



FAMILY TIES

Alta Woods Baptist Church

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Celebrating our Nation's Birthday

Letter from John Adams to his wife, Abigail, 3 July 1776 (excerpt)

"All these Causes however in Conjunction would not have disappointed Us, if it had not been for a Misfortune, which could not be foreseen, and perhaps could not have been prevented, I mean the Prevalence of the small Pox among our Troops This fatal Pestilence completed our Destruction. — It is a Frown of Providence upon Us, which We ought to lay to heart.

But on the other Hand, the Delay of this Declaration to this Time, has many great Advantages attending it. — The Hopes of Reconciliation, which were fondly entertained by Multitudes of honest and well meaning tho weak and mistaken People, have been gradually and at last totally extinguished. — Time has been given for the whole People, maturely to consider the great Question of Independence and to ripen their judgments, dissipate their Fears, and allure their Hopes, by discussing it in News Papers and Pamphletts, by debating it, in Assemblies, Conventions, Committees of Safety and Inspection, in Town and County Meetings, as well as in private Conversations, so that the whole People in every Colony of the 13, have now adopted it, as their own Act. — This will cement the Union, and avoid those Heats and perhaps Convulsions which might have been occasioned, by such a Declaration Six Months ago.

But the Day is past. The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America.

I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. — I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. — Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not."

Editor's Note: This excerpt of the letter written from John Adams to his wife Abigail was one of over 1,000 letters written between them during our nation's fight for independence. This excerpt taken from the original Adams Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society. The emphasis on the last 2 paragraphs was added to draw your attention to this portion by the Editor.



Alta Woods 2010 Homecoming



Alta Woods Baptist Church's annual Homecoming is August 3rd this year. It is always a sweet time to get together with your old friends . This year we have invited Alta Woods Greater Love Quartet to return and sing for us. Bill Daniel, Rick Courtney, George West, and Steve Ainsworth of the original will be here. We would be honored to have you return. If you live in the metro Jackson area or would come a distance to be here, we would love to see you. The

luncheon cost is only \$5 but we do need you to make a reservation for the luncheon so we can know how many to prepare for. We hope to see you here!

From a former member:

Hello,

I have just finished reading the January, 2010 issue of Family Ties. First of all, I want to thank Alta Woods Baptist Church for providing this ministry. I am very pleased to be on the mailing list to receive the newsletter. I enjoy reading it.

I am responding to the request made by Bill Phillips for readers to share information about themselves so it can be shared with other members, old and new. I was a member of Alta Woods Baptist from the summer of 1972 until the summer of 1979. It was Ralph Davis who invited me to attend Alta Woods Baptist Church. We had just moved to Jackson from Auburn, Alabama, where I had completed my Doctor of Education degree from Auburn University in June, 1972. My family and I moved to Jackson after I accepted a job with the Jackson Public Schools as an Assistant Superintendent. Five years later, after some retirements in the school district, I became Assistant Superintendent for all the secondary schools, including the new Career Development Center located near Provine High School. In 1979, I left Jackson to become Superintendent of the Arab City Schools in Arab, Alabama. Seven years later, I accepted the position of Professor and Dean of the School of Education at Mississippi College in Clinton in July, 1993. I retired from Mississippi College in June, 1998. A year after I retired from MC, I "came out of retirement" and became Principal of the new Gary Road Intermediate School in the Hinds County School District in Byram. After two years as principal of the intermediate school, I retired again. Since my retirement I have been working as a part-time education consultant with the JBHM Education Group in Jackson. My wife, Laura, is the Administrative Assistant to the CEO of the Central Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. We continue to live in Clinton where we have been members of the First Baptist Church Clinton since 1993.

When my family and I first moved to Jackson in 1993, my son, Jeff, was seven years old and my daughter, Susan, was only three months old. They both are married now, and each of them has three children. Jeff has two girls and a boy, and Susan has two boys and a girl. Therefore, I have six grandchildren, three boys and three girls. Jeff and his family live in Madison, MS, and Susan and her family live in Haleyville, AL, a small town in northwest Alabama. Jeff owns the franchise for Two Men and a Truck in the State of Mississippi. Susan works for a law firm in Haleyville.

When I was a member at Alta Woods Baptist Church, I taught a Sunday School class, sang in the adult choir, and was a group leader in the Church Training program. I served as a deacon during the time I was at Alta Woods. I also served as Chairman of the Personnel Committee, and as Chairman of the Finance Committee. Dr. Charles Myers was Pastor at Alta Woods during the years we were members there.

Let me close by saying that my family and I enjoyed being members at Alta Woods Baptist Church for seven years in the 1970's. The church was very family-oriented.

Tom Taylor



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Rachel Bullock, daughter of Randy and Linda Bullock, was chosen Valedictorian of her senior class at Denison High School, Denison, Texas. Earlier in the school year, she excelled on her Advance Placement Tests and was awarded an Academic Scholarship to Texas State University, where she will pursue a degree in Virology. Rachel's father, Randy, grew up in Alta Woods. Rachel's proud grandparents are **Ray and Cornelia Bullock**.

The family of **Bennie and Boyce Verell** donated an AED to Alta Woods for use in cardiac emergencies at the church. Church member Kathy Thaggard, RN, demonstrated the AED at the May Cheerful Hearts Luncheon. It has a sign hanging from the ceiling indicating its location. An AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias. It has a recording that explains every step one needs to know in order to operate it.



Widows / Widowers Deacon-sponsored Dinner

The Second Annual Deacon-sponsored dinner for Widows / Widowers was June 10. With over 100 guests in attendance and entertainment furnished by our Quartet, the evening was a tremendous success.

Several of the Deacons cooked the meals and all the Deacons served the plates. Each year the Deacon body treats all of our widows and widowers to a complimentary dinner. Everyone in the church is invited to attend for a nominal cost but there is no charge to our Widows and Widowers. Shuttle service from the parking lot to the East Room was provided both before and after the dinner for the convenience of the attendees.



The highlight of the evening was the entertainment provided by our Quartet (Jerry Thomas, George West, Sid Johnson, and Bill Loveless.) The steaks were wonderful, the fellowship was sweet, and the evening was delightful from start to finish. Thank you, Deacons, for all your hard work!!!



Absent from the body... present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8)



Hudson Speed (June 6)

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Frank Thomas on the birth of twin grandsons to parents Wesley and Jodie Thomas. The twins are doing fine and the grandparents are thrilled.



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