

Avondale Baptists To Dedicate Sanctuary

10-5-83 #3

## Avondale Baptists Plan Dedication

The First Baptist Church of Avondale Estates, in its forty-fourth year is planning to celebrate and dedicate a new sanctuary at services at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 9.

Five weeks of special events will mark the completion of the building project.

The sanctuary, built at a cost of \$1,900,000, will seat 1,280 people. An earlier ceremony marked the placing of a steeple on the new building.

*Alleluia!*, "a praise gathering for believers," will be presented by the 140-member Chancel Choir at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9.

The pastor, the Rev. Bill Young, will preach on Sunday morning, Oct. 16. A band concert, presented by the Avondale High School award-winning Blue Devils, will be held at 3 p.m., followed by open house.

Dr. Truett Gannon, a former pastor of the church, will be the evening speaker on Oct. 16.

Dr. Victor Green, also a former pastor, will preach at morning services on Sunday, Oct. 23. At the evening service the church historian, Mary Lallerstedt, will present an oral review of highlights of the congregation's past.

be celebrated on Oct. 30 at the morning service.

"SAINT'S ALIVE!," a musical for senior adults, will be presented at the Oct. 30 evening service. The musical will explore some of the feelings stirred by retirement, according to church secretary Annette Frizen.

"Without apology or regret there is gratitude to God for reaching this 'magic age,'" she said. "With tongue in cheek humor, Saints Alive provides an awareness that we are not what we used to be, but there is much that we can do and will do for the good of mankind and the Glory of God."

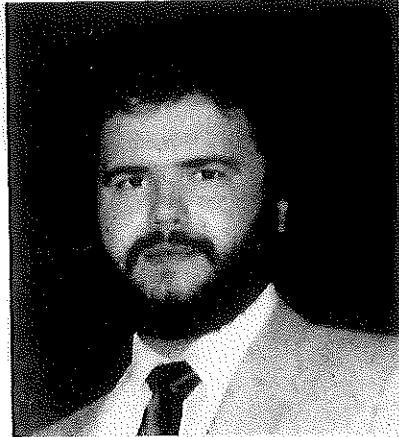
Speakers at the Nov. 6 services will be the present pastor and Dr. Howard Cobble, a former pastor of the church.

The church's first pastor, Dr. Arnold Smith, will take part in the celebration schedule if his health permits.

As fast as the congregation moves to the new sanctuary, pews, the organ, and other furnishings will be moved from the old site of worship. This will be turned into a Family Life Center, with gymnasium and recreational facilities, and a dining room for 420.

DeKalb News/Sun

7/4/90



**Dennis Lewallen**

**Joins Avondale First Baptist**

Dennis Lewallen has accepted the position of minister of music at First Baptist Church of Avondale Estates. Mr. Lewallen graduated from Towers High School and DeKalb College.

He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a master's degree and teachers' certification from Georgia State University. He and his wife, Gail, have two children, Katherine, 7, and Nicholas Carey, 4.

File: Avondale Estates First Baptist  
DeKalb News/Sun 6/10/92

# Keynotes On DeKalb



**STONE MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB** held its June luncheon Monday at Jo-Lin Banquet Hall, Tucker. Pat Carson spoke on "Getting Control of Our Lives." Toni Anderson from Atlanta University sang, and Martha Wilson shared an interesting story.

**NELSON AND SHARILYN GRANADE** announce the birth of their first child, James Douglas, April 22 at DeKalb Medical Center. The grandparents are Doug and Kay Owens of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Natt and Sarah Granade of Warner Robins, Ga. The paternal great-grandparents are Alethea Bates of Warner Robins, and Kermit Bates of Bainbridge, Ga. The maternal great-grandparents are Edna Bell of Mobile, Ala., Verta Hue Owens, Theodore Owens and Beryl Robinson, all of Atmore, Ala. The maternal great-great-grandmother is "Granny Owens" of Atmore, Ala. The father is the pastor of Emory Baptist Church.

**BOB AND NANCY CALVERT** announce the birth of a son, Zachary Andrew, May 11 in Nairobi where they serve as Baptist Foreign Missionaries. The mother is the former Nancy Felt of Atlanta.

**KIMBERLY AND RICKY COWART** of Clarkston announce the birth of a second son, Jean Justin Brice, on May 13 at DeKalb Medical Center. The grandparents are Louise and Frank Burton of Shreveport, La., and Edith Cowart of New Orleans, La., and the late Clemmie Cowart. The other son is Marlin, 13 months old.

**FIFTY-FOUR STUDENTS** from across Georgia were selected to serve as 1992 Baptist Student Union Summer Missionaries. Their length of service is between 10 days to 10 weeks. Ministries range from church starting in Metro Atlanta to building houses in Savannah. From this area are: Georgia Tech, Cindy Burel in Oregon; Georgia State Univ., Jennifer Miller in Oregon; Emory University, Ro Serino in Nebraska; Georgia Baptist School of Nursing, Stephanie Harden in Connecticut; Emory University, Karen Jackson and Russell Gibson, Germany.

**JACK AND LORRAINE HENDERSON** and family of Philadelphia, Pa. are recent newcomers to the Doraville area.

**BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF CHANGES** include: Kay Dreyer, director of childhood education at First Avondale Estates; Ed Galbreath, new pastor of Bouldercrest; William J. Ireland, Jr., pastor of Briarcliff; Jerry Daniel, associate pastor/church growth and worship at Clairmont Hills; Micki Ivey, secretary at Rainbow Park; John W. Wyatt, pastor of Tucker First; Traci Johnson, summer program intern at Chamblee First.

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN ABBOTT** and family are recent newcomers to the Stone Mountain area from Phoenix, Ariz. She has relatives living in this area.

**CLIFTON AND ANNE SWANSON** recently toured in Mexico, where they photographed old ruins, preparatory to writing a book.

**LOUISE WAGGONER** is a patient at DeKalb Medical Center.

**JOHN HARRELL**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harrell of Atlanta, has been inducted into OKU Honorary Professional Dental Society and will graduate with honors from the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry, Augusta, on June 6. John will enter a two year periodontic specialty program also at MCG beginning July 1.

**JOYCE AND FRED KUHSTOSS** of Stone Mountain announce the birth of a son, Christopher Michael, on May 12 at DeKalb Medical Center. He weighed six pounds, six ounces.

**STEPHANIE AND MYRON SIMMONS** of Decatur announce the birth of Kenyatta Shun'te on April 6 at Northside Hospital. He weighed nine pounds, five ounces.

# Keynotes

On  
DeKalb



DeKalb News 9/6/89

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA homecoming events have been listed: Friday and Saturday, November 3 and 4. Events will be held at the Georgia Center. Classes of '44, '49, '54, '59 and '69 will observe anniversaries at the center.

PATRICIA TAYLOR MOTE of Tucker was selected 1988 Teacher of the Year for DeKalb County schools. She teaches biology and human physiology at Stone Mountain High School.

MRS. JUDY ROGERS has returned to her home in Stone Mountain following hospitalization in Kennestone Hospital in Marietta.

JACK JACKSON is minister of education/administration at Avondale Estates First Baptist church, where he served for the last year and a half as minister of youth. He and his wife, Vickie, have two children, Andrea and Caleb. He is from Fitzgerald. Mark Hawkins is this church's minister of youth and family life. He previously served on the staffs of churches in Ala., Miss. and La. He is engaged to Donna Wilhite.

MR. AND MRS. MARK SLESENGER and family are newcomers to the Doraville area from Milwaukee, Wis.

DAVID AND CAROLYN BISHOP and daughters Robin and Kathy have just arrived for furlough from service in Korea with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Courtney Pugh, daughter of Rusty and Debbie Pugh, missionaries in Kenya, is visiting her grandmother Mrs. Ruth Kerr in Atlanta.

MORELAND AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH will observe homecoming September 10 with dinner on the grounds, following the morning service by Hoffman Harris.

MR. AND MRS. BILL BOWEN and family recently vacationed in Daytona Beach, Fla. They were joined there by other relatives from Florida.

LANNEY AND JANIE HEMMINGS, of Louisville, Ky., have moved to the Stone Mountain area with their children Hannah and Barrett. They will be minister of music and worship and director of children's ministries at Mount Carmel Christian Church.

KEN AND VALERIA ADAMS, Atlanta natives, were appointed Southern Baptist home missionaries to Newnan. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Seminary. Bruce and Karen James were also appointed home missionaries to Conyers. They are Norcross residents. Alice White, a Newnan native, was appointed to serve as director of the Stewart Center in Atlanta, where she has been serving since last spring. She is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

THE ATLANTA BRANCH of the National League of American Pen Women will resume fall activities with its meeting Wednesday, September 13, at the Ansley Golf Club. The executive board will meet at 10 a.m. followed by the regular business meeting and lunch. The program will be "Painted Sounds." This idea was begun last spring when each member drew another member's poem or story.

JANE AND ROB CARROLL and family of Avondale Estates spent two weeks at Lake Hartwell, recently.

ANDREW BAKER DINWIDDIE of Decatur was 10 years old August 28. He was honored earlier with a birthday party, given by his parents Mary Lou Romaine and Robert C. Dinwiddie. A number of friends and relatives attended the party.

MAJOR AND MRS. STEPHEN A. REDFERN and their daughter, Julie, were recent visitors of Major Redfern's mother, Mrs. Carrene Redfern of Sagamore Hills, his grandmother, Mrs. John Alex Stephens of Decatur, and other relatives and friends in the Atlanta area. Major Redfern and his family will be leaving shortly for Frankfurt, Germany, for his next assignment with the U. S. Army Field Artillery.

STONE MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB will hold a brunch Monday, September 11 at 10 a.m. at the Lakeside Center in Stone Mountain Park (note change of location). Members will learn how to decorate and paint their very own T-shirts, demonstrated by a local designer. Debbie Schwier will entertain with her "style" of music. Gloria Deal, McDonough, says, "have trailer, will travel" and she will inspire with her "truths." Cost is \$8.25. Reservations and cancellations are essential. Call either Katherine, 939-8842, or Liz, 292-8517. A free nursery is provided for pre-schoolers.

ATLANTA HOSPITAL HOSPITALITY HOUSE, known as the "House with a Heart," will hold an open house, Thursday, September 17, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the home, 1815 Ponce de Leon Ave., N.E. Parking on South Ponce de Leon Ave. is provided and a shuttle service to the house. The house opened its doors September 15, 1981 and there have been more than 49,000 overnight accommodations since the opening.

ELLEN HUDSON of Decatur has received a bronze medalion from the American Biographical Institute's second edition of International Directory of Distinguished Leadership Award. This is awarded for "Outstanding service as a teacher, poet, organist and pianist." Inscribed on the medallion, which is suspended from a gold chain, are the words "World Decoration of Excellence; Continued commitment to personal and professional achievement U.S.A." This organization was established in 1967.

FIRST BAPTIST OF DECATUR'S children presented culture kits for Decatur's Sister City-Burkina Faso. At the request of the Decatur Sister Cities Committee, twenty-four children in grades 1-6 worked for ten weeks in preparing culture kits for six churches in Burkina Faso. Each of these kits consists of posters of life in Decatur, in Georgia, and personal posters telling about themselves, such as families, hobbies, favorite food. There had been an exchange of letters between the children. August 18 the kits were presented to Gary Gunderson, honorary consul of Burkina Faso, and Robin Davis, president of the Sister Cities Committee of Decatur.

THE WEATHERFORD FAMILY REUNION was held Sunday, September 3 at Grant Park. A number of family members locally and state-wide attended this annual affair.

XI ALPHA OMICRON Sorority held its "Beginning Day" meeting at the home of one of the members, Betty Williams, in Barnesville. This was a champagne brunch. Plans for the coming year were made.

RAINBOW PARK A.A.R.P. Chapter No. 3671 will meet Monday, September 11 (note change of date) at Rainbow Park Baptist Church at 11 o'clock. A musical program will be presented by the Rev. Tommy Mills and his "Relaxing Melodies" on the vibraharp. Lunch will follow. This chapter was presented a plaque from Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House for contributions of time, money and goods during the past year.

Avondale Estates  
First Baptist Church



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File CHURCHES  
BAPTIST - AVONDALE  
FIRST

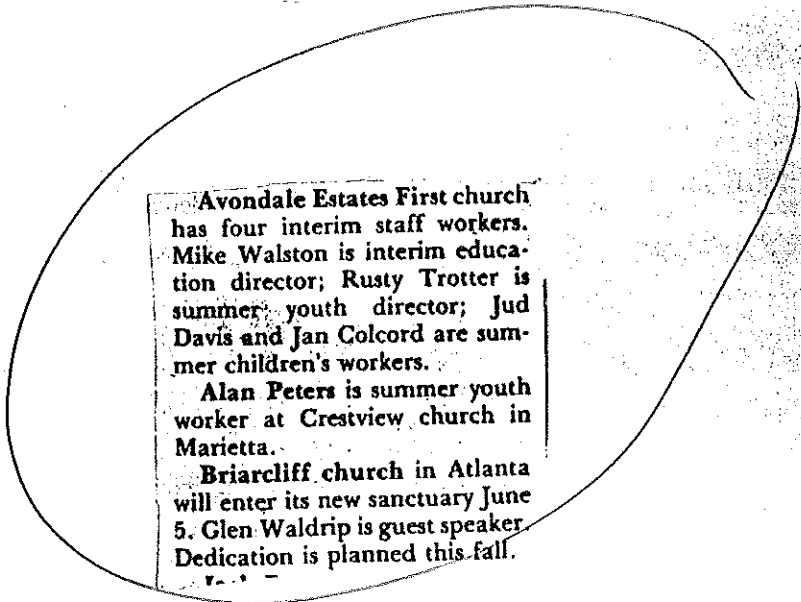


June 2 1983 De Christian Index  
Scott Boulevard church in Decatur voted to join with Columbia Drive church in Decatur in sponsoring Memorial Drive Baptist Chapel. The chapel is also supported by Dunwoody church, Atlanta association, Georgia Baptist Convention and SBC Home Mission Board. John Tatum is church pastor.

Christian Index  
6-2-1983

Mrs. Elaine Herrin wrote an article for June issue of *Royal Service* magazine. Mrs. Herrin is a former missionary to Grenada, now member of Briarlake church in Decatur.

James D. Morrell resigned after 12 years as associate director of Church Music Department of Florida Baptist Convention. He was minister of music at Rossville, Clarkston and Canton between 1958-65.



Avondale Estates First church has four interim staff workers. Mike Walston is interim education director; Rusty Trotter is summer youth director; Jud Davis and Jan Colcord are summer children's workers.

Alan Peters is summer youth worker at Crestview church in Marietta.

Briarcliff church in Atlanta will enter its new sanctuary June 5. Glen Waldrip is guest speaker. Dedication is planned this fall.

Angela White married Larry Marlin at Tucker First church. Mrs. Marlin is daughter of Fred E. White, member of Evangelism Division staff at SBC Home Mission Board, and Mrs. White.

# People And Places

Valley Brook church in Decatur plans homecoming June 5 with special services noting its 25th anniversary.

2/16/89  
**Avondale Estates  
Annexing Baptist  
Church Properties**

Legislation has been submitted in the General Assembly to ratify Avondale Estates' annexation of Majestic Acres and to add more land to the city.

The measure amends the act incorporating the city to include Majestic Acres plus properties owned by the First Baptist Church of Avondale, facing on Stratford and Covington Road.

Mayor John Lawson said that a letter from the pastor, the Rev. Bill Young, had asked the city to include its property in the city limits.

The letter was written, Mayor Lawson said, after it became evident that the Majestic Acres annexation requirements were comfortably met. Church members include large numbers both from Avondale and Majestic Acres and church leaders did not wish to take any stand while the question faced possible controversy, he said.

*Filed, Churches*

*AVONDALE FIRST  
BAPTIST*

*The Dekalb News-Sun*

# THE CHRISTIAN INDEX

November 24, 1983

The Georgia Baptist Convention  
News Magazine

## Georgia Churches Ordaining Deacons

More Georgia Baptist churches have ordained deacons.

Southside church in Augusta ordained Tom Meador.

Brooklet First church ordained Phil Denmark, William Hendrix, Roy Silver and Harry Starling.

Bainbridge First church ordained Lynford Cook, Eldon Eckard and Jimmy Inlow.

Clayton church ordained Hubert Hooper.

Southside church in Cochran ordained Carlis Roland.

Abilene church in Augusta ordained Bill Hilly, Steve Fort, Tom Sorrells and Randall Seagraves.

ZION HOPE church at Tifton ordained Randy Braswell and Charles Young.

Avondale Estates First church ordained Pat Armour, Harry Hancock, Gary Smith, Billy Webb and Skip Wilson.

Kennesaw First church will ordain Hoyt Wilson Dec. 4.

LaGrange Second church ordained Pete Smith.

Cloverdale church in Marietta ordained William Poor.

Mabel White church in Macon ordained Richard Baggaly.

Houston Heights church in Macon ordained Tony Bryant.

Lake Park church in Augusta ordained Julian Lively II.

North Peachtree church in Doraville ordained David Johnson and Dave Chandler.

*subject file*

*Avondale Estates*

*see sketch across from*

# Avondale Baptist Raises Steeple; City Changed Charter For Church

By HELEN ORDNER

Avondale was the city that "had everything to offer," but it didn't have a church.

Back in 1939 that was a challenge to a young Baptist minister, the Rev. W. Arnold Smith, who was determined to build one there.

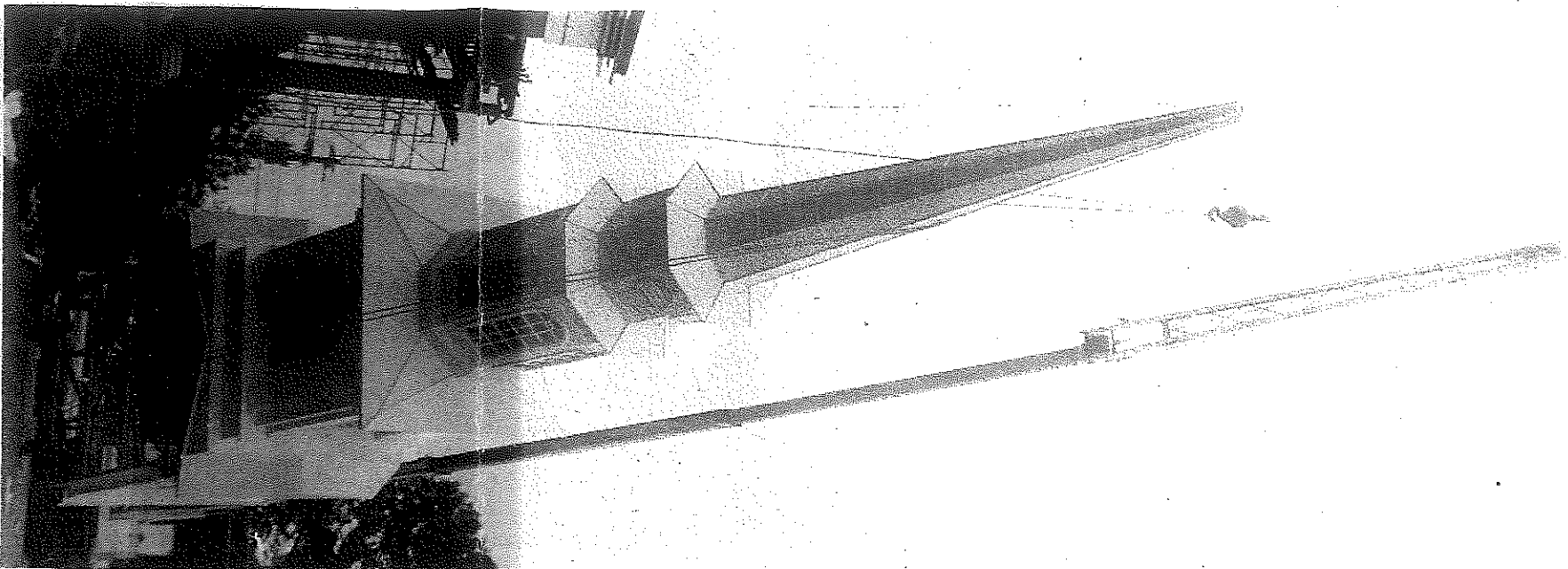
Avondale was a planned city — each lot was designed by developer George Willis as a home, a part of the English village, or for recreation or even a dairy. No locations had been marked for a church or a school, early settlers recall.

Members of the church which resulted from that young minister's determination — First Baptist, Avondale Estates, which is located at Stratford Road and Covington Highway, Friday dedicated a new sanctuary and raised its steeple. They are now planning a \$250,000 family life center.

The Rev. Mr. Smith, now pastor emeritus, had planned to be present, but was hospitalized.

**THE CHURCH** now has more than 2,200 members, but church historian Mary Lallerstedt recalls the early days.

She was one of 122 charter members "counting all the children too."



**The Ascent Begins**

The church steeple, weighing 8,000 pounds and costing \$40,000, begins its ascent to the top of the new sanctuary. The steeple on the former sanctuary will be used, gazebo-like, as a memorial on the church grounds.

Many people wouldn't move "out" to Avondale, she said, because there was

no school for their children. Residents there went elsewhere for church.

An elementary school was established in 1941, she said, but the city still did not have a church.

A church was organized and for nine years the congregation met in the school building. (School children were later to have classes in the church building during a school renovation.) "Every time the city

asked for our church," said Ms. Lallerstedt. "The city did not oppose it, but didn't have the power to do anything. They couldn't change the charter except every 20 years, or some period like that."

When the church bought land, the city required that everyone in a mile of the proposed church be polled, and some objected to it, the historian recalled.

Construction began anyway, with members of the congregation doing much of the work. The "faint of heart" had already left the group, she said.

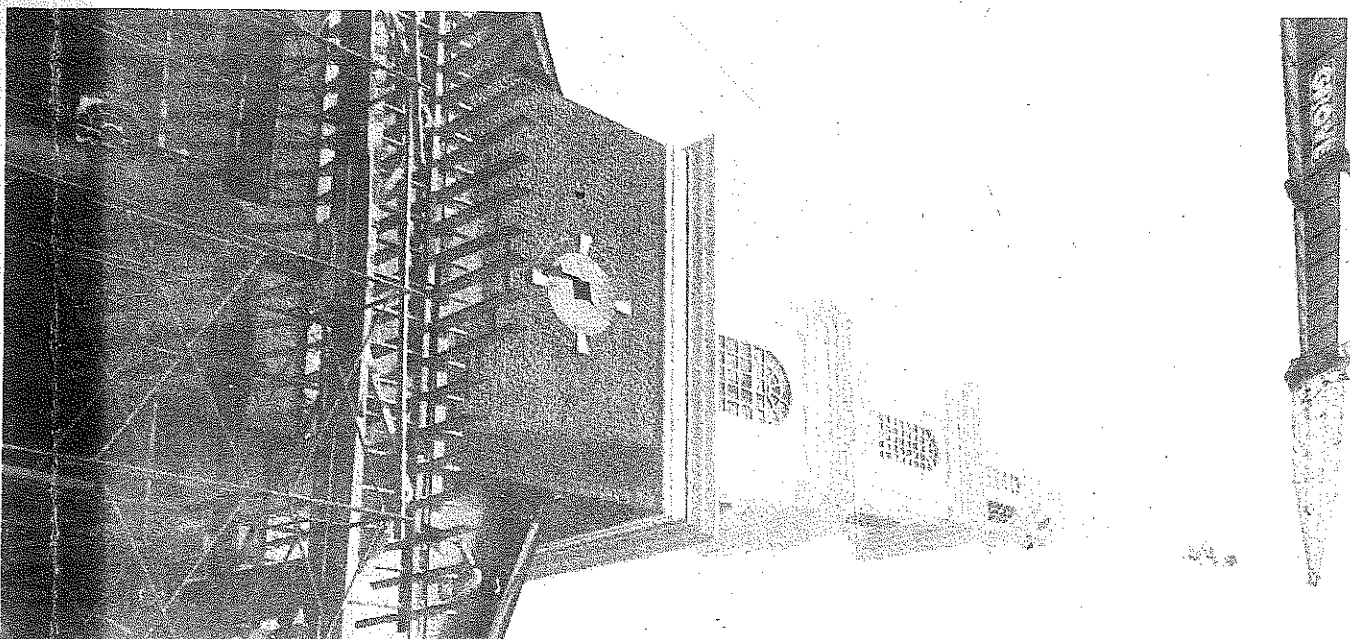
Ms. Lallerstedt was a student at Agnes Scott College in the planning days. She later taught at Avondale Elementary.

The church then faced World War II, when the men went off to war, and building materials were scarce. There were benefits though, Ms. Lallerstedt recalled, as gas rationing prompted citizens of the area to attend the local church.

**AVONDALE** and its one church have been on good terms over the years, she said.

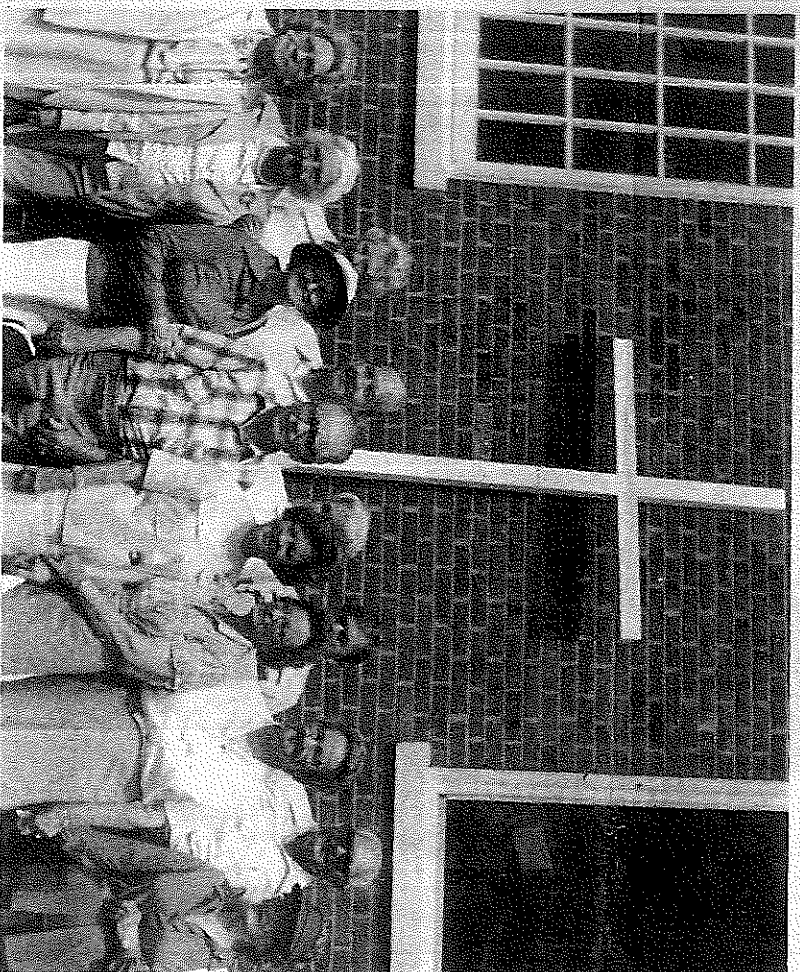
The city was represented at the steeple-raising ceremony by Dewey Brown, city manager, and its policemen spent the morning assisting with traffic.

It has become an Avondale tradition each year for the church choir, under the direction for a quarter-century of George Headley, to lead in Christmas carols at the city tree-lighting ceremony.



**Minister On High**

Perched like a human fly, the Rev. Bill Young places the cross atop the newly-raised steeple. (Photos by Guy Hayes)



**Charter Members Of Church Gather**

Some of the 122 charter members of the First Baptist Church, Avondale Estates, gathered Friday for dedication of the new church sanctuary, and the steeple raising. Shown, first row are Ruby Roberson, Ruth Barnes, Ethel Barber, Clarence Barber, Mary Lallerstedt, Helen Scogin, Jessie Turner and Elizabeth White; second row, Jeannette Farrar, Tom Farrar, Marie Bruneman, Tom Latham, and Bill Turner.



*DeKalb News/Star 8/16/89*

### **Mark Hawkins Named Avondale Church Youth Minister**

Mark Hawkins has begun his work as minister to youth and family life activities at First Baptist Church of Avondale Estates.

Mr. Hawkins graduated from Mississippi College, Clinton, Ms., with a major in church activities. He earned his master's degree in religious education at New Or-

leans Theological Seminary. He is a member of the National Youth Ministers.

Mr. Hawkins will be married to Donna Wilhite on Sept. 30 and they will be living in the Stone Mountain area.

Mr. Hawkins replaces Jack Jackson, who has moved up to administrator and minister of edu-

cation. He and his wife, Vicki, have two children and live in Avondale Estates.

File: CHURCHES - Avondale  
ESTATES First Baptist  
The Christian  
Index  
April 28, 1983

Presented by the  
Mr. and Mrs. Walt Housman  
were honored as "Foster Parents  
of the Year" in Georgia. They  
are members of Avondale Estates  
First church.

The Christian Index July 14, 1983

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Weldon Brannen is financial  
secretary at Avondale Estates  
First church. She succeeds Kara  
Hammer who resigned to move  
with her husband, Don, as he  
assumes a professorship at Mid-  
western seminary.

**SUBJECT FILE** CHURCHES - BAPTIST AVONDALE  
ESTATES FIRST

*index*