

September 2014

Ruth Clayton and family want to thank you for your prayers and for the beautiful plant after the death of Ruth's granddaughter,
Amanda King

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for welcoming me into your church family. You all truly showed me the love of Christ, and I was so happy to share my Sundays and Wednesdays with each of you. I wish I could bring the whole congregation with me back to Auburn, but I think most of the Bama fans would object. I pray for all of the best for every member and am so grateful for summer spent with you. I can't wait to come back for a visit!

Shaye McCauley

Sympathy to Deb Redditt whose mother passed away recently.
We love you, Deb, and we hurt with you.

Operation Christmas Child

Meeting Most Wednesdays at 6:00

CBC Kids

Grades 4-6

CBC Youth

Grades 7 and Up

Join them for Bible Study, Missions Projects, Games and Lots of Other
Things

September Volunteers

Flowers September 21 – Jo Ann Myers

Lord's Supper – Bo and Jan Newsome

The New Church Year Begins September 7

Sunday Nights

August 31 – No Meeting, Labor Day Weekend

September 7 – Welcome to Fall Fellowship

August 29

Football Team Meal

We will be hosting the Collinsville High School football team, cheerleaders and coaches for a pregame meal.

3:00

Opening game against Cedar Bluff at 7:00

Children's Choirs Resume

September 10

See You at the Pole

Wednesday, September 24

Labor Day

Monday, September 1

World Hunger Relief Offering

September 14 – October 12

Sermons in September and October

Elisha

Please continue to pray for the committees that continue to meet to seek God's way for our congregation – the Stewardship and Budget Committee, the Nominating Committee and the special committees – one working on plans for a recreation area for the church, one working on getting a monitor in place for the choir and one working on ways to reach out to people in our committee during disasters.

Released Time Bible Class
Wednesdays from 2-4
For Grades 2-6
Collinsville School
Let Us Know If You Would Like to Volunteer to Help
Or Talk to Trinka Payton
With These Basic Bible Lessons

Flowers Sept 28 – Marilyn Borntrager

It was a black, unlined cloth jacket. A hand-me-down from my cousin Buddy.

One Christmas I got a transistor radio (young readers please ask old readers what a transistor is). I could listen on a tinny speaker or an ear phone that plugged into the radio. It became my magic carpet to sporting events.

I would lean it up against the tree in the front yard and turn it up as loud as it would go to listen to the mighty Tennessee Vols play football. I would run up and down the yard pretending I was playing. I'm not sure what UT's record was, but I know I never lost a game.

During baseball season, I wore out 9 volt battery after battery listening to the Nashville Vols, our minor league team. Every summer my family got me to three or four of the games played in Sulphur Dell, then the oldest ball park in the country (now a parking lot). I got to see my radio heroes. Buddy Gilbert. Johnny Edwards. Chico Alvarez.

The rest of the games I would listen to on my little pocket size Silvertone. Antenna all the way up to pick up the announcer, Larry Munson (ask any Georgia fan who that is). Pulling for my Vols. Many a school night I went to sleep only after listening to the game with my ear phone in the dark in my bed.

I kept up with Major Leagues on the radio and in the newspaper. Just turn to the sports page and check out the standings and the stats from the games the day before. My favorite big leaguers – Warren Spahn and Hank Aaron.

Which brings me back to that black cloth jacket. One day I had a stroke of genius. I cut a small hole in the left jacket pocket on the inside. My radio went in the pocket. Then I ran the ear phone wire through the hole in the pocket, under my shirt, up the back, out the neck and into my ear.

This allowed me to listen to the World Series games on the radio during school. As I listened, sweat would roll down my face from wearing a jacket in the early fall heat in a school with no air conditioning. It was worth it. All during class, boys were looking at me to ask scores. Who had a hit. Who's pitching. Between classes, everybody wanted the details. I was the most envied boy in school for those precious World Series days.

Baseball today has most every game on TV. And the kids know much less than we knew back then. Once when my boys were small, I watched a great Series game. When it was over, I wanted to talk to my boys about the game. But they were asleep. TV money making games too late for children to watch.

Baseball has become a successful business with happy customers. But fewer fans. Stars are followed. Lots of entertainment. Ballparks with shopping areas. The game is marketed to nonfans. Customers who spend money. Good for business, bad for baseball. Ignore the players on drugs. Chicks dig the long ball. Money.

I'm not saying to go back to transistor radios. I like games on TV. I am saying the game is in much worse health than it was when I listened to those games in my old black jacket. Fewer fans who care about baseball.

The church makes the same mistake in the U.S. today. Plan services and ministries to entertain and bring in big crowds. Market to those who are not Christians. And then be confused when we have customers and not Christians. Audience not worshipers. Biblically illiterate. Immature and uncommitted. People who want to know what your church offers them compared to the church down the street. Not how they can serve, worship and grow.

I'm not saying to go back to funeral home fans in church. I like air conditioning. I like microphones and video screens. I am certainly not saying to stop reaching out to nonbelievers. I am saying to quit cheapening the Gospel to entertain and draw a

crowd. We speak of Christ and Him crucified. And of followers who are willing to die to self. That may not be a popular message. But it is the Gospel.

We are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. II Corinthians 2:17

Just some thoughts for a new church year.