



Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards

December 18, 1928 - November 21, 2024

North Augusta, SC – Funeral Services for Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards, 95, who entered into rest November 21, 2024, will be conducted Monday afternoon, December 2 at 2 o'clock from Sweetwater Baptist Church, Dr. Paul W. Noe and Rev. Chester Keith Phillips officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends at the church one hour prior to the service.

In the scripture, Luke, the Evangelist, is referred to as “the beloved physician”. This title could also fit our dad, Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards.

Keith was born December 18, 1928, in Swansea, South Carolina, the third child of Dr. Ben and Hattie Edwards of Swansea. He graduated from Swansea High School as the Salutatorian of his class. He studied one year at Baylor University but left to serve his country in the Marine Corps. He finished boot camp just as World War II was ending and served his time state-side. After the Marines, he attended the University of South Carolina graduating with a BS in chemistry. Following college, Keith was admitted to Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University.

On June 14, 1953, in his last year of medical school, Keith married a young nurse, Alice Jean Blankenship. Their plan was to sail to Nigeria, West Africa and serve as missionaries but before they went to Nigeria, they spent one

year in Bluefield, West Virginia while Keith did a residency in family practice. Then they moved to Nigeria as missionaries with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. There they built a home, grew a family, and served as medical missionaries from 1957-1968. While on the field, the need arose for an obstetrician and the mission asked if any of their doctors would be willing to do a residency in OB. Keith volunteered and started an OBGYN residency through Bowman Gray.

However, civil war broke out in Nigeria and the family returned to America in June of 1968. They settled in Winston Salem, NC where they lived for two years while Keith completed his residency. The family moved back to Bluefield, WV in 1970 where he began a private medical practice. During his years in Bluefield, Keith was an active member of First Baptist Church where he and Alice together taught a joint Sunday School class. While living in Bluefield, he also served one year as interim president of Bluefield College from 1996-1997.

After retiring from his medical practice, Keith and Alice moved to North Augusta, South Carolina to spend their retirement years nearer to some of their children. They became active members of Sweetwater Baptist Church where both taught Sunday School classes.

Dr. T. Keith Edwards ministered and preached the gospel to people on two continents. He had a brilliant mind and even in old age he continued to study new things, especially working to gain new insights into God's word. How he loved Scripture! His skilled surgeon's hands saved many lives. He brought many others into this world. He was the beloved physician, indeed. Dr Edwards spent his life loving, serving, and helping others and was loved in return by many. People on two continents—his patients, friends, and the members of his many Sunday School classes—loved him. Alice, his wife of sixty-six years and his children and grandchildren loved him dearly too.

Keith is preceded in death by his wife, Alice Jean Blankenship Edwards. Those left to cherish his memory include his five children, Marianne Phillips (Kent), Harriet Michael (John), Alisa Smith (Malbert), Benjy Edwards (Deb), Abel Solademi (Abike), along with fourteen grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren and four step great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Logan Phillips, Vince Phillips, Bunmi Solademi, Trapper Michael, Ty Michael and Mally Smith.

Memorials may be made to Bluefield Baptist University, 3000 College Avenue, Bluefield, VA 24605.

Cemetery Details

Sweetwater Baptist Church Cemetery

198 Sweetwater Road
North Augusta, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Sweetwater Baptist Church
198 Sweetwater Road
North Augusta, SC 29860

Service

DEC 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Sweetwater Baptist Church
198 Sweetwater Rd
North Augusta, SC 29860
(803) 279-2821

Tribute Wall



“ Posey Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards



Posey Funeral Directors - November 26, 2024 at 08:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards.

December 01, 2024 at 08:12 AM



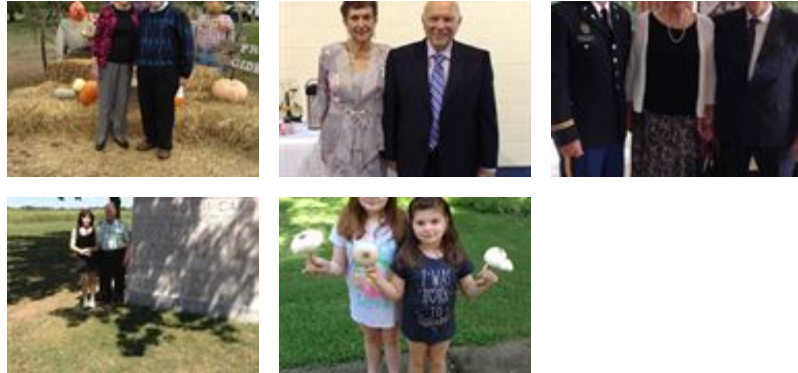
“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards.



December 01, 2024 at 08:12 AM



“ 5 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Posey Funeral Directors - November 30, 2024 at 12:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards.



November 26, 2024 at 04:36 PM



“ 73 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Posey Funeral Directors - November 26, 2024 at 03:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards.

November 24, 2024 at 07:24 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards.



November 24, 2024 at 07:24 PM



“ Sweet condolences to family. I knew cousin Keith and Alice before we met, through family stories. One favorite memory is how I'd begin the Bible verse and cousin Keith would finish it, like dueling verses. Outstanding, forever missed. Hope Posey's can FB live the services, for those unable to attend. Blessings, Susie

Susannah Watson - November 24, 2024 at 07:15 PM



“ Love, Luke, Kristin, Grason, Ethan, Wyatt purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Dr. Tilman Keith Edwards.



Love, Luke, Kristin, Grason, Ethan, Wyatt - November 24, 2024 at 08:29 AM

VB

“ So sorry Abike and family. Prayers

Vicki Birchfield - November 23, 2024 at 07:03 PM

CE

“ So sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you and your family.
Chris & Jerry Elswick

Chris Bruckner Elswick - November 23, 2024 at 12:56 PM

MH

“ Dr. Keith delivered my Bamidele after a difficult pregnancy our first year in Nigeria. As he saw the size of David after I had gained so little weight, he called him an elephant. David proudly collected elephant art and painted a number of them himself. The whole family was very dear to us and helpful in our adapting to Africa.
Martha Hall

Martha Hall - November 23, 2024 at 11:59 AM

NH

“ I appreciated knowing the Edwards family when they lived in Bluefield and we were at First Baptist Church. It was a privilege to be in school with their children and to know the through youth group. I have fond memories of being in their home. My condolences to this wonderful family that has made an eternal impact on so many lives.

Neal Hawkins - November 23, 2024 at 08:15 AM

TS

“ Dr. Edwards leaves an amazing legacy and testimony of a life well lived for the Lord. I knew both Dr. and Mrs. Edwards from my time working summers in surgery at the hospital, as well as from hearing of their mission work. I also knew all 5 “kids” and graduated with Benjy. They were a beloved couple who made a big difference in many lives. My sincere condolences to the family. You were blessed to have such parents. Now they are both rejoicing with the Lord they served.

Tom Surratt
Nashville, Tn

tom surratt - November 23, 2024 at 12:52 AM

JH

“ I am thankful for Dr. Edwards’ commitment to our Lord and his service to our nation in the United States Marine Corps. It is men like Dr. Edwards that selflessly served his Lord ministering to many and served his nation to safeguard our freedom and liberty. I offer my sincere condolences to his family, may he rest in peace.

Jeff Hoefs - November 22, 2024 at 05:21 PM

KN

Dr. Edwards & Mrs. Edwards were both very special people serving the Lord and people wherever God placed them . He was my doctor and am thankful for his work here in Bluefield. He may have never preached like our beloved Billy Graham , but his heart and life spoke of God in a way , he was like our Bluefield Billy Graham. He was world renown in our world of those who knew him . May the Lord he served bring all of you comfort, in Christ Kitty Nunn

Kitty Nunn - November 23, 2024 at 10:12 AM

SM

“ Keith and Alice and their family were very special to me when I served in Nigeria with the first group of Journeymen , 1965-1967. He was my doctor when I developed hepatitis while there and I lived with them a week or so after I got out of the hospital. I loved them and their family. It was always such a pleasure to get to be with them.

Sue Thresher Moncrief, Augusta, Ga.

Sue Moncrief - November 22, 2024 at 03:33 PM