

Free Round of Golf

Christ the Redeemer Church
November 22, 2009
25th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 41:13
Rev Gary L. Smith
www.christredeemerchurch.com

John Clarke congratulated me this past week and welcomed me to the Hole-In-One Club. He said there are two levels in the club. The Witness Level and the Participatory Level. I made the Participatory Level by witnessing Duane's hole-in-one that I mentioned in passing last Sunday. John told me to keep swinging away until I someday make a hole-in-one and therefore rise to the Participatory Level. I will.

Randy wrote me a few weeks ago and told me he was going to be visiting another place to pray. He said, "*I'll be praying @ the San Marcos location of a seasonal church.*

*Bethel
United
Christians of
Kerrville*

I will still fulfill my duties @ CTRC but I will also be involved in BUCK.

Randy

*p.s I will also be involved in a women's outreach group called **D**isciples **O**f **E**piphany.
or **DOE**."*

BUCK and DOE. It is deer season in Texas. Glad some of you men are here today.

There is a song with the line in it "Some days we write the song and other days the song writes you." Life dances with you and me. Sometimes we lead and sometimes Life leads.

I sent last week's Golfing in the Fog sermon to the email address listed for the Pine Forest Golf Course in Bastrop. I told the guy – or whoever would read the email – about Duane's hole-in-one shot in the fog on November 6th on Hole #3 called the Post Card. I told the unknown reader the story was being run in this week's paper here in town. I told him that he should offer Duane a free round of golf in exchange for all this free publicity.

J.R. Smith wrote me back. He said the owners of the golf course were two businessmen who are Christians. One a Viet Nam helicopter pilot veteran and the other a son of a missionary from Puerto Rico. Said they were both strong men of faith. They love maintaining their golf course daily and serving their Lord through their churches.

Then he told me that he would give both Duane and I a free round of golf if I could correctly answer two questions – Who created Pine Forest Golf Course? and Who Designed it?

I love free things. I love free soaps and shampoos in hotels. I love free Water Bottles from Walgreen's. I love a free day. I love free lunches. I love a free round of golf.

I wrote him back immediately and told J.R. Smith that everyone was named Smith until they sinned and that then they get different last names. We are bonding.

I then answered his two questions by telling him that the Pine Forest Golf Course was created by God and designed by Billy Martindale.

He wrote me back quickly and said I was correct and that two free rounds of golf were waiting for me over at Pine Forest. He also said that he liked the free advertisement I gave him but that he understood, as I did, that the more important thing was the real message in the sermon.

I wrote him back and thanked him for the free rounds of golf and told him our church may come over there someday and play a small tournament.

I also told him the real reason I wrote that Fog sermon...that I have friends in my church and in other states that are facing their own fog in life right now with health issues and that we do not want to scare the children anymore by constantly mentioning the diseases publicly. So I just talk about Fog and Golf and stuff that is more fun to talk about.

I asked Amity what she was doing for Thanksgiving. She said, "I have always wanted to work at the Food Bank on Thanksgiving Day. That is what I am doing Thanksgiving morning." I could hardly type these words due to being so proud of her and the many ways she has dealt with her own fog in life. She has moved from the Witness level to the Participatory Level in life now.

The answers to J.R. Smith's two questions were on the scorecard. I got two free rounds of golf because I read and kept the scorecard. You are mistaken if you think I threw away THAT scorecard! I love free gifts in life.

Created by God. We get one free round of golf. It is called the Gift of Life. And thank God that God believes in mulligans for our errant shots in life. Enjoy this Gift called Life and be thankful for it. Go Participate in it and Celebrate it fully this week of Thanksgiving. Amen.

(Turns out that our church pianist, Jackie Breedlove, is a cousin to the designer of Pine Forest Billy Martindale! She told me that Billy attended Texas A & M on a golf scholarship, got a degree in Golf Course Design, and played five years on the PGA Tour, winning Pebble Beach once and placing in some other tournaments.))