



## **Kevin's Korner**

**I want to thank you all again for all the cards, prayers and other support, following my father's recent death. It has been a bit of a blur, and a little confusing, as I reorient my life, now without parents on earth; and now part of the elder generation of my family. But, there have been some blessings along the way as well.**

**As we approach All Saints Day, next Tuesday, it was good to hear the Senior Minister of my parent's church, Parkview Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Meridian, Idaho, talk about the saints of the church, and to mention my parents in those comments.**

**Pastor Justin McMurdie, welcomed everyone to the Celebration of Life for Elton Arensman, my dad. And he said how grateful he was to celebrate the saints of Parkview Christian Church, which includes the former location as University Christian Church in Boise. He celebrated the revitalized congregation that had twenty baptisms this fall and is planning five to ten more soon. He celebrated the saints of the church who had given so much in time, service and financial giving, which has laid a solid foundation for ministry going forward and for new ministries with families and young people around their neighborhood.**

**Justin called my dad a saint. Hmm... I never thought of that before. He was just a man. But he had skills, faith, determination, time, and (later in life) financial resources, all of which he was glad to share with his church. Pastor Gene Hill followed with a eulogy, sharing how he worked with my dad in the Evangelism ministry over forty years ago; how they met every Monday for lunch at Wendys to talk about visitors the previous day and other prospective members whom they might call on, by phone or in person, that evening.**

**Not many of us like to knock on a door and invite people to church. But my dad**

was knocking almost every Monday night for years. In fact, when I came home from college, forty years ago, Monday night calling was one of the first things I did in my old church...with my dad. This led to helping with the Billy Graham Crusade in Boise, in 1982, rededicating my life to Jesus, and entering seminary the following year, on the road to full-time ministry. Yes, my dad was a saint of the church. My mom was too, just as much! The Parkview Christian Church helped us celebrate my dad and how he loved and took care of his family. But, they also celebrated the gifts that both my parents gave to God through Parkview Christian Church, and they celebrated the future that my parents helped to set in motion through their gifts, the future (now present) of thriving ministry for Jesus Christ in the Meridian/Boise area. My family and I felt truly blessed!

My dad's name will be read next Sunday as we celebrate the saints of the church at First Christian Church of Grand Junction. His ministry, and my mom's, has reached this church by helping to form my own ministry for almost forty years as a follower of Jesus Christ and pastor. We'll be celebrating other saints of First Christian Church who are with us through our memories, but also through their gifts over the years. And we'll also be celebrating the continuing gifts that are being offered to God by the living saints of First Christian Church, through Estimates of Giving to the church, but also their gifts of time and talents, which are even now laying the foundation for ministries in the near future and ministries for years to come.

I hope you will join with me in our Celebration Sunday this Sunday, October 30! We have much to celebrate! Thank God!

Blessings, Pastor Kevin