



# **The Clarksville Presbyterian**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Clarksville, Texas**

Oldest Protestant Church In Texas  
Established 1833

**Volume 20, Issue 3**

**April 2014**

## **Congregational Roundtable**

**The Session held a Congregational Roundtable on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, to discuss the future of the Church and format a plan to increase attendance.**

### **Jacob Pope Johnson**

**Jacob Pope Johnson, 39 of Texarkana, Arkansas, passed away Sunday, March 16, 2014. Jacob is the grandson of Ed and Dot Dodson. He was born January 24, 1975 in Rosebud, Texas. He was a self-employed Master Electrician and of the Methodist faith.**

**He is survived by his wife, Laurie Martin Johnson of Texarkana, Arkansas; his father, David Johnson of Idaho; his mother, Diane White of San Antonio, Texas; three children, Cory Johnson and wife, Jami of Hooks, Texas, Amber Johnson of LaVernia, Texas, and Blaze Wells, of West Virginia; one sister, Grace Johnson of Idaho; his maternal grandparents, Ed and Dot Dodson; and many other relatives and friends.**



**The family will hold a private memorial service at a later date.**

### **Raymond Judd, Jr. to Conduct Easter Services**

On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014, former minister, the Reverend Raymond Judd, Jr. will conduct our services. As many of you will recall, Raymond came to Clarksville in June of 1959, and was installed in his first church after graduation from Princeton Seminary. In September of that same year, he married Mary Jane Grafton, and she moved to Clarksville, where they both became a vital part of First Presbyterian Church, as well as the entire Clarksville community.

While here, Raymond and Mary Jane were actively involved in the founding of the Red River County Historical Society and the Red River County Public Library. Raymond served as President of the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce, as well as being active in the Clarksville Civic Chorus, the Ministerial Alliance and many other activities. After leaving Clarksville in January 1965, the Judd's moved to Fort Worth where Raymond served as pastor at Hemphill Presbyterian Church before moving to San Antonio and becoming Chaplain at the Parker Chapel at Trinity University in 1967. He continued at Trinity until his retirement in 1999. Even in retirement, Raymond continues to remain active in the ministry doing all things related – baptism, weddings, funerals, etc.

Raymond and Mary Jane have enjoyed traveling in retirement, as well as adding to their Christmas book collection. They also stay busy with their daughter Jane and her two sons, Reed and Blake. The Judds keep close ties to Clarksville, and we look forward to his Easter Day Services.

## **Extended Relationship with Aaron Vander Schaaf**

The Session is pleased to announce that we are entering an Extended Relationship with Aaron Vander Schaaf of Quitman to serve as our lay pastor while he completes Seminary on line. Aaron will begin the first Sunday in May, 2014. Let's all make an extra effort to attend church to show support for Aaron.

### **The following is a brief introduction to Aaron and his family.**

My name is Aaron and my wife Staci and I met at an apartment complex in Lubbock in 2001 while out walking our dogs. I was a high school art teacher, and she was finishing up nursing school at Texas Tech. At the time I was attending a Presbyterian church (I grew up in Iowa and my Dad was a pastor in the Reformed Church of America) and Staci was attending a Missionary Baptist Church. We married during the summer of 2002 and moved to Quitman (Staci's hometown) in the summer of 2003 where we have lived ever since. I have been a woodworker for over ten years, and Staci has worked as an RN in various capacities. At present, I am self-employed building cabinets and furniture out of my garage, and Staci works part-time as an on-call hospice nurse. During our time in Quitman God has generously blessed us with



four daughters, Bonnie 9, Sadie 6, Erin Faith 4, and Corrie 18 months. My wife would also say that we have been blessed with two dogs and a cat, though I hesitate to use the word "blessed" when referring to our pets.

For most of our time in Quitman we were members of First Baptist Church, and that is where the more formal elements of our ministry occurred, but our desire to serve God in our community has meant a lot of informal ministry out of our house. During two different periods we led a home church that met in our living room. Our goal was to

provide a welcoming and informal environment to people who were not involved with a local church for one reason or another. Over time, 804 Lance Road (our address) has become a sort of rest area, counseling center, child-care provider, and a safe landing place for people from many different walks of life. Our children are certainly used to having visitors around! Staci and I especially love to help the wounded, counsel the hurting, and teach those who are hungry for truth. In the spring of 2013 we began to attend, and soon joined, First Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro which has been a wonderful experience for our family. Now our life is entering another chapter and we look forward to seeing what God has in store for our future, praying and knowing that whatever it is He will do it all for His glory!

## **SUMMARY OF MARCH 19th ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CLARKSVILLE**

### ***From Aaron...***

Thank you to all who attended the round-table discussion held at the church on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Your presence was an encouragement to me and your involvement will be *vital* to helping the church realize its ministry goals. Before going too far, I would like to pause and set a firm foundation underneath us..."*Soli Deo gloria.*" That's Latin for, "Glory to God alone," and it was one of the sayings of the Protestant Reformation that started nearly five-hundred years ago and set the church free from the darkness that had covered-up the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer and my hope that we would do nothing for First Presbyterian Clarksville that is not first and foremost done for the glory of God our Savior. That is not an easy task to live out because we are sinners who are often tempted to glorify ourselves and our churches rather than God. In order to help us remember whom we are to glorify, I am planning to **end each Sunday morning worship service by proclaiming, "Soli Deo gloria!" I would then invite you to respond back in English, "Glory to God alone!"** I hope that by reminding ourselves of this call every week, we can fight against the temptation to glorify ourselves as we work at building God's church.

There were so many good ideas and heart-felt desires expressed at the round-table meeting that I thought it would be helpful to summarize them so we could all remember what we talked about. If I have omitted anything important or misrepresented something, I apologize and we can change this summary.

I. We want to make an effort to reconnect with people who have or have had some connection with the church but are no longer attending. We especially want to encourage family members to join us if they are not attending services somewhere else.

II. For those who are able, we want to encourage a commitment to consistent church attendance. We want our members to understand how incredibly important their simple *presence* at church activities is. This is likely to be an area of testing because the world is very good at providing us with “opportunities” and “necessary engagements” that happen to be during worship times. Also, it is almost a scientific fact that things will “go wrong” on Sunday mornings and we need to realize this and not let it prevent our attendance at church. (Believe me; I'm in this with you. My family probably has more fights on Sunday morning than at any other time of the week!)

III. The church will be strongest if all three of these areas are represented...

The older generation...Our wisdom and our tie to the past

Middle-aged adults....Our vitality and the bridge between generations

Youth and children.....Our future and our responsibility

IV. The Sunday morning service is the first area that we need to address because it is what all other potential church ministries build off of. We need to have sound biblical teaching that is also easily understood and practical to 21<sup>st</sup> century American life. We want to maintain some of our traditions without stifling our future. Our liturgy needs to be clear and concise. Confession needs to be sincere and meaningful because we are not just sinners in theory but sinners in reality. Musical worship needs to be done as well as we can do it without making it into entertainment. Children need to have a time set aside in the service for them so they don't feel disconnected from the adults. Visitors need to be made to feel as welcome as possible.

V. We want to deal with child-care pro-actively. First Presbyterian wants to be ready to take care of children and serve their mothers/fathers whenever they arrive. Instead of waiting for a need to arise and then addressing it, we want to “prepare the fields” in anticipation of the harvest that God brings in. (It was great to see a high chair and booster seat available when I arrived the other night! That was pro-active work by the people in the church.)

VI. The church wants to build up a solid core of information that any visitors or potential visitors can easily access. An internet presence is a *must* and some on-site pamphlets or fliers would be very helpful as well. Information might include: parking locations, child-care locations and systems, church map, description of worship, church history, beliefs, ministries, calendar, contact information, worship times, and a mission statement. Some signs around the church might also be helpful for people to know things like; where to enter, location of the

office, handicap access, etc.

Finally, I would like to personally encourage each of you to be in prayer (as I will be also) concerning God's desires for our personal growth and service to Him. The healthiest churches are those with strong leadership across the whole congregation. Such a church does not rise or fall with the fortunes of their pastoral leadership because their true leadership is from the Lord himself, and it is written on their very hearts. I am not aware of anything in this world that is a greater experience than to be joined together with a group of fellow believers who all say with one voice, "Soli Deo Gloria!"

Looking forward to working with you all, Aaron

## **Church has new Web Site**

**We are in the process of developing a new church Web. It has been recommended that in today's' world, a web site is very useful in disseminating information to persons that might be wanting to find a church to attend.**

**Go to [www.cpcclarksville.com](http://www.cpcclarksville.com) and let us know what we need to add or change.**

## **Clyde A. (Buster) Carlisle**

Funeral services for Clyde A. "Buster" Carlisle were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 8, 2014 at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden. Officiating was Rev. Phil McLarty and Pastor Ricky Solis. Interment followed at Gardens of Memory in Minden.

Buster was born Sept. 5, 1933 in East Point and entered into rest March 3, 2014 in Minden. Coach gave 40-plus years to education and coaching, 20 in Louisiana and 20 in Texas. His teams won two state championships in Clarksville, Texas in 1995 and 1998. At the time of his retirement in 2003, he was ranked the third winningest coach in the nation and the second winningest coach in the state of Texas, winning 1,103 games.

He is survived by his wife, Frances H. Carlisle of Minden; sons, Randy Carlisle and wife, Tammy of Baton Rouge; John Carlisle of Rowlett, Texas; daughters, Debbie Brown and husband, Ted of Minden, Rebecca Bezet and husband, Randy of Rowlett, Texas; sister, Jeanne Conly and husband, Bill of Vivian; grandchildren, Jacob Brown, Eric Brown, Lindsey Brown, Randall Carlisle, Bethany Carlisle, Josiah Bezet and Hannah Bezet; and great-grandchildren, Hudson Carlisle Brown, William Jacob Brown and Anna Beth Brown.

# APRIL 2014

*Hosts for Luncheon are  
Nancy and Bill Rains*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Jeff Nichols	3	4 Marion Wooley	5
6	7	8	9	10 Nancy Duren	11	12 Bill Rains Heath Humphrey Michael Dodson
13 PALM SUNDAY Luncheon	14	15 Kathy Carter	16	17	18 GOOD FRIDAY Thomas Wren	19
20 EASTER	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Casey Ward	31		

## **New Hymnals to be Purchased**

In late 2013, a new Presbyterian Hymnal, ***“Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal”*** was introduced. First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, has not had a new hymnal since the 1950s. As such, we have decided to purchase these new hymnals for the sanctuary. ***“Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal”*** is a new book of hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs for the Presbyterian Church. It includes 853 musical selections and worship materials. We hope to purchase these by June 30, 2014. If you would like to have a new hymnal placed in the sanctuary in memory of someone or in honor of someone, the cost is \$20.00 for each edition. A memorial or honorarium plate will be placed in each hymnal as you wish. If you would like to donate hymnals, please complete the form below and return to:

**First Presbyterian Church**

**P O Box 732**

**Clarksville, Texas 75426**

**Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Hymnals:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**P. O. Box 732**

**Clarksville, Texas 75426**

**Return Service Requested**