

## ROSE'S COTTAGE

Rob Robinson

A beautiful, artistic sign now identifies the residence on the back of our 52 acres as “**Rose’s Cottage.**” (See the picture on the front of this bulletin.) Sunday morning it was announced that after months of extensive remodeling the residence is like new and ready for use. This location has been designated for use by various women’s ministries. The first official use took place last night as the weeknight ladies’ Bible class met there. About 20 women gathered at 6:30 p.m. for a couple of hours in study of God’s word and fellowship. The ladies will also use this space for sewing ministries, which include creating and making items for children in poverty-stricken mission points (such as Panama), love bears for children who have been traumatized, quilts for premature babies in NICU and other such needs. Cooking lessons, sewing classes and fitness classes for women and girls will provide instruction in useful activities and skills and also valuable spiritual fellowship and mentoring relationships. Other classes and activities will be planned as needs and opportunities arise.

**Rose’s Cottage** is named in honor of one of the original residents of the house. Rose (now Abbott) and Grady Wakefield first bought the double-wide trailer home and lived there. Grady was an elder of our congregation (then known as Southside Church of Christ). They occupied the house, and worked constantly to help develop “the property” for use as a campground and ultimately as a site for the church’s relocation. My first visit to the home was September 6, 1992, when I brought my family to Macon for a visit to discuss relocating here to serve as preacher. On Sunday afternoon, Grady and Rose entertained our 5 and 7 year old daughters, Molly and Hilary, while Marcia and I got more acquainted with the church and the community. After the evening service we left and drove back home. That evening, Grady and the four other elders met and agreed to ask me to come to Macon to work with the church here. That same night Grady passed away due to a heart attack in his sleep. I barely knew him, but I easily understood why he and Rose were so beloved by the church. How appropriate that the residence will be put to this new use and that its name will commemorate Grady’s and Rose’s service and love for the church.