



The Cross & Steeple

www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com

February 2016

From John

God has used many things and many people in His grace to bring me to this point in my life. Here are a few.

- As a twelve year old, I went to RA Camp at Camp Linden. There, on the banks of the Buffalo River in an open air auditorium, I walked the aisle and surrendered. I became a Christian. Blubbering with tears all the way.
- As a nineteen year old, I went to a Baptist Student Union (BSU) retreat. Sitting at a campfire with the group of college students, God and I had a conversation. And I became serious about my Christian walk. I began truly putting Him first. At the BSU, I began to put my faith into practice. I led devotions, went to local churches and gave a testimony, helped with a boys after school group, organized BSU sports teams who played in open campus leagues as a witness. And I began to learn about leading in the church as president at the BSU and planning weekly worship services.
- As a twenty five year old, I answered God's call to full time Christian service. I left my job at US Steel and went to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. I would end up with five years of education and two degrees there. There is no way to measure how much that has made it possible for me to be a pastor.
- And Gloria. She, too, was active in college at the BSU. She would go to those same local churches and sing solos. While she worked on her music degree, she became director of the BSU choir leading them on tours to places like St. Louis and having the choir sing concerts in the middle of our campus.
- Gloria also served as a summer missionary in northern Indiana. She was one of the pioneers in resort missions, serving through the BSU and the Home Mission Board (NAMB now).
- Gloria sang at several Alabama State Youth Conventions.
- She finished the last of her undergraduate courses at Samford.

I could list lots of other local church activities for both of us. God has used families, local churches and many other things to grow us more like Jesus.

Did you catch the similarities in the things above? They all happened because of Southern Baptist ministries. And none of them would have been possible without the Cooperative Program. No RA camps. No BSU. No Baptist colleges. Or seminaries. Greatly reduced Mission Boards – NAMB and IMB. No state youth conventions.

The Cooperative Program is how Southern Baptists have financed shared ministries since 1925, almost a hundred years. It is a way to do missions now. And a way to invest in the future through education and opportunities. Each church gives what they choose, and Baptists decide together where it will go.

I failed to explain the Cooperative Program during the last few years. My bad. I thought enough of us had grown up with it to understand it. Did you know all of these are supported by the Cooperative Program – Shocco, ALCAP, Samford, Judson and University of Mobile, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Children's Homes, Retirement Centers, the Alabama Baptist. Disaster Relief and World Hunger. And nationally six seminaries and international and local missions.

These are Christian missions now. And investing for missions and local church ministry and leadership in the future. They are how Southern Baptists work together to change the world for Jesus Christ.

Southern Baptists invested a lot in Gloria and me. Collinsville Baptist would have almost certainly never have known us without that investment. So thank you for being faithful in your giving. At a time when many congregations are ignoring shared ministries (they do not play well with others), may we always share with others.



**Annie
Armstrong
Offering
for North
American
Missions**

Week of Prayer –
March 6 – 13

National Goal -- \$70 Million
**Church Goal –
\$2016 in 2016**



To the family of Jennifer &
Rick Wilkins in the loss of his
father, Ellis Wilkins.

To the family of Lamar Smith
who passed away January 6th.

To the family of John & Gloria
Morgan in the loss of her
mother, Mary Roberts.

To the family of Sandra
Matthews in the loss of her
husband Don Matthews.



To Phillip and Lisa (Gibbs)
Nickerson who were married on
December 30th.

We congratulate all our youth
and children who played on lots
of basketball, football,
volleyball and other teams in
the fall. Our church was well
represented by young people
who put their faith on display.
And in gymnastics, martial arts
and lots of other things.

Alabama Primary Election

Tuesday, March 1

Are You Registered?

If not, contact DeKalb County Board of Registrars
111 Grand Avenue, S.W. Suite 105
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967
256-845-8598 • 256-845-8529

Or register by mail-in form downloaded from the Secretary of State's
website at: www.alabamavotes.gov

Mission Giving in Fall

- World Hunger Offering - \$553
- Operation Christmas Child – 47 Boxes
- Thanksgiving Food Boxes – 45 (31 last year)
- Lottie Moon Offering - \$2123
- Cooperative Program - \$625
- Associational Missions - \$180

Other – The Giving Tree has helped many local families with food, the churches of Collinsville have helped several people with food, gas and/or lodging, some of you helped with Christmas for families who needed help, you fed about 70 kids every Wednesday night and an entire football team and cheerleaders here once, you gave children candy at Trunk or Treat and you threw more candy from the Christmas parade float.



Dear Church:
Thanks for all the
support and Christian love in various
ways toward my family and for your
truest prayers. God Bless!
Mrs. Jerry Delk

Thank you for your Christmas gift
from the church. And thank you for
all the ways you showed us that you
love us during the Christmas season
– gifts, calls, visits, your faithfulness
in church. And for all who helped
and attended Gloria's mom's 96th
birthday reception and celebration.

And we want to add – thank you all
for showing such love to us with the
passing this week of Gloria's mom.
You did so much to make her at
home here. She said over and over
that this felt more like home than her
church back in Nashville. We will
miss her. Your love will make the
loss easier.

Men's Day
Sunday, February 7

- 9:00 Breakfast for Everybody
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship
- Men in Choir
- Speaker – James Payton

Noon - Youth Sponsored Lunch
Donations Accepted
But Not Required at Lunch

Ash Wednesday
February 10
Lent Begins

Easter
Sunday March 27

Feed My Starving Children
Service Day in Rainsville
on April 30

**Music Leadership Children's
Choir Summit, Shocco**
July 8-9, 2016
Summer Music Camp at Shocco
July 11-15

Disaster Relief Training

DEKALB BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION
MARCH 4-5, 2016

Contact Ken Allen 256-347-2449
for details of how you can be
certified to help during times of
disaster.

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Birthday Charlie Godshall Jacob Preston	2	3 Birthday David Ryan W.O.W. 6:00 p.m.	4	5 Birthday Colton Pendergrass	6 Birthday Brooke Jones Sarah Morgan
7 Flowers Birthday Kimberly Brown Bev Petty	8 Birthday Judy Jones	9	10 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m. 5:40 Supper 6:00 Children's Choirs CBC Youth 7:00 Adult Choir	11	12 Birthday Josh Alexander	13
14 Lord's Supper Clyde & Sandra Killian Birthday Lorenza Ramirez	15 Birthday Adam McKinney Anniversary Bennie & Carl Clayton	16	17 Birthday Jo Ann Burton Deacon's Meeting 6:00 5:40 Supper 6:00 Children's Choirs CBC Youth 7:00 Adult Choir	18 Birthday Buddy Acker	19 Birthday Carmen Barkley	20
21 Flowers Birthday Rebecca Fields Mark Morgan	22	23	24 Birthday Clay Gifford Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m. 5:40 Supper 6:00 Children's Choirs CBC Youth 7:00 Adult Choir	25 Birthday Autumn Barkley	26 Birthday Ashley Kasinger	27 Birthday Abigale Garroute Anniversary Phyllis & Mickey Jones
28 Flowers Marilyn Borntreger Birthday Bronner Jones	29	Christian Ladies of Collinsville Spring Retreat March 5, 2016 - Theme: "Don't Give Up" Please begin praying for the retreat and gathering items to contribute to the <u>Upscale Yard Sale</u> - Which will be used to help cover costs of the event.				

News from the Ministry Meeting – The church has decided to remove the wall in the fellowship hall and to put new air conditioning and heat in that area. Other decisions about the area will be made as the project proceeds.



God's Box of Chocolates--A Valentine's Day Devotional

by [LauraLee Shaw](#)

Everywhere I look near Valentine's Day, there's chocolate: boxes of chocolate in all the stores, chocolate on tv promising to be the only love you need, chocolate girl scout cookies--CHOCOLATE! I even saw chocolate Altoid breath mints in the grocery checkout aisle the other day! I think that's what led me to remember the famous quote from Forrest Gump: "Life is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're gonna get." (I even remembered it with his accent.)

In reality, that phrase can be true in many ways. We wake up every morning completely unsure of what the day may hold for us. We've made our plans. Sometimes they even happen the way we make them. But we never know for sure, do we?

The days that come with caramel in the middle are my favorite. The ones with the strawberry goo are just so so--but the ones with coconut--YUCK! I'd rather go back to bed. Then there's the days where tragedy or difficult times come out of nowhere, and the chocolate sits in the pantry untouched...there's no sweetness to be had in those moments, it seems.

God knows that life as it pertains to circumstances is uncertain for us. That's why He comforts us and reminds us so many times that He is our constant companion, our steadfast friend, our consistently loving God and Savior. He doesn't keep promises the way we do:

"When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they'll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee His promises, He gave His word, a rock-solid guarantee--God can't break His word. And because His word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable." (Heb. 6:16-18, the Message)

You see, no matter what chocolate we are "in the middle of" right now, He is there--with the certainty of His promise today as well as His hope of heaven in the future. Listen to how the verse above continues to encourage us: (vs.19-20)

"We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up His permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek."

I love the visual picture of grabbing on to Him with both hands as He runs ahead of me to the Father. That makes me able to get up today and praise Him for whatever comes my way. This faith, this confidence, this hope is our unbreakable spiritual lifeline--HIS love for us no matter what, when, how or why. Let's binge on His priceless box of chocolates today...the sweetest and most satisfying of them all.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." Psalm 34:8