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Pastor's memorial filled with 'Amen's'

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ANADARKO — If the Rev. Carol Daniels' killer or killers desired to silence her spiritual message, they failed miserably.

The fact became clear Friday night during a prayer vigil at Greater First Baptist Church in the same northeast neighborhood where Daniels preached at Christ Holy Sanctified Church. More than 25 people crowded into the tiny Baptist church to praise Daniels, her spiritual work, and most of all, God.

The emotional service brought together pastors from several denominations and even strangers. Daniels' family sat in the front row, weeping silently.

"This Sunday, all over this community, are we gonna serve fearfully or are we gonna cover and stay away from Christ our Savior?" asked Pastor Dennis Edmondson of the Virginia Avenue Baptist Church of Anadarko. "I think Reverend Carol would want us to serve fearlessly."

Edmondson's words brought forth shouts of "Amen!" Fear has gripped this Caddo

County community of 6,000 people since police found the mangled and bloodied body of Daniels inside her church about noon Sunday. The body of the Oklahoma City woman had been staged in an unusual position behind the church altar, and she had been savagely stabbed about the throat, back and chest.

But on this night, Daniels was praised as the true victor.

"She did not die in vain!" shouted Pastor Andrew Ware of the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Carnegie. "She did not die in vain! She did not die in vain because her Lord — her God — is on the throne!"

Ware's words brought the congregation to its feet. People roared, wept, and sang joyously in honor of the slain pastor.

Edmondson stressed that the best way to honor Daniels was to remain in a Christian walk.

"I've heard it said that this Sunday people should take up their guns when they go to church," Edmondson said. "But the last thing we need are pistol-packing Christians. And we don't need pistol-packing preachers, either. If you're gonna arm yourself, arm yourself with the word of God."



Pastor Dennis Edmondson speaks during a memorial service for the Rev. Carol Daniels on Friday in Anadarko.



Priscilla Haywood wipes tears during a memorial service for the Rev. Carol Daniels on Friday in Anadarko.



Doris Chadwick prays during a memorial service for the Rev. Carol Daniels on Friday at the Greater First Baptist Church of Anadarko.

The Rev. Carol Daniels' family members worship during a memorial service Friday.

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Pastor: Postmortem wounds likely

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ment on the reports obtained by The Oklahoman through an open records request.

Turvey said he doesn't think the killing was a ritualistic sacrifice by a serial killer.

"I believe there is no motive other than it appears to be an anger-oriented sexual homicide," Turvey said after reviewing the reports.

"Her hair was burned, and she was found behind the church altar," he said.

The autopsy diagrams show what appear to be defensive injuries to Daniels' hands, which Turvey said indicates she was possibly "fending off a knife" and fighting her attacker.

The medical examiner's report depicted massive gashes encircling her neck with other major wounds around her left breast area.

Likely a knife attack

Dr. William Marion, a forensic pathologist and deputy medical examiner in Huntington County, N.J., told The Associated Press on Friday that the medical examiner's report shows Daniels likely was attacked with a knife and died quickly after her throat was slashed.

"The most fatal injuries are those around her neck," Marion said.

"I would say, based on the fact that both sides of the neck have major wounds associated with them, that she would be nearly decapitated."

Turvey agrees that the report clearly shows the neck wounds caused her death, but all the other injuries, including the massive chest wounds and gash on her back, were most likely inflicted post-mortem.

"That means that after she's dead, the killer keeps doing things to her," Turvey said.

Marion, going on previous descriptions that the body was left in an unusual position, said that posing or staging of a body is extremely rare and usually means the killer wanted to thwart investigators or shock whoever discovered the body.

"It's something to repel and confuse people, something very shocking to try and upset people investigating the crime," Marion said.

The evidence from the autopsy reports and the information released so far show signs of a sexual slaying, possibly carried out by someone Daniels knew and who knew her schedule, Turvey said.

OSBI has called in FBI behavioral science experts to help track down the killer, said Jonica Brown, OSBI spokeswoman.

Turvey said he believes agents should stick close to people Daniels knew, including any romantic relationships or possibly some-

one she was counseling.

The theory that the killer or killers knew Daniels and was enraged is one shared by Marion. "In the case of a robbery ... he's not going to hang around and keep slaying a her, slaying her over and over, and take time to stage the body," he said.

From a forensic standpoint, Turvey said, it seems likely the victim and the attack on her breast indicate the crime was a sexual homicide.

Turvey said authorities should be careful not to assume the killer is a man, because the crime could

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