



# FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Fall 2009

But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end. (Psalms 73:16-17 KJV)

## End of the Chapter

Right before He died and went back to the Father in heaven Jesus said, "It is finished!" He had accomplished what he had been sent by God to do. For 33 years he turned things upside down. From the moment he entered into the world as a baby many were alienated by his presence and others were mesmerized. He said that He came to the world not to bring peace but a sword. (Matt. 10:34). His words cut a lot of people, but many who came to Him to them He gave power to become children of God. Paul said these words, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, now is laid up for me a crown of righteous-

ness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not for me only, but unto all them that love his appearing. (2 Tim 4:7-8). Those were Paul's parting words to Timothy.

When it's over, things can get back on track. It's not the end but the beginning. A seed cannot bear fruit unless it first falls into the ground and dies. (John 12:24). My dad died when I was in the twelfth grade. He took sick one August day and died in October. For three months we travelled 30 miles every day to the hospital. The seventh floor waiting room had become our living room. Time was passing before our very eyes but we didn't realize it until it was over. We were able to look back and see how

the Lord had sustained us through it all. We were able to get on with our lives. At the end of a lot of things there is a celebration. He's the only one who can take the end and make it the beginning. He said I am alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He is the only one who can bring out the best in us when the wine runs out. Jesus said, "A woman when she is in labor has sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembers no more the pain, for joy that a child is born into the world." (John 16:21). So, when Jesus said "It is finished!" it was the end of a chapter not the end of the book. In the next chapter Jesus made his appearances and even sat down with his disciples and cooked fish to confirm what He had told them. Each day, I keep learning more and more about Him through His Word.



The opinions expressed herein does not necessarily represent the views and opinions of Friendship Baptist Church



Happy 4th of July

## Westend Park



The Westend Park on 8th Street located on the corner down the street from Friendship Baptist Church was dedicated on May 30, 2009. On hand were Mayor Walt Maddox, Councilman Howard, Councilman Taylor,

Chief Steve Anderson, and Director of PARA Don Kelly. Friendship Baptist Church was honored to be on hand and selected as the Westend Park Adopted Partner. We are very excited to be apart of the renovation and upkeep of the park.

PARA has worked with the church through the upgrade process.

We applaud PARA

and the Mayor of Tuscaloosa for giving our community a voice into the enhancements to the Westend Park. Let us take pride in keeping our community and park a safe environment. Report all suspicious behavior to the proper authorities.

Many thanks to all who worked with the Brotherhood and Friendship for making the dedication ceremony a great success.

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## The City of Damascus

It was Sunday morning in Kansas City, MO and I was getting ready to take that long drive home. I turned on the tube and caught a little of Joel Osteen which would be the closes I would get to attending church services other than a service here and there on the radio. Those who have driven long distances know that you have to be mentally prepared for the journey and any help along the way makes the trip interesting.

Since it was Sunday morning I started checking out the churches and based on the cars outside they were all open for business. That led me to ask by son what comes to his mind when I termed the phrase, "The Church is Open for Business." He pleaded the fifth. I broke it down to him. When the stores are open what are you going for? He said to shop. When the restaurants are open, what are you going for? He said to eat.

That did it and he said that the church was open to serve up some spiritual food. Good answer. It was my prayer that everyone who went got filled and was energized enough to go out into the streets and shop. In other words, bring salvation to someone.

I was really intrigued by a road sign that said Damascus one mile ahead. I was tempted to check it out but I think the GPS would have said take the first legal U-turn and my wife would have thought I was crazy. I had to just use my imagination. I wondered were there any churches on the Damascus road. How did the city get its' name? Okay, I know Saul was not in Missouri when he met Jesus on the Damascus Road but it did lead to some pretty interesting thoughts. You see Saul was on his way to kill Christians, so there had to be some Christians in the

city of Damascus. I hope they were warned that Saul was on his way. Chances are they would not have gone to church that day or they would have been so ready, they would have said bring it on. The people in Damascus knew Jesus because it was there that Jesus met Saul. He already knew about him, but I feel He had gotten tired of Saul kicking against Him. Saul consented to Stephens' death and had many Christians bound and persecuted. It was time for a metamorphosis. Jesus knocked him to the ground, blinded him and asked him, "Why are you persecuting me." (Acts 9:4) When you mess with my people you are messing with me (paraphrasing). Ananias, a disciple, lived in Damascus and it was he whom the Lord sent to Straight Street for Saul to receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Do you need a breakthrough? Do you know of someone who can get a prayer through? Well, I didn't get to Damascus, but that

road sign and a good imagination took me many miles down the road. If we live in a city like Damascus, we are in a pretty good place. Some great slogans for the city of Damascus could read, "A Name Changer" or "When you come to Damascus, you'll never be the same" or "Damascus, Don't mess with us." Saul died that day on the Damascus Road, but Paul lived to tell about it.



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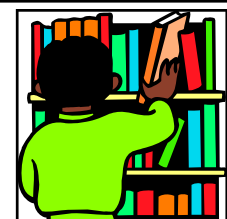
## Community News

1. Save our community by recycling. If several persons are interested in having a receptacle and you want curve side recycling in your area then call 311 and request details.
2. Clothing Bank is open on the first

- and third Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 12 noon in the Education Building.
3. Councilman's report for District 1 [http://www.tuscaloosa.com/archives/34/Spring\\_2009\\_1.pdf](http://www.tuscaloosa.com/archives/34/Spring_2009_1.pdf)
4. Can't beat 'em, join 'em. The Phoe-

- nix House Mustard Tree Thrift Store located in the Phoenix House gym. Check 'em out.
5. WIA Summer Job Program was just what the doctor ordered to help put some young people to work. Call (205)759-2576

1. Recycling
2. Clothing Bank
3. Council 1 Newsletter
4. Mustard Tree
5. WIA Summer Job Program



We are losing way too many times. Here in Tuscaloosa we have churches saturated throughout, but yet it appears as though we are losing. Just last month alone, I've seen many of our people fall subject to crime because they chose to listen to the wrong voices. They don't believe that putting all their trust in the Lord will make a difference in their lives or they just don't care.

What can we do as Christians inside of our church buildings? Every once in a while we have

someone come in wanting to be saved, but more often than not they aren't coming to church. It appears as though we are losing because we see even those who are attending our services fall prey to Satan's devices. We are not diligent enough. We aren't willing to openly wear the armor of God. Jesus said in John 6:39-40 that the will of God is that he loses none of those the Father has given Him. And in John 17:12 Jesus said none has been lost except the one doomed to destruction to fulfill the scriptures.

Jesus directs us on how to accomplish this liability. First we must have power, so tarry until you receive His power. If we don't have His power we'll give up along the way. Luke 15 talks about our role concerning those who are lost. Jesus said concerning the one lost sheep to leave the 99 sheep and go after the one sheep that goes astray. If each one (in our congregations) teaches one, we could make a lot of progress. Jesus didn't send us out to overwhelm us, but broke it down to one at a time. The lady that lost her

coin, she searched diligently until she found it then called others to rejoice with her. The prodigal son started out in his father's house but realized when he reached life's rock bottom that he needed to come back home. The father received him joyfully. So let us stop looking at the masses and look at it one person at a time. Judas was the only one that was lost of all the disciples God gave Jesus. Do you know those whom God has given you? How are you doing with them? It should be our desire not to lose any that the Lord sends to us. On a daily basis we are surrounded by family, friends, coworkers, and others whom the Lord has placed in our paths.

## Fighting Against God?

Who can win against God? When God is in a thing there is nothing you can do to change it. Sometime it looks so bad that we say surely this could not be of God, but it could very well be God. You know even Satan cannot operate unless God allows him too. You see God can take traumatic circumstances and change a whole nation. God allowed the horrible cir-

cumstances of 911 but the aftermath brought people together. Look at the Katrina disaster; people reached out across all kinds of boundaries to help one another. That's why it is never a good idea to act like we are above God. He will let us think we got it going on for a while, and then he brings us to our senses.

The Sadducees rose up against the Apostles and put them in

prison, but God opened the prison doors because you can't shut God up. They found them in the temple speaking to the people. Peter told the council we are going to obey God rather than men. Dr. Gamaliel, a Pharisee stood up and cautioned them not to touch these men. He reminded them of Theudas, a man of stature with his 400 men were slain and brought to nothing. He said Judas of Galilee perished and all who followed

him were dispersed. Now Dr. Gamaliel speaks in the present tense. Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this council or this work is of men, it will come to nothing: but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it; you will be found fighting against God. The council agreed with him, gave the apostles a reprimand, beat them and let them go. The apostles left the council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus name. But daily in the temple and the outer courts they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ. (Acts 5:12-42)

## Are You Sure?

Raise your hand if you are sure. My favorite deodorant is Arm & Hammer because it really works for me, but recently I couldn't find it on the store shelves and had to settle for Sure deodorant for men. One popular commercial for Sure deodorant was "Raise your hands if you are sure." Recently, I did bible study for the teens and I was trying to use that commercial to transition into the lesson but it may have been just a little before their time. So, I had to explain it a little more than I

had intended too. I had to keep it from becoming a lesson on hygiene. The bottom line was, "Are you sure you are a Christian. If you know beyond a reasonable doubt raise your hand. So we looked at 2 Peter 1:3-10. It states that we have everything we need for life and Godliness through Jesus. He has given us precious promises so that we may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world and evil desires. To be

Christ like, we need to have faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, Godliness, brotherly kindness and love. If we possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep us from being ineffective and unproductive in Christ Jesus. If we don't possess these qualities we are blind and has forgotten that we have been cleansed from our past sins. Therefore be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure.

For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So are you sure? The following verses gave us the ingredients to a rich life in Christ here and after. Christ died an agonizing death and there were many who still didn't believe until it was too late. The Roman centurion said Surely He was the Son of God. They chose Barabbas who represented sin rather than the righteousness of Christ.



*What are we up too?*

Bible Study for Youth. Younger Children are taught by Sis. Linda Beale, Pre-teens are taught by Sis. Linda Coleman, and Teens are taught by Dea. Key. Adult bible study is taught by Rev. Hamner, and then Prayer and Praise Services. Bible Study classes are every Wednesday night at 6 p.m.

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There is a new tool available to our members to connect with other church members and even members who may be oversees or in other parts of the globe. You can also connect with people from other churches and faith. This tool also allows you to view photos, and listen to our choirs. To connect go online to:  
<http://www.mychurch.org/friendshiptuscaloosa>

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- (1) Vacation Bible School, June 8-12, 2009, 6 - 8 p.m.
- (2) Church Picnic, June 13, 2009, 2 p.m. at the Lions Club
- (3) Youth Day, June 14, 2009, 3 p.m.
- (4) State Convention/ Selma, June 17-18
- (5) Northwest Convention/Tuscaloosa, July 15
- (6) Usher Day, July 19, 2009
- (7) NABD Congress Jul 21-23
- (8) NABD Conv, August 17-20
- (9) Homecoming, Sept. 6
- (10) Westend Comm. Fun Day, Sept. 26

"Everyone's Welcome Aboard the Ship"



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*Have a Great Summer/Fall - 2009!!!*

**Church Parking**

Parking designated as Phoenix House Parking Only should not be utilized for FBC functions. Please honor their requests by not parking in those spaces in and around the Phoenix House property. Thank you. Church parking consists of the parking lot **A** across from Phoenix House, the parking lot **B** across from the church, the parking lot **C** across the street from the Activity Center on 8<sup>th</sup> street, the parking lot **D** between the Education Building and Activity Center off 7<sup>th</sup> street, and parking lot **E** across the street on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in the Indian Rivers parking lot.



Now, they're trying to tell us where to park.

