



The Cross & Steeple

www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com

November 2016

On my way to Scottsboro. 45 minute drive. Radio? No. I need the quiet of riding in the car alone.

Wait. Maybe not alone. A great opportunity to spend time with God. Let's see if I can see Him anywhere.

The side of the interstate. October in Alabama. I look at the maple leaves. And then the oak. Color differences. You and I would have never thought of that. Subtle colors and shapes. That shout the greatness of God. The green of Alabama cedars. Might make a good Christmas tree. God thought of trees that change color and trees that stay green. I see Him here.

Beautiful blue sky. Big, puffy clouds. A song lyric from a youth musical – “cotton candy clouds so fluffy and white. Who put you there in the sky so blue? Or do you just happen to float along?” No. God put 'em there. He thought that up. Thank you God for your sky.

Down the ramp off the interstate. Up the mountain. Look at the limestone cliffs. God made limestone. Great for having caves. Great for making mountains. And crumbling into rocks for driveways and little boys to throw. Thank you for rocks and mountains.

Small towns. Where everybody knows your name. Little churches. With signs. And crosses. Places that want you to know they see God every day, too.

Top of the mountain in Section. Pull over and look into the Tennessee Valley. The volume just went up. Shouting God's presence. Kind of makes you gasp at the beauty. How could anybody look off this mountain and not see God? The river reflecting the afternoon light off the wind blown surface. A golden glow. Mountains and hills going down into the river. Covered in green. And fall colors. Boats cutting white wakes on the river. Stop. Be quiet. He is here. You can see His fingerprints everywhere.

Back on the road and down Sand Mountain. Across the river. In the shallows lots of growth in the water. And over there is a cluster of egrets. Leaning their white heads down to hunt for a late fish lunch. One lifts its wings and begins to fly. God made that bird. I slow down to watch the bird. And I tell God how great He is. And I wonder. “When you made this world did you know I would sit here one day and praise you?” Too deep to wonder. I just drink it in while I enjoy your birds. Forty five minutes with God. And all He made. What could be better than this?

I pull into the parking lot where I am meeting my son, Joseph. We get out and hug each other. And it is a lot better than the view. God gave me this son. And I love him. And I love God for giving Gloria and I such a gift. Our sons. Thank you, God. It is really easy to see you when I look at Joseph or his brothers.

Thank you for the gifts of our four sons. And for the gift of Your Son. You only had one. And you gave Him to us. Now that is God speaking to us.

And He wants to speak to you. You might try it the next time you have a 45 minute drive. Or you could just listen to the radio. But remember, at the Thanksgiving table somebody is going to ask you what you are thankful for. You could get ready for that question now.

Recently our pastor asked us, “Would you be willing to tell of a time when someone in our church offered encouragement to you? It was not the first time he’s asked us to respond in morning worship in this or some similar way, and it is always meaningful. Frequently, I have said a few words. However, this particular Sunday I was flooded with memories of times when I have been encouraged by so many of you. In the many years we have been part of the Collinsville Baptist Church family, you have walked beside us, sharing our burdens, multiplying our joys.

Some of you were here when Morgan babies were born, when our sons went through kindergarten Graduation and elementary sports, children’s choir programs and church youth musicals. You were our family when our extended family could not be here. Some of you had a part in elementary and high school classes, or taught Sunday School. There were high school sports and band and proms and graduations, their college allegiances, graduations, even weddings. You have always been encouragers, even in the years since as sons have pursued various careers. We are so grateful.

Perhaps some of you remember years ago when the pastorium burned. The church, and our whole community, could not have been more supportive, caring, compassionate. You assisted in so many practical ways, as well. Your generosity was overwhelming. Then later, you helped make it possible for us to have a home of our own. You moved walls, sheet rocked, redid stairs and closets and rebuilt bathrooms, caulked and painted and helped with heating and cooling, flooring. You were amazing, and we are still so grateful.

There have been other times of heart ache, disappointment, sorrow, and you have been ready to walk with us through those times, as well, including the sudden death of my father on his sixtieth birthday years ago, the death of my husband’s parents, and the years of care giving and death of my mother nine months ago. You lavished your love upon us, and it was such an encouragement.

You have shared calls and cards and food and gifts at Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, other holidays and ordinary days. You have sometimes blessed us with anticipating our needs – even before we realized we had them. You have volunteered for things at church or offered other kinds of assistance. Sometimes you have shared encouragement from the wealth of your experience, or offered a Scripture that was meaningful to you and ministered to us.

Is it any wonder that I might have trouble telling of a time when someone in our church offered me encouragement? What a blessing you have been. What encouragers you are! God has been so good to give us you as our church family. Thank you for your continuing prayers and encouragement.

With love and prayers, we wish you all the blessings of God in this holiday season.
Your sister in Christ and fellow servant,
Gloria Morgan

Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 6

International Day of Prayer

For the Persecuted Church
November 6

Halloween

Monday, October 31

All Saints Day Observed

October 30

Trunk or Treat

Downtown Collinsville

5:00 Until

Halloween Night

Help Downtown or bring
candy and leave it at church
for volunteers to give away.

Election Day

Tuesday, Nov 8
7 -7

Turkey Trot

Saturday, November 12, 10 –
3

Food, fun and Games.

Antique Car and Tractor
Show

Turkey Shoot, Cake Walk
5K Run up and down

Lookout Mountain.

And Historic “Turkey Toss”

Volunteers Needed to Staff
Church Information Booth

Volunteer for an hour or for
the day.

**Community Thanksgiving
Service**

Sunday, November 20

Calvary Hosting

Collinsville Baptist Speaker

Please bring canned goods
and names of people who
might appreciate a food box.

Thanksgiving 5:00

Thursday, November 26

Lighting of Town Tree

Volunteers needed to

Serve drinks

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 27

He Is Here

**Community Christmas
Service**

December 4 6:00

Rehearsals begin on

November 13. 3:30-5:00

We hope that this will be
presented at a Collinsville
landmark: the iconic Cricket
Theater. If not, it will be
held in our church.

**Collinsville Christmas
Parade**

Saturday, December 10
3:30

Let Us Know If You Are
Doing a Float

To Live Is Christ

Sunday mornings in November

A Sermon Series From

Philippians

**World Hunger Relief
Offering**

Please Be Sure that
You Have Brought Your
Loaves Back to Church

**The Collinsville Senior
Center**

Wants You to Come Join Them

8:00 A.M. – Noon

Monday – Friday

Seniors 60 and over meet to
socialize, share, play games
and other fun activities.

Lunch is Served at 11

Transportation Available at
256-524-2550

**Sunday, October 30 -- Fall in
the Park**

**Desoto State Park Picnic
Area**

Join Us There

Pick Up a Parking Pass at
church for the Picnic Area

Lunch at 1:00, Worship at 2:00

Wear casual clothes and bring

a friend to enjoy Christian

fellowship and God’s beautiful
creation.

November Birthdays

1 Jessica Shankles,
Victoria Morales

3 Daniel Borntrager, Curtis
Williams

4 Chris De La O

5 Deborah Redditt

7 Andy Myers

8 Sarah Jones

9 Mickey Jones

12 Jennifer Wright

14 Johnathan De La Cruz

16 Bobbie Jones

17 Belinda Barksdale

18 Jennifer Smith Wilkins

21 Shane Barkley

22 Kevin Godshall, Angie
Shankles, Sam Shankles

23 Clyde Killian, Gracie
Foster, Brooklyn Barksdale

25 Janet Nelson

28 Joyce McKee, Juana
Ramirez

29 Sheila Smith, Jacqui
Roberts, Jimmy
Cunningham

30 Brittany Rivera

November Anniversaries

3 Jackie and JoAnn Myers

16 Brad and Belinda
Barksdale

22 Annette and Frank
Wardrup

23 Fred and Carolyn
Shankles

24 Clyde and Sandra
Killian

25 Katrin and Ronald
Smith

November Wednesdays

5:20 Supper
5:50 AWANA
Youth Group
7:00 Sanctuary Choir
Youth Praise Team

Wednesday Specials
WOW November 2
No Church Activities
November 23

November Volunteers for
Lord's Supper – Clyde and
Sandra Killian

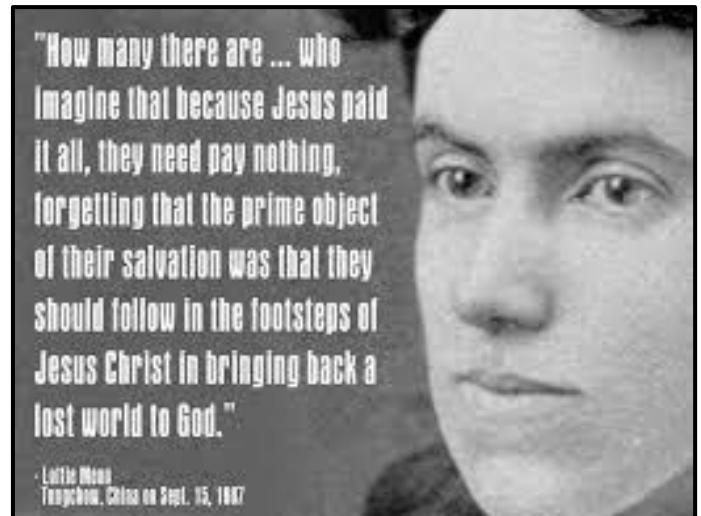
Alabama Baptist
Children's Homes
Christmas **Open House** is
Sunday December 4 from
2-5 in Decatur.

Carol Zulker address -187
Norwood Street, Section,
Alabama 35771

Her Her phone numbers are:
256-228-3281
256-418-0943



Presents Due to Church November 13



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Beginning November 20
Week of Prayer
December 4-11
Church Goal: \$2,000



Approved
Workmen
Are
Not
Ashamed

2 Timothy 2:15

AWANA

Cubbies – Pre K and K

Sparks – Grades 1-3

T & T – Grades 4-6 (Truth and Training)

On Wednesday Nights

5:20 – 5:50 Supper

5:50 – 7:00 AWANA – Bible Study, Recreation and Classroom with Lots of Workbook

Our Youth Will Continue Youth Group And Praise Team on Wednesdays

We are so very thankful for your children coming out for AWANA.

We are so very thankful for all the adults who are helping with AWANA – teaching, driving, listening to memory work.

We are so very thankful for all those who have sacrificed to prepare meals each Wednesday.

Collinsville Baptist Church
P. O. Box 558
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