

Russell Family

OCTOBER 2008

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

FALL HAS BEGUN!



Joshua, Jonny and Taylor Huse interviewing State Rep. Phil King

Fundraiser Breakfast for Phil King

Governor Mike Huckabee guest speaker at breakfast

Governor Mike Huckabee was the guest speaker at a fundraising breakfast for our State Representative Phil King. We are very blessed to have such a great and Godly man as our representative in the Texas Congress. Darrel, LeAnn, Joshua and Jonny went to the breakfast. Pastor Joe, Jay and Karen Sorah, and Taylor Huse also went. Huckabee and King both spoke. The breakfast was really very good, it was a buffet. After breakfast Joshua, Jonny and Taylor went up and interviewed Phil King. Joshua was very impressed with him. He has offered to volunteer to work for him several times, but after speaking with him today, he is determined to help him however he can on his campaign, even if

it means taking out the trash and cleaning the potties.

Volunteering Joshua is working one day a week at Phil's campaign office. On his first day he did some gopher type things for them and then he wrote some thank you's and some press releases. He also had the incredibly hard job of folding and stuffing envelopes. :) Honestly, I don't think it would matter what he did, he just respects Mr. King and wants to help him.

Voter Forum Joshua spent the day doing training to be able to process and serve papers for legal firms with Jon Moffett. Then he went to the Weatherford Democrat's Voter Forum. He said the turn out was poor, only about 30 people. But he enjoyed going anyway.

Beautician in the Making We have a small problem with our Hannah, she loves the way it feels to cut hair and so she has cut her hair several times. She



gets punished every time and cries and says she is sorry, but a few days or weeks later and she cuts it again. She has also been found to cut the hair off dolls and stuffed animals! It can be very frustrating.



Sarah does a good job fixing Hannah's hair cute!



Hannah Ruth Russell
Having fun with the camera



Vote Your Values!

Vote Pro-Life



Life Chain We did the life chain again this year. It is where you hold up signs saying and you pray for those who do not yet have a voice for themselves. All of the children enjoy doing this each year, it is a way for them to stand for what they believe.

We were at the doctor taking Stephen for a physical. He enjoyed finding out he was 49 pounds and 48 1/8 inches tall. He was courageous as they took his blood though he did tell the nurse "I am brave, but I did cry some when I broke my arm, I mean it hurt wouldn't you cry?" The doctor came in and they played around a little and then the doctor asked Stephen to jump up on the table, Stephen looked at the doctor with a little bit of a worried face and the

doctor said "Don't worry, I am not going to hurt you." And Stephen said I'm not worried about you. And I said, what are you worried about Stephen and he said "I'm worried that if the people don't listen to God and they get the wrong guy to be president he will try to take away homeschooling and he will continue to kill the babies." We all sat there in stunned silence. Big big thoughts for a little seven year old to be worried about. Later I started to talk to him about it and let him know that he doesn't need to worry and he said "Mom, We are praying, so I won't worry." There is a Godly man growing inside of that little 49 pound, 46 1/8 inch little boy and I thank the Lord that I get to watch him develop into the man God has for him to be.



IS.



Darrel and Zan Prince's husband working on signs at the Bush Legacy bar-b-cue.

Tis the Season for Political Stuff...

Bush Legacy Dinner Darrel and I went with the Moffetts to the Bush Legacy Dinner. It was a bbq or sorts. Darrel jumped right in and worked on putting together McCain/Palin signs and I watched as I was not dressed to get on the ground and hammer with them. We enjoyed visiting especially with Phil King.

I also went to a ladies luncheon put on by the Parker County Republican Women, which we joined. The guest speaker was Kay Granger. It was interesting to hear her explain the bail out and why she voted for it..... I enjoyed the luncheon with Karen Sorah and Jana Powell.

October 6

Happy Birthday to LeAnn

The kids all made me wonderful birthday cards with pictures of themselves and words of love. They also went shopping with Dad.



Best Present - Their Smiles

I absolutely love the excitement in my children when they give me a gift that they fill is from them or when they give me a card that they made for me. They are so very excited and so very proud and I love it! I truly believe that is the best present I get for my birthday. And may it ever be so.

Orthodontist

Jordan got her top expander put in. It is



really hard for her to talk, but... she can not suck her finger so that is good!



Huckabee on Life Today



They recorded two different shows with Mike Huckabee while we were there.

Live Recording

Joshua, Jonny, Darrel and I went to the Life Today studio with James Robinson to watch them record two shows with Mike Huckabee and one with another lady, but honestly I do not remember her name.

We were not as early as we wanted to be due to Darrel getting off work. But we got there before it started and I guess that is what matters.

We really enjoyed watching Mike Huckabee speak.

He is such a good speaker and has great values and has a great vision for our country.

After the filming we went out to eat with some of our friends. It was fun but it was very very late when we got home.

Actually Darrel did not go home, he had to go to work, he is

working the night shift for a few nights getting a wind tunnel up and going and supporting it while he trains someone else how to do it.





State Fair of Texas!

Coupon Blessing A friend's husband works for AT&T and they sponsored the OU Texas game at the fair and they had a lot of coupons left over. They found out we were going and they gave us at least 300.00 worth of coupons! We got into the fair with free tickets for homeschoolers. so we went and had a full day for the price of gas and parking.

Daniel enjoyed his very first Flechers Corny Dog and his first ice cream cone... all at the State Fair of Texas. All the kids enjoyed us not having to stick so close to a budget. They got cotton candy, roasted corn, corn dogs, funnel cake and lemonade. We even tried the new thing this year which was chicken fried bacon. WE did not however have any room left to try the chicken fried jelly bellies.

Battery Powered Cars and Animals Stephen and Hannah enjoyed riding the battery powered cars while Darrel and the older boys looked at Chevy cars and trucks. All the little ones enjoyed feeding the animals in the petting zoo area.



Stephen is a natural at milking cows.



Little Hands on the Farm

Little Hands on the Farm is always a big favorite. Though we did not get to volunteer this year, the little ones still wanted to go through the farm. Truth be known they would go through it over and over if they were allowed. Jordan and Stephen enjoyed climbing up the rock wall in one of the two huge building full of the auto show. That Jordan is quiet a little climber! She goes up and down and up again before most people get up the first time.

Illuminated Parade The after-dark favorite features illuminated floats, giant puppets and characters in fantastic costumes. This bright extravaganza glides through the park nightly at 7:15 p.m.

Hot Diggity Dog Show We always enjoy the Top Flight K-9s in their action packed shows. Of course when it is over we always decide we need a new dog and we need to train her to do tricks. Or Jonny decides he needs to work with Ginger again and get her doing tricks, after all she is the best dog in the world and surely she can learn how to do the tricks that those other dogs can do.



Howdy from Big Tex! Or big Tech or big Texas tech as my littlest ones remember it.

Biggest Ferris-Wheel in the Americas!

Way way way up in the air and we loved it!

The Texas Star is 212 foot tall. There are only two ferris wheels in the world that are bigger, one is the Eye in London and I have been there. It is a very impressive ferris wheel but it is not your traditional ferris wheel. Each car is a glassed in place for 25-30 people. I've heard that the second largest in the world is in Japan or China. But I have always wanted to ride on the Texas Star. Since my first trip to the State Fair of Texas in 1989 when I was pregnant with Joshua, I have wanted to ride on the ferris wheel.

Roasted Corn Just before leaving the fair we got a box full

of roasted corn to take home with us and we enjoyed it for a couple of weeks. It warms up yummy! We also got some salt water taffy, it is made fresh everyday there while you watch! And then we scouted out families and we gave about 120.00 worth of coupons away to strangers! That was a lot of fun. The kids were very excited about it and wanted to be in on the giving. It was so cute to see them give them away and fun to watch the people's surprised faces when they saw it was not a ticket or two but 10 dollars worth. Many offered to buy them but we explained that someone blessed us with them and we just wanted to share the blessing. It was great!



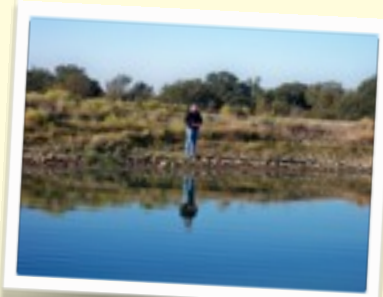
Wheels!

Little Hands on the Farm Little ones 'experience' life on a farm with chores including egg-gathering, planting and harvesting vegetables, and feeding and milking a cow. The cycle is complete when kids receive play money for grocery shopping at the store.

Trying out the Cars I guess one fun thing for the kids and dad is getting into every car imaginable in the auto show. From Hummers to pickup trucks. They each get into them and get behind the wheel and dream of driving them through the big doors at either end of the room. The boys enjoy opening the hood and looking at what is under there.

Men's Retreat

At Boston's Land



Jonny was happy, he fished all day

Jonny went on the retreat with Todd Huse around noon. Darrel didn't go until after work so he got there after 7pm and Joshua didn't get home from work until late late night and so he went at 8 am Saturday morning. All the guys enjoyed shooting guns, Jonny rode a motorcycle and fished.... a lot! They all enjoyed some time outdoors, together.

They said the breakfast was very good!

Hannah Ruth Turns Four!



Though we had a big birthday party last week, we wanted to honor our little princess on her actual birthday. So Sarah decorated her a cookie cake.

Artscow.com

I ordered a book for Hannah for her birthday and the timing was perfect it came the day before her birthday. It turned out really cute. It is full of pictures of her and things that she loves. I titled it 'Once there was a princess named Princess Hannah Ruth'. She was so excited about her book and she took it to church and showed it to everyone and several people read it to her. She probably had that simple little book read to her 20 times

on her birthday! I plan to make one for each child for their next birthday. I have also made one for Daniel for his first year of life. It too turned out pretty cute. I included why we named him Daniel Josiah and some words of blessing to him for his future.

I got a sign up special and the books were free if I paid 7.99 for postage. That is a great deal for 20 page hard cover totally personalized hard cover books!



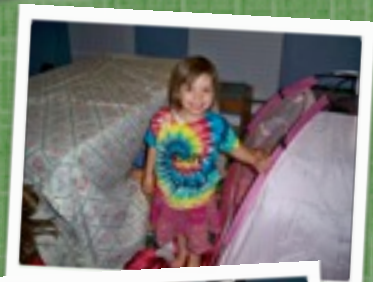
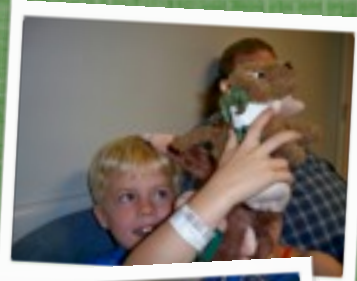
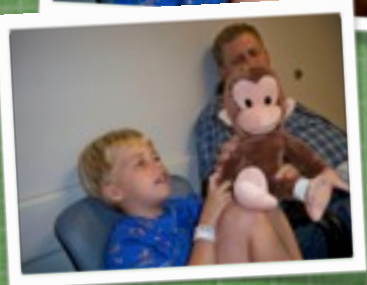
Stephen is a trooper!

Stephen had a couple of teeth come in with cavities, he also had a few that needed to be pulled because the crowns had cavities under them and all of them needed to be sealed. Thus the dentist wanted to do all the work at the hospital instead of several trips to the dentist for such extensive work.

Stephen had some drainage and so he was wheezing and so they did a breathing treatment before they would approve him for surgery. He was so cute, he entertained the nurses by doing his impersonations of all the Hank the Cowdog characters. He is actually very good at several of them.

After they gave him the 'happy juice' they were wheeling him away down the surgery hall and he was really silly, he grabbed for the wall and said, no, don't let them take me, I'm head of ranch security in a perfect Hank voice. We all cracked up.

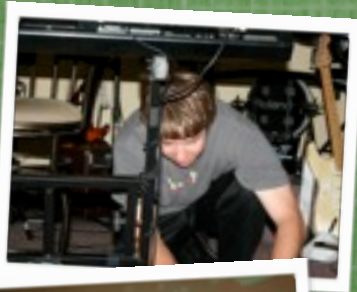
The surgery took about 2 hours and then they watched him for a while, at first it looked like he was going to have a really hard time, he needed a lot more pain meds, but then very quickly he recovered and we went home. He did



Hannah was sure that she needed to stay in the tent for ever and ever!

Camping Out... Camping In

Jonny and Darrel (and Joshua) went on an overnight campout So of course the little ones wanted to campout out too. But it was suppose to be cold and I did not want to campout with them, so we pitched a tent and made a tent out of a table in the game room. They had a great campout-in. They read books, watched a movie and laughed and laughed. I am sure in their minds they were really out in the woods camping.

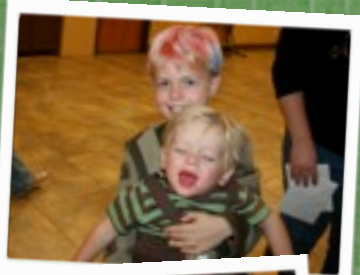
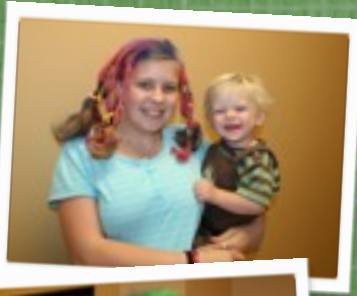
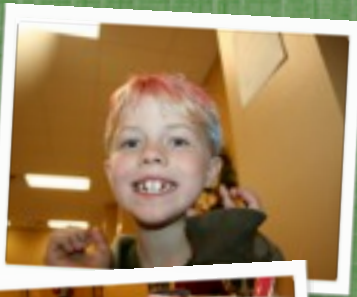


Daniel Josiah and Hailey, two examples of our future. We need to vote for their tomorrow.

Candidate Forum

Vote for my better tomorrow This is the second forum held at Real Family Fellowship. The first was for the primary and actually had better attendance. Though this was the biggest one in Parker county for this election. Joshua ran the video camera, meet all the candidates and got written permission to use the video as RFF deemed appropriate. Jonny was one of the young people who asked the questions to the candidates.

October 21, 2008 Sarah was a runner. She greeted the people when they came in, handed out bulletins and did whatever else she was asked to do. Darrel started off taking pictures, but they did not have enough questions to ask the candidates (they only had two turned in) so Darrel went out and made up questions for the youth to ask. He loved doing that, it was right up his alley. I greeted and helped candidates get what they needed before the forum started and took pictures. Jordan was one of the young people who lead the audience in the Star Spangled Banner our National Anthem. Stephen was still a little wiped out from surgery the day before. Hannah and Daniel just ran around with their 'Vote for my tomorrow' shirts looking cute! Four pictures I took made it into the Springtown and Azle papers along with an article by one of their writers.



Stephen had a patriotic head with red and white stripes and a field of blue with white spots.

Crazy Hair Day at RFF

We do not celebrate Halloween But the kids enjoy getting a little crazy and doing a crazy hair day the last Wednesday night of October. We have bounce houses, a hay ride, class time and a big snack time. Hannah cut her hair yet again (5th time in the last several months) and so her hair was already a little crazy!

Sarah waited until she got to church and a friend worked with her to make hers really crazy. Sarah spent an hour braiding Jordan's hair to make it crazy and she also put Hannah's into ponytails all over her head. They all added the paint after we got to church.

Daniel loved pretending to drive the tractor for the hayride.

Candidates hold forth at church's forum

Wed. Oct. 29, 2008 by Edwin Newton In Springtown and Azle Newspapers

The candidates were out to make their cases and answer questions from a panel of young teens. About 150 people turned out to witness it all. For the second time this year, Real Family Fellowship Church, located off Pearson Lane, hosted its Voice of Christianity General Candidate Forum. Last spring, the church played host to a variety of precinct elections battles. The second forum – held Oct. 21 – offered folks who survived the primaries one last chance to pitch their platforms before the Nov. 4 election.

"I was pleased with the turnout – especially the number of candidates we had," moderator Jon Moffett said. The top race of interest to northeast Parker County residents seems to center around the battle for the Precinct 1 commissioner's spot. The ballot includes a Republican, George Conley, a Democrat, Clint Hall and a Libertarian, Tom Clayton who is currently a Springtown City Councilman.

Each candidate was given three minutes to talk about himself and his platform.

Conley, a longtime Springtown businessman, said his many years of community service is an indication

that he cares about what happens to northeast Parker County.

If elected, he said he will "listen to the people" and work hard to meet their needs.

Hall, also a business owner, said he is the only candidate with "extensive road construction experience."

He said his late father in law, longtime commissioner Waymon Wright, helped him become a better businessman.

That same training should also help him become a better commissioner, if elected.

Clayton, who is in his second term on the Springtown City Council, said he is the only candidate who has served in office and understands the inner workings of a governmental body.

He spent a couple of minutes taking about how the commissioner's job isn't just about road repair.

He said 90 percent of a commissioner's job is "public policy making" and a wide variety of other tasks. Less than 10 percent is road work – which he says he already has a good idea about after sitting on the city council and other city committees.

Local teens from the church asked each of the candidates three questions pulled from audience suggestions.

The questions were as follows:

- 1) Would you consider a paid trash pickup for the residents of Precinct 1?
 - 2) What do you plan on doing to help with the water usage of the oil and gas companies?
 - 3) How do you plan on getting the oil and gas companies to help with road repairs?
- Clayton said he would be in favor of trash pickup. Such a service would help alleviate the long lines at the county's biannual trash collection days, he said. He said the rules are "already in place" for a new water district that will manage water usage. "There's not a lot we can do in local government because it's overseen by the state," he said. However, Clayton said he would be in favor of stricter regulation of the big water users – aka the gas and oil companies. He said the law already regulates weight limits for big trucks. "It's a law enforcement issue," he said. "If they're overloaded – then they're breaking the law." Hall said he would support having a central, paid trash collection area for Parker County. Having two trash collection days a year isn't nearly enough, he said. Hall said a water district has already been established to help monitor water usage. He said he doesn't have a problem with the district charging fees to companies that produce more than 25 gallons of water per minute for commercial use. However, he thinks municipalities should be exempt from such fees – which is not currently the case.



Quilt that I made for Sean and Mally McEachern's new little boy, Tanner James due in December.

Hall said the truck weight limits need to be enforced.

"They need to obey the same laws as anybody else does," he said.

Conley said having a central recycling area is a "good idea – if we can afford to do it."

Conley, who owns his own water well drilling company, said he is extremely concerned about salt water contamination in the county's water supply. He said he would make it his goal to stay on top of all water related issues.

Enforcing truck weight limits is an important issue – with a simple solution, he said.

"We'd put the sheriff on their butt, stop their trucks – then weigh them," he said.

Sheriff makes his case

Incumbent Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler – a Republican opposed by Democrat Joey Blanton – said he decided to run for office nearly four years ago because "Parker County law enforcement was in a difficult situation."

He said he's proud of the strides the department has made over the past few years. He said he is proud of the fact that Parker County now has six or seven patrols on any given night compared to only three when he took office. That's a good thing, since his department is responsible for providing law enforcement for a 900 square mile area, he said.

The completion of a 288-bed jail expansion gives the county 450 total beds. As a result, the county no longer has to pay other jails to hold its prisoners. In fact, the federal government may start housing some of its prisoners in Parker County.

"In my opinion, we need to start collecting the rent instead of paying it," he said,

The county's arrest record is also up substantially since he took over, Fowler said.

During a recent 90 day quarter, the sheriff's department made 290 arrests. In 2004, before Fowler took over, there were only 290 arrests for the year, he said.

"And we're going to stay busy," he promised.

He said the war against drugs is his main priority.

"If you do dope – I'm going to find you," he said.
Blanton was unable to attend.

King, Randolph do battle

Phil King, a Republican seeking another term as the state representative for District 61, said he's proud of the state's financial condition – especially compared to the federal government.

"We don't have a trillion dollar debt," King said. "In fact, we have a \$10 to \$14 billion budget surplus to use."

King said he supports right to life legislation.

Charles Randolph, King's Democratic challenger, said he doesn't think things "are as good as they could be" in Parker County.

A train dispatcher, Randolph said he was encouraged to run by several people who want to see a change. He said he is concerned about the county's water table and over usage by oil and gas companies. He said it's one of the main reasons he decided to run.

Both men said they support the right of families to decide how to educate their families – one of the questions asked by the church teenagers.

King said he voted against allowing casino gambling in Texas – even though, on the surface, the state might be losing some extra revenue.

"One guy told me it would be a good way to control organized crime," King said. "That's my point – if there's not casino gambling, there's no organized crime."

Randolph said he doesn't think casino gambling is a good thing.

King said the booming oil and gas drilling industry has been good for the local economy and has helped create jobs.

At the same time, it's been bad for county roads and the environment.

"We want their businesses here, but they have to obey the rules," he said.

King said he has never felt pressure by the oil and gas industry to follow any agenda.

Randolph said he has refused to take campaign contributions from large companies. He said his campaign is backed by small donations.

"You can't own me," he said.

The forum also included visits from U.S. House of Representative, District 12, candidate Tracey Smith, State Board of Education, Place 11 candidate Bruce Beckman, Precinct 3 Commissioner candidate John Roth and 2nd Court of Appeals Justice Terrie Livingston.

Parker County Judge Mark Riley discussed the county's \$80 million road transportation bond which is on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Brent Baker discussed the pros of passing a \$96.2 million bond that will build facilities for an overcrowded and outdated Weatherford College.

Republican County Chair Zan Prince and Democratic County Chair Deborah Cascino both heavily promoted their candidates abilities to serve Parker County.

Both cited their party's strong support of family values.

Prince said her party believes in less government intervention and an individual's abilities to solve their own problems.

Cascino talked briefly about her parties belief that all Americans should have the opportunity to "move up" in society.

Double Feature

We all decided to go to the movie for a fun family activity. Then after cleaning out the van, I decided I needed to stay home with Daniel as he had been feeling bad and I did not want him to get sick in the car and I did not want to expose the other families to the virus that he had. A few hours after my family left I



started thinking I had made a mistake and should have gone with them, but then around 9pm, he threw up.

And so I was glad I did not go. Glad for him, I was still sort of sad to not be with the rest of the family.

Double

Since we were all going, our friends the Sorah's decided to go ahead and make it a time to celebrate their two year old twins birthdays. So it became a double, double, double feature. Double in that it was two movies, double in that it doubled as a birthday party and double in that it was for twins...



Movie Night at the Brazos Drive In



Now that is one attractive group of girls..... or not! (Amanda Merrill, Taylor Huse and Brittany Moffett 10-31-08)

