the following link to read Grace Presbytery's [Youth Ministry brochure](#). Or you can also visit the Grace Presbytery website at [www.gracepresbytery.org](http://www.gracepresbytery.org).

**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.**



## A Message From the Pastor Continued from page 1

*Below is a form you can use right now if you wish to print out this page from your home. But remember, there will be forms available at the church, as well.*

Hymn choice \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Living Dedication- In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ payable to the FPCC

Name of Contributor \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Contributor \_\_\_\_\_

*If you know of someone who has not received this invitation please pass along the above information.*

**With Sincere thanks on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce,  
Rev. Krista Rasco, Minister**