

## Gladewater's Music and Art Revival

*The new Whisenhunt Center fills a house of worship with performances and galleries.*

**CATHERINE JOAN STURKIE WAS A YOUNG GIRL WHEN HER FAMILY** moved to the oil boomtown of Gladewater in 1935, the same year the Church of Christ built a new facility. Four years ago Sturkie bought the venerable church when the congregation needed larger quarters. The longtime realtor added state-of-the art sound and lighting systems and, last year, opened the Whisenhunt Center as a performing and visual arts center.

The 300-seat sanctuary-turned-music venue boasts original stained glass windows, hardwood floors, and cushioned theater-style seats. Relief sculptures from noted Minnesota artist, Bill Mack, line the walls. Twice a month, the venue hosts varied genre from Western swing and gospel to blues and tribute bands honoring the likes of Frank Sinatra, Elvis, and the Beatles. Sturkie's collection of 300 limited-edition prints and original artworks fill old Sunday School classrooms and an added gallery. She displays contemporary artists from around the world, including Sharie Hatchett Bohlmann, Michael Godard, and Pino.

Sturkie recently restored a nearby historic structure, located alongside Gladewater's many antique shops, into an annex art gallery and meeting space. The Whisenhunt Center is located at 201 E. Quitman St. Call 903/738-0277 or 903/241-2049; [www.whisenhuntcenter.com](http://www.whisenhuntcenter.com).

*--Randy Mallory*

### RESOURCES:

--Joan Sturkie

--Ron Gage

-- [www.whisenhuntcenter.com](http://www.whisenhuntcenter.com)

The Whisenhunt Center is a labor of love by **Catherine Joan Sturkie** that is dedicated to restoring the art and musical heritage of Gladewater! Catherine purchased the retired Church of Christ building, built around 1935 in Gladewater, Texas, when it was for sale and unwanted about four years ago **2008?**. Since then, Catherine has worked tirelessly to return a gift of love to the City of Gladewater and to recognize her loving parents who instilled in her a deep passion for art and music.

We are located at **201 East Quitman, Gladewater, Texas 75647.**

For more information, please call **903-844-0202 (her office)**, **903-241-2049**, or **903-738-0277**.

Tickets are available from **Sturkie Properties** (corner of Hwys 80 and 271 in Gladewater)

<http://www.whisenhuntcenter.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/WhisenhuntCenter>