

OBITUARIES

Clyde Elizabeth Akins
Died April 8, 2011
Clyde Elizabeth Akins, 85, of Stone Mountain died Friday, April 8, 2011, at Emory Hospital.
Born Nov. 16, 1925 in Barrow County, was the daughter of the late Dora Victoria Giles Little and Charles Homer Little Sr. She was also preceded in death by her husband, William Woodrow Akins; son, Lamar Nolan Akins; sister, Dora Mae Elliott; and brothers, Charles H. Little Jr., and Howell D. Little.
Survivors include her son, James Henry "Jim" Akins of Ellijay; sister, Evelyn Shields of Greenville, S.C.; sister-in-law, Linda Little of Watkinsville; and a host of nieces and nephews.
Funeral services were held Monday, April 11, 2011, at Carter Funeral Home, Winder
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Millie Christian
Died April 10, 2011
Mildred P. "Millie" Christian, 85, of Winder, died Sunday, April 10, 2011. Born in Wilkes County, she was the daughter of the late Ace T. Pope and Cora Dell Pope. She was a member of Union Baptist Church since October 1987. She was a Sunday school teacher, a member of WMU and was in the choir. She was a member of the North Hemerocallis Daylily Society, the Northeast Georgia Daylily Association. She was retired from Warner Robbins AFB where she was a logistics clerk.
Survivors include her husband, Shelton C. "Chris" Christian of Winder; daughters, Diann Kennedy of Hoschton, Jean Phillips of Bonaire and Linda Eldred of Sandia Park, N.M.; stepdaughter, Judy Higdon of Lula; brothers, Albert Pope and Bobby Pope, both of Pineview; sisters, Mae Wertanen and Janie Anderson, both of Rochelle, Ruby Hannah of Pineview, and Ola Nell Gibbs of Abbeville; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.
The family will receive friends from 2-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. on Friday, April 15, at Smith Funeral Home.
Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16, 2011, at Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Rudy Camp officiating. Burial will be in Barrow Memorial Gardens.
Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1684 Barnett Shoals Road, Athens, GA 30605.
Smith Funeral Home, Winder
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Tom Consentino
Died April 4, 2011
Thomas Frank Consentino, 60, of Winder, died Monday, April 4, 2011. Born in Lycoming, Pa., he was the son of the late Lucius Consentino. He was of the Catholic faith. He was commander of the American Legion Post No. 53 from 2003-05. He was a member of the Moose Lodge and of American Legion Post No. 233. He was president of the Bellingrath Homeowners Association from 2006-10. He was past commander of the AMVETS of Winder.
Survivors include his wife, Jona Tillman Consentino of Winder; son, Thomas Consentino of Georgia; daughters, Gina, Kimberly and Carrie Ann Consentino, all of Pennsylvania; mother, Eleanor Verner of South Carolina; brother and sister-in-law, James and Shannon Consentino of South Carolina; nine grandchildren;

and uncle, Edward Guzinski of New York.
Memorial services were held Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at Smith Funeral Home. The body was cremated.
Memorial contributions may be made to Embracing Hospice in Snellville.
Smith Funeral Home, Winder
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Griffin Denis Cummings
Died April 6, 2011
Mr. Griffin Denis Cummings, 78, of Auburn, died Wednesday, April 6, 2011.
Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Winder. Interment was in the Hoschton City Cemetery.
Lawson Funeral Home, Hoschton
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Boss Davidson
Died April 5, 2011
Leroy "Boss" Davidson, 76, of Jefferson, formerly of Munford, Ala., died away at home on April 5, 2011.
Born May 26, 1934, he was a son of the late Tom and Mattie Lou Ingram Davidson. His wife, Agnes Sexton Davidson, and his brother, Nathaniel Davidson, preceded him in death.
He loved the outdoors, deer hunting, fishing and riding in the mountain with Agnes. He was a big fan of the Jefferson baseball, softball and basketball teams, West Jackson softball team, and the Munford High School athletic programs. He ran concession stand program for Munford Quarterback Club for several years. He was a lifetime member of the Munford High School Quarterback Club and the Big Oak Hunting Club. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, Joseph, Adam, Alicia, Sabrina, Abby and Branson. A man of honor and integrity, if he said something, it was the honest truth, and if he made a promise, he did it. He was a wonderful husband, father and son. He had a great sense of humor, loved practical jokes and his stories entertaining. His smile, stories and laugh will be greatly missed.
Survivors are his son, Jeff and Vicki Davidson of Pendergrass; daughter, Lawanna and Ronnie Laird, Jefferson; grandchildren, Alicia and L.J. Querry, Sabrina and Abby Davidson, Joseph Laird and Chessie Archer and Adam Laird and Sarah Pippin; great-grandson, Branson Davidson; sisters, Tommie Brown of Weaver, Ala., and Valerie Grainger of Gainesville; brother and sisters-in-law, Ray and Sue Davidson of Gainesville and Nancy Davidson of Clarksville, Tenn.; brother-in-laws, Bobby and Guyrene Sexton, and Billy and Helen Sexton, all of Gainesville, and Jimmy and Linda Sexton of Jefferson.
A memorial service was held Friday, April 8, 2011, in the chapel of Evans Funeral Home with the Rev. Tim Sexton officiating.
Evans Funeral Home, Jefferson
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Chester J. Eberhart
Died April 5, 2011
Chester Jackson Eberhart, 85, of Winder, died Tuesday, April 5, 2011.
Born in Winder, he was a son of the late Jessie F. Eberhart and Oda Henry Eberhart. He served in the United States Navy and the United States Army, and was a member of the American Legion. A car salesman for more than 40 years, he was Salesman of the Year at Pugmire Lincoln

Mercury and won numerous other awards. He was an avid golfer and loved living on the green. He was also a big guitar player.
Survivors include his wife, Mary Louise Eberhart; sons, Verne Eberhart of Bremen and Mark Eberhart of Powder Springs; daughters, Mart Beth Eberhart of Jonesboro and Gayle Eberhart of Conyers; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and brother, Brannon Eberhart of Winder.
Memorial services were held Sunday, April 10, 2011, in Smith Memory Chapel with the Rev. Donnie Pennington officiating. The family requests memorial contributions be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 409410, Atlanta, GA 30384-9410 or the American Cancer Society, 1684 Barnett Shoals Road, Athens, GA 30605.
Smith Funeral Home, Winder
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Chuck Finch
Died April 7, 2011
Mr. Charles Wendell "Chuck" Finch, 71, of the Redstone Community of Athens, died Thursday, April 7, 2011.
Born in Jackson County, he was a son of the late Hoke Smith Finch and the late Nancy Corine Shields Finch. He was a member of Red Stone Methodist Church. Mr. Finch worked for ABB Inc., in Athens, where he retired after 32 years, and was a veteran of the U.S. Army.
Survivors include his wife, Rebecca A. Finch; daughters and son-in-law, Wendi Finch of Athens, Jennifer Finch (Mitch) Collins of the Redstone Community; stepsons, John Barry Sims of Savannah and Robert Lee Sims of Statham; grandchildren, Janie Johnson, Jacob Collins and Cassy Collins; and step-grandchildren, Rebecca Sims and Tyler Sims.
Funeral services were held Sunday April 10, 2011, in the chapel of Evans Funeral Home with the Rev. Bill Carpenter and the Rev. Lee Shipp officiating. A private family interment will be at Galilee Christian Church Cemetery. The family requests memorial donations be made to the Redstone United Methodist Church, 6722 Athens Highway, Jefferson, GA 30549.
Evans Funeral Home, Jefferson
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Lula "Lu" Peterman
Died April 6, 2011
Lula "Lu" Peterman, 85, of Winder, died Wednesday, April 6, 2011. A native of Cusseta, she was the daughter of the late Johnston H. Stanford and Vivia Hollis Stanford. She was a longtime member of Winder First Baptist Church where she attended the Naomi Sunday School Class. She was a 1945 graduate of Mercer University and was a retired educator with the Barrow County Board of Education.
Survivors include her husband, John Peterman of Winder; daughters and sons-in-law, Vivian and Pat Porter

of Decatur, and LuAnn and Al Hicks of Brunswick; grandchildren, Zach Porter, Katie Aiken and Anna Hicks; and great-grandchildren, Bowen Aiken and Dane Porter.
Memorial services were held Saturday, April 9, 2011, at Antioch Baptist Church in Butler with the Rev. Hubert Addleton officiating. Burial was in Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery.
Memorials may be made to Winder First Baptist Church, 625 Jefferson Highway, Winder, GA 30680.
Carter Funeral Home, Winder
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Jessie Ruffin Sharpe
Died April 5, 2011
Jessie Ruffin Sharpe, 90, of Winder, died Tuesday, April 5, 2011. Born in Fulton County, she was the daughter of the late Emory E. Ruffin and Jessie Dobson Ruffin. She was a member of Winder First United Methodist Church, the Winder Women's Club, Elks Club and American Legion Auxiliary. She was also a Scout leader in Winder. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Robert Carlton Sharpe Sr.
Survivors include her son, Robert "Carlton" Sharpe Jr., of Winder; daughters, Deede Sharpe of Winter Park, Fla., and Susan Sharpe Dickens of Buford; grandchildren, Robert C. Sharpe III, Stephanie S. Brown and Courtnee McGinty; great-grandchildren, Isabelle Jessie Sharpe, Preston Brown, Keighly Brown, Jessie Claire McGinty and Mason McGinty.
Funeral services were held Thursday, April 7, 2011, at Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Terry Tippens officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.
Memorial contributions may be made to Crossroads Hospice of Atlanta, LLC, 1957 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 500, Tucker, GA 30084 or Winder First United Methodist Church, 280 North Broad Street, Winder, GA 30680.
Smith Funeral Home, Winder
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Mae Bell Leachman Wilkes
Died April 5, 2011
Mrs. Mae Bell Leachman Wilkes, 79, of Bowersville, died Tuesday, April 5, 2011.
Born in Commerce, she was a daughter of the late George and Ella Kelley Leachman. Mrs. Wilkes was a seamstress at the Bell Grade Sewing Mill. Her husband, Joe Thomas Wilkes, preceded her in death.
Survivors include her son, Tommy Wilkes of Bowersville; daughter, Patricia Perry of Neece; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
Funeral services were Thursday, April 7, 2011, in the chapel of Evans Funeral Home with the Rev. Vaughn Howington officiating. The burial followed in the Bethany United Methodist Church Cemetery.
Evans Funeral Home, Jefferson
The Paper, April 14, 2011

Who came first: Adam and Eve or the caveman?

A fellow Rotarian has an intelligent 10-year-old daughter. Already at such an early age, faith and science are colliding in her world, creating tensions she's trying to reconcile. She asked her father not long ago, "Who came first, Adam and Eve, or the caveman?"



Dr. Michael Helms
THE PASTOR'S PEN

It seems like a simple question for a Christian father to answer, but not so fast. If he says, "Well darling, you know the Bible says Adam and Eve were the first people God made, so that means they came first," then the child is conflicted with the science she's studying, which tells her the caveman evolved from lower forms of life. If he says, "Well darling, scientists tell us human beings evolved, so the caveman came first," then the child is conflicted with the Bible, according to most preachers I know, for that would deny the historical accuracy of the scriptures. Wouldn't that destroy the trust and faith this child places in the Bible?

I know committed Christians who believe God used evolution as His mode of creation. That of course means they must read the Genesis account as something other than a literal account of creation. I don't see where this interpretation affects their ethics at all, that is, how they treat their fellow man, or even their love for God. Remember, many parts of the Bible are not taken literally. No one takes these words of Jesus literally, "So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand or one foot than to be thrown into eternal fire with both of your hands and feet" (Matthew 18:8 NLT).

At what point in the evolutionary process would God have created male and female in His own image? That's a question I've never resolved. I have kept a simple faith and have always treated Adam and Eve as literal people, but I admit, I don't understand their timelines in relation to the aging of the world and the study of paleontology.

So what about those who use the Bible to establish the number of generations from the birth of Jesus to the creation of Adam to fix the age of the earth? In their desire to be as deeply committed to the Bible as possible, people who believe in this interpretation of the Bible have set themselves up to reject everything scientific that doesn't fit with an earth that's a little more than 5,000 years old. Are you ready to teach your children that dinosaurs were on the ark? Not me.

So how's a father to answer his 10-year-old child? You see, the pieces of the puzzle don't fit so easily together to explain to a 10-year-old or even to me just exactly how the world and human beings came to be or when. There's mystery in our creation. I suppose this is the reason all the timeline questions are not answered in seminary, unless you attend one of those schools that has all the answers. Most allow for some mystery in God's world and in the scriptures.

See PASTOR'S PEN, page 5A

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