

Gaines Brewster

Babbles By Brewster

From Lithonia



Rockland Congregation Marks 99th Anniversary

Birthdays — Anne Reagin, Sara Farmer, Audri Tarpley, Billy Allen, Jeff Wilson, Brenda Carter, Evelyn Haygood, Michelle Turner, Barry Lowe, Mary Grace Clifford, Jimmy Fill, David Veproskas, Julia Glass, Mary Mansell, Jason Lewis, David Huber, Randy Buckheister, Andy Gebhart, Mary Dell Mitchell, Carole Harbin, Jackie Harbin, Lurene Emerick, Ruby Hewatt, Kathi Thompson, Robert Echols, Tommy Young, Margurie McGhee, Wayne Scott, Ray Todd, Elaine Hummel, Susan Perry, Tracy Dowling, Spence Blackstone, Wilma Morris, J.W. Stephenson, Bill Bellah, Angela Densmore, Peggy Brookins, Michael Caddy and Robert Echols.

Anniversaries — Betty and Billy Allen; Inez and Jeff Mitchell; Nita and Bobby Gresham; Dorothy and Harold King; Rose and Edward Purdy; Patty and Chris Sigler.

To Keep You Posted: Sept. 16, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Lithonia United Methodist Church talent show and spaghetti supper.

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• Faithful, life-long church members, ardent newcomers and proud visitors gathered last Sunday in a peaceful and pastoral East DeKalb setting for a joyous event. They came to participate in the homecoming observance of Rockland United Methodist Church, located close by Arabia mountain.

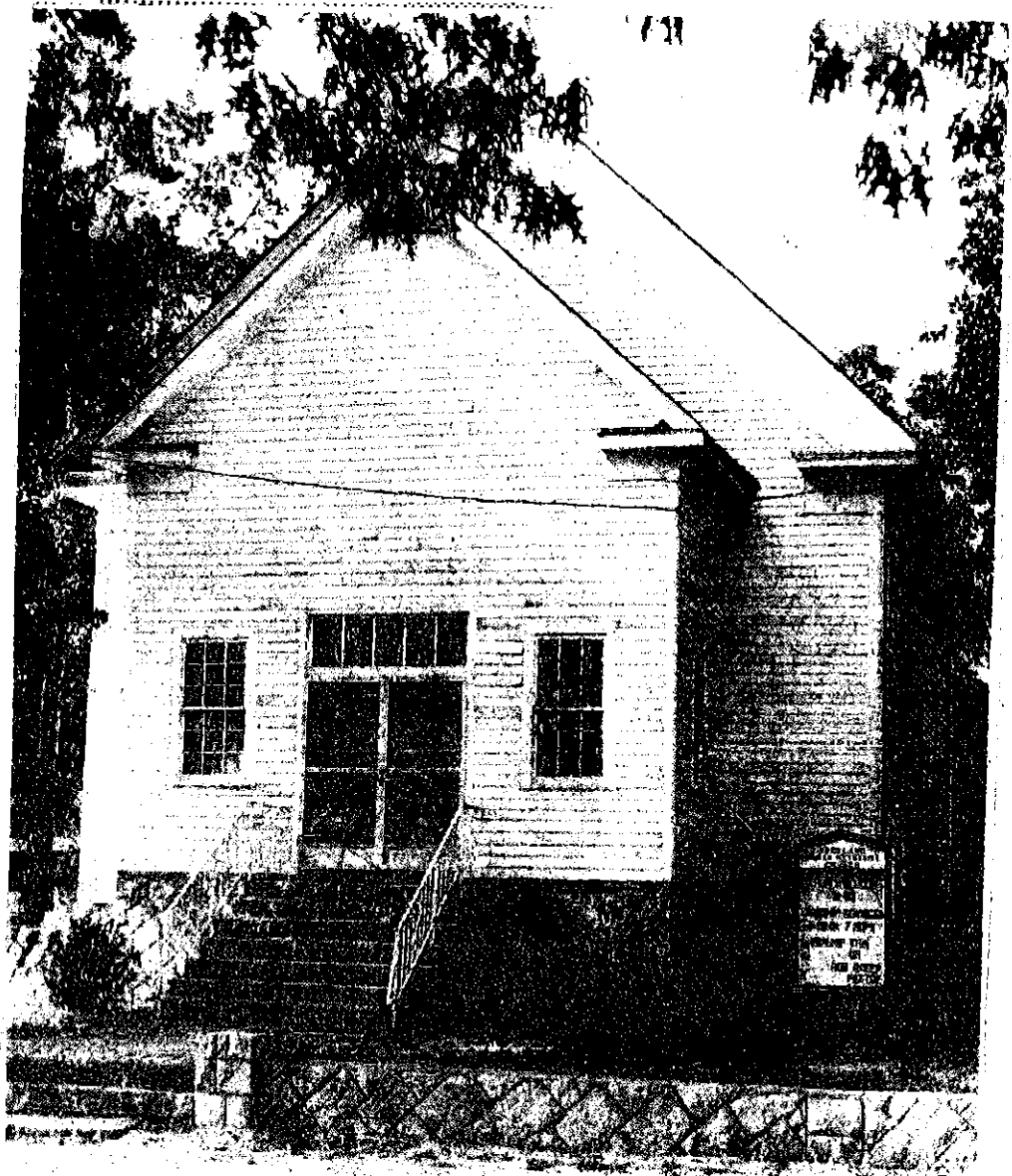
It was more than just another Sabbath; more than the usual morning worship hour — it was Rockland's 99th anniversary. Young and old gathered for a day of worship, song, feasting and old-fashioned "sociability." The annual homecoming observance draws many former members and residents back to the community. Sunday's services were conducted by the Rev. Cecil Dudley, pastor assisted by church members.

Worshippers attended services in the 97-year-old white clapboard sanctuary which was erected in 1893. The present site of Rockland is across from the brush arbor space where the church had its beginning. The first services were held beneath a brush arbor in side yard of Mrs. M.F. Brantley, in the settlement of Arabia. Later a tent was erected on that site. Most present members have deep family roots in this area of DeKalb/Rockdale counties.

cess of \$2,000, were partially funded by his employer, members of Philadelphia Baptist, friends, family and grandparents. He received letters of encouragement and praise for his willingness to participate in Christian endeavors from S. Truett Cathy, chairman of Chick-fil-A and his pastor, Dr. Murray Edwards.

This was not Neil's first experience as a missionary. As a member of the High School Baptist Young Men, he went to Montana and assisted in still another church renovation. He's attended church-sponsored camps, mission field trips and seminars as a representative of the Georgia Baptist Convention, the Baptist Brotherhood and Royal Ambassadors.

Neil, 17, is active in youth work and church related endeavors at Philadelphia Baptist Church which is located in the Klondike/Murphy Candler area. He's also a member of his church's adult choir and frequently sings solo. His campus activities include Beta club and National Honor Society. A talented teenager, he's been playing the piano since he was eight years of age. When his school and church schedules permit, he works part-time as a counter clerk at a Chick-fil-A restaurant.



STARTED IN SETTLEMENT OF ARABIA -- This venerable 80-year-old structure will be scene of four-day worship service as members of Rockland United Methodist Church launch annual summer revival with homecoming, Sunday, September 16. Church was organized near brush arbor in 1891. (Photo by Gaines Brewster) 1973

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Churches, ROCKLAND
UNITED METHODIST CH.



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