



Rev. John Mark Carpenter brought an emotional message, "A Pastor's Prayer," Sunday for his last day as pastor of Sardis Baptist Church. He and his wife Betty will be getting some well-deserved rest and spending more time with their family. Several visitors were present for this special service including Rev. and Mrs. James Bland, several members of the Carpenter family, and others. The Lord's Supper was observed. Kim Abrams, daughter of the Carpenters, sang two special songs during the service. A fellowship dinner was held in the annex in honor of John Mark and Betty. They were presented a plaque and a gift in appreciation for their dedication and service to the church and community.

●John David Carpenter, grandson of Rev. and Mrs. Carpenter, joined the church at Sardis Sunday and was baptized in the baptismal pool by his grandfather, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Carpenter, and aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Abrams, present. In his visits to Sardis with his grandparents, John David had come to love the church so much that he wanted it to be a special part of his life. It was an awesome sight to behold. What a great compliment to Sardis Baptist Church!

●A group of 15 from Sardis Baptist Church went Christmas caroling Wednesday, December 13. They also handed out Christmas bags to the shut-ins and elderly of the community. This was a very rewarding experience for Denise Armour and Jackson, Angela Armour, Cody and Hunter Armour, Monica Gunter, Courtney, Meredith and Maddie, Jessica Walker, Jessica Murphy, Rebekkah Echols, Trey Bowen, and Pam and Avery Hall.

●Many people of the community have been sick with colds and viruses. We have had some dreary days including Christmas Day and New Year's Eve and Day. The weather is so different from one day to the next. I have yellow buttercups blooming in my yard today on New Year's Day and I have heard others say they have things budding out and as someone said, the birds are singing their springtime melodies.

●Josephine Orr was honored on her 75th birthday Saturday, December 23, with a lovely party at Sardis Baptist Church annex by her children, Marie Tyler, Keeve Orr, and Kate Messer. Many people came to help her celebrate.

●Ruby Arnold celebrated her 82nd birthday Thursday, December 28, by having most of her family with her. Mary Grace Owen of Rosman, N.C., came down and brought Gracie, David and Adrienne Owen, Grant and Macie came from Westville, Fla., along with many other family members to celebrate with her.

●Annie Blanche Vaughn came home Friday of last week after a stay in Wills Memorial Hospital and is recuperating nicely. Penny Vaughn of Martinez spent the weekend with her mother. On Christmas Day all of Annie Blanche's children and grandchildren spent the day with her.

●Billy and Susan Amason joined other members of the Callaway family Saturday, December 16, for a Christmas dinner and celebration in Winder with Kate Nicholson. Dick and Nellie Jane Berklew of Melbourne, Fla., came with their children, Dan Berklew, Brad Berklew, and Matt and Terri Berklew, and Leah. Ann Dodd, Brian and Beverly Dodd of Marietta; Blake and Susan Dodd and Kelly of Midtown; and Howell and Shirley Callaway of Hartwell were all present.

●A mother, daughter, granddaughter get-together was held at the home of Janet Lewis in Athens last Wednesday. Joining Janet were Doris Walker, Debra Sherrer, Cheryl Walker, Becky Orr, Whitney and Lindsay Sherrer, Alex Walker, Ashton Lewis, and Isabella Orr.

●Bonnie Boatwright spent Thursday of last week in Bogart with her sister, Martha Jones. They went to the Cracker Barrel restaurant for a wonderful lunch with Frankie Jones of Athens and James and Sharon Smith of Stephens. On Saturday J.W. and Bonnie treated Martha Jones of Bogart out to dinner at the

Red Lobster in Athens.

●Donnie and Kris Berry, Abbi and Jessi, Tom and Sandra Parker, Joshua Parker, Lee and Shelley Parker, Bradley, Tristan and Lila, and Sybil Vaughn enjoyed Christmas breakfast with Betty Berry.

●David and Margie Randall enjoyed the Christmas party with the Heritage Club at White Columns Inn in Thomson recently.

●Sudie Kennedy spent December 23 and 24 in Bluffton, S.C., with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kennedy and family. Accompanying her to Bluffton were Johnny and Joann Lewis of Greensboro. Sudie had supper Christmas night with Bud Kennedy and Joel McCree in Union Point.

●Brooke Berry, Kaitlyn and Bryson of Washington, Martha Jones of Bogart and J.W. and Bonnie Boatwright enjoyed Christmas supper with Lamar and Kay Berry and Trey.

●Kim Berry and Aaliya entertained with a dinner Christmas Eve night for Ruby Arnold, Faye Johnson, Dorothy Callaway, Ruby Booth, Lamar and Kay Berry and Trey, Brooke Berry, Kaitlyn and Bryson.

●Frances Fendley, Joan Perez, and Richard Burkett, Chris and Heather Armour, Rebecca and Raeliegh, Greg and Jennifer, Daniella, Dominique, Trinity, Ishima, and Greg Jr. had dinner Christmas Eve with Bobby and Debra Armour.

●The home of George and Mozelle Casey was the scene of a family Christmas Day dinner with all the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Joining them for the day were Frances Fendley and Myrtis Seymour.

●David and Margie Randall enjoyed attending the Christmas program and party at the Senior Center Thursday of last week.

●Sarah Bowen will celebrate her second birthday Saturday, January 6.

●T.J. and Karen Bowen, Roy, Trey and Sarah, joined other family members Christmas Eve for dinner and supper at the home of Nell Shedd in Tyrone. Others coming for the celebration were Laura, Hope, Valerie, D.J., Mason, Madison, and Tracy, Barbara, Amber, Nina, Adam, Alex and Jacob.

●Billy and Doris Walker had all their family with them for Christmas dinner including Mike and Debra Sherrer, Whitney and Lindsey, Whitney's friend, Reese; Sidney and Cheryl Walker, Clifton, Alex and Taylor; John and Becky Orr, Walker and Isabella of Lawrenceville; and Cliff and Janet Lewis, Ashton and Heyden of Athens.

●Buck and Linda Echols had a house full of company Christmas Eve. Joining them for dinner were Milton and Billie Sue Roberts, Milton Jr. and Terri Roberts, Kelly Roberts and Jessica Watson, Milton Roberts, Tim and Laura Purdy, Crystal Purdy and Andy Jackson, Paul and Heather Wheatley, Greg and Angela Armour, Samantha, Cody and Hunter, Will Callaway, Scott and Sissy Smith, Abby and J.T., and Richard and Lou Heard, Mattie and Hank.

●Christmas Day supper guests of Buck and Linda Echols were Mark and Beth Moore, Sam and Dawn Moore, Josh and Caleb Saggus, Greg and Angela Armour, Samantha, Cody and Hunter, Scott and Sissy Smith, Abby and J.T., Richard and Lou Heard, Mattie and Hank.

●Christmas night, T.J. and Karen Bowen joined Ty and Sue Land, Amanda and Katelyn, of Tignall and Jessica Courtwright of Lincolnton at the home of Tommy and Nancy Bowen for dinner.

●The prayer list includes Tom Buford, Stephanie Chapman, Gary Rogers, Kathryn Padgett, Pete Poss, Mike Webb, Dorothy Callaway, Ellie Frey, Roberta Roper, Emilie Rorie, Jeffrey Moore, and Mrs. Johnny Winfrey.

●Ruby Arnold and Faye Johnson enjoyed Christmas dinner Saturday with Sallie Mae Arnold and all her children and grandchildren. They had a family reunion with all 10 of her children coming. The house was bustling with excitement, laughter, and lots of good food.

●The home of Pat and Bob Preston was the scene of a Christmas Eve celebration and dinner. Joining the

Prestons were Ann Williamson, Jessie and Nancy Williamson, David and Dawn Williamson, David Jr. and Debra, Albert and Karen Petit, Rebecca and Keith of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and Bobby Preston who was home from college in Virginia.

●Elizabeth Smith had Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Arnold, Stacie and Kelsey Arnold, and Tyler Hancock, Bobby and Sandra Arnold, Corey and Tammy Arnold, Haley and Hannah, Charlie and Linda Arnold and Jeffrey, Denise Robert, Lauren, Lucas, and Layla visited Saturday for their Christmas celebration. Jean Harper spent the day Wednesday and Ann Wideman also visited. Several visited during the new year's weekend.

●Shirley Chafin attended the Christmas program and dinner at Pentecost Chapel last Sunday night as guest of Charles and Hilda Palmer.

●Denise Armour visited Mrs. Talitha Hopkins last Wednesday and carried her a nice Christmas gift.

●Pam and Boyce Hall, Lindley and Avery, and Keaton Wilson joined other family members for Christmas dinner and celebration at the home of Norris and Frances Ware in Washington on Friday, December 22.

●On Christmas Eve, Boyce and Pam Hall, Lindley and Avery, and Keaton Wilson enjoyed supper with Martha Hall.

●Boyce and Pam Hall, Lindley and Avery, and Keaton Wilson had lunch on Christmas Eve with Clyde and Sandy Whittington.

●Fred Weidner of Lexington spent Friday to Tuesday with Clyde and Sandy Whittington. Christmas Day all of them visited Neil and Kim Frankel, Zachery, Kyle, and Bryce in Crawford.

●Helen Price of Athens had dinner with Martha Hall Saturday. Joining them were Boyce and Pam Hall, Lindley and Avery, and Keaton Wilson.

●Pam Hall and Avery carried Helen Price of Athens to Hartwell Wednesday to visit Bob Hall.

●Manuel Wheatley of Metasville had Christmas breakfast with Tracy and Denise Armour, Justin, Ethan, and Jackson, and Audra Chapman.

●Tommy and Fran Thaxton and Charles and Hilda Palmer attended the Christmas program and dinner at Rock Methodist Church last Wednesday night as guests of Troy and Shirley Chafin.

●Jack and Rubye Armour had all of their family with them for Christmas Eve including Lyn and Debra Armour, Mitch and Casey, John and Jennifer Armour, Mason, Barry and Beth Armour, Brittany, Bettina and Dylan, Greg and Angela Armour, Samantha, Cody and Hunter, Will Callaway, Tracy and Denise Armour, Justin, Ethan, and Jackson, and Audra Chapman.

●Troy and Shirley Chafin were in Athens Thursday and had dinner at Fire Mountain.

●On Christmas Day, Tracy and Denise Armour, Justin, Ethan and Jackson, and Audra Chapman enjoyed going to the home of Danny and Traci Bussey, Brett and Ashleigh in Lincolnton for dinner. Others joining them there were Manuel Wheatley, Scott and Angie Wheatley, Jim and Elaine Wheatley, Brandon and Jonathan Wheatley, April Smith, and Brittany Armour.

●The home of Troy and Shirley Chafin was the scene of a Christmas Eve celebration. Joining them were Mack and Ronnie Chafin, Raquel Johnson, Ken and Sheila Arnold and Blake, Matt and Mandy Young and Walker, Terri Diaz, Rocky Nation, Wendy Harper and Evan, Willard and Diana Queen, and Tommy Fong.

●Alyssa Stewart joined Jeffrey Roth of Washington for Christmas dinner with Wade and Ann Palmer and other family members.

●William Hester of Covington spent Saturday through Monday with George and Ann Wideman. Watson Wideman visited two days. Other visitors were James, David and Mathew Wideman, Gene Winfrey, and Leeman Stewart. Ann visited Elizabeth Smith and Sandy Winfrey. George and Ann visited Mrs. Laura Hester in Wilkes Health Care Center and took Christmas gifts.

●The home of Johnny and Kathryn Shedd was the scene of a Christmas dinner. Present were Tim and Gail Stewart, Paul and Hannah, Ava, Angie Paul, Chad Williams, Cody Paul and Ashtyn, Garrett Paul, Lyn Shedd, Ricky Shedd, Chance Shedd, Rodney and Betsy Shedd, Mil, Matt, and Morgan, Kenny and Vickie Mathews, Katie and Kelli. ●Shirley Chafin, Terri Diaz and

Rock Nation enjoyed supper in Crawford Christmas Day with Claude and Ann Nation and other family members.

●Tommy and Fran Thaxton and Charles and Hilda Palmer enjoyed the Christmas program and dinner at Rock United Methodist Church as guests of Troy and Shirley Chafin last Wednesday.

●Ralph Smith is now a resident of the Silver Leaf Nursing Home in Athens after spending several weeks at the Silver Leaf home in Lawrenceville.

●Bill and Hope Remsen and Delaney of Evans spent Christmas Eve day with Peggy Echols and Johnny Adams.

●Martha Jones of Bogart, Frankie Jones of Athens, James and Sharon Smith of Stephens, Mary Burt of Washington, and Bonnie Boatwright enjoyed eating lunch Thursday, December 28, at Chiles in Athens. Afterwards Frankie and Bonnie went to Martha's home to spend the afternoon.



REV. AND MRS. EDWARDS

Beaverdam Baptist honors Edwards on last day of service

Sunday, December 31, was Rev. James Edwards' last day as pastor of Beaverdam Baptist Church in the Rayle community. Following the regular Sunday services, he and Mrs. Edwards were honored at a retirement fellowship meal.

Rev. Edwards, who is also a talented singer, led the congregational singing accompanied by William Morrison, church musician, at the piano. The adult Sunday School lesson was taught by Richard Byrd with questions and comments from class members. Mrs. Gene Winfrey taught the young children's class.

Rev. Edwards recalled his first sermon at Beaverdam on the first Sunday in January, 2003. Taking his message, "Where Is Your Treasure?" from Matthew 6 and other passages, including Proverbs 4:23 and John 14:16, he spoke of believers' relationships to the Heavenly Father and how faith brings something more valuable than anything we may amass in our lives.

The communion table held an arrangement of blooms of pampas grass and begonias with fern. A budvase of fern and begonia blooms was on the piano. A New Year theme was used by Elaine Matthews in decorating the Clifton Barrett Fellowship Hall. A long table with white cover had a row of cedar with berries down the center. Colorful metallic starbursts and balls were placed on it at intervals. The dessert table held a tiny cedar on a bed of greenery with ornaments on the tree and base.

An abundant variety of party foods was brought by members and was enjoyed with punch or tea. A cake with an image of Rev. and Mrs. Edwards and their poodle, "Precious," iced on top centered the dessert table and was presented to Rev. and Mrs. Edwards.

Other hospitality committee members who did the much-appreciated job of providing beverages and setting up and clearing were Betty Byrd and Rosie Maxwell.

"Rev. and Mrs. Edwards will be missed as he has steered the church well during the sad times and the happy times of the last three years," a spokesman for the church said. "Good wishes go with them as they again enter retirement at their pretty lakeside home. It is well known that Rev. Edwards will be finding the best fishing spot available, just as soon as fishing weather arrives. Prayers are that good health will soon be fully restored to Mrs. Edwards and that they will enjoy good health and many pleasure-filled days of retirement. The people of Beaverdam wish them God's greatest blessings."



By SHERRY W. NEWSOME
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I trust all of you had a wonderful Christmas. My family and I did.

●There was fun, food, and laughter at "Grandmother's" house with friends and family getting together, exchanging gifts, excitement on children's faces on Christmas morning as they eagerly opened presents, and to see what Santa had brought them. When there are little ones around it's so much fun. Our grandson, Tanner Barnett, ended up in the hospital in Athens during Christmas. He is much better now and at home.

●Happy new year to all of you. I hope God will be ever near you in our troubled world. If we ever needed a helping hand from our Lord, it is now. So, put your trust in Him and He will see you through another year.

●Mrs. Jenelle Newsome joined Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Newsome and Anna of Martinez and spent Christmas with Rev. and Mrs. Jimmy Newsome and other relatives in Vero Beach, Fla.

●Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shank of Lexington, S.C., spent Christmas with Mrs. Hal Shank.

●Holiday visitors of Mrs. Sara Huff were Russell Goldman of Doraville; Randy Goldman, Connie Johnson and Misty of Lincolnton; Cassie Goldman, Bryson, Mitch Taylor, Linda Standard and Peyton.

●Aubrey Walker and friends, Haley and Heather, of Athens, spent a recent weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Keith Standard.

●Rebecca Phillips of Conyers; Greg Phillips of North Augusta; and Stephanie Haynes, Chip and Skyla of Washington visited Mr. and Mrs. Richard Phillips during the holidays.

●Mrs. Sara Huff, Mrs. Linda Standard, Peyton Standard, and Russell Goldman enjoyed services at Bethel United Methodist Church recently.

●Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Standard of Rayle; Peyton Standard of Augusta; Russell Goldman of Doraville; and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Ansley Jr. visited Mr. and Mrs. Keith Standard during the holidays.

●Visitors of Miss Grace Dunaway and Alex Dunaway were Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Dunaway, Mrs. Louise Burt, Mrs. Flora Ann McGill, Linda Standard, and Bobbie Thornton.

●Trudy Ingram and Doris Appelt of Thomson spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Gus Turpin in Ft. Myers, Fla.

●Mrs. Lucille Turpin's holiday guests were Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Davenport and Tyler, Marvin Davenport, Linda McDonald, all of Hayesville, N.C.; Mr. and Mrs. David Ingram and Erin of Flowery Branch, Paul Ingram of Smyrna; Mr. and Mrs. Adam Harper and Mason of Monroe; Mrs. Rhonda Ingram Shedd of Monroe, and a friend (their husbands are serving in Iraq); Mrs. Florence Ingram, Mrs. Billy Glenn, Mr. and Mrs. Claude

Ingram, Mrs. Lona Chesnut, and Roy, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Ryll, Calley and Connor, Mr. and Mrs. David Burke, and Elizabeth Dunnaway.

●Roy Chesnut Jr. visited his father, Roy Chesnut, in Macon the past weekend.

●Mitch Taylor, Cassie Goldman and Bryson spent Sunday and Monday with her mother, Deane Johnson in Hull.

●Our holiday visitors were our children, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Gaines, Tanner Barnett, Trace Newsome of Winterville, Shannon Thomason, Taylor McAvoy, and Burt Newsome.

●All of our family gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wallace in Lincoln County and joined other family members for our Christmas on Sunday a week before Christmas. We had a wonderful time.

●G.B. and I joined our other immediate family for supper with Shannon Thomason, Taylor McAvoy, and friend, Wes Butler, in Danburg Christmas Day.

●Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Standard for New Year's weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Chris Standard, Hunter and Mason of Denham Springs, La.; Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Ansley Jr., Mrs. Sara Huff, Cassie Goldman and Bryson. Sherry Newsome dropped in Saturday to see the new babies in their families.

●Sherry Newsome visited residents of Wilkes Health Care Center recently, taking gift bags from Ebenezer Baptist Church's Homebound Committee. She also visited Tina Van Hart Saturday.

●Happy birthday to all who are celebrating birthdays. Genna Grimaud had one Sunday, December 31, and Jean N. Casey celebrated one December 30.

●Prayer concerns include Leonard Fain, Natalie (Lily Davis' grandchild), Elizabeth Lindsey, Michelle Smith Walker, Margaret Hegge, Tim Jackson, Barry Bailey, Gary Rogers, Willie Dallas, Mrs. Willie Ruth Freeman, Teresa Echols Bray, Karin Lindsey, Bennie and Rita Thurmond, Dr. and Mrs. Weems Pennington, Charles Elam, Bill Niemann, Miriam Richards, Mrs. Pete Strother, Mrs. Lois South, Mrs. Dot Shank, Mrs. Lucy McCorkle, Henry Wallace, Mrs. Mona Hall, Linda Albea, Bob Kirkland, Dorothy Whitener, Warren and Lois Nunn, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Lee, Mrs. Maude Griffith, Mrs. Ethel Harris, Linda Nash Hughes, all the elderly, all our youth, our country and its leaders, the Hamilton family, the family of Rev. Pierce Norman, and all who have lost loved ones. We express our sympathy to each family.

●I wish each of you a very happy new year and remember to trust God.

●In answer to the question, what do we think about the Department of Transportation (DOT) leaving Aonia off the map: we all know we're here in a great community with good friends and neighbors, a wonderful church with great people and good leaders. Everyone knows that the DOT doesn't always make the best decisions and they do make plenty of mistakes. Just look around the county at our roads.

News from Wilkes Health Care

Guests of Mrs. Sara Gresham were Katherine Melson, Johnny and Lynda Gresham, Jo Randall, Lyn Randall, Nancy and Mickey Sisson, Ashlyn Gresham, Mark Gresham, Sally Gresham, Jaclyn Gresham, Mitzi Gresham, Frances Everett, and Willie and Virginia Feyerabend.

●Melissa Moore and Xavier M. Quinn visited George Mercier.

●Mrs. Sara E. Walton's guests were Vickie Watson, Linda Garrett, and Shirley Crocker.

●Mrs. Annie Kate Norman's visitors were Ann Flanigan, Doris Ferguson, and Mark and Debbie Lewis.

●Tommy Mechaz visited Mrs. Elizabeth Ivey.

●Mrs. Carrie Johnson's visitors were Virginia Price, Willie R. Bankston, and Eddie Bankston.

●Visiting Carl (C.W.) Stewart were Sara Katherine Allen, Henry and Linda Fisher, Pat Stewart, and Ryan Fisher.

●James Waller's visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Booth, Max Armour, Robert Waller, Jackie Martin, Niccki Martin, and Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Echols.

●Edna M. Gresham visited Joe Wilkinson.

●Visiting Charlie Williams and Henry Butler were Edna M. Gresham, Carrie M. Williams, Lakeisha Williams, Shirley Carter, Thelma

Davis, Reginald Davis, Jennifer Bells, Sarah Avery, and Rodney Wright Jr.

●Warren and Ann Newsome visited Charlie Coker.

●Welborn Avery's visitors were Edna M. Gresham, Rodney Wright Jr., Jennifer Bells, and Sarah Avery.

●Mr. and Mrs. George Wideman visited Mrs. Laura Hester.

●Bill and Lena Wall visited Miss Lillie Wall.

●Pattie Booker visited Hiawatha Gatewood.

●Guests of Mrs. Clara Morague were Betty Parks, Jasmine Crew, Angela M. Wright, Allta Cantey, Mitchell Smalls, Vale Parker, Tara Wells, Lawrence Murray, Helen Fuller, Dot Willis, Javares Brittain, Delvecchio Booker, Mitchell Smalls Jr., Shirley Smalls, and Bertha Fuller.

●Dot and Joe Harris visited Mrs. Ethel Harris.

●Jean Bufford visited Mrs. Dated Turmon.

●Mrs. Dot Wolfe's visitors were Lanette Drinkard, Jeannie Wolfe, Lyn Wolfe, Nora Wolfe, Jo Randall, and Lyn Randall.

●Guests of Mrs. Mae Butler were Mildred Hackney, Joe Maher, Emily Thornton, Marvin Mason, Terry, Joe, Brent and Blake, Hubert and Fay Butler, and Jody Scott.