

# E-Messenger

## First Church of Christ

### HE'S ALIVE!

Frank Clements dreamed of flying airplanes from the time he was a little boy. During World War 22 he joined the US Air Force, became a 2nd lieutenant and was soon flying dangerous missions over the English Channel into France and Germany.

Everyone in his hometown of Big Springs, TX and the Fourth Street Baptist Church, where the Clements family had been members for years, was proud of Frank. Pastor Elmer Dunham related that the church prayed for Frank often and tried to get reports back about his welfare, but feedback was sparse.

One day the tragic message came to Big Springs that Frank Clements was missing in action. Mr. Clements was working in his repair shop just off the side of his garage, but when he got the news about Frank, he and his wife dropped everything and went straight to pastor Dunham and the three wept

and prayed together.

Not long afterward they got the dreaded telegram. "Greetings, we regret to inform you that Frank Clements was killed in action over the English Channel. We extend our deepest sympathy." The Clements family was devastated. The town of Big Springs had a memorial service, and since west Texas people are close, the whole town turned out for his memorial.

They placed a single red rose on the empty casket and the entire community mourned Frank's death. The problem, however, was it was a case of misidentification. Lt. Frank Clements from Big Springs, TX was not really dead. Another pilot with the same name had been shot and killed.

Frank from Big Springs had also been shot down but he had survived

the crash, was picked up by allies after several days at sea, and taken back across the channel in a boat. He knew nothing about the other Frank Clements or the wrongful death notice. But because he survived such an ordeal the military gave him a leave to go back to the states.

Frank was a young man-not yet 20 and decided not to call--he'd just surprise his parents. That's typical--especially considering he didn't know they had received wrong information and were mourning his passing. He chose just to surprise them. Frank took a passenger ship that took over a week to cross the Atlantic, then a train from the East Coast to Dallas, then a Greyhound bus to Big Springs, TX. When he got to the bus stop, he felt like walking so he took his big duffle bag and started walking home. He didn't come in contact with anyone he knew along

the way. He went to his house, heard activity in the repair shop next to the garage, walked up, stood in the doorway and watched his dad, whose back was turned to him, for several seconds as he worked at the bench.

Then Lt. Frank Clements simply said, "Dad." His dad froze. Again he said, "Dad!" The old man turned and saw his son and couldn't believe his eyes! He ran to him, hugged him, crying his eyes out with joy. Frank couldn't understand what was going on. They had always been the type to just shake hands, but his dad wouldn't let go of him. Finally his dad let go, stepped back and looked at him one more time, raced inside to tell his wife and then ran down Main Street of Big Springs, TX, hollering, "He's alive!"

### MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

One of the most controversial subjects in today's churches is the topic of music. "It's too loud." "It's boring." "People can't possibly worship to that." "Is this praise and worship time or a funeral?" The opinions are varied and strong when it comes to praise and worship time. So strong, in fact, that I have heard stories of churches splitting over music choices.

One important note, I very much appreciate the family of believers here because while music is very important to us all, and we all have differing opinions on how it should be, we never take the discussions to the extreme. Those who like the traditional music enjoy the times we have the hymns and listen attentively to the praise band. Those who like the more contem-

porary sound with the praise band continue to worship when we have only hymns. Comments are made, but always with love and understanding.

The book of Psalms gives us a number of passages directing us to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

**Psalms 95:1**

*O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.*

**Psalms 98:4**

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.*

**Psalms 100:1**

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.*

In the context of one of the verses we are told to play

a harp with the Psalms, but I don't think instrumentation is the focus. We are to be joyous for what the Lord has done for us and show that joy with a loud noise and singing. Whether that is singing hymns accompanied by a piano or praise and worship music accompanied by a full band, singing and praising and making our worship to be a pleasing sound to God is important.

With all that in mind, I wish to make an announcement. Beginning this fall we will have two distinct services. The first service will be a traditional service offering hymns with piano. The second service will be the more contemporary service offering

praise and worship with the praise band. More details and information will follow as we get closer to the time, but until then, let's all continue to make a joyful noise.

**Continually overcoming,  
Tim Calvin**

## Serving in August

### Greeters:

- 3—Scott & Anne Bard (A)
- 10—Toby & Jane Runyan (A)
- 17—Scott & Pam Hartman (A)
- 24—Dean & Sue Smethurst (A)
- 31—Tom & Cindy Horton (A)

### Communion Ministry:

- 3—
- 10—
- 17—Mike & Sue Robson

24—Larry Snively

31—Ramon & Barbara Alpaugh

### Prayer Warriors:

Lisa Turnbull & Angi Davis (8/3-24)  
Traci Hartman & Ellen Walker (8/31)

### Elevator/Lock Up:

### Welcome Center:

3—John/Nora Altman (9); Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)

10—Lesley Shirkey (9); Kevin/Barb Gallagher (9:45)

17—Shawn/Stephanie Ramey (9); Jordan/Heather Day (9:45)

### Nursery:

3—Courtney Herendeen/Marlee Carroll  
10—Brigitte Kuszmaul/Megan Grimm  
17—Mary Lloyd/Caity Karnes  
24—Anna Tipton/Grace Rohrer  
31—Heather Day/Sabrina Ramey

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Connie Tressler
- 2 Denise Riehle, Andi Yahraus
- 3 Sharon Blinzler
- 5 Hunter Smith, Barb Thomas
- 6 Blake Kuszmaul, Tacha Rohrer, Wesley Tressler, Barry VonDeylen
- 7 Larry Snively
- 8 Brooke Riehle
- 12 Dave Beerbower, Ron Lewis, Alex Smith
- 13 Jonie Day, Keely Strouse
- 14 Randy Reasor
- 16 Case Hartman, Crystal

- Sweebe
- 17 Nola Girardot, Camden Singer
- 18 Norm Brown
- 19 John Hill
- 21 Sharon Dean, JT McCoy
- 22 Dee Suffel
- 23 Tom Turnbull
- 25 Sue Robson
- 26 Dawn Sheline
- 27 Stacey Perry
- 28 Cole Andres
- 30 Ryan Beerbower
- 31 Charlene Dean, Shawn Gam-

bler, Judy Yahraus

- 3 Chris & JoNell Gotshall (46)
- 12 Ron & Shellee Brown (10)
- 15 Larry & Marilyn Sanders (22)
- 17 Scott & Anne Bard (29), Justin & Eric McNamara (1), Leo & Ruth Thomas (63)
- 18 Gary & Patty Crider (41)
- 19 Larry & Kim Snively (25)
- 25 Henry & Regina Kidd (50)
- 20 Don & Dee Suffel (53)
- 29 John & Pat Koerner (55)



## Family News

### Sympathy

The church family extends her sympathy to the following families:

- ♥ the family of Tom Zedaker
- ♥ Steve & Connie Tressler on the death of Connie's sister.

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*(continued from He's Alive)*

He's alive! He's alive!"

The next day the paper in Big Springs, TX

carried a huge front-page headline that read: "Lt. Frank Clements Returns--Alive!"

Jesus Christ actually died and returned from the grave. The women who came to the tomb were alarmed to see an empty tomb and an angel (Mark 16:5). Mary Magdalene was shocked when Jesus appeared to her in the garden. The two on the road to Emmaus were stunned when Jesus revealed himself to them, and the disciples in the Upper Room couldn't believe it. They couldn't wait to "go into all the world and preach the Good News" to all who would listen.

Someone suggested that Easter can be summarized in one word, "Surprise!" Surprise, Satan! Surprise, Caiaphas! Surprise, Pilate! Surprise, unbelievers! Surprise death! Jesus is alive! Death is conquered! Sin is defeated! Hope is alive! What a wonderful surprise!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	4	5 11:30 Student Lunch	6	7 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons  6:00 Cruise-In Fundraiser	8	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast
10 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Paintball	11	12	13	14 8:00 Best Years Day @ LJCA  9:30 Ladies' Bible Study 6:00 Cruise-In	15	16
17 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Congregational Mtg.	18  7:00 Elders Meeting	19 11:30 Student Lunch 12:45 Visitation	20	21 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons	22	23 11:00 Street Fair
24 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 12:00 All Church Picnic	25	26 11:30 Lunch Bunch @ Harlan Café	27	28 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons	29	30
31 Unity Sunday 9:00 Breakfast 10:15 Worship						

## First Church of Christ

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Love All, Worship One,  
Make Disciples

[Bryanfcc.org](http://Bryanfcc.org)

## Facts & Figures

July 6

Attendance S.S. 39      Worship 61/125

Offering      \$ 5,293.00

July 13

Attendance S.S. 41      Worship 49/133

Offering      \$4,019.00

July 20

Attendance S. S. 28      Worship 42/100

Offering      \$6,340.63

July 27

Attendance 35      Worship 50/128

Offering      \$4,536.00

Needed weekly to meet budget      \$5,980.01



## Love All

**Our Service Personnel:** Kevin Bergman (GA), Igor Blinzler (MO), Jared Headley (CO), Lindsey Kaiser, Nathan McCoy (Japan), Stewart Martin (NC), Jessie Stillman (OH), Josh Severs (NC), Ethan Shook (NC), Josh Tonneas (MA)

**Cancer:** Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Marvin Bailey, Arlene Boyer, Mary Brodbeck, Martin Collins, Amy Curry, Carrie H., Dennis Holthues, Gene Johns, Molly Johnston, Judy Koerner, Pat Koerner, Chuck Lees, Marshall, Doug McClure, Chloe Merillat, Pam Monahan, Vickie Moore, Marilyn Opdycke, Debra Price, Jim Pringle, Elaine Purdue,

Kathy Rittenhouse, David Robinson, Sherry, Lyle Snavely, Dinah Stiltner, Barry Sweet, Tammy, Joe Vaccaro, Kathy Walton, Al West, Gloria Wright. Other Concerns: Ann Rittenhouse, Jennifer Mavis, Evelyn Fox, Bill McCarthy, Pat Turnbull, Brianna Lloyd, Amy Boyd, Brittany Sleesman, Jo Harman, Troy Hug, Trevor Bailey, Mary Neidhardt, Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Geri Cox, Adaleigh Herendeen, Dale Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Betty Higley, Ruth Thomas, Gerald Wetmore, Mike Rosendaul, Maxie Kidd, Noah Rohrer, John Leppelmeier, Bob Wagner, Christen Turnbull, Ben Riehle, Gary Crider, Paul.

**Shut Ins: Fountain Park:** Bernice Rickard, **Hillside:** Marguerite Siebenaler, **Home:** Marcena Bly, Linda Lewis, **Fairlawn Haven:** Gerald Wetmore, **Bryan Care & Rehab:** Vivian Holdsworth **The Lakes of Monclova:** Roger Ellis