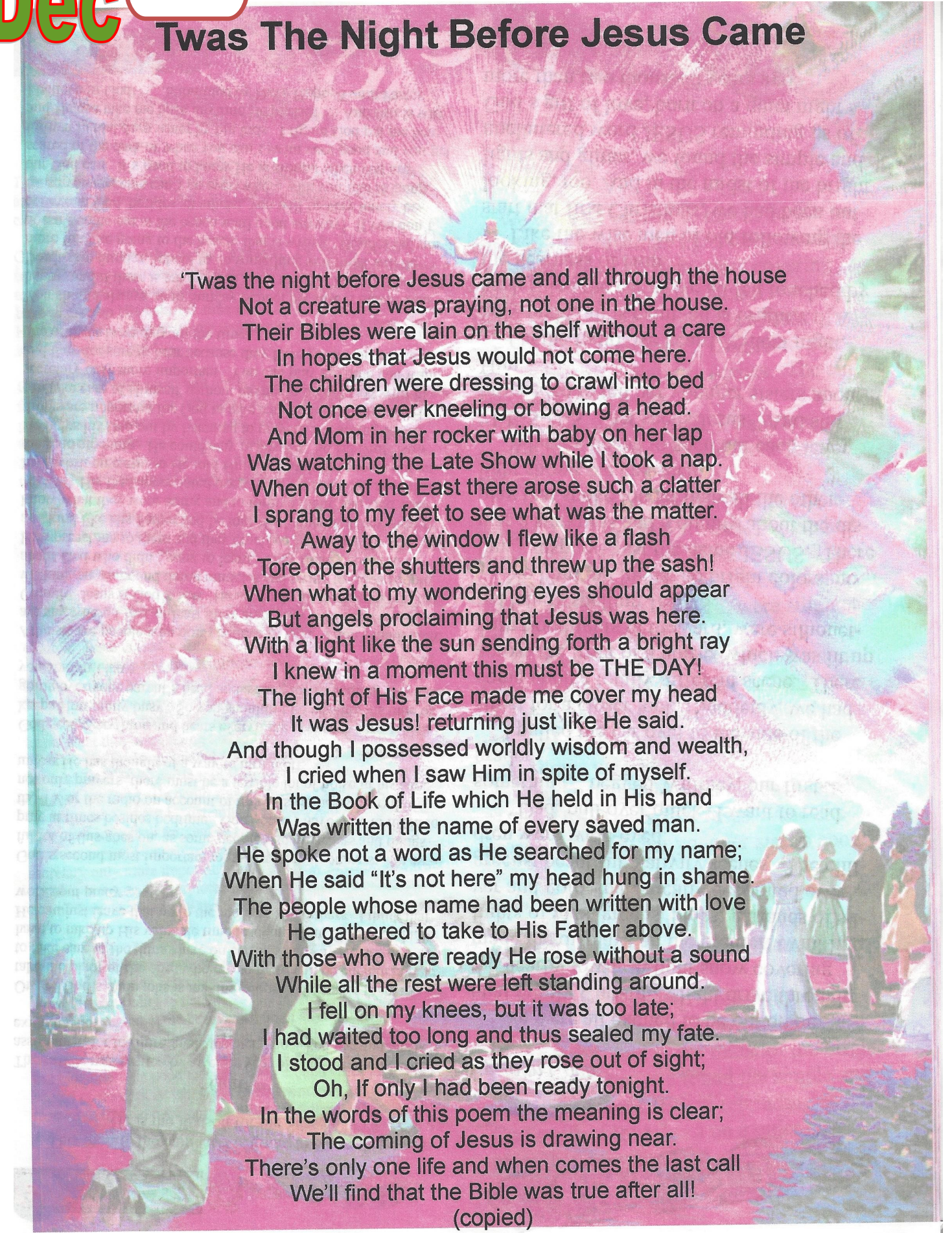


## 'Twas The Night Before Jesus Came



'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house  
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.  
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without a care  
In hopes that Jesus would not come here.  
The children were dressing to crawl into bed  
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.  
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap  
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.  
When out of the East there arose such a clatter  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.  
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray  
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!  
The light of His Face made me cover my head  
It was Jesus! returning just like He said.  
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.  
In the Book of Life which He held in His hand  
Was written the name of every saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;  
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.  
The people whose name had been written with love  
He gathered to take to His Father above.  
With those who were ready He rose without a sound  
While all the rest were left standing around.  
I fell on my knees, but it was too late;  
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.  
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;  
Oh, If only I had been ready tonight.  
In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;  
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.  
There's only one life and when comes the last call  
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

(copied)



## Is Sabbath School Still Important Today?

Presented by Kay Cheser—Head Sabbath School Superintendent

Sabbath School started in 1852 when church cofounder James White authored the first set of 19 Sabbath School lessons.

**James White is depicted writing the first Sabbath School Lessons**

James White is depicted writing the first Sabbath school lessons.

James White wrote the first Sabbath school lessons in 1852, publishing the first four in the initial issue of the *Youth's Instructor* that same year. The concept of Sabbath school grew from there. It seems it was the Lord who led White to begin this most effective method of teaching, likely because He knew His people would benefit from regular group Bible study as well as personal study.

Today Sabbath School is the place where old and young alike study the Bible in a community — and it remains at the heart of the church's mission to reach the world with the hope of Jesus' return. To belong to a global church where we are all studying the same lesson is a powerful influence in a shared understanding of Bible teachings.

Global research conducted in the Seventh-day Adventist Church from 2011 to 2013 found that Sabbath School emerges as a powerful positive in church life around the world.

Even with being a powerful positive for the life of the church, still there are those who do not attend. The Adventist Review published a brief reminder of the benefits of Sabbath School, which may be helpful to our local readers, as well.

### **Sabbath School:**

- Builds faith through Bible study and helps unify members worldwide.
- Provides fellowship with like-minded believers in a small-group environment.
- Provides a "safe place" to express views and ask questions without fear of ridicule.
- Has a consistent world mission focus and helps finance missions.
- Reminds us that mission is also found in our own backyard. Class members often find it easier to reach out as small groups to the community as well as to inactive members.
- Helps members gain insights into the Bible from others' viewpoints and knowledge.
- Helps us become more disciplined in personal Bible study.
- Provides opportunities to discuss practical applications of Scripture.
- Connects people with the source of true authority – the Bible.

Sabbath School is free and supported by common Sabbath School study materials. It provides an opportunity to share one's faith, apply one's faith, and disciple one another.

**Think about this:** If God lead James White to develop Sabbath School lessons when our church was being established, don't you think that He is still leading in the development of each quarters lessons? Prayerfully consider the purpose and benefits of coming together and studying the Sabbath School lessons. So, what about this week's Sabbath school – will you be there?

## Baptisms - November 5, 2016

### Carol Fortuna & Pamela Jean Jackson

Pastor Rodriguez

Carol Fortuna

Brenda Davis

Pamela Jackson



What a blessing we had on Sabbath the 5th of November, two individuals gave their lives to Christ again. We also had communion service and were doubly blessed, hope you were there & joined us. Looking forward to getting Spotlights on both of these new members so we can all get acquainted with them. Email is so wonderful, you can communicate a few words and then next time a few more and before you know it, you have learned a lot with a little effort and a little time. A great way to communicate during the week. Until next month, Brenda

Over the past 13 years, I have been published in the women's devotionals, including the 2017 issue, "Love You More". I have been blessed with a gift of writing. Many friends had wanted me to write a book, but I was more impressed to share how God has extended me grace throughout the years. After retiring from working in daycare preschool for 30 plus years, I have started jotting down some of my experiences, so a book might be forthcoming!!

Recognizing my gift, the First United Methodist Church where I work on Sundays and Wednesday have also asked me to write in some of their publications, three so far. God is a Mighty God! Once I receive my Complimentary copy of the Women's Devotional I usually purchase at least five books, so that my family and friends can share in the experiences of how God has worked in others lives, as well as my own and that He can do the same in their lives, or even greater. I am sure that if you get with **Elaine Johnson**, she will let you know how you too can enjoy her articles.



# PASTOR'S CORNER



*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15*

When we give a fragile gift, we make sure it is marked on the box that contains it. The word fragile is written with big letters because we don't want anyone to damage what is inside. God's gift to us came in the most fragile package: a baby. Sometimes we imagine Christmas day as a beautiful scene on a postcard, but any mother can tell you it wasn't so. Mary was tired, probably insecure. It was her first child, and He was born in the most unsanitary conditions. She "wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7 nkjv).

***God sent His Son because He loves us.***

A baby needs constant care. Babies cry, eat, sleep, and depend on their caregivers. They cannot make decisions. In Mary's day, infant mortality was high, and mothers often died in childbirth. Why did God choose such a fragile way to send His Son to earth? Because Jesus had to be like us in order to save us. God's greatest gift came in the fragile body of a baby, but God took the risk because He loves us. Let us be thankful today for such a gift!

*Dear Lord, the Strong and Mighty One, I thank You for becoming small and fragile on that day long ago.  
It amazes me that You did that for me and the rest of Your world.*

**May you know the peace of Christmas every day of the year.**

**INSIGHT:**

*The New Bible Commentary* explains the census described in Luke 2: "During the reign of Augustus (31 bc–ad 14) the Romans reorganized their administration in several parts of the Empire and carried out fresh censuses of the population for the purpose of taxation. The execution of such an imperial decree in Syria (of which Judea formed a part) brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, long ago prophesied as the Messiah's place of birth. The fact that Mary travelled with Joseph means that they were now married, but the description of her as [pledged to be married] (v. 5) to him . . . shows that they had not yet consummated the marriage (cf. Mt. 1:25)."

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**Clanton Seventh-day Adventist Church  
401 North 18th Street  
Clanton, AL 35045**



### **December Birthdays**

- 2 - Florine Linkous
  - 11 - Melissa Abbott
  - 18 - Cassie Higgins
  - 25 - Cherice Cleckler
  - 27 - Elizabeth Rodriguez & Rachel Ernest
- Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month.

### **Anniversaries:**

- 7 - Olan & Kay Suddeth
- 9 - Jim & Ladene Higgins
- 13 - Dexter & Brianna Clark
- 27 - Bob & Donna Ernest

### **Calendar of Events**

- Weekly:** Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM -  
Jail Ministry: Sundays 6:30pm at the Clanton Jail
- Monthly:** Each Sabbath after Fellowship meal:  
Sabbath School Visitation: 1st Sabbath  
Nursing Home Visitation: 4th Sabbaths

My husband suggested that we remember Audie Warren, it has been a long time since we heard from him. His monthly newsletter hasn't come back and he was living next door to his daughter. I just called his number and no answer, called his daughter's number and it is no longer in service. So if anyone has heard from him or about him, let me know. It has been a couple years since I talked to him and he was 96 then. I will also write a letter to see if he is OK. He was up in his 90's when he left here and in January he will have a birthday and be 99. Hazel died 6/8/09 but just thought this was a good picture to share. Until next month, give me a picture of someone you would like to remember.

**Tentative Speaker Schedule:** Dec 3 - Pastor Rodriguez, 10 - Tony Harriman, 17 - Ted Winslow, 24 - Pastor Rodriguez, 31 - Bob Hill

Sabbath November 19, a picture of the wonderful turnout for the Children's story, they all seem to be really enjoying Judy Peck presenting Part 2 of her wonderful mission story.



As I sit here on my patio watching a woodpecker drink from the bird bath; a loud wren and a chickadee are singing to me. My morning devotions are not disturbed by the distance hum of a lawn mower. I interrupt my reading to ask myself **"What does Advent mean to me?"** How can I mindfully observe my first Advent in my new church? How can I celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and look ahead to the second coming of Our Savior without all the commercial aspects of Christmas getting in the way? During this time of reflecting on the birth of our Messiah do others wonder what would have happened if He had not come? What desolate lives we would have without the hope of the second Advent of Jesus. What misery we would have without the wonderful miracle of the birth of Christ which gave us the possibility of Salvation. How fortunate we are to live in a time where we know The Messiah did come once. What faith it must have taken for the Israelites to believe that God would make good His promise to send them a Messiah not knowing how or when that would come true.

What does waiting on Jesus really mean at this time of year? Do we even take the time to contemplate that question or do we think we already know from past years of Advent? Do we spend as much time waiting on our Lord as we do shopping for gifts? Waiting, abiding, anticipating with patience, love and fervent prayers and meditation takes time. Do we take the time or are we too busy decorating the house for Santa's visit? What should we buy Aunt Sarah? What bargains will they have on Black Friday? Susannah Wesley said a rule she observed was "Never to spend more time in one day in mere recreation than I spent in private religious devotions". Can we observe that rule in our busy rush of activities? Do we sincerely try? Can we even follow this advice during Advent let alone for the whole year? I believe our Lord would want us to make that effort. I am looking at Advent like it's new and different because it is for me: Something to dig into and learn about, study and research. But that is from an intellectual view. What about the view from the heart? How does this time of waiting make us feel about Jesus Christ? Have we taken the time to get to know Him intimately? Is He our best friend that we are waiting for with gladness, love, hope and joy? He should be. I am going to ask myself these questions every day this season. Every bird I watch and hear singing to me I hear the voice of God saying "I am always there with you. I am everywhere. Just take the time and look for Me. Wait for Me. Abide in Me. Make Me the priority in your life." This was written by my sister Anita Shriberg for a Devotional book that her church is publishing, She said I could share it in our Newsletter also. She is doing so many more things "out of her comfort zone" and doing such a good job of them. Moving to Alabama was very good for her... Glad she is here. Until next month, Brenda

Websites Bill Weise has set up & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.

[Www.steppingupward.org](http://www.steppingupward.org) [www.egwhiteclassicquotes.org](http://www.egwhiteclassicquotes.org) <http://www.grandmastidbits.org>

We have a website!! <http://clantonsda.org/>, Tony Plier has posted sermons, music & a lot of info, look under Newsletters to find this publication on line each month. Tony has made it so all the 2015 ones are together and all the 2016 editions are together. Also a Face Book page has been set up for the Clanton Sda church, log on and find information posted there regularly. Thanks for communicating and sharing what you want to put in the Newsletter each month. Don't forget it is YOUR/OUR newsletter... let's share each month. Thanks to those that do regularly. Let me know if you don't want to get one anymore, via email or US Mail. Also need to know if you moved or any other reason to not be sending the newsletters. Thanks Brenda

**Return Address:**

**Brenda K Davis**  
**187 County Rd 313**  
**Stanton, AL 36790**



**To:** «AddressBlock»