

# For your convenience

## Birmingham specialists travel to St. Vincent's St. Clair to ease worry

By GARY HANNER

Tired of long drives to get to the doctor's office? Worried about all the traffic on Interstate 20 as you enter Birmingham?

Citizens of Pell City and St. Clair County need to know that doctors who specialize in urology are coming to St. Vincent's St. Clair two days a week.

There are two doctors who have a practice in Birmingham but go to the Pell City hospital on Mondays and Thursdays.

No need of driving to Birmingham when patients can see the exact same doctor in Pell City.

Today, Dr. George Adams and Dr. Thomas Holley spend time at St. Vincent's St. Clair in Pell City hoping to ease travel time and tension for patients in this area.

### Dr. George W. Adams Jr.

Adams, 64, has been a doctor for 35 years. He spent the large majority of his career at Norwood Clinic at Carraway Hospital.

"I had the chance to take a new position here where I am in charge of research and the erectile dysfunction department," Adams said. "I also had the chance to get away from night calls which was very appealing."

Adams has been coming to the hospital in Pell City since the 1970's and knew Dr. John Haynes very well. They decided to try the urology consultation and practice one day a week just to see if it was worthwhile and it was.

"We've been doing it ever since and Dr. Haynes and I became very good friends," Adams said.

With Adams coming every Thursday and Holley every Monday, it is a win-win situation for the two doctors and patients.

"That gives us three days apart so patients who come to the emergency room during that time who are directed to see a urologist, do not have to wait an entire week to see one of us," Adams said.

Adams added that doctors in Pell City know what days he and Holley are coming and they let patients who may need to see a urologist know that. He said they are providing a great service to the citizens in this area.

"So many of our patients are elderly and don't feel comfortable on the interstate and they may end up getting lost," he said. "A lot of times, if they can't drive, they have to get a family member to take off work to take them. It cost everybody money. When gas was \$4 a gallon, it was a real problem."

Adams said the great thing about all of this is if there is a complicated case in Pell City, he can bring the X-rays back and show them to other doctors in Birmingham.

"We get with the other doctors and get their opinions," Adams said. "Not only are these patients getting the opinions of myself and Dr. Holley, they could get the opinions of five to seven more doctors. We actually have a conference we can bring complicated cases to and get everyone's opinion."

### Dr. Thomas Holley

Thomas Holley, 32, graduated from medical school in 2002 and completed his training in June 2008. He has been coming to the Pell City hospital every Monday since October 2008.

"I've enjoyed Pell City a lot," Holley said. "I think this has definitely helped a lot of the patients who may have difficulty driving to Birmingham. We get to do a lot of work there but there are some things that require



ABOVE: Dr. Thomas Holley, left, and Dr. George Adams may have a practice in Birmingham but they spend one day a week at St. Vincent's St. Clair Hospital in Pell City.

them to come in to us here in Birmingham."

Holley said everyone has been real nice since his first day at St. Vincent's St. Clair.

"Everyone was so eager to meet me," he said. "I took a tour of the city and had the chance to meet all the other physicians. It has been real nice coming to Pell City."

Holley has performed surgeries in Pell City. He is there from 8 a.m. to noon so he attempts to see all his patients first before performing simple surgeries like removing bladder tumors and other small surgeries as such. Major surgeries are performed in Birmingham.

Holley did say he hoped to be around Pell City as long as Adams has.

"Everyone is just so nice and I don't see myself giving this up any time soon," he said.

Holley has just joined the robotic surgical team along with Dr. Scott Tully, Dr. Eddie Bugg and Dr. Michael Bivins.

### Future of St. Clair

Adams said the future of Pell City and St. Clair County is bright.

"You have to look at Jeff State," he said. "You've got the two-year college, the new hospital and the VA nursing home. They are going to have nursing students coming out there. Then you will be able to have them go through the hospital and get some training locally instead of them coming to Birmingham. Once this economy turns around, things are going to boom."

Adams did say the big-

gest thing wrong with Pell City is that it is too close to Birmingham.

"A lot of good patients drive to Birmingham to the doctor," he said. "The better they make their services there in Pell City, more people will stay home instead of driving the interstate."

Adams said he and Holley are not the only two doctors out of Birmingham who come to Pell City.

"Monday through Friday, there are between 30 to 40 specialists on the second floor at the hospital in Pell City," Adams said. "What Terrell Vick is trying to do is keep as much surgery in his hospital as he can. Terrell is a local man and he really cares about the hospital in Pell City. We're not trying to take it all to Birmingham but we are trying to keep as much as we can in Pell City that is not too complicated."

Janie Frazier, director of surgical services for St. Vincent's St. Clair, said there is a huge population of older patients and a lot who are uninsured in this area.

"If these doctors did not come here, they would not receive any medical care at all," Frazier said. "We are proud they offer these services at our hospital here in Pell City."