

# *Giving Glory to God*

*for the life of*

*Rev. Thomas "Tom" Franklin Barnes*



*For to me to live is Christ,  
and to die is gain.*

*~ Philippians 1:21 ~*

*December 3, 2012*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Preparation for Worship

Job 19:25-27

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

## \* Call to Worship

Psalms 108:3-5, 117:2

Pastor: I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

*All: For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.*

Pastor: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!...

*All: For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!*

## \* Hymn of Adoration (#32) "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

## \* Prayer of Adoration

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:28-31

## Reading of the Psalms

Psalm 73:23-26

## Hymn of Praise (#44)

"How Great Thou Art"

**New Testament Reading**

II Corinthians 5:21;  
I Peter 2:24, 25

**Special Music**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”  
*Mrs. Jane Marrero, Soloist*  
*Mrs. Wendy Phillips, Accompanist*

**Meditation from God’s Word**

*Rev. Eugene Case*

**\* Hymn of Praise (#460)**

“Amazing Grace”

**Words to the Family**

**\* Benediction**

CCLI: 354195

Officiating Ministers:

*The Reverend Doctor Morton Smith*  
*The Reverend Mister Eugene Case*  
*The Reverend Mister Robert B. Looper*

Musicians:

*Mrs. Lori Fullerton, Pianist*  
*Mrs. Jane Marrero, Soloist*  
*Mrs. Wendy Phillips, Pianist*

## **The Reverend Mister Thomas “Tom” Franklin Barnes**

Rev. Thomas “Tom” Franklin Barnes of Robertsdale, AL, age 77, passed away on November 29, 2012 surrounded by his family. He was born in Bells, TN, a man that loved the Lord, his wife and family. Rev. Barnes served in PCA Presbyterian Churches in Itta Bena and Morgan City, MS; Opelika, AL; Greenville, TX; and Robertsdale and Loxley, AL. He touched the lives of everyone he met from the pulpit, schools and hospitals that he ministered in.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Walter Barnes and Del Vestal Barnes of Munford, TN. He is survived by his loving wife of fifty-six years, Mary Sasser Barnes; two sons, Thomas Barnes of St. Simons Island, GA and Robert Barnes of Pensacola, FL; a daughter, Claire Barnes Ahern of Olive Branch, MS; and his eight grandchildren, Gary, Josh Bryce, Trey and Will Barnes; and Jon Thomas, Helen Claire and Mary Morgan Ahern.

Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2012, in Belleview Cemetery in Bells, TN. Funeral arrangements are by Mack Funeral Home and Crematory, Robertsdale, AL.

## "The Greatest Presbyterian Who Ever Lived"

*A Tribute by Trey Balm*

The following is a tribute to my former pastor, Tom Barnes. Tom was the Teaching Elder of our little PCA congregation in Greenville, Westminster Presbyterian Church, from 1989-2005. He has completed his sojourn here on earth now in Robertsedale, Alabama, surrounded by his family.

Why are we Christians? Why does God choose us, and why do we reciprocate the choice? Every now and then in life you meet someone who fully answers the question. This individual doesn't actually give a verbal answer, but instead reveals it through his life and actions, of which any words to the effect are a subset. This individual is an expression of the Master Artist. He or she is a sculpture fitted for God's garden, even if we are currently banished from the garden.

Tom Barnes was one of these individuals. He had been in private business and received the call to ministry late in life. He left behind a successful insurance agency to work as a church janitor so that he could attend seminary during the day. Simultaneously, he and his wife Mary had their third child, Claire. He joked that his fellow seminary students claimed that Tom and Mary's conception of Claire *proved* the scientific likelihood of Abraham and Sarah's conception of Isaac.

This is but one example of the joy that coursed through his veins. But it is his actions I will never forget. When one smarts off his mouth, God gives one a Tom Barnes to gently correct the attitude. When one abuses the gifts one has been given, God gives one a Tom Barnes. When one makes commitments one can't or won't honor, God gives one a Tom Barnes. When one is so full of himself so as to manipulate others into the same delusion, God gives one a Tom Barnes. When one's family is in pieces, God gives a Tom Barnes. When one's sinfulness and weakness succeed in alienating one from everyone else who cares about you, God gives one a Tom Barnes. God gave me a Tom Barnes.

Presbyterians are notorious for being inward, or the "frozen chosen". Whether you are involved in a vibrant fellowship or a dying mainline congregation, the tendency of those of us whose worship is intricately woven with Calvinism tend to think we're special. Tragically, and in disobedience to God, our openness and evangelism suffers. Not so if you ever met Tom Barnes. He understood compassion and didn't think twice about expressing it. Presbyterians get their name from the Greek *presbuteros*, which means "elder". The ancient Hebrews used it to describe the men of faithful devotion in their synagogues and institutions well before Paul used it in explaining how a church was to be organized and governed. I Timothy 3:2-4 lists the qualities a "presbyter" is to have. The verses read like the Apostle just met Tom Barnes. He was the greatest Presbyterian who ever lived.

When we wonder why we are Christians, God reveals to us a Tom Barnes so that we can not only see and understand the model, but we can get a glimpse of what that mysterious thing called God's glory looks like. Servants like Tom Barnes are the happy subtext to the Bible's statement that Christians become "the righteousness of Christ." When we doubt the journey we are on, we can look at the twilight faithfulness of a Tom Barnes and remember why we are Christians.

God bless you, Tom. Save me a place in the court of our King next to General Lee and Stonewall.