



# The Cross & Steeple

[www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com](http://www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com)

April 2015

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## From John

I started to sit down facing the creek. But instead I decided to lean against the big tree and look away from the creek. Look back across the grass of Lapping Park at the old white frame lodge and the people moving around it. I had my Bible in my lap and I was thinking about what I wanted to say. Instead I just relaxed and watched and remembered. It turned out that God would give me all I would need to say in a few minutes.

I was a beautiful sun-drenched late October Saturday in Clarksville, Indiana. There was still a bit of smoke in the air from the fire in the lodge. The leaves that far north were mostly off the trees, their yellow, red and brown scattered across the yard. It was a yard and a park that had become very special to me.

I had served at Howard Park Christian Church as Youth and Associate Minister for four years. Lapping Park had been donated to Clarksville, the town where the church was, about the time Gloria and I went there. Most of the land became a golf course, but the last half mile or so had been left in trees with the old hunting lodge standing about 150 yards from the creek. The lodge was a small kitchen, a miniscule bathroom and a large open room with a balcony on one end that was packed with old metal cots. No insulation. The only heat a pot bellied stove in the kitchen. Big wooden tables for meals and meetings. The kind of place that needed so much work that you couldn't hurt it. In other words, a perfect place for youth retreats.

It was only ten or fifteen minutes from the church, but it felt like you were worlds away. I could gather up fifteen or twenty kids, stop and buy some food and be in the park in nothing flat. A gate on the gravel road kept everybody but us out.

And went there over and over for retreats. I was the only adult. Lots of Bible study. And lots and lots of fun. Hide and seek and hike in the dark. Come inside and play all kinds of games. Stay up almost all night. Sleep a little – boys on the balcony, girls downstairs. Hot dogs and marshmallows on the fire. Kool Aid and hot chocolate if it was cold. Chips and Little Debbie's.

And talk. Talk about anything they wanted. Ask any question. You might not be able to understand it, but it was the perfect atmosphere for making disciples. We had been lots of other places – Florida, Colorado, a long list. But Lapping Park was special.

And this was my last time to be there. So I decided to watch my kids. We had had a great night and morning and lunch. I had told them that I was going to trust them to clean everything up. That I would not even go into the building and look around. That they knew what was expected. I threw my stuff in the van, grabbed my Bible and a paper bag and walked toward the creek. This would be my last time to talk to them alone. It was Saturday. The next day I would preach my last sermon at Howard Park. Monday we would leave in the Ryder Rental for Collinsville. Today was just for my youth. And me. I needed this time with them.

I watched them moving around. Memories flooded me. Sue. Brenda. Kerry. As I looked at each one, some special thing came to mind. I closed my Bible and just watched them. Remembering the way God had blessed us so often.

They were finishing so I got up and walked over to them. We sat on the porch in a circle. I gave up on having an inspiring message. I opened the paper bag and took out a hot dog bun. And I broke off pieces of the bun, giving each person a piece. I began to cry as I said, "Jesus took the bread and broke it saying to them, this is my body broken for you." And we ate the bread, most of them now crying. I opened the bag back up, took out the jug of Kool Aid and sleeve of Dixie cups. We quickly filled cups for each person. "This is the blood of Jesus, shed for you and me." More tears. And we held hands and sang a song (I think it was "We Are One in the Spirit"). I looked at them and said, "I love you and always will". End of message.

Not the end of tears. We all hugged each other over and over. Hugged so long that we reached that point where you know you have to quit and leave. But still don't want to quit. How could I leave these teens that God had allowed me to love so much for four years? But I knew it was time. And we got in the van and left.

The service the next day was also emotional. Gloria and I cried some more. People hugged us and a four year old John and two year old Mark. But my real good bye had been the day before in Lapping Park.

My sermon title that Sunday was Trust and Obey. Something that all of us who serve Jesus must do. Even when it can mean hard good byes.

Jesus understands that. He had his own last supper (though not with a hot dog bun and Kool Aid) with those he had disciples and loved for three years. He said to them, "with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer". (Luke 22:15) He wanted one last night with them. What a night that was for Jesus. And then he left for Gethsemane to trust and obey, all the way to the cross and the tomb.

And on Sunday the tomb became the empty tomb. And so we have hope beyond the hardest of our good byes. God does great things when we trust and obey.



**Spring Break for Schools**

March 28-April 5 Fort Payne Schools

**Day of Service**

Saturday, April 11

For the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WMU in Alabama

Churches are being asked to participate in one day of service projects in their community.

**Covered Dish Dinner and Quarterly Ministry Meeting**

Sunday, April 12 at Noon

**Commissioning Service for Director of Missions**

Sunday, April 19

Nazareth Baptist at 6:00

Everyone Is Invited as We Commission and Welcome Our New DeKalb Baptist Director of Missions Rev. Ken Allen

**National Day of Prayer**

Thursday, May 7

The theme for 2015, the 64<sup>th</sup> annual observance is

**Lord, Hear Our Cry**

The Scripture for this year: "*Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.*" I Kings 8:28

**Mother's Day**

Sunday, May 10

**Collinsville High School Baccalaureate**

Sunday, May 17

**Collinsville High School Graduation**

Tuesday, May 19

**Last Day of School**

DeKalb Schools – Friday, May 22

Fort Payne Schools – Thursday, May 21

**Pentecost**

Sunday, May 24

**Shocco Springs Choir Week**

July 13-17

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Maundy Thursday Service**

April 2, 6:00 P.M.

Communion and Prayer  
Lasting About 40 Minutes

**Good Friday**

April 3

This Year the Date Also Coincides with the Beginning of Passover

**Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast**

April 5th, 6:30 A.M.

On the church steps.

**Sunday Nights in April**

April 5 – Easter, No Evening Service

April 12 – Ministry Meeting

April 19 – Director of

Missions Commissioning Service



**Thanks** to the repairers of ceilings, tiles, lights and other things on our sanctuary ceiling. Stan Zulker, John Door, Clyde Killian, Bob Gese – the men of the rolling scaffolding. Thank you for your work.

And thanks to Symphony Graves and her work gang in the church yard – Mark Delk, Stan Zulker, Debra and Shawn Ross and a host of others and of course to Jimmy Cunningham who got us started on this project to beautify the church grounds.

**The Giving Tree** has given lots of food to hungry people recently. It is looking really empty. Can you help?



To the Carter family in the loss of Dodie's sister;

To the Wardrups in the loss of Frank's cousin;  
To Karen & Sheila Smith & Jennifer Wilkins & family in the loss of their great uncle, Carl Crisp.

For a good report for Donnie Myers; Blessings of Christian Ladies of Collinsville Women's Retreat; Joys of seeing our children & youth sing at end of year music program; hundreds of spring blooms at the Wardrup home; Birth of Marie Wilson's great grandbabies-Twins!



~ April 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Richard Eads Bently Jones Jeremy Kasinger	<b>2</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Brody Barksdale	<b>3</b> <b>Anniversary</b> Josh and Allie Jones	<b>4</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Sabrina Johnson
<b>5</b> <b>Flowers</b> Donzella Bobo	<b>6</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Laurie Gregg  <b>Anniversary</b> Joey & Terri Bobo	<b>7</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Tyler Gregg Cesar Sanchez	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Riley Edwards Russ Beene	<b>10</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Bill Delk Brenda Williams	<b>11</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Vanessa Chambers Camila Guzman
<b>12</b> <b>Lord's Supper</b>  Will be at Maundy Thursday Service  <b>Birthdays</b> Andy Daniel Cheryl Hulsey  <b>Anniversary</b> Rick & Jennifer Wilkins	<b>13</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Jack Blanton	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Margaret Myers Jillian Pedraza  <b>Anniversary</b> Marty & Marilyn Borntrager	<b>16</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Karen Reed	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Ronald Smith
<b>19</b> <b>Flowers</b> Ronnie & Gail McReynolds  <b>Birthdays</b> Brandon Jones	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Kelsay Sanchez	<b>23</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Bianca Mills Jonathan Roberts	<b>24</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Kaleb Jones	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Flowers</b>  <b>Birthdays</b> Marianna Gallegos	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Ciara Lucio	<b>29</b> <b>Birthdays</b> Allie Jones	<b>30</b> <b>Birthdays</b> John Morgan  <b>Anniversary</b> Arnold & Melissa Collette		

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**  
Offering at Church – February 22 – Easter  
Church Goal -\$2600

**40 Days of Prayer for  
Moral and Spiritual Awakening**

Focusing on Biblical Marriage.  
Beginning on April 28

As the US Supreme Court Begins Deliberations on Marriage  
Sponsored by Alabama Baptist Convention

**Day of Service**

Saturday, April 11  
For the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WMU in Alabama  
Churches are being asked to participate in one day of service  
projects in their community.

**Disaster Relief Annual Training Conference**

Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center

April 10-11

This is the single largest training event in the state for training new  
volunteers and re-credentialing existing volunteers.  
Training offered in – mass feeding, cleanup recovery, childcare,  
shower unit, administration, communication, chainsaw and  
chaplaincy.

Register at [SBDR.org/Training](http://SBDR.org/Training)  
Space is limited – register soon

# CBC YOUTH NEWS

## The When

Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m.

Youth Group Wednesday 6 p.m

Worship Team Wednesday 7 p.m.



## What's happening?



May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ringold, GA

•  
Selling Boston Butts in April \$25

•  
Shocco ReMix Music Camp – July 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

## Note from Luke Laney:

March was a busy month for the youth group. We had our second youth Sunday and the Worship Team sang at the year end choir performance. We also had two fundraisers. They were a huge success because of you. I want to once again say thank you for your continued support and a special thank you to everyone who helped prepare both meals. I love being a part of a church family that invests in the next generation. We also went as a group to see the new Christian movie "Do You Believe". We took about 20 students and there wasn't a dry eye among our group by the end of the movie. The challenge I took away from the movie was: if you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? The movie closed by playing the popular Christian song titled We Believe. All of our students were singing along in the middle of the theater. It was a special moment to witness. I thank God daily for the opportunity I've been given at this church. Thank you again and please continue to pray for our group.

It is that time of year again! We are in need of local mission projects for Wednesday Evening CBC Youth & CBC Kids. These projects will need to be completed within a 2 hour time period. Please Help!

Dear Family,

Collinsville Baptist has just concluded its 2014-2015 children/youth choir year. It was a blessing to see and hear so many young people sharing what they have learned about God in the music they presented. We are so proud of you all! It was also a blessing to see the many who came in support of our children and youth, and remember many others who have undergirded these wonderful children and teens in additional ways. We thank you all!

This summer our kids (fourth grade and older) hope to be attending music camp at Shocco Springs, our Alabama Baptist Conference Center in Talladega. They will continue to do fund raising to cover the cost of a week that can have an amazing impact both musically and spiritually, (and its also great fun!). Will you continue to pray for them as they prepare to attend?

Let's also pray for each other, as we prepare for the celebration of Easter, that we can reflect Christ as we live each day in a world where many do not know Him, and may be waiting to see Him in us.

Have a happy spring, and a blessed Easter season!  
Because of our Risen Lord,  
Gloria Morgan



### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

**General:** Time Release Program; CBC Kids & Teens; Mental Health Advocacy work toward van purchase; School faculty, staff, students and families

**Church Family:** Jerrie Alexander & family; Dot Burke; Carter family; Phil Chamber; Jimmy Cunningham Bob &Carolynne Gese; Helms family; Rex Leath; Morgan family; Jo Ann Myers; Janet Nelson; Pendergrass family; Deborah Tarrant; Unspoken;

**Relatives:** Barksdale's sister-in-law (Suzanne Graves); Borntrager's brother & son (Avery; Daniel); Gloria Morgan's mother, bother, sister & cousin (Mary Lorena & Newt Roberts, P.J. Redmond Mary Lynn Kotz); Margaret Myers' sister (Debbie Estes); Wayne & Deborah Smith's daughter & family (Cynthia & Keith Wheeler); Newsome's daughter & family (Krista, Jason & Jacob \ Preston);

**Friends:** Mary Blanton; Roger Dutton; Aimee Griggs; Leon Hufstetler; Helen Osborne; Dean Patton; Williams family



1.

**The Joy That Invades Our Hearts**  
A Bible devotion for Easter Sunday  
by Elizabeth Sherrill

*He is not here; for he has risen...—Matthew 28:6*

Only a week had passed since that triumphant Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem—but what a difference in the little procession that set out now! No cheering crowds, no waving branches. Just a few silent women setting out in the gray dawn to perform the last sad rites at the tomb.

The day that changed human history was not a public occasion but a private one. The day when everlasting life broke into earthly time began not with celebration but with tears.

This is still the way Easter breaks into our lives—when we least expect it, when all seems lost. That’s when the stone rolls away and the angel speaks and “death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54)

If it seems too good to be true, this joy that invades our hearts, it seemed so on the first Easter morning too. Mary Magdalene could not believe what her eyes were telling her; she took Jesus to be a gardener at work early among the graves. Preoccupied with her loss, she barely glanced at the figure standing before her on the path. She had a mournful task to fulfill and—

“Mary.”

There in the first light of dawn, Mary stood still. That voice...that tone of loving involvement. This was the moment, the moment when Jesus called her by name, that Easter broke like the sunrise into her heart. It is how we recognize Him still. The risen Jesus calls us so personally, comes into our lives to individually, that with Mary Magdalene, we cry out in glad recognition.

And then we do what the women did on that first Easter Sunday. Dropping their spices and ointments, the burdens of their sad errand, they rushed to tell the others. They set the pattern, these women who were first at the empty tomb, the two-fold pattern of the Christian faith newborn that Easter morning. They met the living Jesus. And they brought the good news to those who grieved.

That’s always our role, when it’s Easter in our lives; to tell someone else that He is risen.