

MY FIRST CHAPEL SERVICE: A Personal Reflection

By MAJ Stephen Allen

It's Wednesday. Chapel Day. The Cadets are getting ready to load the bus back at the campus. I walked along the side of the First Presbyterian Church examining the architecture from 1860 as Rev. Michael Herrin was also arriving—except he was walking twice my pace. It is my first school year at Chamberlain-Hunt. I'm part of the cadre, but even for me, it's all brand new.

Last Wednesday, which was the first chapel service for everyone else, Major Montgomery, Major Arwine and I were assigned to the "prayer closet," which is at Brashear Hall, located just behind First Presbyterian Church. While chapel is taking place, a trio of cadre are assigned to prayer through the order of worship, for the chaplain and other Cadre, and for the message of God's truth to bring light and life to the young men assembled. It is in itself a special time with the Lord; however, because of that responsibility, I'm experiencing my first chapel service today.

It's a tell-tale sign of fall, but the air is cool and lightly breezy, even though I'm wearing a blazer. We are moving into worship, and already, there is no doubt that God's Spirit is moving in and through the centuries, through the air, and through the hall of the sanctuary as Chaplain Herrin turns the knob of the front door. Ambient morning light is introduced to the entryway and the familiar burgundy carpet. We greet each other warmly as we walk in and turn on the lights. Coming in from the back of the building, which is actually the front of the sanctuary, Major Sheila Stone is carrying the music for this morning's service and finding her way to the organ bench.

It has only been a moment, but I turn around and notice that there are navy blazers all around me. It was as though the cadre were in some sort of company formation. I got caught up in a discussion with Major Abraham, the Academy's business manager who is also new this year. He was telling Major Jeff Brannen and me about the possible age of the carpet, and how he could tell because it is manufactured in long and narrow rows that are laid out and hand stitched together. I'm impressed by the little details. Above our heads there is a short balcony, the underside of which has several handsome and sturdy, scrolling, Corinthian-esque buttresses. Suddenly, conversations end and the Cadre find their assigned pews and stand in the aisle beside them, walking slowly and shaking each others hands. Someone has noticed that the Corps of Cadets has gotten off of the buses and are lined up on the sidewalk outside.

There is suddenly a quiet room full of blue shirts and burgundy, each pew flanked with a navy blue blazer. In a surprisingly dignified manner, the color guard marches forward to present the Colors. Dramatically, they place the two flags in their respective basses—that of our citizenship and allegiance here and that of our citizenship in heaven. Each flagstaff smacks the brass—wood against brass—in a very intentional and confident manner. The sound can be heard everywhere in the room. I've been told that once the drummers are trained, they will beat the drums as the color guard presents the Colors. I have not yet experienced chapel that way,

THE WORD OF GOD

Continued from cover page

But there is one place of constant truth, one source of meaning that will never let you down. For there is one Person Who will never lie to you. There is One Person who has never broken a promise He has ever made, and He never will: Christ Jesus. As Paul says in verse 15, trusting in Jesus is what brings us salvation.

And how do we know we can trust Jesus? For the same reason that Timothy knew he could trust Paul. Paul was willing to suffer persecution and risk death in order to proclaim truth. Just so, Jesus was willing to suffer, and even to die rather than to deny His Word.

And what is it that Jesus tells us? What is it that we can always trust? This book. All Scripture, every single word, is breathed out by God. That means that the power of the Holy Spirit carried the men along as they wrote, ensuring that the words they put down on the page were precisely the words that God wanted us to read.

so I am unbiased. I'm not sure which is more honoring to the Lord, but for me as a worshiper, I am torn between the bold and the humble call to worship. Truly, we are called to both. For me, absolutely nothing was missing—it was perfect. My heartbeat was in my ears.

Chapel is a school-church hybrid—as it should be, I imagine. Major McGee and Chaplain Herrin team-teach through the order of worship. We do not mindlessly stand, sing, sit, pray, and read in response. Major McGee explains that we do not merely follow a tradition when we assemble for worship. He calls us to consider why we are doing what we are doing.

"Liturgy," explains Major McGee, "comes from the Greek, *laos* (people) and *ergon* (work). This literally means "the work of the people." It is the collective rites and ceremonies that the Church offers for the adoration of God and the sanctification of God's people." The Cadets sitting beside me take out pens, find the space on the back of the program, and begin taking notes. Next, Major McGee asks us to open the hymnal and find "*The Heavens Declare Thy Glory, Lord*." "Notice the name 'Isaac Watts' at the bottom left. Isaac Watts was an English preacher in the 18th Century who wrote many of our hymns." He continues, "Typically, these hymns did not carry titles given to them from the author, but were referenced by the first line of the lyrics . . . Next, notice the reference to Psalm 19 at the bottom right. This means that the author has used this text from the Psalms and made poetry from the verses. Just below that you'll see the words, 'Winchester New,' which is the name of the melody to which the poem is sung." The Cadets are again taking notes. I am very impressed by all of this. Even more, I learn something new, too. Why didn't anyone ever explain this to me before?

The service continues with Chaplain Herrin explaining how the song reflects the message, how the church comes to pray for forgiveness, and how the Scripture teaches us pardon from sin if we are in Christ Jesus. Simply put, it refreshes me. I sit in a church built some 150 years ago. Not only is this meeting place still available to us, making this moment in time possible, but it was intentionally and confidently placed here, like posting flagstaffs into their brass bases—the sound of the Word preached has been heard here for generation upon generation.

As chapel dismisses, we exit just as quietly as we came in. It was beautiful. I was not emotionally jerked here and there by an amusing and entertaining presentation. I wasn't manipulated to feel a certain way. I was participating in an assembly of God's family—a procession of godly men and women worshipping our great God and showing how to do it to those who follow. I had been looking for a long time to see how the church is going to disciple the young men and women of our nation. Today, I found it taking place deliberately by Chaplain Herrin and Major McGee. I saw it taking place between the Cadre and the Cadets. For the first time ever I witnessed this—I am certain that these young men are being disciplined.

But more than that, God says that reading and understanding this book can make a real difference in our lives. In it, we learn real truths not only about Who God is, but about who we are. We find ourselves brought up short, our self-deceptions revealed, our sin exposed. The Bible shows us how we should live – giving all of our lives to the God Who made us and loves us, and to the service of others made in His image. As we conform our lives more and more to the truths in its pages, we find ourselves corrected, brought more and more into line with God's will, being trained in the righteous ways that God would have us think and feel and act. We find ourselves able to do the good works that God is calling us to do.

As Paul's example shows us, the Christian life isn't easy. But it is true because it places its trust in the God Who is Truth. Let others go on in their selfishness, deceiving and being deceived. Trust in Jesus' sacrifice for you. Trust in His unfailing Word to you. And follow Him.

CHAMBERLAIN - HUNT

CHRISTIAN MILITARY BOARDING
124 MCCOMB AVENUE PORT GIBSON MS 39150

From the president's desk . . .



"Dear COL West" his short note began, and then he dived in: "I wish to receive the rank of your aid [sic]. I believe I have the skills necessary to complete each individual task given. I know I show great leadership potential as well as good Christian boundaries. I would really appreciate it." I was caught off guard, and amused, by his direct closing—"Please acknowledge this and get back to me A.S.A.P."

In the past two weeks, I received several similarly enthusiastic requests. Most of them include some amusing turn of phrase or misspelling, and they all get my attention.

Everyone cannot be an aide. Everyone is not appointed to a coveted billet. The old softy in me wishes it were otherwise, but I know that facing disappointment is part of the process of growing into maturity. Disappointment is a challenge. Men have to face challenges, work hard, struggle. Sometimes we do not reach our goals. When we fail, how do we respond?

Sadly, some boys come to Chamberlain-Hunt already having given in to failure. We aim to get them back on their feet. For those on academic profile, close accountability for their work motivates them to try. They do not become 4.0 students overnight, but they learn that they can improve—they can pass, or even better. "At my old school," one boy said, "they didn't believe I could learn, so if I didn't want to try, they didn't make me. Now, I know I can learn." We have seen big changes in this Cadet as he has become willing to make an effort; not only has he improved academically, but he has also improved physically and behaviorally.

Of course not all the boys who come to us struggle in the same ways. Some have not really had to struggle yet. However, they are all boys, boys who need to grow up to be men. Real men who can face the challenges this world lays before them, without fear or indifference. We live in a sometimes dangerous and difficult world. Many are predicting even more difficult days ahead. As our boys embrace the lessons we teach, we believe they will be ready, God helping them, to take on whatever challenges come their way.

Cadet LIFE

THE WORD OF GOD: II Timothy 3:10-17

Chapel Sermon on 02 September 2009 by CPL Michael Herrin



Information is everywhere. Phone calls and text messages and now tweets on our cell phones. Updates to our friends' facebook pages. New entries by our favorite bloggers. The latest news on the Drudge Report. Turn on the TV and watch CNN or Fox News to find out what's happening. And I suppose you can still wait for the nightly news on one of the broadcast stations.

But how do you know whom to trust? Politicians make conflicting claims in the health care debate – some say it will include abortion, and some deny that. Some say it will cut costs and others say it will increase them. Given the complexity of all these different bills floating around in Congress, it could be that no one knows what they are talking about. Or it could be that someone is lying. Whom should you believe?

Well, how do you decide whom to believe in your personal life? You learn by experience, don't you? Over time, if you find that someone gives you information that is reliable, you trust him or her. Or, if you discover that someone tells you things that turn out not to be true, you tend to be skeptical about what he or she says. To a greater or lesser extent, we all weigh truth claims according to the character of the speaker.

In today's passage, Paul invites Timothy to do just that. In verse 14, he points out that Timothy learned the truth from Paul. And in verse 10, Paul points not just to his own teaching as a reason for Timothy to believe, but to his conduct.

Why should Timothy hold on to what Paul has been telling him? Because he can see that the aim, the goal of Paul's life is to glorify God, not to get something out of the deal. He can see that Paul has continued to trust God, patiently waiting for God's goodness. He can see that Paul has a fierce desire to be in relationship with people – even those who are initially hostile to the gospel message. He can see Paul keep on keeping on, telling people about Jesus even though many of them don't want to hear it. The consistency of Paul's character gives Timothy a great reason to believe the truth that Paul preaches.

Teachers, parents, how you live is just as important as what you say. How you relate to the children who look up to you will have a tremendous impact on whether they believe your words or reject them. As St. Francis of Assisi told his followers, "Let all the brothers preach by their deeds."

But the most important deed to which Paul points is the manner in which he suffered persecution, at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. In Antioch, Paul was rejected by the Jews because he was determined to preach the gospel to Gentiles. In Lystra, Paul was rejected by the pagan Gentiles because he boldly proclaimed that the gods they were worshipping were not real. In each case, Paul continued to say what is true, even though it almost cost him his life.

Christians, we may not face death for following Jesus and for presenting the claims of Christ to the world, but we cannot deny that faithfulness to Him can cost us. Unbelieving friends may turn away from us when we refuse the sex or the drugs or the drink that so many people use to find meaning in life. Believers in other religions may call us intolerant if we insist that Jesus is the only way of salvation. It can be hard to be a Christian, make no mistake.

But let's turn back to the question with which we began this morning: how do you know whom to trust? Whom should you believe? You can, I suppose, go on trusting the worldly, lustful, selfish people who look down on Christians. But it won't be long before they let you down. Sooner or later you'll find that the drugs, the sex, the booze, all the things they say will make your life complete – don't. You'll find that instead of words of life, they have only been speaking words of death all the time.

Continued inside



Summer 2009

Enrollment 2009-10 Stats

Boarding 89
Day 13
TOTAL 102

Grades Represented

7th 15
8th 14
9th 20
10th 24
11th 14
12th 15

Top 5 States Represented

Mississippi 44
Louisiana 23
Florida 5
Tennessee 5
Texas 5

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall 2009

Sept 16	Progress Reports Mailed
Sept 21-25	Crusader Challenge
Sept 27	Phone Calls
Oct 2	Founders Day
Oct 2-12	Fall Break
Oct 22-24	Term Testing
Oct 24	First Quarter Ends
Oct 30	Report Cards Mailed
Nov 11	Veterans Day Program
Nov 22	Phone Calls
Nov 24	Progress Reports Mailed
Nov 25-30	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 13	Phone Calls
Dec 15-17	Term Testing
Dec 17	Second Quarter Ends
Dec 18-Jan 9	Christmas Break
Dec 21	Report Cards Mailed

HONORING LOVED ONES & HELPING CADETS

Memorial

Mr. James Beesley
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Montgomery, Jr.

Mrs. Claudia Berry
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Bowen, Jr.

Mrs. Tanyz Burch
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Montgomery, Jr.

Dr. Frank W. Canon III
Mr. and Mrs. Chip Manuel
Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Plyler

Mr. Edgar Cain, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Montgomery, Jr.

Mr. Charles Daniels
Yokena Presbyterian Church

Mr. Joseph Turpin Drake
Mrs. Ellen D. McCarley

Mrs. Robin Fuller
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Bowen, Jr.

Mrs. Charlice Gillespie
Mrs. Dorothy A. Hubbard

Mr. Fred Guthrie
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Bowen, Jr.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Hagerty
LTC Harve J. Hagerty, USA (Ret.)

Mr. James Arthur Hall
Mr. and Mrs. John Hyland

Mr. Robert Hardison
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Bowen, Jr.

Mrs. Hazel M. Headley
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Montgomery, Jr.

Mrs. Mary Hendrick
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Bowen, Jr.

Mr. James E. Hudson
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Montgomery, Jr.

Mr. Billy F. Jackson
Mrs. and Mrs. George L. Hand

Mr. Cecil Jaquith
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Bowen, Jr.

Mr. John Kimbrough, Jr.
Mrs. Betsy K. Padgett

Mrs. Ann Metcalf Lanneau
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Bowen, Jr.

Mr. Pete Markow
Mr. and Mrs. Wiley P. Lowry, Jr.

Mrs. Irma Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Bowen, Jr.

Mr. James Rick Pantenburg
Mr. and Mrs. John Hyland

Mrs. Isabelle Person
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Bowen, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Montgomery, Jr.

Ms. Emma Katherine Pipkins
Mrs. James Ray Thigpen

Mrs. Lena D. Roan
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Montgomery, Jr.

Dr. Robert Riley Rone
Mrs. Dorothy A. Hubbard

It is no secret that many families are struggling financially. Perhaps yours is one of them. Certainly, the families of some of our Cadets are sorting through implications of lower-than-expected income, and even unemployment. As you know, we are committed not to turn away any otherwise acceptable applicant simply because his parents or guardians cannot afford the tuition. As always, of course, we can fulfill our commitment only when others share our desire to provide boys the biblically-based discipline, both in the classroom and out, that we offer at Chamberlain-Hunt. If you share our desire and have the financial resources to help, please give to our Financial Aid/General Scholarship Fund.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, GIVE ON-LINE AT
WWW.CHAMBERLAIN-HUNT.COM/GIVING.SHTML

Alumni News...

Alumni **Nick Looney** ('09) and **Behailu Streit** ('09) are currently attending United States Military Academy. Pictured below is a scene from Reception Day, 29 June 2009, at West Point.



Cadet **W. Ruffin** (MS) starred in *The Dynamiter*, filmed this past summer around Glen Allan, MS. It is a story of a young Mississippi boy coming of age. The film was produced by independent film company Elysium Films and is expected to be submitted to several film festivals over the next year including Sundance, Toronto and Telluride.



In Memorium...

Betty McLendon Bowen, beloved wife of former Chamberlain-Hunt president and current board member Thomas H. Bowen, passed away on 09 September after a long illness. After her retirement from the medical library at the Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson in 1996, she worked to reorganize the Chamberlain-Hunt library, helping the Academy to maintain its accreditation standards. Mrs. Bowen will be long remembered for her Christian charity and devotion to God, her husband, family and friends.

NEVER GIVE UP!

by LTC Todd Patterson

"Sir, I want my mommy," echoed out through the cool night at Camp Killingsworth. I thought my ears heard wrong, so I paused to listen more intently. "Sir, I want my mommy." No, there it was again.

Camp Killingsworth is the proving grounds for all new Cadets. Those anxious thoughts are not unfamiliar, as new Cadets find themselves fully submersed in military life and confronting physical challenges that are designed to push them to their limits. For some picking up a 200 pound log with their 5-man team and running a mile with it is as foreign as walking on the moon. For others marching to a cadence, while towing a straight line, can prove to be a difficult task. Basic Training is uniquely suited for the young men who go on to attend Chamberlain-Hunt Academy. For instructors and trainers, Basic Training is an unparalleled opportunity to mold and shape the next generation of Cadets. Basic Training provides an occasion right from the start to build relationships with Cadets and to foster and develop life skills that will ensure success long after life at Chamberlain-Hunt. The skills first learned at Basic Training, and then honed during a Cadet's tenure at Chamberlain-Hunt, are the kinds that transform young men into future doctors, service members, teachers, tradesmen, craftsmen and politicians. Most importantly, Basic Training is the stepping stone along a Cadet's life path to becoming a godly man—a future husband and father who respects and cares for his family all the while making a difference in this world.

It all begins at Basic Training. Each Cadet is asked to give everything he has while surviving in this strange world of marching, immediate compliance to orders and challenging physical fitness. Sounds simple enough, but when faced with the challenges of the mission presented to them, Basic Training Cadets often give up—and give up

early. Giving up comes in the form of poor conditioning or lack of exercise or an old sports injury. However, in the midst of the entire excuse making, there is something most noticeably undeveloped in many young boys these days: Raw determination; a willingness to push oneself to the limits; an urge to overcome challenges and obstacles and cross the finish line to success.

"Sir, I want my mommy," were words that moved the instructors to action. "What's wrong Cadet?" "Sir, my feet hurt. I can't keep running," replied the Cadet. The instructor replied with an unwelcomed retort to the young Cadet's complaint. The instructor relayed solemn news that his whole body would probably hurt for a few days from the demands of strenuous physical fitness required through any challenge like this before in his entire life. The instructor responded, "Are you giving up?" "Yes sir," replied the Cadet. "Well, you can't. That's not an option." The seemingly unkind words were not what the Cadet was expecting, and he was perplexed as to what would be next. "Never give up!" "Don't quit." "You CAN do this!" "Repeat after me: I'll never give up!" "I'll never give up," replied the Cadet with a whisper. "Say it again" boomed the instructor. "Louder." The Cadet began to repeat it over and over until the volume began to rise. Slowly the Cadet's furrowed brow and scowl turned into a smile. And then it happened. The Cadet took off running faster than he had before—all the while shouting at the top of his lungs, "I'll never give up!" The instructor saw it in his eyes: Raw determination.

That one moment in time was a turning point for that Cadet. A story of overcoming challenges and with raw determination put success within reach. Camp Killingsworth is a place where success is within reach for all our new Cadets if they simply remember to never give up!

STEPHEN ALLEN: Director of Admissions



Stephen and Lynn Allen are the newest members of the Chamberlain-Hunt family, as of 01 June 2009, when Stephen became the Director of Admissions. After nearly seven years of living in north-central Florida, they are grateful to the parents, cadre and local friends who have so warmly welcomed them to their new home.

Having come from a large family in Upstate New York, Stephen is grateful both for his godly parents and his close relationships with his siblings. "My dad and mom," says Stephen, "are my role models. They are the biggest catalyst in my academic and Christian development." Stephen has five siblings, each of whom are now married and actively involved in their respective churches. He has a colorful background, having lived in 9 States and holding a variety of jobs. He has been a security officer, a customer service supervisor, a ramp agent for an airline, a youth leader, a drummer in an independent rock band, a house painter—even a ride operator at an amusement park. He

says that the most exciting thing that he has ever done was lead a team of teens during two different summers to four different countries as a short-term missionary.

Stephen enjoys listening to music, discipling teens and college students, and teaching theology. He also enjoys reading, playing the drums, riding a motorcycle, and writing blogs. He says that he loves Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, its motto, its cadre, and its mission.

Stephen is currently completing his master's degree at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. He aspires to be ready, willing, and able to answer the call of God on his life—"whatsoever, wherever, whenever, however, so be it." He loves the hymn "It Is Well with My Soul" and the contemporary song "Never Let Go" by Matt Redman; the works of C.S. Lewis, A. Kuiper, A.W. Tozer, G.E. Veith, Tim Keller; and the fiction of Steinbeck, Donald Miller, and Flannery O'Connor. His favorite Scripture verse is Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."



Chamberlain-Hunt is accepting applications for January 2010 enrollment.
Please contact the admissions office for details: 601.437.8855 or admissions@chamberlain-hunt.com.