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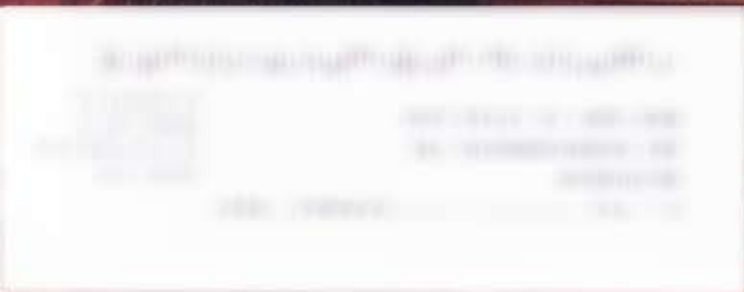
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A Stitch in  
**Time**  
At Home With Wes  
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# A Stitch in Time

— By Angel Morris

*Being at home with Wes and Carol Edwards is like being in God's hands. Both ministers in one form or another, the couple has built a life of service to others. Helping those who are struggling has always been one of their missions, and continues to be even as they have faced unexpected hardship of their own.*

The Edwards moved to Ovilla in 1993, after Wes' first year as pastor of First Baptist Ovilla (FBO). The position was a dream come true after a happy accident brought the couple to town.

"A friend who was a member of FBO was getting married and had asked Wes to marry him and his bride. We were invited to rehearsal dinner, and we were sitting in the FBO parking lot thinking how nice it would be to pastor a small-town church like this,"

Wes had recalled. "We were the only ones in the parking lot, and



we waited for about 10 minutes before the friend called and told us the wedding was actually at a church down the road.”

The guests loved Wes' wedding-day service so much they invited him to preach at FBO. “The rest is history. We came to Ovilla and have loved living and working here ever since,” Wes once said.

The Edwards' story begins long before Ovilla, however. Wes was born in Mobile, Alabama, and Carol was born in Dallas, but both grew up in Oak Cliff. They met at W. H. Adamson High School and married young.

Wes completed Bible College in Arlington, then moved Carol to Nashville, where he worked in youth ministry. After eight years they were back in Texas, working for Brook Hollow Baptist Church in DeSoto. That was followed by a two-year stint as associate pastor for Duncanville's Calvary Baptist Church, then the move to Ovilla.

“During the '70s and '80s, our ministry was to help young people as they struggled growing up during a rebellious time. We spent 18 years guiding hundreds of youth to give their life to Christ and live the testimony that would honor God,” Wes remembered.

Many of those to whom the Edwards ministered are still in touch with them today. They live all over the world honoring God, according to Wes and Carol. “It's hard to believe many of them are now grandparents themselves passing along a legacy,” Carol said. Wes and Carol are also proud grandparents, and parents of a grown son and daughter who live in the area.

## AT HOME WITH Wes and Carol Edwards

The Edwards' large covered patio is a favorite place for family gatherings, grilling and creating homemade ice cream. “We found one acre that was on a dead-end street and just loved it. We wanted to unpack our bags forever



and not move again,” Carol said. “My favorite place is my peaceful patio. It is a comfortable, private place to enjoy. I love the large windows that let in the natural light.”

A place for relaxation is sometimes just what the doctor ordered for both Carol and Wes, considering Wes’ recent diagnosis with Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD). With no known

cure, the disease affects speech and language, and slowly impairs memory.

“We’re traveling blindly through this strange land of FTD, and there are many adjustments to be made with unwanted challenges. But I want to dwell on what we can still do, not the losses we have experienced,” Carol said. “We have this moment in time, and that’s enough.”

While Wes had to step down as pastor

of FBO, Carol continues to minister through Sew Blessed, a mission project sewing clothing for children in Africa. She also gives private sewing lessons to children and adults in the First Cutting Room at FBO.

Carol’s home workroom houses a computer, embroidery machine, sewing machine and a serger, plus all the supplies for her creations. The master bedroom is a retreat for the couple, while the rest of the home is open and welcoming. “We designed it to make everyone feel at home. It’s an eclectic place – with gifts from many people we’ve met through ministry – and a few great antiques,” Carol said.

Two very old clocks and antique rocking chairs still get used in the Edwards’ home. Carol’s “too many teapots” collection and happy-faced Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls give the house a sense of whimsy. Carol loves her kitchen, with its large island, perfect not just for “cooking up great recipes,” but also for cutting her many sewing projects. Here, Carol doesn’t hesitate to break out the good dishes.



"Life is too short not to use special items, so I enjoy my Old Country Rose china from years of collecting all over the states in our travels," Carol said.

Several signs with the word GRACE serve as reminders around the home, as does a serving tray Carol's dad brought home after World War II. Perhaps the favorite "antique" in the Edwards home, however, is Carol's mom — 90-year-old Mary Alice Stevenson.

"She took good care of me the first 18 years, the least we can do is return the nurturing," Carol said.

And so continues the Edwards' life work of service to others. Wes still greets guests at church on Sundays, and Carol continues to grow her efforts to reach

people through sewing. She even has a Facebook page for fans — Carol's Learn to Sew. Despite the struggles through which they have helped others and personal tragedies they have experienced over time, their home depicts a continued faith in God, family and friendship.

"I love its openness and that you can be in another room without being cut off from others," Carol described. "You can see the dining room, entry, den and kitchen as you stand in any room."



The Edwards feel blessed to be at home in Ovilla, near so many who mean so much. "We couldn't have foreseen Wes' disease, but we realize it's the path God's chosen for us. While it's not the one I'd have chosen, it's the one we are walking," Carol said. "Nonetheless, we are so happy to have found Ovilla and its people that we've grown to love. We enjoy our home, I am so enthusiastic about my sewing, and we stay very busy with all the grandkids' activities. Most importantly, in all these things, our goal is to yield to Him." **NOW**

