

ClaytonPres Press

Clayton Presbyterian Church
Fred DiMaio, Pastor

June – July 2019

Many years later, I understand granddaddy's tears

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It took me 50 years to fully understand my granddaddy's tears – to know the depth of love in each tear and the strength of promise that was mingled with exhilaration as he softly cried that night.

It happened on one of those sweet evenings at the end of spring in Dallas, Texas. The heat of the day's sunshine was gone, leaving a cool, in-between time of twilight that was neither light nor dark. On this particular Sunday night, as my family and I entered the church, I remember thinking, "I'm going to do it ... tonight!"

My sister had been baptized at morning service earlier that day, and the noon meal at my grandparents for family and friends was full of laughter and excitement. Sister was center of attention and loving every minute of it. I watched her elation as she opened gifts from the family, then when she wrote her name and the date in her new Bible with its pretty white cover.

One of the many ways my sister and I differed was she loved the attention of so many, and I usually avoided such spotlight. I'm certain that is why I chose an evening service to be baptized, not like many people in the church. I didn't even tell my family when I would be making such a decision. Well, almost no one. A few weeks earlier, I had mentioned to my granddaddy that I was thinking about it – just thinking, nothing definite.

I remember his eyes would seem to hold my full attention, especially when he asked me, "You doing OK, Sunie-girl?" At moments like that, when I was his Sunie-girl, everything on the planet was absolute perfect and I was more than OK.

After the message that special Sunday night, when I was 13 years old, I stepped forward, much to the shock of my parents,

Treasury Report

Jan. 1 – May 31, 2019

Receipts	\$37,487
Expenses	\$34,071
Fund Balance	\$119,897

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The Pastor's Pen

It would appear that we went directly from winter to summer in the North Georgia Mountains. We have been spared the dramatic weather to our west, mostly Texas, Oklahoma, and that area. The rains seemed to continue then they just stopped. It was as if our familiar nearly daily rains would keep coming. It is tough when something we anticipate or we consider familiar does not happen. We get a bit "wonky". Not sure where that phrase came from, but it seemed to work. We had been working through familiar parts of the Bible early this year, primarily from the gospel according to John.

The past couple of Sundays we read more unfamiliar books and chapters, Peter, 1st and 2nd Corinthians. We will continue this path for the bulk of the summer, perhaps even throwing in something from Timothy!!

We still have members and friends who need prayers and calls; mostly health issues that continue to aggravate and cause returns to doctors or hospitals. If you have a spare minute, please send a card or make a call or even visit, those on our prayer list.

Thank you all for being cordial and gracious to our visitors. That is what brings people back to a particular church.

We wish you all a great summer season. And that our Lord would give you health and happiness. Remember-prayer changes things!!

Blessings
Fred



and declared that I wanted to give my life to Jesus Christ. The preacher asked me the vital questions, heard my declaration and then sent me off to prepare to be baptized. Mother, grandmother and my Sunday school teacher quickly followed me to go change my clothes.

Granddaddy was the elder and the song leader of our congregation so he had to stay on the platform in front of everyone while I was being baptized. When it was time for him to lead the church in a song, he chose my favorite, "The Old Rugged Cross." That was when the tears began to form in his eyes, and he was unable to continue singing. The congregation went bravely on as they watched this fine Christian granddaddy try to regain his composure.

Perhaps his tears were of surprised joy, but now that I am older and can reflect back I would imagine that his heart was filled because he knew his granddaughters' names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life that special day. He also knew we would stomp our toes along the path of our lifelong spiritual journal, but his heart was eased knowing that we would now know "better," that we would know when we were not living according to God's rule.

Being baptized isn't a "free ticket to ride," it is just the beginning. What lies ahead in a person's life must be growth in the Word. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," (Matthew 28:19). We like to think we are good people, but the true measure is by the Word of God. "Jesus said, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God," (John 3:5).

Granddaddy's tears were wishing me a long, rewarding journey so that when he thought about it in the years ahead, he would know that Sunie-girl was really doing OK.

Suzanne Holcomb

*Happy Birthday
to you!*

June

1 – Skylar Spivey
9 – Carol DiMaio

July

8 – Miriam Risher
8 – Ryan Spivey
13 – Helen Santana
15 – Jase Spivey
16 – Mira Branden
19 – Wendel Craker
20 – Tad Myers
23 – Jim Reynolds
30 – Dan Randall

*Happy
Anniversary*

June

2 – Fred and Carol DiMaio
15 – Jef and Ginny Fagen
16 – Tad and Pat Myers
24 – Dan & Jennifer Randall

Clayton Presbyterian Church June 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Elder of the month – Kerstin Dreher Pastor Fred and Carol on vacation June 3 – 19. In case of an emergency, please call Rev. Ferguson or Judy Williams.						1
2 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	3	4 Presbyterian Women 10 AM NA group 7 PM	5	6 NA group 7 PM	7 Open for Personal Prayer	8
9 Pentecost Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Rev. Blant Ferguson	10	11 NA group 7 PM	12	13 NA group 7 PM	14 Open for Personal Prayer	15
16 Father's Day Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Rev. Blant Ferguson	17	18 NA group 7 PM	19	20 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	21 Open for Personal Prayer	22
23 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	24	25 NA group 7 PM	26	27 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	28 Open for Personal Prayer	29
30 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Fellowship Dinner at Black Rock						