

Famous Presbyterians

(If you know of someone we missed, please let us know!)

Entertainment:

- Christopher Reeve - actor, movie star famous for his role as "Superman" (lapsed)
- David Letterman - late night talk show host
- Roy Rogers - cowboy TV star
- Richard Burton - actor, movie star
- Jimmy Stewart (actor)
- John Wayne - actor, movie star
- Dick Van Dyke - actor
- Debbie Reynolds - actress, singer
- Fred Rogers - "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" (ordained Presbyterian minister)
- Shirley Temple - child star
- Greer Garson - Academy Award-winning actress
- Carol Lawrence - actress
- Frank Gifford - football player and sportscaster
- Colleen Townsend - Hollywood actress and religious author, the wife of a Presbyterian minister
- Brian DePalma - film director (born Catholic; raised Presbyterian; lapsed)
- Ralph Winter - movie producer: X-Men; Fantastic Four; Star Trek; etc. (devout Presbyterian)
- Cheryl Crowe - singer
- Amy Grant (Raised Presbyterian, lapsed)

Literature:

- Mark Twain - influential American author
- William Faulkner - influential American author
- Lucy Maud Montgomery - Canadian novelist; Anne of Green Gables, etc.
- Frederick Buechner - author of fantasy novels and non-fiction religious books
- Sherwood Anderson - prominent American short story writer

Comics:

- Clifford K. Berryman (1869-1949) - influential political cartoonist
- Curt Swan - influential comic book artist best known for drawing Superman (lapsed)

Journalism:

- Robin Roberts (ABC television)
- David Brinkley - journalist, broadcaster
- E. L. Godkin - founder of influential weekly journal of political opinion The Nation

Science:

- James Watt - developed the steam engine (lapsed)
- Joseph Priestley - influential chemist, nonconformist minister
- Arthur Holly Compton - Nobel Prize-winning physicist who studied x-rays, gamma rays and nuclear energy
- Neal Armstrong (first man on the Moon)
- Sally Ride - astronaut; first American woman in space
- John Glenn - astronaut, Senator

Presidents of the United States:

- President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln
- Andrew Jackson - 7th U.S. President
- James Knox Polk - 11th U.S. President (converted from Presbyterian to Methodist)
- James Buchanan - 15th U.S. President
- Rutherford B. Hayes - 19th U.S. President

- Grover Cleveland - 22nd and 24th U.S. President
- Benjamin Harrison - 23rd U.S. President
- Woodrow Wilson - 28th U.S. President
- Dwight D. Eisenhower - 34th U.S. President
- Ronald Reagan - 40th U.S. President

Vice Presidents of the United States

- Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey
- Aaron Burr - U.S. Vice-President under Jefferson; killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel
- Daniel D. Tompkins - U.S. Vice-President under Monroe
- John C. Calhoun - U.S. Vice-President under John Quincy Adams and Jackson
- John C. Breckinridge - U.S. Vice-President under Buchanan
- William A. Wheeler - U.S. Vice-President under Hayes
- Thomas A. Hendricks - U.S. Vice-President under Cleveland
- Adlai E. Stevenson - U.S. Vice-President under Cleveland
- Thomas R. Marshall - U.S. Vice-President under Wilson
- Charles G. Dawes - U.S. Vice-President under Coolidge
- Henry A. Wallace - U.S. Vice-President under F.D. Roosevelt
- Walter Mondale - U.S. Vice-President under Carter
- Dan Quayle - U.S. Vice-President under George H.W. Bush

Politics

- John Witherspoon – Signer of the Declaration of Independence
- Jomo Kenyatta - president of Kenya
- Hendrik Verwoerd - prime minister of South Africa
- Dean Rusk - U.S. secretary of state
- Condoleezza Rice - U.S. Secretary of State under Pres. George W. Bush
- Lloyd Bentsen, Jr. - Democratic nominee for Vice President in 1988; 4-term U.S. Senator from Texas, Treasury Secretary
- Warren Burger - Chief Justice of U.S. Supreme Court
- Bob Dole- U.S. Senator from Kansas; former Republican United States Senate Majority Leader; Republican nominee for President in the 1996
- Elizabeth Dole - U.S. Senator from North Carolina 2003-?; former head of American Red Cross; wife of U.S. presidential candidate Bob Dole
- John Foster Dulles - U.S. Secretary of State in the 1950s
- Robert McNamara - U.S. secretary of defense; president of the World Bank
- Melvin Laird - U.S. secretary of defense
- Bill Frist - U.S. Senate Majority Leader

Law:

- Warren Burger - Chief Justice of U.S. Supreme Court
- William O. Douglas - U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1939-1975)
- William Jennings Bryan - prosecutor in the famous Scopes Monkey Trial (about the teaching of evolution in schools)

Religious Leaders:

- John Knox - the founder of Scottish Presbyterianism
- Billy Sunday - popular American preacher
- Billy Graham - one of most popular Protestant preachers in 20th Century (raised Presbyterian, converted to Southern Baptist)
- Ruth Graham - wife of Billy Graham
- Henry Sloane Coffin - clergyman, author; moderator of General Assembly
- Daniel Defoe - influential English novelist; author of Robinson Crusoe
- Richard G. Butler - pastor and founder of Aryan Nations (white supremacist group)

- Peter Marshall - popular minister; U.S. Senate Chaplain; portrayed in book/movie A Man Called Peter
- Alexander Campbell - Former Presbyterian who became co-founder of the Churches of Christ (Stone-Campbell Restoration movement)

Business:

- Andrew Carnegie - American businessman, philanthropist; at one time the wealthiest man in the world
- Ross Perot - billionaire businessman; third-party U.S. Presidential candidate
- Sam Walton - founder of Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer
- Philip Anschutz - billionaire businessman, founder of Qwest (regularly attends an Evangelical Presbyterian church)

Other:

- Rev. Aaron Burr - co-founder of Princeton University
- David Hume - influential Scottish philosopher

Additional Presbyterian Politicians:

Lamar Alexander - Tennessee

George Allen - Virginia

Kit Bond - Missouri

Bill Bradley - New Jersey

Thomas Carper - Delaware

Mark Dayton - Minnesota

Jim DeMint - South Carolina

Michael Enzi (Mike Enzi) - Wyoming