

## Happy Hour Group History

The Happy Hour Group was founded in the spring of 1987 by Georgia P. and Ricky W. The original meeting place was on Prince Avenue in the Cobb House, an old two-story mansion that had been converted into a Recovery House/Treatment Center and was the current meeting place for the Noon Cobb Group. The Cobb House was a great place for members of AA to hang out and talk recovery, especially the newcomers. When the treatment center eventually closed, a group of folks that had been hanging around the Cobb House decided to start a meeting. Since there were no other groups meeting in Athens at 5:30, that was the time they decided upon and appropriately named it Happy Hour. The meeting soon became a group and met three days a week in the upstairs room of the old Cobb House. As the group continued with a growing attendance, it was decided to hold the meeting seven nights a week at 5:30. Happy hour was an open, smoking meeting with book studies on Friday and Sunday nights. The group conscience later decided to have a closed meeting next door for those who preferred, and furthermore; it was the only way to handle the overflow crowd due to limits set by the local Fire Marshall. Only twenty-six were allowed in the room at one time. From the beginning, anniversary celebrations were held on the sobriety date of the celebrant usually with a speaker, a tradition that is still honored by the group today.

Some of the prominent members who have served diligently and worked to attract home group members through the years, are Eric M., Roy S., and Bill K. In AA meetings throughout the Athens area, one will often hear members with long-term sobriety share of walking up the stairs of the Cobb House to attend their very first meeting at Happy Hour. Over the years, Happy Hour has been especially welcoming to the newcomers and those in early sobriety and continue to celebrate a number of first and second year anniversaries. Love and Tolerance have always been the group's principle focus.

At the end of 2007, the church overseeing the property sold the Cobb House and all four of the groups who met there had to find new homes. Happy Hour met briefly in a small room at the Redeemer Church where attendance plummeted to ten or twelve from the previous forty or more, mostly due to lack of space. A long time member, Linda M., found a larger space for the group and without much debate the group came to an agreement with the First Christian Church near downtown. The larger room made for rapid growth as attendance steadily rose until the average attendance per night was around sixty-five. To this day attendance totals are high with some meetings reaching near one hundred. The Happy Hour group currently meets Monday through Saturday at 5:30, with a Monday night Beginners, Wednesday night Grapevine, and Friday night Book Study, and all meetings are open. Happy Hour still meets at the First Christian Church on 248 Daugherty St. (at the corner of Pulaski St.) Athens, GA.

# HAPPY HOUR GROUP

First Christian Church

268 W. Dougherty St.

Athens 30601

