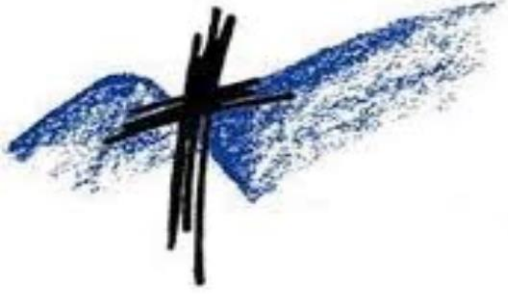


The Cross & Steeple



Collinsville Baptist Church
P.O. Box 558
Collinsville, AL 35961
Dr. John Morgan, Pastor
www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com

March 2013

From John

I was in an Easter play once. I was about fourteen. And I was the star (I should mention here that my sisters and a cousin who attended the same church, Dalewood Baptist in Nashville, will be seeing this article. They may tell me later that I am all wrong about my memories, but they are getting very elderly and not remembering as well as me. Bless their hearts.)

The play had thirteen or fourteen youth with parts. Each part had a monologue about three fourths of a page long. The play told the story of the crucifixion, and each of us played a person or article that was crucial to the story.

My opening line – “I am the cross.” (I told you I was the star.) After that, I told about being carried through the streets of Jerusalem and up Calvary. And then having Jesus nailed to me. I was just an old cross. I had felt others die on me. But this man, Jesus, made everything different. I felt changed. I came to realize that Jesus was the Son of God.

It was with my concluding lines that my troubles began. The play was directed by a woman who had some experience with drama. And too much experience with English. My closing lines: “I don’t know when it was. I don’t know where it was. I just know it was.” Very dramatic. Spot light on me. Fade to black.

The problem? Was or Wuz. In Nashville, pretty much everybody would have said my lines as – I did not know when it wuz, where it wuz, just know it wuz. The director explained the difference between was and wuz. Went over the pronunciation with me about a million times. Groaned audibly every time I slipped back to fourteen years of training. Wuz. Told me I was doing great with the role otherwise (here she was correct). But I had to change. No more wuz.

So I worked on it. Hard. Over and over. Don’t know when it was, where it was, know it was. Over and over. Was, was was. Not wuz.

The big night came. The director crossed her fingers. Me too. The church was full. The lights down. The spotlight making its way through the first eleven parts. Then it was my time.

“I am the cross.” Delivered the line just right. I began to really get into the emotion of the night. I was doing a good job. Time for the big climax.

I looked out at what I could see of the crowd behind the light.

“I don’t know when it was.” Dramatic pause.

“I don’t know where it was.” Longer dramatic pause.

“I just know it *wuz*.” Oops. Delivered with perfect emotion. The director’s face fell twenty feet. And the light faded.

I remember that all these years later for two reasons. One is that a part of me still feels bad about blowing the line. Wuz. Sorry Ms. Director wherever you are.

But I also remember it because of how strongly I felt the lines. I, too, had come to know Jesus over a long period of time. I, too, had felt the difference He brought to me.

In truth, I was near to tears when I delivered those lines. I did not just feel them. I meant them. For those seconds I was not the cross in a play. I was at the cross. And knew He was dying for me.

And the real me said what the real me would say – “I just know it wuz”. And that makes me glad. Not guilty. Forgiven. I know it wuz.

As we continue our journey through Lent to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, may you do the same. May you feel, even for a few seconds, that you are at the cross. And that it was for you. Or wuz for you. Whichever is right for you.

March 2013



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	6 BIRTHDAYS Lexie Gibbs	6 BIRTHDAYS Tanya Cantrell	7 BIRTHDAYS Jonathan Perkins Mark Delk	8	9
10	11 BIRTHDAYS Phil Chambers	12	13 BIRTHDAYS Joseph Morgan Daly Burke	14 BIRTHDAYS Stephanie Mills Fred Shankles Scott Shankles	15	16
17 FLOWERS Annette Wardrup BIRTHDAYS Flo Pendergrass	18	19	20	21	22 BIRTHDAYS Munsey Box Caleb Acker Christian Edwards	23
24 FLOWERS Juanita Rogers BIRTHDAYS Tim Rothel	25	26	27	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	29	30 BIRTHDAY Jill Tidmore
31 FLOWERS Marilyn Borntreger BIRTHDAY						

Holy Week Activities

Palm Sunday

March 24

Community Service
Calvary Church - 5:00

Maundy Thursday Service

Collinsville Baptist

March 28 - 6:00

Lord's Supper – J.R. & Donzella
Bobo

Easter Sunday

March 31

Sunrise Service and Breakfast
Front Steps of Church
6:30 A.M.

Sunday School 10 A.M.
Last Meeting of New Christians'
Class
Worship 11 A.M.

No Evening Service



Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, March 10
Set Your Clock
Ahead One Hour
(You Lose One Hour
of Sleep)

Whatever It Takes

Reaching the One

Annie Armstrong Offering for North
American Missions
National Goal: \$70 Million
Church Goal: \$2350

Week of Prayer for North American
Missions
March 3-10

A Practical Guide To ESTATE PLANNING From a Christian Perspective

Collinsville Baptist
Sunday, March 17
4:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Seminar will be taught by staff from
The Baptist Foundation of Alabama
No Charge – Free Guide for All
Attendees

Please Attend and Invite People from
Other Churches

Bill McCrary – *Stewardship and Big
Jar Giving*

J. Rodney Bledsoe – *Wills, POAs and
Other Estate Documents*

The purpose of this seminar is to
provide you with practical
information that will help you
understand the basic concepts related
to estate planning, point out some
common pitfalls and encourage you
to consider estate planning as an act
of stewardship.

Wednesdays

Prayer Meeting

We want to encourage everyone
to come to Prayer Meeting
Wednesday nights from 6:00 –
6:45.

We will end in plenty of time for
choir members to get to rehearsal
and for parents of childrens' choir
members to join us before their
choir time ends.

In addition to prayer time we will
have a devotion and a short Bible
Study.

Children's Choir

5:30 Snack Supper

6:00 Children's Choirs & Youth
Choir

6:00 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
7:00 Adult Choir

6:00 Children's Choirs and Youth
Choir

6:00 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
7:00 Adult Choir



**Did you
know** there
is now a

youth age group meeting at 6:00 on
Wednesday nights? Tell
any teen you know to come and join
Angel for Bible Study and Music.

Christian Ladies of Collinsville (CLC)

Invite all women to our
10th Anniversary Ladies Retreat
"Women on the Frontline"
Saturday, March 2, 2013
10 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.
(Registration begins at 9:30 A.M.)
Please remember to allow plenty of
time for Trade Day Traffic

Collinsville Community Center
(Formerly the National Guard
Armory)

Guest Speaker: Karen Smothers
Other Special guests – B Team
Angels

No Admission Charge
Lunch Will Be Provided
Upscale Yard Sale: Shop for Fine
Treasures

We Hope to See You There!

Praying Across Alabama

February 24 – May 2

A Program to Promote Prayer in All
Counties in Alabama by Having
Prayer Events at All County
Courthouses

Statewide Day of Prayer -- Sunday,
February 24

DeKalb County Day of Prayer
Tuesday, March 19

DeKalb County Courthouse
Noon – 12:30

There will also be a Regional Prayer
Service at
First Baptist Church, Albertville
April 12

All Christians Are Encouraged to 60
Days of Prayer
February 27 – April 27
Sponsored by Alabama Baptists

Put on Your Calendar

School Schedules

Spring Break – March 23-30
Last Day for Students – May 23

Children's Choirs

End of Year Program
The Greatest Rescue Ever
Sunday, April 7 - 5:00

Collinsville Baptist Church
P. O. Box 558
Collinsville, AL 35961

Non-profit Permit Imprint
Permit Number 2
Fort Payne, AL 35967



Job 19:25

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

What a thrill to KNOW that my Redeemer lives! Jesus Christ is just as alive today as He was right after the resurrection. In fact, He is just as much alive today as He was before the crucifixion, and even before He came to earth and was laid in the manger.

What difference does it make whether we serve a living God or one made of stone? Isn't it just a practice we believe in? Is it a crutch to help us along our way? No! Absolutely not!

A living God knows right where you are day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute. He sees your every need, hears your every cry, and longs to hold you close to Himself. He is present to walk with you through the valley. He provides a song in the night. He takes your feet from the muck and mire and plants them on a rock. He blesses you with hope and gives joy for Life's journey. A god with no life is unable to do these things. He cannot see, or hear, or reach, or touch, or provide. He simply cannot.

But my God is alive! The joy and the assurance that we celebrate on Easter doesn't end when the holiday is over and the decorations are all packed away. Why? Because Christ is alive. So rejoice, my friend, and live each day with the hope and joy that Easter brings. Walk with Christ. Talk with Him, and allow His joy to penetrate your heart and fill your soul. Don't live in defeat and agony as if Christ is still on in cross, or in the tomb. HE is alive! He IS alive! He is ALIVE!

Lord, I praise and worship You because You are alive and because You share Your magnificent self with me as Your child. Thank You for the constant day by day fellowship I have with You. Thank You for being alive!

HAPPY EASTER!

By Ann Shorb
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