



# The Clarksville Presbyterian

## First Presbyterian Church Clarksville, Texas

Oldest Protestant Church In Texas  
Established 1833

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### Presbyterian Happenings

Marian Russell was recently selected as the "Resident of the Month" at Clarksville Nursing Center. Congratulations Marian!!

Ella Ruth Wallace celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. She was joined by many members of her family for services.

We were happy to welcome the Rev. Ralph Graham and his wife Jeanie for services on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Ralph delivered a great sermon, and we learned much about the role that Presbyterians played in the American Revolutionary War.

Aaron and Staci Vander Scaaf, along with their girls, traveled to Manhattan, Kansas for a weeklong visit with Aaron's family.

We were happy to welcome back Jace Robinson for his summer visit from Circleville, Kansas. Jace is the grandson of Donna Robinson and was here visiting for several weeks from Kansas. He is always ready to help with the offering and ringing the bell.

Allie Sparkman has been attending the Upward Bound Program at Paris Junior College this summer. She will be traveling to Washington in August for a visit.

Sarah Sparkman enjoyed a weeklong visit to DuPont, Washington. She enjoyed traveling to Seattle, kayaking and enjoying the beautiful scenery.

We have enjoyed having Vicki Storey Robison and her granddaughter, Christine, joining us for services several times this summer. Billie Jean Storey Cashman has also visited with us this summer.



We have been happy to have Elsie Hinson attending services. Elsie and her family moved to Clarksville some years ago.

Frances Hill has had several visitors this summer including her grandson and her niece. We were happy to have them at services with her.

We have enjoyed having Lon Berndt and Annette Zimmerman in attendance at services recently. Lon moved to Red River County from Wisconsin and is a farmer. He has grown some beautiful crops of canola out north of town. They are spectacular when blooming. Lon then harvests the seeds which are then transformed into the canola oil that we all use.

We are happy to report that Lisa Humphrey is recovering well from knee replacement surgery.

We have enjoyed seeing Janice Millikan with her grandmother, Billie Edwards, at services several times this summer. Janice and Billie also visited the Bush Library in Dallas and Billie says that everyone should make an effort to go spend a day at the Bush Library.

Rickey Baird is to become a proud grandfather. His son Landon, and wife Jordan, are expecting the baby in December.

Brandon Rains has been visiting with grandparents Bill and Nancy Rains this summer. We have enjoyed having him attending services and serving as an usher. Brandon also took on the task of climbing up into the bell tower to “unstick” the bell. Many thanks to Brandon!!!!

We are sad to report the death of Clarksville native, Allen Corley (Bubba) Marable. He was a descendant of Rev. Sam Corley, who was the first minister of our congregation. Services were held in Tyler. Allen was the son of Paul D. and Maude Cook Marable, and was married to the former Mildred Wooley, who was also a Clarksville native.

During the summer months, our monthly luncheons have been of the picnic variety with fried chicken, sandwiches, hot dogs and all the trimmings. We have certainly had some great picnics in the Christian Education Building!!!!

### Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is once again being offered for residents of Red River County. In order to qualify, participants must be over the age of 60 and not drive. Hot meals are brought on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, along with a frozen meal to be reheated for Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. To find out additional information, please call 903.784.2580.

## Aaron's Thoughts

Every summer from 1996 through 2000, while living in northwest Iowa, I worked for a construction company in a town called Hull that specialized in all aspects of pouring concrete. Despite the humble circumstances of my employment there, it was one of the most important and informative experiences of my life. I am thankful to God for those days and I think of the guys I worked with often. One of many memories I have of that time was my introduction to the phrase “beer:30,” which signified that magical time of the day when our labors ceased and the promise of a more relaxing evening was upon us. Someone was always asking, in the midst of a hot and unpleasant day, “Is it beer:30 yet?” Our crew often worked ten or twelve hour days in the long hot sun, carrying heavy things from one place to another. It was exhausting work and the majority of my co-workers ushered in their evening rest with a twelve pack of Busch Lite to quench their thirst and frankly, to numb their minds. This daily routine of sweat and drink was put on temporary hold each Saturday about noon when we stopped for a short day-and-a-half weekend which most of the guys used to drink more Busch Lite or occasionally even the “up-scale” Bud Lite, because you only live once after all. Mixed into the crew’s weekends were occasional dirt-track races, camping trips, fishing, water-sports on an area lake, and a whole lot of hours at the local bowling alley. Church was not high on the list of priorities for most. I presume the weekend routine is still going on in Hull because it certainly is going on in one form or another everywhere else I’ve lived, whether among the wealthy yuppies of downtown Chicago, the educated teachers of Lubbock, Texas, or the Jicarilla Apaches of northern New Mexico.

Some years after my time pouring concrete, I found myself as a new transplant to east Texas being confronted with one of my least favorite aspects of evangelical Christian culture...the dreaded *church marquee*. Signs saying things such as, “*God’s cellphone never loses reception in the low places,*” or “*Prevent truth decay-brush up on your Bible,*” are not, in my opinion, beneficial to the Christian witness. Imperfect person that I am, I used to come up with sarcastic alternatives to these cute sayings and one day I hit on one that I liked too well to keep to myself. What was it? **”It’s always beer:30 in Heaven.”** I didn’t have a marquee to put the saying on but I liked it so much I had it put on a t-shirt and I still wear it to this day, which has led to concerned looks from some of my Christian friends over the years. But the point is this...the biblical promises for our eternal future are the answer to the fundamental human question of why we all look forward to some version of beer:30 in our lives. The promises speak of rest for our souls and renewal of our bodies which we all seek consciously or unconsciously. My co-workers in concrete were illustrating this universal longing even though they sought fulfillment in places where it would never be found. Unfortunately, they seem to be a part of an increasingly large majority in modern America. When I consider the reality that is traded away for the imitation pleasures of this world I am grieved. Consider these words from the Apostle Paul, especially what I’ve put in red...

**4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 *in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.* Ephesians 2:4-7 NIV**

Can you imagine? Ages upon ages of the perfect almighty God purposefully showing kindness to *us*? That's phenomenal! I don't even pretend to understand exactly what that means, but surely it is better than anything we might experience in this temporary world! Right now at FPCC we are in the midst of a five week look at Luke 14 and one of Jesus' parables in that chapter speaks of guests who are invited to a great wedding banquet but who choose to attend to things they find more important. Our Lord is less than complimentary towards those ungrateful invitees, and that is precisely what has prompted this article. Let me lay it out for you...

I am by no means a church-attendance-legalist, but I am absolutely a church-attendance-is-serious-business-itist, if I might be free to coin a word there. Every Sunday morning on my way to church in Clarksville I observe large numbers of people preparing for a day of leisure activities. Now, the optimist in me says, "They are probably all Seventh Day Adventists, so they worship on Saturday and wake-board on Sunday," but the realist in me considers that highly unlikely. I think the most likely scenario (this being east Texas) is that quite a few of those leisure seekers would call themselves Christians or at least profess to a belief in God, but would not be terribly interested in fellowshiping with other believers or in learning any specifics about the God they believe in. After all, usually when someone is truly interested in something they try to learn more about it. This dynamic begs the question, "Where is their beer:30?" Is their beer:30 an eternal one that they hope to enter into upon death, or is it a temporary one that they hope to enter into starting this coming Friday afternoon? I know where Jesus stood on the issue, and now I ask you to consider where you stand. After all, you don't know when you are going to die. The clock on your life might be reading "quarter to beer" right now!

I know churches are full of hypocrites. I know some of them are too interested in money. I know they can be infuriating, and I certainly know that sitting in a pew listening to a preacher deliver a long sermon, or a confusing sermon, or a just plain boring sermon lacks the appeal of a pleasant day on the lake or an exciting NFL game, but try to look past all that. Behind all the human imperfection that is the church, is a message of outstanding hope. A promise that trumps every luxury or pleasure the world has ever conceived of. A perfect God. A holy Lord. A loving Savior. A generous host of a great and eternal feast. Come to church to worship him.

Aaron

# SEPTEMBER 2014

*Hosts for Luncheon are*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Johnny Jamison Brent Duren Jim Clark	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Staci Vander Schaaf	9	10	11	12	13
14 Monthly Luncheon	15	16 Rickey Baird Tony Boss	17	18	19 David Rains	20
21	22	23	24	25 Tye Ward Corrie Vander Schaaf	26	27
28	29	30	31	28	29	30

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**Return Service Requested**