



Chaplain's Minute

Luke 24:6-8:

"He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' And they remembered His words."

We are living in difficult times. We hear of banks failing, companies going bankrupt, people getting lost; it's enough to discourage anyone. Someone once explained the difference between recession and depression: when your neighbor gets laid off, it's a recession; when you get laid off, it's a depression.

Our world appears to be coming apart at the seams. Yet, consider the plight of the disciples. They were convinced that Jesus was who He said He was...the Messiah, the Son of

God. Yet we find them huddled together in a room discouraged, defeated. It was only after His resurrection that they remembered His words and realized the truth.

With us, so often it is the same. It is easy to trust God when all is going well; however, when it appears that our world is falling apart, we fail to trust and begin to worry, only to have God work it all out. And then, like the disciples, we remember His words.

Things may get worse before they get better. But one thing is for sure - Jesus will never fail us. We have His word on it, Hebrews 13:5: "For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

Randall Slack

Volume 1, Issue 9

March 2009

• **Monthly Meeting:**
Our meetings are now at Don's Alley in Del City, Oklahoma. We meet for dinner about 6:00 P.M. and start the meeting at 7:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of the month.

Inside this issue:

<i>A Parting of Friends</i>	2
<i>Gus Wilson and the Model Garage</i>	2
<i>Member Profile</i>	3
<i>Summer Safety</i>	3
<i>Activities and Events</i>	4

All content property of Heartland Chapter - Christian Rods & Customs And may not be reproduced without written permission.

Editor - Larry Teel

Men's Retreat

Men's Retreat 2009 will be April 24 & 25th this year. If you haven't signed up yet, you are going to miss a great time. This year, there will be a car show, a motorcycle rally, and numerous other events in which to participate. The

retreat is at the Falls Creek Baptist Convention Center near Davis, Oklahoma. You cannot help but be blessed if you show up; the list of speakers is outstanding! Information is available online at www.bgco.org/mensretreat

Mowing Grass and Swap Meet Bargains

About this time of year, I start thinking about summer and all of the outdoor activities available. I get excited about car shows, cruising, working on a new project, and then I come to a screeching halt as I think about grass, and mowing. Once, early on in our marriage, I suggested that we either gravel the entire yard or pour concrete and cover it with AstroTurf. Needless to say, Anna Marie looked at me like I was out of my mind. I dislike mowing... no, I absolutely DETEST mowing! I think quite a few men will agree with my sentiment.

Now, going to a car show, scrounging for parts at a swap meet, or something like that, is a totally different thing. These are important activities in my mind. I can walk a swap meet for hours, looking for that one special part or a bargain too good to pass up. Speedometers seem to be my latest weakness. I have several in a drawer out in the shop, most of which I haven't any idea what they fit.

I can always think of things I would *rather* do over things that I *should* be doing. I sometimes find myself putting commitments that I have made into the "mowing grass" category. When I became a member of Christian Rods and Customs, I was really excited about it. But, that same intensity of

excitement seems to wane sometimes...like when it comes to supporting a show, a cruise, or some other service function needed by the ministry.

I think each one of us experiences this same phenomena. We get caught up in the excitement initially and then, over time, we lose that excitement. I urge everyone to step back and take a few minutes to consider the blessings and opportunities we have for service. We as individuals decide whether something falls into the "mowing grass" or the "swap meet" category, and our attitudes impact that decision.

I do not ever think that mowing grass will be at the top of my 'favorite activity' list, but it is a necessary task. There are times when Anna Marie will do the mowing, giving me a much-needed break, and an opportunity to complete a different task. We each have our own way of mowing, but the end result is the same. This is our way of "sharing the load".

Now if I could just figure out which of those speedometers would adapt to my Cub Cadet, I could see just how fast I can get going while mowing...

Larry

Finding Fellow Believers

Just this past week I got a surprise while visiting a car forum website. The site members can be rough on visitors occasionally, and its members come from all walks of life. During the past couple of months, I noticed a Logo (bottom right) on several forum members' screen names.

Curiosity overcame me last Thursday, so I sent a private message to one guy, asking about the Logo. It seems that there is a growing group of members on the forum who want a way to let others know just where they stand in relation to Christ. Several of them got together and formed "Crossmembers CC", then started the H.A.M.B Chapel on the forum in February 2009. The following statement comes from their blog: "The CrossMembers CC was started by a group of Christian rodders to provide an identity to those that desired to

share their faith with fellow rodders, whether at car shows, swap meets, other club meetings, or just out on the road! The only 'requirement' for being a member of CMcc is the desire to do the same."

I learned that the "CrossMembers" are not trying to *steal* members away from other clubs, and I don't believe that they have formal meetings like we do, but they all wear the patch to let others know where they stand in regard to the Gospel. It is great seeing men take a stand for the Gospel.

Check out their blog:
<http://crossmembersokc.blogspot.com/>



Members Corner - "Stan & Sherry"

I've always had a "love affair" with the American car, but I suppose it began *for real* when I returned home from an overseas assignment, while serving in the USAF. I had saved enough money to buy a 1967 Camaro RS (gee, I wish I had it now). That's what I was driving when Sherry and I got married, in San Angelo, Texas (home of Goodfellow AFB). Sherry was driving a 1955 Studebaker (manual transmission), that locked gears at almost every intersection, but she was an expert at jumping out, unlocking the gears, and jumping back in. Like most families, we "outgrew" the sporty car, and we had to buy a family car. After the children grew up, we began to "get serious" about our love for cars. I am not a mechanic, so we always fixed up newer cars. Over the years, we have owned three Mustangs, a Chevrolet SSR, an Impala SS, a Harley-Davidson pick-up, a Lincoln Blackwood pick-up (we had #147 out of the 500 made), five convertibles, and the one that you are probably most familiar with, the PT Cruiser (Christ's Cruiser), which we dedicated to the Lord. The PT was popular at car shows; as a matter of fact, it was featured on the front page of the July 2008 copy of THE SUN. Our current project is a 2007 Mustang ROUSH (Stage 1). The really nice feature about the ROUSH is that we have added an all-glass roof—you've got to see it! Sherry and I are

both retired from Tinker AFB. Sherry was an aircraft mechanic, and I was an explosive inspector. I am still employed there, by a private contractor, doing the same thing I was doing when I retired. I graduated from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, with a B.A. in Theology in 1972, and we have been pastoring (bi-vocationally) for approximately 25 years. We have pastored in Spencer, Choctaw, and Oklahoma City. We have been pastors at our current church (Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, in Oklahoma City) for over 15 years. God has truly blessed us over the past 40 years of marriage—He is good! We have had many invitations from other car clubs, but this is the club we chose, and we are mighty glad we did. We enjoy the Christian Rod & Custom Club, and look forward to many years of service with its members.



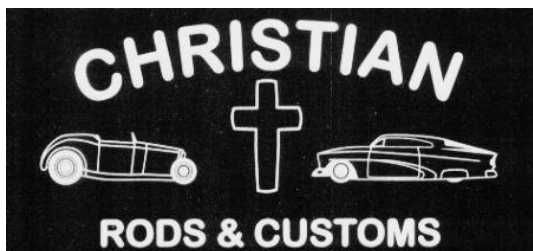
National / Local Membership dues change

Many of our members are not aware of a change in the dues for Christian Rods and Customs. National annual dues increased this past January to \$25, which helps with increased costs for newsletter printing costs, postage, and other expenses.

Our Local dues increased by five dollars to \$15 annually. We voted in this increase for the

same reasons that National did...increased costs relating to our Newsletter, and other expenses. Total annual cost for yearly Family membership is now \$40. It is hard to find any other single activity suitable for an entire family at such minimal cost. I encourage you to continue supporting the ministry by coming out to activities and telling your car friends about us.

11008 South Harrison Drive
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73150



*To be a positive witness and testimony
for Jesus Christ, sharing God's love and
His gospel with automotive enthusiasts!*

*We're on the World Wide Web at
www.okchristianrodsandcustoms.com*

Coming Events and Activities

- April 18 - American Legion Post 127 Car Show, MWC, OK
- April 24-25 - Men's Retreat 2009 - Falls Creek Conference Center, Davis, OK
- May 1-3 - Stray Kat 500, Dewey, Oklahoma
- May 2 - Nicoma Park Founders Day Celebration and Car Show, Nicoma Park, OK
- June 27 - Knights 24th Annual Car Show, Shawnee, OK
- July 4th* - Daily Oklahoman Freedom Festival at Eldon Lyon Park in Bethany, Oklahoma
- July 19 - Coit's Cruise-in, NW42 & Penn., OKC
- July 25-28 - KKOA Lead Sled Spectacular Salina, Kansas
- August 16 - Coit's Cruise-in, NW42 & Penn., OKC.
- August 17 - Community Christian Church Open Car Show, NE20 & Eastern, Moore, OK
- September 26 - First Baptist Church, Open Car Show 1-4 PM, Norman, OK,
- October 16-18 - Fall Swap Meet, Chickasha, Oklahoma
- November 7* - Harrah Helping Hearts CMA/CRC Car and Motorcycle Show
- December (TBD) - CRCHC Christmas Party

* Shows hosted by Christian Rods and Customs, Heartland Chapter. Activities subject to change; please check our website for the latest up-to-date information and activities.