



# The Clarksville Presbyterian

## First Presbyterian Church Clarksville, Texas

Oldest Protestant Church In Texas  
Established 1833

**Volume 20, Issue 9**

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### A Little History

As has been said, the church was organized in 1833-34 at Shiloh, north of what we now know as Madras (where a Cumberland Presbyterian Church still remains). Milton Estill was the organizing pastor. The church there existed until 1848 when it united with a congregation at Hopewell (not the Hopewell which we know today in Red River County) to become the Clarksville congregation. In this union church the history beginning in 1833 is thus perpetuated. The new church erected a building on the present property in 1859-60, at the very beginning of the civil War. The Rev. Johnston Dysart was pastor at the time of construction.

The deed to the property where the church was built, shows that Albert Latimer, George Bagby, and Samuel A. Ritchey, Trustees of the church, bought the present property from James A. N. Murray for an amount of two hundred dollars on November 22, 1858.

One is absolutely overcome when attention is given to these facts of Dr. Templeton's service to the church at large while he was pastor at Clarksville. But his service to the local scene is as great. In 1899 he led the church in tearing down the old church build in the early 1860's. (An advertisement in the local newspaper at the time reads: "The building known as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is offered for sale, as a new building will be erected on the old lot. The blocks, bell and furniture will not be sold. The building contains 50,000 feet of lumber more or less, and will be sold at a bargain. For particulars apply to R. H. Harris.") Following the demolition of the structure, a new frame building was erected under his leadership; the building was destroyed by fire in 1904. In 1905, Dr. Templeton led the church in the erection of the present building, a brick structure which remains in remarkably good condition.



# **CLARKSVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

An Education Foundation has been created to provide assistance for students of Clarksville ISD. The purpose of this corporation is to provide an organization which will coordinate, encourage and assist educational functions and activities, and promote scholarship in the Clarksville Independent School District, Red River County, Texas by providing financial support, leadership ability, professional expertise or otherwise and to establish a monetary fund to be used to benefit individual students and teachers worthy of scholarship assistance to colleges, universities, and trade or technical schools and professional seminars. This corporation shall be and is limited to those powers which comply with the provisions and maintenance of exemption provided in Sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a) Internal Revenue Code 1954 as amended. The powers and purpose of this corporation are also and shall be limited by those powers granted by the State of Texas, and accruing to non-profit corporations incorporated within the State of Texas.

You can find out more information about the Foundation by looking at the website, <http://www.clarksvilleef.org/>

Steve and Elizabeth Howlett has donated \$40,000 to the Foundation to provide scholarships and Technical Assistance in memory of Gene and Kitty Howlett. A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior boy and girl each year.

If you would like to become a Sustaining Member by filling out the application that is on the web and sending it to the address shown.

## **Presbyterian Happenings**

Clarksville Presbyterians were in abundance at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Red River County Historical Society Fall Bazaar. Donna Robinson was seen diligently working in the Historical Society booth selling t-shirts and other wares. Anne Evetts and Jim Clark were very busy giving tours of the Old Jail, DeMorse Home, and Lennox House. Tony Boss and his combo, Blue Suitcase performed on the stage, Mary Beth Rains was spotted working in the Rotary fish fry booth. Neil and Billy Sparkman were seen shopping from the vendors. Many former members were also present. Among those seen were Rosemary Evetts, Steve and June Hale, Jack Moore, Robert Allen Popp, Lou Walton, Linda and Linda Cardwell, Keith Bollman, and Tom and Joanne Fowler.

We are happy to report that Charlie and Sarah Malone's great granddaughter, Laney Malone, was selected as student of the week at Mount Vernon Elementary School.

We are pleased to report that Ella Ruth Wallace is at home after a time in the Clarksville Hospital and a time of rehab at Regency Nursing Center.

We had a welcomed visit from former member, Col. Robert Allen Popp, from Las Vegas, Nevada on October 5<sup>th</sup>. He was joined by his niece, Ardra Ragan Shelby for services.

We are saddened to report the death of Frances (Fran) Allen of Texarkana. Fran and her daughters, Lou Walton and Linda Cardwell, were frequent visitors to our Church. Fran is the widow of Thomas Allen. Graveside services were held at the Madras Cemetery.

We reported that Sarah Malone was in the hospital in our last newsletter. Sarah is now at home.

Billy Sparkman joined us for services while he was here from working in Washington state. He has returned to work, but will be back to join Neil and the girls for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Gordon and Charlotte Berndt have returned from their summer visit to Wisconsin. Before returning to Clarksville, they had a most enjoyable trip to Budapest, Hungary and Munich, Germany.

Jim Clark joined Mary Jane and Raymond Judd for a trip to South Dakota to see Mount Rushmore, the Black Hills and the Dakota Badlands.

### *Hanging of the Greens*

The annual Hanging of the Greens will be held on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend and assist in the decoration of the Church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. The first Sunday of Advent is November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### *Annual Christmas Candlelight Service*

Our annual Christmas Candlelight Service will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Once again, we will be joined by members of McKenzie Methodist, St. John Lutheran, and St. Joseph Catholic Churches. The choir will be directed by Claire Jesse and accompanied by Marianne Whitehouse. Please take note that this service will be on SATURDAY rather than the usual Sunday evening.

# NOVEMBER 2014

Hosts for Luncheon are

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 End Daylight Savings Time Kay Reed	3	4	5	6	7 John & Nancy Nichols	8
9 Monthly Luncheon Ethan McLendon	10 Bonnie Vander Schaaf	11 James Allen Ward	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 Clinton Evetts	29 Alex Simpson
30 Sean Dodson Congregational Meeting						