The First Pentecostal Church of Richmond

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The First Pentecostal Church of Richmond
by Meagan Denton

The church I visited was the First Pentecostal Church of Richmond. The church is located at 2200 Pickens Road, Richmond Virginia 23224. This church is a Pentecostal church. I visited this church on Sunday October 18th, 2015 at 10am. This church has a Pastor and his name is Joe Forbush.

This church has three separate buildings. One is for the kids, another is for the youth, and the other building is the main sanctuary. The outside of the main building a white color with a brick front. The kids building is a white and tan with brick on the bottom portion of the building. The youth building is just white. The buildings themselves just look like normal buildings and the main building has point on top of it. In their parking lot they have a huge brick cross. The inside of the main building is the walls are cream of tan.

There where a few decorations on the walls but they were normal things you would decorate your home with, nothing religious. Once in the sanctuary part of the building they had a stage with stairs leading up to it. The seating was like seating you would find at a stadium but with cushions. They also had musical instruments on the stage along with chairs for a choir to be seated. It was also minimally decorated. I also went into the kids building it had several classrooms in it where they had Sunday School for them. The Youth building was just one large room where chairs were placed for them to sit. The kid and youth building also contained kitchens.

When I first walked in I was greeted by several people and I was taken to the guest service desk basically. They had me fill out a little card with my name and a few other things about me. They then showed me where I could sit. After that I just sat down and observed. I got there around 9:40ish so the service hadn't started. I was again greeted by a few members of the congregation, they came to say hello and asked me my name. I felt a little weird sitting there at first because I didn't really know anyone but the people seemed pretty nice and a few had spoken to me. No one offered to explain anything to me but the guest service people seemed like they would. There was a diverse group of people attending the church. There really wasn't one specific ethnic background or social class. The ages in the crowd also varied as well and there were a few hundred people there.

When the service first started they started with live music. This lasted about 30 minutes and the first few songs where upbeat and the last two were slower songs. The congregation seemed to be really involved in the song part of the service. After that a man went up on the stage and spoke for a minute and then they took offering. After that a video of announcements was played that spoke about any activities that would be taking place. Once that finished another song was sang and then the
pastor came up spoke for a few minutes. After he spoke he then started with the message. The congregation also seemed to respond to this quite well. People would clap, say “Amen”, or raise their hands. After that, the congregation was then able to go up front and pray or be prayed for. The service ended by the pastor praying for us and then he dismissed us. The service seemed to have a certain order to it, meaning that they go by the same plan overtime just different songs or things like that. The emotional tone of the service was a serious and vibrant tone. They would respond by dancing, singing along, raising their hands, or shouting. The things that seemed to be rituals were the collecting of the offering for the church and God’s tithes. Another ritual was the ending prayer of the service. It was just a way of ending the service and thanking God for bringing his spirit to the service.

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