Churches Host Live Outdoor Christmas Dramas

Churches Present Outdoor Nativity Dramas

Two area churches, Carr's Hill Baptist Church and Carson's Creek Baptist Church, held live outdoor nativity performances last weekend. Both dramas told the story of the birth of Christ through Scripture narration and song.

At Carr's Hill, visitors rode through the parking lot in the automobiles to view the seven scenes depicting events surrounding the birth of Christ. Church officials reported 438 cars drove through the church parking lot during the three nights of presentation.

At Carson's Creek, located in Connestee Falls, three characters dressed as angels, wise men and Mary and Joseph greeted guests as the story of the nativity unfolded before them.

Text and photos By David Phillips
Connestee Falls Deeds
Church To Membership

The Carson Creek Baptist Church, on a point on Lake Atagahi in Connestee Falls, became the property of the members Monday when Connestee Falls Development Corp. signed a deed transferring the church and land for the sum of one dollar, it was announced.

James D. Parrish, president of the development firm, signed the deed to the property which was acquired some four years ago while assembling the land which today is known as Connestee Falls.

Rev. Buford Hardin is the pastor of the quaint church.

The church building was renovated by the development company in 1971. Renovation included the veneering of the building with Certain-Teed vinyl siding and roofing.

In addition the firm landscaped the surrounding area, adding rustic picnic tables and an enclosed picnic pavilion. The church sits on a point of land which will be bordered on three sides by the waters of the lake.
Church Group Renovates Local Log Cabin

By Pete Zamplas
Staff Writer

Eleanor Edmonds' log cabin on Rocky Mountain got a facelift of sorts with the help of nearly 30 volunteers of Carson Creek Baptist Church in East Fork.

They built a new porch, replaced logs in front in the lower of two levels, cleared trees and underbrush near the front of the home, and put up a tin roof.

Terry and Jerry Whitesides supplied lumber and cut white pine from her lot.

"It only cost me for the nails," Edmonds said of the project. She is on a fixed income, of social security.

"You don't have real small churches doing so much for people," Edmonds said. She said there are about 80-90 very active members, and about a third of them helped out at her cabin.

The project coordinator is also the church pastor, Don Waters. The congregation honored him in an Appreciation Day yesterday. His wife, Joan Waters, was also a key organizer of the renovation.

The volunteers will do more work, including installing a porch light, doing electrical work inside, and painting the cabin.

The group spent three Saturdays on the project, doing most of the work this past fall, Edmonds said.

Church members have also cut wood for others.

"It's like frontier days when life was simpler...You beat the world."

The cabin, built in 1965, looked a "wreck" before it was renovated, said Edmonds. She said the logs had dried and air holes developed in cement between logs.

Others were worried the cabin would "fall apart," she said, but she wasn't concerned until the frailty of part of the structure was discovered during renovation.

In removing the logs from the front wall, workers "didn't have to push. They just fell. I was scared to death."

The renovation enables her to keep living at the rustic site. "It's going to last as long as me," she proclaimed.

"My mountain is my favorite place on earth. I like the seasonal changes. It's terrific to sit and see turkeys and foxes and deer." She said there are 200-300 dogwood trees on Rocky Mountain.

The cabin was a summer home, but a permanent residence for Edmonds since 1980 and only since then has she had such comforts as electricity.

Before, she used gas lights, showered in rainwater outside, and bathed in a small waterfall on the mountain.

Edmonds had previously lived in cities, including Charlotte and New York. She welcomed the change.

"It's challenging -- with the weather, working my tail off (she chops firewood)," she said. "It's sortwih the help of nearly 30 volunteers of Carson Creek Baptist Church in East Fork."

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Carson's Creek History Dates Back To South Carolina Fox Hunter

The original sanctuary was showing the wear of the years, and in 1952, with the Rev. Arthur Trotter serving as minister, the decision was made to build a new edifice. Some of the members didn't feel that such a move was necessary, but others saw the need and started building the sanctuary themselves. The new church was built on the site of the original one. The handmade pulpit is still in use there.

During the early years, Sheriff Hubbard's maternal grandfather, the Rev. Cleveland Reese, also served a number of years in the ministry at Carson's Creek. In 1965, the Rev. Beauford Hardin, who had been teaching Sunday school at Carson's Creek and had physically been in on the building of the church in 1952, accepted the call to become minister there. He has been serving in that capacity for the past 21 years.

During those 21 years, a number of things have transpired at the church. Over 100 believers have been baptized, and six members have been ordained to become ministers in their own right. These include the Rev. Hardin's nephews, David and Steve Hardin; Sheriff Hubbard's brother, Sherrill Hubbard; Don Waters and Everett (Billy) Patterson. Each of them are serving as ministers of their own churches at this time.

Of major importance during Hardin's ministry is the turning of property where the church is located into a bonafide residential community, known as Connestee Falls. "Since this change, we have never had anything but good relations with the Connestee Falls people," the Rev. Hardin commented. "They have put new siding on our church, installed bathrooms there, and done many other things to make our sanctuary more beautiful and comfortable to attend. They have done a number of things to assist us, and in return, I hope we have been able to help them. In other words, the relationship between Carson's Creek Baptist Church and Connestee Falls has been a most pleasant and beneficial one, and we hope to keep it that way," he continued.

Carson's Creek now has a membership of around 100, but the church does not pay the Rev. Hardin a regular salary. "My pay comes from a love offering, and that's the way I like it. The money I receive is ample and it certainly is enough to keep me and the family going. I might not be rich in money, but my association with Carson's Creek and the people here have made me rich in, oh, so many other ways. My life has become extremely full during my ministry there," Hardin concluded.

Sunday school is held at Carson's Creek each Sunday morning beginning at 10 a.m. Morning worship services start at 11 a.m., and evening services are held each Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Carson's Creek Baptist Church, located inside the Connestee Falls residential community, was organized in 1895. This sanctuary was constructed by church members in 1952. (Photo by Bill Norris)