



Collinsville Baptist Church

*A Light
On A Hill*

March 2017



Mama, my grandmother, had moved into an Assisted Living/Nursing Home in her home town of Nashville. This was hard for all of us. Mama was the matriarch, the center of our family. She gave us constant love and encouragement to accomplish great things. And she showed us what a Christian was and taught us how important the church and family are. We were all having trouble coping with the idea of Mama being near to the end.

Mama seemed to handle the whole thing better than us. When we visited, she was still Mama. She was just living in a single room with only a few of her antiques and family items. She was still the family head. Our heart.

The next time we went to Nashville, Gloria and I found ourselves leading our boys to that room where Mama now lived. She told us that we needed to go to the activity room, a large room with lots of chairs, a couple of tables and a piano. She introduced us to some of the other residents who all seemed remarkably uninterested. Mama was sure that they just needed to know us a little better.

So she moved us to the front of the room. She turned around as if in our old home church, and said, "This is my grandson, Butch. He is a preacher." A pause to give them time to appreciate how great I was. I would have been embarrassed if anyone was paying attention. Undeterred, Mama said, "He is going to bring us a devotion (complete news to me, I began to rack my brain for a quick, appropriate idea.

Fortunately I had time to think about it. Mama was not through.) “And this is his son John who is an excellent pianist. He is going to play us a song now.” Not terror on John’s face, but close to it. She sat down in the front row to enjoy us.

John was about twelve. He went to the piano and played something. I remember he did an amazing job. Gloria led a song or two. Music over, they sat down. I stood up and read a little Scripture and gave a few thoughts.

As I looked at the first row of seats, I saw a relieved Mark, Matthew and Joseph who realized they were not next. I saw Gloria smile at me encouragingly. I looked at the other three or four rows. Residents who were mostly awake but obviously not listening or caring about any of this. Ready to go back to watching television.

And in the middle of the front row, I saw Mama beaming. So full of pride. Unaware of the others in the room. Certain that they had to be amazed at her grandson and his family. Remembering her smile still brings tears to my eyes.

As we walked back toward her room, she nodded to the others in the room. She did not say it, but her look said, “My family. Really something aren’t they?” We walked down the hall, thankful the show was over.

Mama was not with us much longer. She and I talked in her room one day not long after this. She wanted to talk about what was coming and the funeral she wanted. She felt relief knowing it would be done the way she wanted it done. The right way. She knew that while we dealt with her funeral she would be in heaven with Jesus and with my Granddaddy. She was prepared.

I will always be thankful for seeing Mama in the front row that day. Smiling at me. Light glinting off of her glasses. A little nod. Her smile telling me how much she loved me. And how proud she was of me.

I like to think it was the look she got when she entered heaven. The look on the face of Jesus as he opened His arms to her. Love and pride. Well done, Mama.

As you make your way through Lent toward Easter this year, I hope you will ask yourself a question. What look will Jesus give you one day?



**Sunday Morning
Worship During Lent**

– The Journey to the Cross – March 5, Temptation of Jesus; March 12, Nicodemus; March 19, The Woman at the Well; March 26, The Man Born Blind; April 2, Lazarus; April 9, Palm Sunday and the Cross; April 16, The Resurrection

**Sermon on the Mount
Bible Study**

Fellowship Hall
Sundays of Lent at
5:00 March
5,12,19,26, April 2

**Ash Wednesday –
Lent Begins** March 1

Week of Prayer for
North American
Missions March 5-12

**Daylight Savings
Time Begins –
Sunday, March 12**

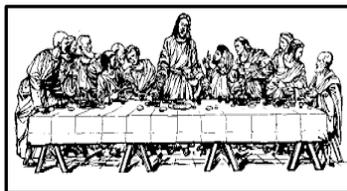


Spring Break DeKalb
and Fort Payne
Schools – March 27-31
No AWANA during
week

Palm Sunday April 9

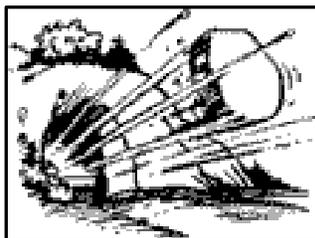
**Quarterly Ministry
Meeting and Covered
Dish Dinner**
Sunday, April 9

Maundy Thursday
April 13 6:00 Service
at Church



Good Friday April 14

Easter Sunday April
16



6:15 A.M. Sunrise
Service and Breakfast
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

**National Day of
Prayer** Thursday,
May 4

Mother's Day Sunday,
May 14

**Collinsville High
School Baccalaureate**
Sunday May 21 6:00
Harvest Center

**Collinsville High
School Graduation**
Monday May 22 6:00
Gadsden State
Coliseum, Centre

Last Day of School
May 25 or 26

**Regular Wednesday
Night Schedule**
Supper 5:20 Awana
5:50-7:00
Youth Group 6:00
Youth Praise Team
7:00 Sanctuary Choir
7:00
Youth WOW on First
Wednesday Night
Each Month at 6:00



Feed My Starving Children April 29, Rainsville Civic Center (DeKalb Schools Center) The goal this year is to have 600 volunteers pack at least 120,000 meals and need to raise \$26,400 to pay for the food to prepare the meals (22cents per meal). Last year's efforts had 501 volunteers, 531 boxes packed, 114,696 meals and 314 kids fed for an entire year!

Youth are selling Boston Shoulders as they have in the past. They are \$30 for the first, 2 for \$50 and 3 for \$75, etc. Please see any youth or youth leader from now until March 29. They will be delivered Saturday, April 8. Please pay when you order. Luke may be reached at 256-717-4268.

Tentative Youth Mission Trips 1.

Arizona June 1-10
Native American Missions

For Youth Leaders

2. Destin Florida

Mission Church

Planting July 3-7 For All Youth

Lord's Supper

Volunteers for March – Clyde and Sandra Killian

Men's Day on

February 19 was a glorious service.

Johnnie Mack

Edwards, Daniel Smith and Donny Jones all brought great

messages. As always, it was a blessing to see the choir full with

males of all ages. And

thank you for your giving and tithing in the service and at the Youth Dinner afterwards.

Operation Christmas

Child – March Gift

Suggestions – Hats, gloves, scarves

Did You Know –

DeKalb Baptist

Association sponsors

Howard's Chapel

ministry. The rock church building

belongs to the association, and the

pastor is partially paid by the association. In

December, there were 350 weekday visitors

who signed the guestbook at the

church, 203 from

Alabama, 145 from

other states and 2 from other countries. There

is a service there each Sunday with locals and

with guests from the park.

And a pastor will be recommended for the

Hispanic Church in Kilpatrick at a

Executive Committee Meeting on Monday,

March 6.

The association also

has a **Christian counselor**, Michel

Bozeman, who comes to the Associational

office every

Wednesday. Contact at 256-504-9752.



Church Goal

\$2,000

**Week of Prayer for
North American
Missions March 5-12**

Collinsville Baptist
Church

Non-
profit Permit
Imprint
P.O. Box 558

Permit
Number 2
Collinsville, AL
35961

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