

# *Tales of The Chronologically Gifted*

## **Adventures, Tales, and Delights of the Sheep and Shepherd**

*We are doing FUN things. We just proved that you can have a grand and rich experience without flying or driving great distances and without spending much money. What the Sheep and Shepherd ministry is about is providing fellowship, fun, food, and educational opportunities for our older church members in pleasing and sometimes expansive environments.*

### **Historical Considerations – Fort Hill Plantation**



On an unsettled Sunday afternoon under a leaden sky shrouded with ominous clouds we gathered at Grace Church at 1:30 PM for an afternoon outing. We made minor changes to our itinerary

and decided to visit the Fort Hill Plantation antebellum home of John C. Calhoun located on the Clemson university campus before going to the State Botanical Gardens. The gray curtains of rain falling out of the western sky suggested we would like our outing better with this change. And so it was.



The John Calhoun home is fully restored and furnished with the furniture and art that this 19<sup>th</sup> century statesman enjoyed from 1825 to 1850. A visual feast and pleasing helpful docents made for an enjoyable tour of the opulently furnished rooms and halls of this grand old house. The rain spent itself while we were in the house and we exited into the gardens in bright sunshine and enjoyed a short walk and opportunity to take more digital pictures with impunity. The gardens are still brilliant from the spectral outbursts of a lush spring here in the south.

### **Spectral Musings**

#### **The Southern Living House and Gallery**

A five minute ride in the car brought us to the Southern Living Home and gallery in the south end of the botanical gardens. There we found the place seeming to be closed. We wandered around in magnificent gardens around a



truly grand house built about ten years ago by Southern Living magazine. We got some really fine botanical pictures and this wandering in the gardens eventually brought us round the back side and a most

pleasant fellow offered to show us through the house and we found the interior to have been made over into a series of galleries for featured painters and multi-media artists. It was again made most enjoyable by the attentiveness of a friendly helpful artist functioning as an ad hoc docent. The views of the gardens from the upper floor are expansive and most reminiscent of a fine English garden. I once stayed in a very similar house and garden in Cornwall. A pleasant woman out on the lawn with her canvas and oil paints completed the image for me.

### **State Botanical Gardens**



Botanical Gardens always allow one to decompress, slow down and smell the roses, so to speak. We wandered in the hosta gardens, enjoyed watching the energy and vigor of university students cramming for finals at the scattered picnic tables, and then reading the bronze plaques describing the often humorous history of the days when Clemson

University was a men's military college. Several other historical houses in the garden added to our timeless experience.

### **Victualization**

Of course we needed to eat when this was all done!! We went to Riviera in Clemson, planning on having exotic Turkish fare. We all ended up ordering Italian and were most pleased with what we got. Lasagna, chicken parmesan, and spaghetti are not exotic, but they are very tasty. The large portions allowed us to take home foam boxes for the next day. Yeah!! We got back to Anderson at 6 PM. What did you do with your afternoon?

*Blessings, Craig Johnson*