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Vince Barnes
photo by Leah Ratliff

RoughRiders, driving patrons from their cars to the stadium. Mr. Barnes comments, “One of the things I enjoy about that job is that I often see one of my students with his family. It’s fun because the people riding the shuttle are laughing and excited. They’re often celebrating a special occasion. I love it!”

However, of everything he does, Mr. Barnes’s favorite is serving his family. His eyes shine with pleasure and pride when asked about his family. It’s as if he’s waiting, hoping to be asked. He’s ready with pictures and stories about wife, Judy, their daughter, Emily, and son, Travis. It’s clear they are his love and his delight. As a stay-at-home Dad, he considers himself especially blessed. He’s there to enjoy the moments when his kids are ready to chat—moments that are often fleeting, considering their active lifestyles. He makes the most of those special and rare moments. After all, he’s been practicing for a long time. When the children were small, Mr. Barnes would take them to the park to play, encouraging creativity and making up games to, as he puts it, “wake up their minds.”

Mrs. Barnes says that while they often refer to Mr. Barnes as “a stay-at-home Dad,” “That’s far from true. He’s always involved in something, whether it’s with his job at FISD, church work, our small business, ‘Special Occasion Yard Signs’, or the community. But he always puts the children and our family first. Whatever our need, he meets it!”

Why does he do it all? Because of his love and desire to serve his God. This is the source of his commitment to serving. The person who knows him best, his wife, says it well, “I admire his servant’s heart. He is very caring and puts others’ needs before his own. I think that he could spend all day making connections and meeting people’s needs. They know that if they ask Vince, he will do everything in his power to help. And he does this not for self glory, but out of his desire to serve others.”

Caren Elizabeth Austen is a freelance writer living in Frisco.

Living to Serve

By Caren Elizabeth Austen

IN OUR SOCIETY, the term “servant” has gotten a bad rap. The connotation is “someone inferior” or a “doormat.” But one who is a servant by choice and who serves simply because he cares about others cannot be considered inferior, but rather honorable and noble. That is the case with Frisco resident Mr. Barnes Barnes.

He doesn’t have a high-powered career and he does some of the most thankless jobs in our community, but those who know him best have the utmost respect and admiration for him. The admiration for Mr. Barnes is based on who he is and how he lives his life.

Mr. Barnes serves the students of the community by driving a school bus for the Frisco Independent School District (FISD). It’s clear from the broad smile that crosses his face when he talks about “his kids” that he loves this job and takes his responsibility seriously. He has pictures of some of the students that ride with him, ready to show to

anyone who’s interested.

He also manages the varsity concession stand for the Frisco High School Band Boosters. Every home game, he’s there, supervising, cooking, selling and cleaning up. According to Julia Hoxie, FHS Band Booster president, “Mr. Barnes is a huge asset to our Boosters. He’s always willing to help, has a smile on his face and loves being around people.” She adds, “If we could clone him, we’d make 100 just like him!” But as it is, he’s truly one of a kind. As a member of the Staley Middle School Band Parents Association, he serves as prep man for the concession stand at the football games, preparing for those who will do the cooking and selling at game time. If that weren’t enough, he’s also been named a lifetime member of the PTA because of his outstanding service.

Mr. Barnes serves the community as chaplain for Troop 298 of the Boy Scouts of America, accompanying the group on many of its monthly camp-outs. He also drives a shuttle bus for the Frisco