

Men Standing For Christ

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tone), Elijah Kitchens (second tenor and lead), Sam Douglas (tenor), Andrew Bryant (bass), alongside David Thompson (tenor and baritone). Thompson's uncle was Beachy Thompson, nationally known singer with the famed Dixie Hummingbirds from 1943 to 1992 (if you recall pop star Paul Simon's 1974 hit "Loves Me Like a Rock," those were the Dixie Hummingbirds behind him).

Uncle Beachy tried to get young David to join the "Birds on the road. But with a new baby at home, that didn't seem the right decision. "I decided to give my talent to the Lord," he says simply.

Today, Men Standing for Christ numbers 20 singers, ranging in age from mid-twenties to mid-seventies. The group's special calling is singing in prisons. Rev. Tyrone Scott, a retired chaplain, books most of the visits. "He can get us into any prison in the Carolinas - and more importantly, he can get us out!" quips director Gary Carter.

Most performances start with Carter leading the theme It's Another Day's Journey (I'm So Glad to Be Alive). Songs range from age-old to

very new - standards such as Traveling Shoes, call-and-response pieces including Any Way You Bless Me Lord (I'll Be Satisfied), and recent compositions like The Potter and the Clay. Sharp-eared listeners will hear the roots of doo-wop when Charles Arnold breaks into falsetto, and influences from the Soul Stirrers in smooth-voiced Charles Glenn, Jr. Every member sings lead on at least one or two songs; explains director Carter, "Everybody's got testimony."

"What carries this group are our harmonies. We pride ourselves on our harmony," says William Summers.

Above all, the message is the reason for singing. "We didn't come for show or fame," says the mission statement of Men Standing for Christ, "but we came to help you along this Christian Journey."

The free program begins at 7:30pm June 9 in CPCC's Sloan-Morgan Building, 1220 Elizabeth Avenue. Free parking is available in the Faculty-Staff-Theater parking deck on 4th Street. For details, call (704) 377-5257 or www.folksociety.org

Judge orders hilltop cross removal

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maintains the surrounding memorial walls. But federal judges have repeatedly blocked the sale, saying the transactions were designed to favor a buyer who would keep

the cross in place. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the city's appeal in 2003. A city-sponsored referendum asking permission from residents to sell the property failed in 2004. The next year, 75 percent of the voters

approved a referendum to transfer the land to the federal government, but a Superior Court judge ruled that measure to be an "unconstitutional aid to religion." The ruling has been appealed.

Silver Mount Young Choir

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For questions, call the church office at (704) 522-1528.
• The Ministers Conference #2 will host its Annual City Wide Concert at 6 p.m. This concert will be held at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church where the Rev. J. A. Cuthbertson is Pastor. The church is located at 517 Baldwin Ave.

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The thing for you to do is repent! You were born a child of the Devil. (Jn. 8:44) It is the express Work of the Holy Spirit to raise you from the death sleep you are in. The same power that the Holy Spirit used to raise Christ from the dead is the same power He uses in raising a sinner from the death sleep. (Eph. 2:19-20) It is the Holy Spirit who reveals your heart to you through the Word of God, not the preacher's word. Your lost, ruined, totally depraved, hell-deserving condition is revealed to you through the Word of the Holy Spirit. And it is the blessed Holy Spirit who reveals Christ to you as your all sufficient Lord and Saviour. If you could reveal Christ to your heart, or if some religious leader could, then Salvation would not be of the Lord. Just as men are helpless to raise you from the death sleep (Eph. 2:1), so are men helpless to reveal Christ to your heart. How foolish it is to think that a man, who will one day lie dead and cold in the grave, can bring a sinner to Christ. What foolishness! The Holy Spirit does not bring you part of the way to Christ and then leave it up to you. He brings you all the way to Christ and He is sovereign in dealing with your heart. An old divine said: "Never present faith as so simple that the Holy Spirit does not have to give the sinner faith to believe Christ." But what we have in the religious world today is men setting aside the Work of the Holy Spirit and trying to bring sinners to Christ apart from the Work of the Holy Spirit. It is because our religious leaders do not know the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. That is the tragedy we face today worldwide! Practically every Bible teacher and preacher I meet knows literally nothing of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit never magnifies Himself. He always magnifies Christ. The Holy Spirit points the sinner to Christ and it is the Holy Spirit who reveals Christ to the sinner's heart. I wish you knew that great truth, friends. But what I am setting forth is hidden from the multitudes of you. For Paul said: "The election hath obtained it and the rest were blinded." (Rom. 11) Get this great truth if you can: "no sinner can know and believe on Christ until the Holy Spirit reveals Christ to his heart." You can make a profession, but there is no reality of Christ in your heart. You can join the church, but Christ is not real to you. You can dedicate your life, but Christ is not real to your heart. You can be baptized all over again, but Christ is not real to your heart. And I hear preachers and Bible teachers telling sinners: "hold on to God's unchanging Hand." How can a poor sinner, who is just a worm of the dust, a wigging maggot, hold on to God's hand? On the contrary, my Heavenly Father holds me in His Hand and Christ holds me in His Hand. I praise the Lord that is so because if it were left up to me to hold God's Hand, I'd be doomed for hell. The great trouble with you religious leaders is that you do not know the total depravity of the human heart. You've never seen the danger a sinner is in abiding under the wrath of a sin-avenging God. You've never known experimentally that you are a child of the Devil, caught in his snare. You are taken captive by Satan at his will. Which means that you do not have a free will. Therefore, you go about teaching that the sinner has a free will and can choose Christ anytime.

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