

Ninth Tradition Group History

The Bishop Group was founded in July of 2013. With over 50 years of sobriety between them, married couple Sidnie and Tom S set out to create a meeting which embodied the best of what they had found in AA from around the country. The original location selected was the Bishop Community Church, right on Macon Highway (441). The group met on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7PM. Tom and Sidnie lovingly scripted the meeting format, the readings and made sure to include a lot of love and acceptance into the group's "vibe". From Day 1, the Bishop Group has held Rule 62 to be sacrosanct.

In an effort to make their presence known, they placed a sign on the church front lawn, announcing the new meeting to passing traffic along Macon Highway. And it finally worked! In November, of 2013, Tom P, Bishop Group #3 observed the sign while driving home from work and decided to stop in. An AA with 25+ years of sobriety himself, Tom P found a new AA home in the church basement. A decision to focus Tuesday night as an Open Discussion meeting and Thursday as an Open Literature meeting was reached.

Slowly but surely, attendance crept up in those first few months of early 2014. Most nights would find between 5 to 15 attendees with about 6 regular members. Before too long, the women of the group decided to add a 3rd meeting on Monday nights also at 7PM, a Women's meeting. Not a separate group, this attached meeting continues today.

In the summer of 2014, the group decided they just weren't seeing each another enough and added a Saturday morning meeting (10AM). The format for the Saturday morning meeting was decided to be Open Discussion as well.

In the summer of 2015, due to new ownership of the Bishop Community Church, the Bishop Group was asked to remove itself from the premises. Reaching out to several churches in the area, the current location, the Bishop Methodist Church was chosen as the group's new home. The church's open and welcoming attitude warmed our hearts and resonated with us.

In the spring of 2016, the broad highway called Tom and Sidnie away from Bishop Georgia. The group continues and carries on the traditions started by our founders. Different than many other groups in District 16B, at the Bishop Group the birthday celebrant tells their story, not an invited guest. If they so desire it, we provide a cake to help the celebration. And we allow the celebrant to select the meeting at which their sobriety anniversary will be celebrated.

We meet Tuesday night (Open Discussion) and Thursday Night (Open Literature) at 7PM; Saturday morning at 10AM (open discussion) and we have a Women's Meeting (Open Discussion) on Mondays at 7PM. We would sure love to have you come join us sometime.

NINTH TRADITION GROUP

Bishop Methodist Church

1082 Old Bishop Road

Bishop 30621

