



Alec Hopper

September 12, 1926 - May 23, 2010

Alec Martin Hopper, age 83, was received by the Lord Jesus Christ on Sunday morning May 23, 2010. He was born September 12, 1926 in the city of York, South Carolina to the late Euell and Maggie Paire Hopper. He was the youngest of 11 children. He completed his basis studies at Davison College, Mississippi College and Georgia Tech. After serving in the United States Air Force during WWII, he graduated from Atlanta Art Institute with a Fine Arts Degree. In Alec's high school years his family relocated to Rock Hill, South Carolina where he was privileged to study with Norman Rockwell, finding his passion for Art. In 1948, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and felt the call to combine his talent of art and music. He graduated from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas with a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Education and a Masters Degree in Sacred Music. During his studies at Southwestern he was invited as a Chalk Artist to First Baptist Church, Troup, Texas where he met the love of his life, Nell Gee. They were married on September 5, 1953 and blessed with three precious children. Alec served as Minister of Music at First Baptist Church Minden, Louisiana; First Baptist Church Lake Charles, Louisiana; Queensborough Baptist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana and served as Minister of Music and Religious Education at First Baptist Church Jonesboro, Georgia. During these years of service he had the distinguished honor of using his talent of music and art for the Baptist State Conventions of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. Alec is survived by his wife, Nell; his daughter, Becky Avery; his son, Mark;

and his son and his wife, Bruce and Tammie; five grandchildren, Jarod, Ashley and husband Seth, Derek, Jenna and Alec; one brother E.W. Hopper of Pawly's Island, South Carolina. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by nine siblings, Marie, Faye, Web, Marion, Theodore, DeWitt, Mary, Eugene and Walter. The celebration of his life will be held at Green Acres Baptist Church Chapel, 1607 Troup Highway, Tyler, Texas, Thursday, May 27th at 1:30 p.m. The service will be conducted by Dr's. Rick Edmonds and Kenny Joyner, both of Shreveport, Louisiana. Visitation will be at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., Tyler, Texas, Wednesday, May 26th at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Burial will be at Pinecrest Cemetery, Troup, Texas. Our special thanks to all our friends, doctors, nurses and Hospice of East Texas for their loving care and prayer support through this season of our lives. For more information or to express condolences, visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

LB

“ *Mark and Family- I was so sad to see of Mr. Hopper's death. My mind flashed back to memories of his house out back were he created his magic. I thought about all the visits and how we used to call them Nell and Alec behind their backs just as we called my parents Madison and Barbara out of earshot. I will never forget those days and always look back on my friendship with you and your family fondly- even though Andre couldn't control himself! Much love to y'all from me and Barbara and Madison*

Lisa Box Madison and Barbara - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ *Dear Nell and family,
We are so sorry to hear of Mr.Hopper's death. We didn't know he had been ill. He was such a talented person. I have so many fond memeories of youth choir and all the fun trips we took together. I know he will have lots of stars in his crown just for putting up with all of us and all the craziness that went on. My mom passed away one year ago in May, so we know the sadness that is in your hearts. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. I know that Mr. Hopper(I could never call him Alec)was instrumental in laying the foundation for a generation of choir members and his legacy will continue through us. May God be ever close to you and daily give you strength and grace.*

*Love,
Vickie and Glenn Bernatowicz*

Vickie and Glenn Bernatowicz - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dear Mrs. Hopper and family,

I was so saddened today when I read Mr. Hopper's obituary. He meant so much to my family. My mother, Faye Ulmer and I sang in the choir under his direction. I have many memories of us sitting around the piano singing on Sunday nights. But most of all I will always remember his beautiful chalk drawings.

I told my mother today, he is in heaven drawing for God.

May God bless you all in the days ahead.

Love,

Cindy Ulmer Sledge and Faye Ulmer

Cindy Ulmer Sledge - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Alec Hopper made such an impression on my life as part of the youth at FBC Minden. His calligraphy inspired me to learn the craft as a teenager. He was a wonderful man of God who made an impact on the lives of all who knew him. Minden is a better place for his having been here. Praying for all the family.

Claire Turner Fussell - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Mother (Maxine Martin) was the First Baptist Church/Minden LA organist while Mr. Hopper served there. Dad (R.O. Martin) sang in the choir, and I also sang, but don't remember details (I was born in May of 1946). Although details are fuzzy, I have fond memories of "Mr. Hopper," and know how much our family admired him and appreciated his talents. His name brings a smile to my face, and I'm so sorry for your loss.

Janet Martin Hamm

Janet Martin Hamm (daughter of R.O. and Maxine Martin / First Ba - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ Though so many years have passed since we served the Lord together in Lake Charles, we have never forgotten the joy we shared. We pray this "celebration" of Alex's wonderful life will strengthen you in God's service. What a joy to know we will all see Jesus and be together again! We love you!

Clyde & Alta Osborn - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Mark (Papa), Bruce (Ball Park), and family~
I am thinking of you all at this time. May God bless you all and hold you close during this walk. Lifting you up in prayer. Love to all~MV

MV Loftus - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

IW

“ We did not have the privilege to meet Alec, but have prayed for him and you, Nell, ever since we joined the Cannonball Express Class a year ago. From reading his obituary, we know that we missed meeting a very special person. Ps 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Godly Ones". We are praying that God will hold you in His arms and comfort you as only He can. We look forward to meeting you one of these days!

Ivan & Gail Wright - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WY

“ *Nell and Family: So sorry to hear the news about Alec, but glad we heard and can communicate with you. Wish we could be there for the funeral, but Gene has a biopsy on the 27th so there is no way. Please know you are and have been in our prayers and that will continue. May God continue to give you strength as you go through this difficult time. Alec was very special. Our love to you, Walter and Gene*

Walter and Gene Yates - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SP

“*Prescious Memories, how they linger. For over 50 years now I have held on to the memories of the Teen Tone Choir, led by Mr. Hopper. I think his favorite song for us to sing was "Jacob's Ladder". We had it perfected.*

Mr. Hopper was such an inspiration to me, I'm sorry now that I probably never told him that. He made us all feel that music was something everyone could be a part of. It didn't matter if you had the best voice or not, just give it your best and learn to feel it.

My memories of the Music Week in New Orleans are as real as ever. The time we had to spend with friends and develop friendships that have lasted a lifetime are immeasurable.

Music, he told us was a way to worship. It was important in a service to set the minds of people to receive the message. He was so right.

I love music. Thank you for such a wonderful gift Mr. Hopper.

I haven't seen Mr. Hopper or his family for many years, but, I have never forgotten them and what they have meant in my life.

I'll meet you later, Mr.Hopper.

Sandra Williamson Price - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SR

“*Alec was a faithful man. He was faithful to his God, to his Church, and to his wife and family. He served God and loved God with all his heart. How lovely on the mountains are the feet of them who bring Good News, announcing peace, proclaiming words of happiness. Alec taught me, "I am the Ressurrection and the Life. He who believes in me though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

Samuel Richardson - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Dear Mrs. Hopper, Mark and Bruce, I was so sorry to see in the paper today of Mr. Hopper's passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. May God give you strength and peace during this time!! Just wanted you to know I am thinking of you.

Lisa (Adams) Cooper - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ One of my dearest friends and associate was Alec. We served together at Pinecroft Baptist-Shreveport. Those were cherished years spent with Alec and Nell. My late wife, Marian thought there was no one like Alec. He had such a good impact on my life and an encourager. Alex was a wonderful talent in art and music, his chalk talks were the best. We will miss Alec but know he is in heaven with his friends and family.

Rev Howard E Cole - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Alex was, to say the least, a very interesting individual. It was a pleasure to be in choir while he was here in Lake Charles FBC. His chalk talks are well remembered as well as the choir parties we attended at their houses.

Nell: our best to you in the days ahead.

J T Platt - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ OUR FAMILY SENDS OUR LOVE TO YOU AT THIS TIME. WE HAD SOME GOOD TIMES TOGETHER.

CLAUDE & LEATRICE WEST - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ It is hard to put into words how you feel about someone who had a great influence on your life. Alec brought music into my life, as well as others. Our trips to music week in New Orleans, working with us each week, and a Godly counsel, made it possible for me to serve as a music director later in my life. The first time I saw Alec he was visiting our church and did some of his chalk drawings. To this day, when I am sitting around, I find myself drawing that first drawing he did in our church. Outside of my Dad Alec was one of two men that had the greatest influence on my life. Even today when our old youth group get together, we talk of Alec and our trips to Music Week in New Orleans. I wish my children would have had the opportunity to sing and learn from Alec Hopper. I know when we all get to heaven he will have a choir organized and waiting for us.

Stephen Wolverton - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FC

“ I FONDLY REMEMBER ALEC AND NELL FROM OUR DAYS AT FIRST BAPTIST IN LAKE CHARLES. I WAS A COLLEGE STUDENT AND ALEC ENCOURAGED ME AND BECAUSE OF HIS ENCOURAGEMENT I WENT ON TO SERVE IN 3 BAPTIST CHURCHES FOR 50 YEARS. I SPENT 32 YEARS AT FIRST OF WESTLAKE, LA. I AM NOW RETIRED AND RUN MY OWN RECORDING STUDIO AND SERVE PART TIME AT A SMALL CHURCH IN SULPHUR, LA. MY PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE HOPPER FAMILY. FINERS B. CRYER II

FINERS CRYER - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *Nell and family*

I was privileged to grow up in 1st church Lake Charles and enjoy the wonderful music ministry that Alec provided so consistently for us. His ability to share God's message through his art was amazing to me as a young person. That talent to express through pictures made quite an impression on me and I have never forgotten Alec's witness for Christ through his music and art. Please know that I am lifting you all up in prayer.

K Allison Benton - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WE

“ *I will forever be grateful to Alec. As a member of the teenage choir at FBC, he realized that I did not have the discipline needed for the choir. Rather than just asking me to leave the choir, he found something for me to do [working with the sound system]. This led to my becoming the Director of Television Ministry at Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles from 1970 to 1984. These experience have helped me to maintain a relationship with our LORD. Thanks Alec for helping to give me a firm foundation.*

Wayne Eskridge - May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM