

Why I Like Congregational A Cappella Singing

by Emily Hopkins

When I am away from home on a Sunday morning and don't know anyone as I sit down with fellow-Christians who moments ago were total strangers, when the songleader raises a hand and starts the song, as everyone around me chimes in with the same words of the same song, I sigh and know that I am among family.

It's not just a nostalgic memory from the way I was raised. Singing hymns with the brethren is much deeper.

When we sing – when we ALL sing together – suddenly it's not just the teacher or preacher proclaiming God's goodness and greatness, now we are all vocalizing the truth. We are not just politely nodding our heads in agreement, we are actively confessing Christ with our voices and hearts.

There is something stirring about being in a group of people all "singing their hearts out." Sometimes I take a moment and just listen...just listen to how many voices are singing praise to God. The camaraderie I feel when the whole church is singing together is truly moving. It reminds me of an army (which we are) chanting loudly, pumping one another up, proclaiming that God IS alive, that in Christ we have victory! How much more powerful it is to hear the whole church singing than a select few. I wonder if all the loud sounds of a praise band can compare with the Lord's church singing en masse?

But we are just human and all have our weaknesses, and that's something else I love to hear.

When sitting among the brethren I can hear the individual voices as they strive to stay together, harmonize, and stay on beat. I hear the used-up, crackly voice of the old man in front of me. It's worn out from years of song-leading. I hear the boisterous enthusiastic chorus from the little boy who sometimes gets the words wrong; the sweet frail voice of the widow down the pew is wrapped with strong conviction and fierce loyalty; the young lady who sings loudly (and sometimes off-key), but with all the heartfelt emotion that she can muster.

The strong young well-trained voices may be more appealing to some; they probably are easier on the ears. But consider the fact that God never mentioned our ears when it comes to singing!

So why would this mismatched group of voices be so appealing to me? Certainly it lacks the polish of a practiced choir. And most of the voices can't compete with the clear beauty and showmanship of a soloist. But my heart swells with love and pride when I hear them. These are God's singers. We don't need anyone to tell us how we sound. We don't need the extra sounds of accompanying instruments. This is the fruit of our lips, our simple, unshowy, sincere praise.

And so dear brethren, sing! Sing out! Sing on! Sing to our God the king!

(Emily Hopkins is a member of the Lawn, Texas church of Christ where her husband serves as a deacon; a sometime visitor here at Fayetteville; and the oldest daughter of Dave and Luann Rogers. She penned these thoughts after a recent visit here.)

“He Who Rules... Must Be Just”

(2 Samuel 23:3)
by Dave Rogers

This year brings us another presidential campaign and election. Since the campaigning started in earnest nearly a year ago, this may mean we have to suffer another whole year of accusations and mudslinging! Whether our next leader is addressed as “Mr.” or “Madame” President, I am reminded of some words about king David that carry an important message for those in positions of power and authority today. We know that “... there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God...For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil” (Romans 13:1 & 3). It is important for us to understand that regardless of whether we like or dislike our civic leaders (either personally or politically), they occupy their positions because our God allows it. This is why Paul wrote “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers” (Romans 13:1), and Peter tells us to “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake” (1 Peter 2:13). Civil governments should be **allies** of God’s people, not enemies: If and when men abuse the authority entrusted to them, however, using positions of power and influence to encourage evil, we have a responsibility as children of God to cry out against their conduct. God wants legislators’ and judges’ and our president’s souls saved as much as He does the soul of a ditch-digger. Heaven’s definition of “just” rulership in 2 Samuel 23:3 is that a just ruler rules “in the fear of God.” Such a one will be blessed by God and loved by those he rules.

In our great land, we enjoy the rare privilege of choosing our own leaders. In exercising this privilege, our judgement ought to be tempered by biblical values, trying to select those whose values most nearly reflect the standards of Christ. Because people who do NOT hold Christian values also have a say in picking our leaders, we sometimes end up with leaders who are antagonistic to godly, holy principles. Thus it falls to us as Christians to do at least three things in dealing with our leaders:

First, let us PRAY for them (1 Timothy 2:1-2). It is NOT inappropriate to pray that our leaders will have the courage to “betray” those who elected them, **IF** they were elected to do things which are **wrong** in the sight of God! (This is otherwise known as repentance and conversion.) Offering rich sacrifices taken from the flocks of the Amalekites might have been popular for Saul, but Samuel’s words of rebuke still ring clear through the ages; “to obey is better than sacrifice” (1 Samuel 15:21-22). Just so, abortion, homosexual conduct, gambling, and a host of other sins may be popular with the electorate, but we need to pray that our leaders will rule “justly” in GOD’S sight instead!

A **second** thing we can do, as children of light, is to ENCOURAGE our elected officials to make their decisions based on biblical standards of morality. Since we have the privilege of a voice in our own governance, we also have the RESPONSIBILITY to speak up for GOD! Challenging our civil leaders (to do right) is not unholy behavior, but a legitimate opposition and outcry against unrighteous rulership. Consider the good effect saints could have on the governing of our nation if we spoke out as persistently and loudly FOR God and good as do the “lobbies for licentiousness!” In seeking to “lead the leaders” to righteous decisions, we may also lead them to the salvation of their own souls, as well; such was certainly the aim of Paul in Acts 24:25 and 26:28-29!

A **third** thing Christians can do to help our leaders rule justly (in ways which please GOD) is to PRAISE them when they make godly decisions! Everyone appreciates praise (Proverbs 25:11), and our civic leaders will surely be more inclined toward doing what is right in God’s sight when they know they will be supported and encouraged in it.

We can have a profound effect in the world around us, if we will do what it takes; our leaders can be “as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds” with the help, encouragement, and guidance of God’s people to aid them in the right way. Let’s follow the Lord’s instruction in Matthew 5:16, and MAKE OURSELVES FELT (in a good way)!

Family Matters

Hick Higginbotham – Is having health issues and enduring a lot of pain.

Becky Higginbotham – Is home recovering from eye surgery.

Marlene Etheridge – Is home recovering from a fractured pelvis. Please send cards.

Katie Obert – Sheri's daughter-in-law is waiting on biopsy results. Cards can be sent to 13375 Court Street, Moulton, AL 35650.

Pamela Morris – Friend of the Mitchell's needs prayers.

Prayer Requests

Sandra Hopkins came forward Sunday morning asking for prayers to be a better Christian woman.

Denise Greene came forward last Sunday evening requesting prayers for her and her family.

Deepest Sympathy

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to **Charity Nash** at the loss of her grand-uncle, Cleve Anderson.

Members With Health Problems: RuPearl Sharpe, Marlene Etheridge, Annette Butler, Linda Howell, Butch & Joann Trawick, Mattie Williams, Richard Amon, Sally Wallace, Becky Higginbotham, Brenda Mitchell, Joe Clark, Equil-

lar Butler, Forrest & Burma Chapman, Bernice Gillespie, Maylon Swann, Hick & Estell Higginbotham, Una Fortson, David & Shirley Lee

Shut-ins: Annette Benefield, Valorye Whittaker, Lillian Gray, David Nash, Audrey Shaw, Lucille Amon, Jane Lankford & Frances Elder

Others With Health Problems: Tiffany Maas (Kelly's daughter), Gilbert Jones (Equillar's brother), Jason Campbell (Sylvester & Missy's son), Shirley Johnson (Andy's mother), Nelda Hayes (Jack Sorrell's aunt), Tom Holcomb and Jean Benefield (Annette Benefield's son-in-law and daughter-in-law), Nancy Ford (Joann Crook's sister), Virginia Poskevich (David's mother), Loretta Russell (Ray's mother), Joyce Greene (Denise Greene's mother), Xernonia Fortson (Una's daughter), Eddie & Lil Cauthen (Joan Poskevich's brother/sister-in-law), Bill Croix (Mattie's husband), Joe Hand (Jim Scoma's brother-in-law) and Marvin Cook (Jean Johnson's brother)

Military Members Deployed: SFC Chineka McKenzie (Kuwait), 335th Signal Command (T) (P), APO AE. Capt. Rosa Bell, ECC—A, New Kabul Compound (NKC), APO AE 09354

Deployed for FEMA – Sylvester Campbell is in Texas. Missy Campbell has been redeployed to Columbia, South Carolina.

Calendar

Jan 9—"Fossilized Finger Food Fellowship!" & Movie "Evolution's Achilles' Heels", hosted by Stan Mitchell's Sunday AM Bible Class, all invited.



Jan 17 – Bridal Shower for Jasi Quinn at 3:30pm.

Jan 24 – Ladies' Meeting at 4pm, room 121

Feb 5 – Fellowship Game Night at 6pm

Feb 8 – Ladies' Night out at the home of Susan Fincher at 6:30pm

Feb 18-21 – Great Smokey Mountain Marriage Retreat Week-end

Feb 19 – SilverWings Dinner at 6pm

Feb 28-Mar 3 – Progressive Meeting Starts

Mar 5 – Fayetteville's Ladies' Day – Tish Clarke, Speaker, What Is it? **FAITH**.



Mar 13-17 – Spring Gospel Meeting – Rob Whitacre, Speaker



To my church family:

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" Your many cards of cheer, well-wishes and holiday sentiments and especially your continued prayers warms my heart and lifts my spirit. May God keep you steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

I am extremely grateful, Lillie Sharpe

Youth Events

Jan 17 – Area Wide Devo at Middle Fayette COC, 5pm

Feb 26-28 – CYC Week-end (**register now**)

March 25-27 – LTL Convention

L2L Bible Bowl

Jan 10 Bible Bowl Team Test 1-21

Jan 17 Chapter 24

Jan 24 Chapter 25

Jan 31 Chapter 26

Healthy Snacks

Jo Hurt

Sue Riley

Terri Durden

Susie Graham

Puppet Skills Classes 11:30-12:30

Jan 17 & Feb 21

2nd-5th grade Puppet Coordinator Needed

Ladies – Mark your calendar for the Sunday Morning Ladies' Class that will start April 3rd. Frances Kelly will teach Lessons from Proverbs 31.

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

Call To Worship

	1/10	1/17	1/24	1/31
Scripture Reading	Cliff Nash	Zeke Poskevich	Cliff Nash	Zeke Poskevich
Prayer	Curtis Hurt	Coney Johnson, Jr.	Ray Russell	Dennis Etheridge
Song Leader				
Preside Lord's Supper	David Riley	Rick Sharpe	Paul Lyons	Hugh Kelly
Server	Eric Hagin	Eric Hagin	Eric Hagin	Eric Hagin
Server	Brad Hopkins	Brad Hopkins	Brad Hopkins	Brad Hopkins
Server	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender
Server	Gayle Pelfrey	Gayle Pelfrey	Gayle Pelfrey	Gayle Pelfrey
Server	Morris Jones	Morris Jones	Morris Jones	Morris Jones
Server	K. Killingsworth	K. Killingsworth	K. Killingsworth	K. Killingsworth
Server	Jake Garner	Jake Garner	Jake Garner	Jake Garner
Server	David Hopkins	David Hopkins	David Hopkins	David Hopkins
Sermon	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers
Response Elder	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash
Announcements	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash
Song				
Closing Prayer	Randal Bell	Jake Garner	Zeke Poskevich	Rory Bell, Jr.

Evening Service

Prayer	Jim Garner	Tom Durden	Greg Nash	Jim Pelfrey
Sermon	Q/A Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Song Service	Service Sunday
Server	Larry Rose	Tommy Chapman	Anthony Ravenell	Bill Ruffer
Server	Kenneth Fincher	Paul Lyons	Rick Sharpe	Curtis Hurt
Closing Prayer	David Riley	Morris Jones	K. Killingsworth	Tommy Chapman

Georgia School of Preaching & Biblical Studies

Winter Quarter (January – March)

Monday, Jan 4th @ 6-9pm in the Fellowship

Evangelism - Bob Wood, instructor
"Church Problems" – Dave Rogers, instructor

Thursday, Jan. 7th @ 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall

The Synoptic Gospels – Randy Kea, instructor
God Head - Jeff Johnson, instructor

Tuition Free. 1 Hour Academic Credit

2016 Progressive Meeting February 28-March 3, 2016

Speaker: Allen Webster

Pulpit Minister, Jacksonville
Church of Christ
House to House Heart to Heart

Fayetteville Church of Christ 2016 Goal - Evangelism

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870 Redwine Road
Fayetteville, Georgia
30215

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Elders:

Tom Durden
(770) 652-7389
Jim Garner
(770) 461-3197
Greg Nash
(404) 455-1546
Jim Pelfrey
(770) 629-2061

Deacons:

Dennis Graham
David Hopkins
Hugh Kelly
Jerry Kendrix
Andy Johnson
Paul Lyons
Stan Mitchell
David Poskevich
Anthony Ravenell
Jack Sorrell

Assembly Schedule:

Sunday
9:00 am Bible Classes
10:00 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Worship Service

10:00 am Tuesday Morning Bible Class
(September 11—May 14)

7:00 pm Wednesday Night Bible Study

7:00 pm Thursday Night Ladies Class
(September-May)

Communion Preparation

Susie Graham

Nursery

10 Loretta Keith
17 Miranda Kendrix,
24 Terri Durden
& 31 Charity Nash

Care of Building

Jan 1-15 Dennis Graham/Larry Rose
16-31 Hugh Kelly/Ray Russell

Ushers

10 Lewis Armstrong/Michael Madison
17 Michael Boesterli/Gayle Pelfrey
24 Sammy Hugh/Rory Bell
31 Andy Johnson/Keith Killingsworth
Media Center Helpers
10 Rory Bell, Jr., 17 Ben Rogers,
24 Morris Jones & 31 Zeke Poskevich

Open Arms

Wednesday Evening Devotional
13 Paul Lyons
20 Luke Quinn

Our Missionaries



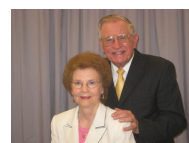
Graham, Elizabeth, Joshua, Megan,
Bethany & Elijah McDonald
Scotland, 11 Woodhead Ct,
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State of Georgia
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January 2016

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen" 2 Peter 3:18

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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