



# The Clarksville Presbyterian

## First Presbyterian Church Clarksville, Texas

Oldest Protestant Church In Texas  
Established 1833

Volume 20, Issue 4

May 2014

### “Peace if possible. Truth at all costs.” Martin Luther

That quote by Martin Luther would have been a good one for me to contemplate back in the summer of 2003. If someone had met me eleven years ago, shortly before I moved to Quitman from Lubbock, and asked me to name one spiritual issue that I felt most strongly about, it's likely that I would have chosen “church unity.” I had only been living in Texas and involved in baptist churches for a few years at that point, after having grown up in the Midwest as a member of the Reformed Church in America, and I was frustrated with denominational bickering and superiority claims. The culture clash that I was living out in my own life was sometimes painful, and it seemed to me that we in the American church were spending a lot of time and energy fighting over fine points of theology while our society was leaving the church in droves. Perhaps some of you reading this are nodding your head in agreement with that view even now. You too have felt that people were quietly “slipping out the door” while we were arguing amongst ourselves. Well...that is a discouraging thought and it ought to be a word of warning to us; however, if I may, I would like to temper my original sentiments on this issue with what I hope is some wisdom gained during a decade “in the fray.” After all, I was only 27 when I disdainfully looked down my nose at theological distinctions, and it's just possible that I was not as wise as I thought I was!

Thankfully time has worked its wonders on my immaturity and ignorance. I am much more aware now of the reason we have ended up with so many Christian denominations, and I even see a sort of silver lining in our otherwise unfortunate divisions. You see, most denominations are the result of theological passion (even if it is often misguided). Simply put, a group of people cared enough about a certain belief or set of beliefs to separate from those they disagreed with. Now don't get me wrong, I don't like church splits, a lot of them are completely unnecessary and sinful, and I don't like having so many denominations, but I absolutely do like the thought of a body of believers who care enough about their specific beliefs to be distinct. So one possible “silver lining” of the multitude of denominations might be said to be that it indicates there are still quite a lot of people who actually **care** about what they believe. That's important, because I know something now that I was less aware of over a decade ago, sadly, that there are many people who are willing to give up even the most important distinctions in order to have “unity” in the church, or for the church to be “relevant” to the culture. Unfortunately, when we have reached that point we do not



have church unity either, because we no longer have the church! It's a classic case of "throwing the baby out with the bathwater." The technical term for this condition is "religious pluralism" and it is an increasingly common viewpoint in western church culture.

With that in mind, for the last several weeks and counting, the congregation at FPCC has been looking carefully at "The Old, Old, Story," of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Hopefully we are being both reminded and refined. We have been considering again and again just what it is that makes Christianity distinctive. We are asking ourselves if there are doctrines worth fighting for. Are there truths that cannot be compromised? Those are questions that we have to wrestle with as a group of believers but of course it never stops there! If we believe as a group that some things are true and some things are not, then every individual has to ask themselves personally if they are willing to stand for the truth! Will they live for it? Will they die for it? Is the truth to them **"the pearl of great price"** as Jesus called it, that they would sell everything they have to obtain, or is it something that is nice to have as long as it doesn't cost too much? Martin Luther cared about unity and peace in the church but his insistence on the pursuit of truth at a dark time in church history still caused the church to split wide open. I too care about unity and peace, as much as I ever did, but now I understood that true unity only comes on the heels of truth.

The great bible commentator and Presbyterian pastor Matthew Henry put it this way.... **"A holy war is better than the peace of the Devil's palace."** War is epic. It makes for great cinema and lasting memories but it is not pleasant. Of course as a Christian and even simply as a human, I long for a day when there are no wars whether they be physical or spiritual, but that day has not yet arrived. The battle rages on and we are called to serve our Lord in the fight. He is more than a general and more than a king, he is our Savior, and he is worth the price. Onward Christian soldiers.....

Aaron

## Church Newsletter Mailing

There are approximately 220 families that are on the mailing list to receive the Church Newsletters and therefore, the postage to mail the newsletter is approximately \$110. You can help us save on postage by giving us your email address so we can email you the newsletter rather than using USPS. Just send an email to Bill Rains at [bill@billrains.net](mailto:bill@billrains.net) or Jim Clark at [jim.clark@statebankofdekalb.com](mailto:jim.clark@statebankofdekalb.com) advising that we can email the newsletter rather than using UPS.

## Macie Rains Receives Senior Ring from Texas A & M



Nancy and Bill Rains went to Texas A & M to present their granddaughter, Macie Rains, with her Senior ring. Also attending the ceremony were Tamelia and David Rains, parents; Sarah and Brandon Rains, siblings; MaryBeth Greutman, aunt; and Emily Rains, cousin.

Macie is the third generation of the Bill Rains family to attend Texas A & M and is majoring in Math and Science Education. Macie was recognized as a Distinguished Student at Texas A & M during the Spring of 2014.

# NEW HYMNAL DONATIONS

## **The James Ritchie McCulloch, Jr. Family**

In Memory of Ritchie and Ruth Reed McCulloch

## **Donna Allen Robinson**

In Memory of Frank Fowler, Fay Nichols Fowler, Georgia Swann VanDyke Fowler, Alice Joyce Fowler Adair, and Bob Adair

## **Jim Clark**

In Memory of Mary Heston Dick, Audrey Graves Black, Ruth Reed McCulloch, Georgia Swann VanDyke Fowler, and In Honor of Raymond and Mary Jane Judd

## **Joyce Lynn Allen Ward**

In Memory of James L. (Jim) Ward, Seth and Delia Anderson Allen, Clark Anderson and Mary Bob Ward

## **Sandra Rattan Osborne**

In Memory of Rev. & Mrs. Arthur P. Osborne, Mr. & Mrs. P. Arthur Osborne, Robert A. Osborne, Merrell & Florence Rattan, and Samantha & Kayla Hinkle; In Honor of Osborne Grandchildren, Osborne Great Grandchildren, the Robert Scott Hinkle Family, the Chris B. Osborne Family, and the Robert Merrell Osborne Family

## **Ella Ruth Wallace**

In Memory of Harold S. Wallace, Ima Lee & Byron L. Pace, Glenna Hodges and George Harold Wallace; In Honor of Sherry Wallace, Dolly & Bob Wallace and Ann & Ben Wallace

## **Rev. Ralph & Jeanie Graham**

In Honor of the Faithful Members of First Presbyterian Church

## **Linda & Jim Clark**

In memory of Audrey Graves Black and Byron B. Black, Sr., Jim Ward, Bob & Alice Joyce Fowler Adair and Dr. Rex L. Edwards; In Honor of Jim Clark

## **Nancy Irby Taylor**

In Memory of Lee Irby

## **Harvey and Shirley Sloan Hamm**

In Memory of Mollie Banks Sloan, George F. Sloan and Frances Ferguson Banks

## **Peggy O'Neill**

In Memory of Albert Hamilton Latimer, Ella Latimer Parks, Mary Parks O'Neill, Edward C. (Ned) O'Neill, and James & Jane Hamilton Latimer

## **Peter and Claire Bonham Buenz**

In Memory of Zula West Bonham, Nina & Wade West, Mildred West Ingram, Flossie West, Edwina West Lowrance, and In Honor of Jim Clark

## **Becky Burtner and Mary Jane Burtner Hathaway**

In Honor of Joyce Lynn Allen Ward

## **Mary Jane Burtner Hathaway and Becky Burtner**

In Memory of Nancy Womack Burtner and In Honor of Joyce Lynn Ward

## **Roger and Bonnie Osborne**

In Memory of Rev. & Mrs. Arthur P. Osborne and Robert A. Osborne

## **John Douglas Osburn**

In Memory of Ruth & Ritchie McCulloch and the F. F. Marable Family

## **Thelma Lee**

In Memory of Roger Scott

## **Anne Russell Evetts**

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Bowers and Mr. & Mrs. E. K. Russell, Jr.

## **Clinton and Rosemary Evetts**

In Memory of Lura Evetts, Jim Ward, Robert Osborne, and Billy Underwood

## **Jane McCoy**

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Taylor McCoy and Sons

## **Mary Curtis Kennedy**

In Memory of Mary Corley Kennedy and Charlie Martin Kennedy

## **Kathryn Underwood**

In Memory of Billy Underwood, Brody Duren, Mary Simpson, and Dick Wren

**Robert Allen Popp**

In Memory of Sarah Dell, W. L. (Dub) & Lyndale Risinger, Sallie & Joe Goltz, and Diane Johnson. In Honor of Joyce & Jim Ward Family and Mary Jane & Raymond Judd

**Linda Allen Cardwell and Lou Allen Walton**

In Memory of Thomas E. Allen, Jr. and In Honor of Frances C. Allen

**Robert M. and Jeri Osborne**

In Memory of Robert A. Osborne, Rev. Arthur Osborne, Marge Osborne, Samantha Hinkle, and Kayla Hinkle

**Bill and Nancy Rains****Shellie and David Carter**

In Memory of Audrey Graves Black and In Honor of Jim Clark

**Frances Strickland Axline**

In Memory of Bessie Whiteman Strickland and Tobe Strickland

## **Members that are ill or shut-in**

Please make an effort to call or visit the following that are either ill or shut-in.

**Carol Wren**

**Bessie Grady**

**Barbara Hollaway**

**Daphne Arnold**

**Lisa Humphrey**

**Sarah Malone**

**Marion Russell**

**Gene Hollaway**

**Dot Dodson**

## **Britney Martin and Hunter Humphrey to Wed**

Britney Martin and hunter Humphrey will be united in Marriage on Saturday, June 21, 2014.

## **Lisa Humphrey to have Knee Surgery**

Lisa Humphrey reports that she must have Knee Surgery as soon as the wedding of Britney and Hunter is over.

# JUNE 2014

Hosts for Luncheon are  
Kathryn Underwood  
Joyce Lynn Ward

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Landon Baird	3	4	5	6	7
8 Monthly Luncheon	9 Mary Beth Greutman	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Nancy Rains	28
29	30					

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**P. O. Box 732**

**Clarksville, Texas 75426**

**Return Service Requested**