

**THE WINONA TIMES**

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\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **SPRING BREAK** \*  
\* **Winona ISD will have an** \*  
\* **early release on March 11th** \*  
\* **as the start of Spring Break** \*  
\* **from March 14th—18th.** \*  
\* **Everyone be safe and enjoy.** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Winona Times  
Our Publisher :  
Pat Schlau can  
be contacted at  
sandtashelper@aol.com  
Our Copy Editor:  
Vicki Kay can be contacted at  
editor@fumcwinona.org**

**THE WINONA TIMES**  
**A FUMC WINONA MINISTRY**

MARCH 2011  
ISSUE 4

**INTERVIEW WITH DR. CURRY**

By: Paul Porter

This is another in the series of interviews of Winona people whose time, talents, and attitudes make this a special place to live.

**Winona Times:** Dr. Curry, it is my understanding that you grew up in Smith County and have served the New Zion Baptist Church for several decades.

**Curry:** Yes, we grew up in the Elem Springs community north of Winona, and I attended the Big Sandy schools after desegregation. I graduated from Big Sandy High School and enrolled in Jarvis Christian College in 1967. I got my diploma in July of 1971. I married the former Mary Ann Price, and we have three children: Debbie, Shannon, and Rodney.

**WT:** Please tell us about your call into ministry.

**Curry:** After college graduation, I worked for the federal government for twelve years, and during this time I was called into the ministry in 1981. I accepted a full time call to New Zion Baptist Church in July 1982. And the Lord has blessed us since that day

**WT:** This church is locally famous for it's growth over the years in drawing people from as far away as south Tyler, Lindale, and Gladewater. Please tell us a bit of the church history.

**Curry:** This church has grown tremendously in these past few years. When we came here, we had about seventy active members. Presently there are over 500 members.

Yes, this church is rich in history. The New Zion Baptist Church was founded in 1870, and it started under a brush arbor about a quarter mile north of where the church is now. The founding families were the Hart family, the Jones family, the Moore family, and the Miller family. They built a sanctuary in 1880. As I say, the Lord has certainly blessed this church up through today. We have ministries for every age group and whatever their interests are in serving the Lord. The Lord can use you in many ways at New Zion. We currently have two hundred people in Sunday school. And we have several choirs. We also have missions in Africa. We invite you come experience the Lord during worship at New Zion.

**WT:** Thank you, Dr. Curry

**Curry:** May God bless you.



### What is Saint Patrick's Day?

By Pat Schlau

The color blue was originally associated with St. Patrick's Day. Over the years the color green became more popular because of the shamrock. Saint Patrick is believed to have used the green shamrock with its three leaflets to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish. Little is known of St. Patrick's early life; it is known that he was born in Britain in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

At the age of 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. He later escaped, returned by ship to Britain, and studied to become a priest. St. Patrick returned to Ireland as a Bishop of the Church of England. He worked there to Christianize the Irish until his death. Saint Patrick died on March 17<sup>th</sup> in the year 461 A.D. This is the day now recognized as Saint Patrick's Day.

Saint Patrick's Day originated as a Catholic holiday and became an official feast day in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1903 Saint Patrick's Day became an official public holiday in Ireland. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in Dublin in 1931. The celebration of St. Patrick's Day is recognized today throughout the world, either religiously or as a secular holiday filled with cultural folklore.

The custom of celebrating St. Patrick's Day came to America in 1737. St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in this country in Boston, MA. because of the large population of Irish who settled in New England. Today people celebrate the day with parades, wearing of green, and drinking beer, often colored green for the occasion. One reason St. Patrick's Day might have become so popular is because it comes just a few days before the first day of spring. Spring begins on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March.

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"The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. "

Genesis 11:6  
(Re-printed from FBC Winona Newsletter)  
Communication Through Technology

I've been thinking a great deal about technology lately. After the rest of my family got iPhones for Christmas, Kylee passed down to me her iPod Touch, which has internet access when wireless internet (Wi-Fi) is available. Now if that just went way over your head, HANG WITH ME just a minute—I'll get there . . .

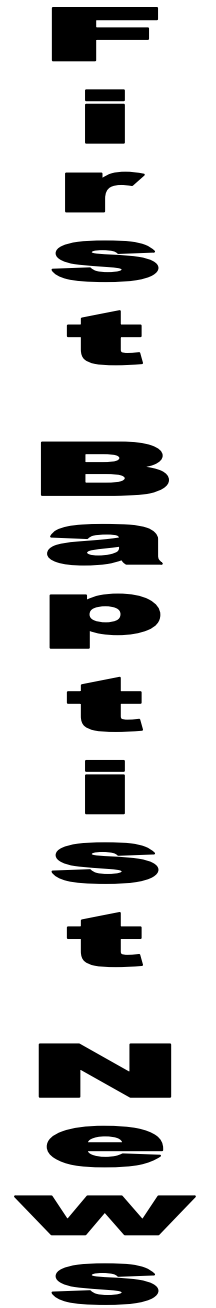
With this little device and with so many "smart phones" like the iPhone, we can stay in touch so easily with people, have so much access to information, and have access to things like the Bible on your iPod or phone. I am enjoying doing my daily Bible reading on the iPod as it has a free program (app) that divides the Bible up into daily passages which, over the course of an entire year, will allow me to read through the entire Bible, without having to turn a single page. I'm seeing more and more good Christian books, both current and classics, that are available for download to read on things like iPods, iPhones, Kindles, iPads and other book reading devices. I have even been contemplating saving up for an iPad or Kindle myself and I might be preaching and teaching "paperless" in the near future. We will have more and more people using smart phones and other devices for use at church to read their scriptures in the days ahead.

We will soon be going online with a brand new church website which will be a significant upgrade and will allow us to get more information out faster and to be able to remain current. It will make things much easier for me as now to get out information, I have to send an e-mail, a Facebook message, then send text messages from my phone in groups of 10 (I have 143 on my FBC cell phone list that I send text messages and alerts to.)

The instant access to information and people is a blessing, and at times, a curse. I believe the blessings outweigh the curses however. We are looking at the possibility of, someday soon, your being able to log in to our church website and use your debit card to give a tithe or offering—people are writing fewer and fewer checks these days. The times, they are a changin'.

That's not to mention the various preaching and music podcasts that are available for download. Several Christian radio stations in our area, as well as Christian television stations, are available on satellite or cable. We have access to God's Word and God's music literally 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from multiple sources.

I could go on and on about what is available, but my point is this—no matter at what point your "technology level" is, none of it matters unless we utilize it in a way that glorifies God and allows us to learn, praise and proclaim His truth! Also, no type of technology is any substitute for prayer, communication with The Father. There is no app for it, no podcast, no radio program that can replicate anything done on our knees!



Tony Watson  
Pastor, First Baptist Church  
of Winona  
[www.winonafbc.org](http://www.winonafbc.org)  
check out FBC Winona on  
Facebook  
as well as my personal  
Facebook  
Personal e-mail  
[TWCRM@aol.com](mailto:TWCRM@aol.com)  
Twitter @tonywatsonfbc

# Annual Hunter Nickerson Basketball Classic

By: Annabelle Langley

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunter/ Nickerson Basketball Classic is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2011. The games will be played at the Victor Kay Gym on the Winona High School campus. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. with a boy's game. There will also be former Winona ISD athletes playing on a women's team and a men's team. The women's game will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the men's game will begin at 7:00 p.m.

This event was established by Milton and Larry Hunter, 1978 graduates of Winona High School. The monies raised are donated to the Winona School Foundation which provides scholarships to graduating Winona seniors who plan to attend Tyler Junior College. When established, the name of this event was the Hunter Classic, after the 1998 death of Winona ISD's beloved Superintendent, Darrell Nickerson, it was renamed the Hunter/Nickerson Classic in his honor. The tickets are \$2 presale, which will allow you entrance into the game along with placing you in a drawing for prizes. The first place prize is a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card. You may contact Dexter Jones at (903) 521-8318 if you would like to purchase a ticket. Please come out and support a worthy cause for EDUCATION!!!



## Daylight Saving Time: Spring Forward One Hour Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00 a.m.

By: Pat Schlau

"Who came up with the bright idea to have a time change? The plan to make better use of our daylight hours was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin in the 1700s. Not until 1918, however, did Congress officially adopt the Daylight Saving Time (DST) Law.

"Many changes through the decades would alter the time selected by each state: farmers, wars, schools, time zones; the list continues. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 extended Daylight Saving Time in the U.S.A; Congress retained the right to revert to an earlier form of the law should the change prove unpopular or if energy savings were not significant. The debate continues through the present. As of 2007 Daylight Saving time in the U.S. begins at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday of March and ends at 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of November.

## From Justice Court Pct. 4

Texas Penal Code

§ 43.22[0] - OBSCENE DISPLAY OR DISTRIBUTION

(a) A person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly displays or distributes an obscene photograph, drawing, or similar visual representation or other obscene material and is reckless about whether a person is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display or distribution.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

With over 28 years of judging, you think you have heard it all.

The courtroom was full, mostly traffic and truancy cases. A citation caught my eye. A woman was charged with OBSCENE DISPLAY OR DISTRIBUTION by way of sending pictures and video over the telephone.

I move her case to the back, clear out the kids and others who might not need to hear this story, and then call her forward.

"You have been charged with sending obscene pictures over the cell phone. How do you plead?"

"GUILTY!" she says, "But, I think there are extenuating circumstances."

"Go ahead," I say and lean back in my chair, waiting to hear this one.

Seems the lady's divorce had been final for two weeks. Her ex-husband and his new fiancé, with an engagement ring, drive up in the van that used to belong to her. Somehow, the new fiancé's cell phone is found by her/their 12 year-old-daughter. The daughter takes the cell phone to her room and proceeds to read the text messages. Then she ventures over into the pictures and videos stored on the phone. Then BAM: there is a video of her dad in bed in all his glory! Then, there are pictures of the fiancé in all her nudity!

"My 12 year old is still going to therapy." Mom says. "When I saw those pictures on that cell phone, something inside me just clicked. I started punching buttons and forwarded all the pictures and videos to everyone in her address book."

She could have pled "not guilty"; then, a jury could have looked at all the pictures!

"The fine for this is usually \$270." I said. "How about \$100. — and I think you got the best of the deal!"

By: Judge Mitch Shamburger

## THE WINONA WRANGLER — Part 2 By Paul Porter

Words were “a carpenter’s drill, or a surgeon’s scalpel” to some of the Tyler family, Frances Leroy Tyler thought as he sat in his multi-colored doors and hood Dodge pickup waiting for the ice to thaw on his windshield while sitting at the Winona cemetery. The coldest day of winter was today, the day of Grandma Pearl’s funeral. Frances thought Pearl might have said during her funeral, “Hell must be freezing over today because I’m going to heaven!”

With the Tyler family, a sentence might be a sledgehammer. A paragraph could be a dead end box canyon full of Apaches. An afternoon spent with your grandparents could bring you to sobbing tears or to a hurricane of joyous laughter Frances thought.

Frances’ maternal grandfather, John, was always telling jokes or pulling pranks. Grandma Pearl said he could make a Presbyterian laugh on Sunday (No offense meant – He used to be Presbyterian). “His eyes were always full of joy,” said Aunt Mary Jo, his oldest child.

During the middle of the Great Depression when a Smith County deputy sheriff stopped Grandma Pearl and Grandpa John after the Baptist Sunday services, Grandpa John got out of the car and fell down. Grandma started laughing. She stopped laughing gradually when John did not get up. She started screaming when she saw the blood on his starched white shirt as he lay in the middle of the blacktop road to Tyler.

The deputy had been trying to catch Grandpa John running whiskey for months. The deputy thought John was pulling a gun out of his pocket. He drew his Smith and Wesson and shot him straight through the heart. Grandpa bled to death in less than five minutes. There was an inquest but the deputy produced a knife he said Grandpa John pulled on him that was like one Grandpa John owned, so the judge let the deputy go.

Think about it from Grandma Pearl’s point of view. It was the depth of the Great Depression. Unemployment was about twenty percent. She had six kids, no husband, and no income. She did not want to but she had to break up her family. The kids would all have to go their separate ways and finish growing up without their father.

The oldest daughter Mary Jo got married what seemed to be over night to a traveling dry goods salesman, and they moved to the bad side of Fort Worth. Later, her husband got into a crooked poker game and got stabbed in the back. Mary Jo never talked about him after she moved back home to Winona to live with Pearl and the youngest daughter, Imogene.

The two oldest boys, John Tyler Junior and Teddy Roosevelt Tyler, were old enough to enlist in the Army; they went on to become decorated Army Air Corps pilots. Both were later killed over Germany and in the South Pacific.

The two middle children, Ruby and Harry, Frances’ dad, became spitting images of their parents, Pearl and John. Ruby was always telling everyone what was what and she thought you would save yourself a lot of pain by paying attention to what she was saying. Harry was born with mischief in his eyes and never let it go of it all his life. Harry always said he was born to sit in the corner with a dunce cap on his head and a smile on his face.

When Harry married in the late 1940’s, he married someone just like Grandma Pearl and Harry, Frances thought later. Frances did not consider this a worthwhile excuse but rather a motivating factor to expand his teenage late night activities in Winona.

His blue eyes and blond hair attracted all the trouble Frances had time for throughout his life. And Frances Leroy Taylor knew that the majority of his trouble was of the female kind. And shortly he was about to meet more trouble than he could manage.

It all began in a church in Winona where much good can be done, but evil lurks waiting for a victim.

Helen was a looker. She had been born good looking and was still good looking and she knew it.

Helen had little regard for the Winona Wrangler – the self-styled ladies man of Winona – who did not turn Helen’s head in the least. She knew his type.

**THE END OF PART TWO**

## Sheriff J. B. Smith: An Insight

By: Paul Porter

According to his website, J.B. Smith, professional speaker, eighth-grade dropout, cotton picker and sharecropper's child, licensed hypnotist, ballroom dance instructor and country DJ, sometimes bus driver and one-time salesman of Mary Kay cosmetics, is the long-time sheriff of Smith County.

Please mark your calendar for March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for Sheriff Smith’s entertaining talk about prison ministry and law enforcement tales at the First United Methodist Church of Winona, 206 Tyler Street. The church will be serving dinner following the Sheriff’s presentation.

Sheriff Smith speaks free for anyone who asks in his East Texas county, where he is considered the most popular and colorful politician around. “He wants to know everybody and everybody to know him. He wants everybody to like him, and with his personality, they usually do,” said Smith County Judge Larry Craig.

Sheriff Smith says his pastime is an indulgence in the country storytelling he has always loved and a chance to shake assumptions that “police humor” is a contradiction. “This business can be serious as a heart attack. It can make you very critical, very cynical in a hurry. You see the most horrible things people are capable of doing to each other, but I like to focus on the fact that I’ve seen some of the best, and frankly, some of the funniest,” he said. “I think what I do is just a way of letting people know there’s another side to law enforcement: a funny side. “But you know the main reason I do it? Because it’s fun. ”

