

Appreciation!

Expressing thanks has no expiration date! Giving is an attitude not just an action. What's your success story? It's time to put the pedal to the metal. It's your life. Do you control it?

Again, we welcome Pastor Debleaire Snell and his family to the OUC family..

To our Pastoral team, we say. "thank you", Dr. Toussaint Williams, Pastor Paul Goodridge, Pastor Marc Raphael, and Elder Lloyd Wilson, for your continued service of excellence.

To the many faithful church officers, members, and church workers, we are blessed to have your continued faithful service here at the OUC, "thank you."

We welcome the many new church members who have joined us by baptism, and transfer of membership from sister churches.

To the team of medical workers, doctors, nurses, aides, and hospital staff, we are most appreciative for your continued dedication and service to those in need of care.

We are thankful to the many friends who contributed to this issue of the Newsletter, Mrs. Vivian Brown for her dedication in designing the newsletter, and to all the contributors to this issue.. How many of them have you met before?

Remember—**Expressing thanks has no expiration date!**

Count Your Blessings Daily. "Cherish the people who check on you".
Remember, God is still in charge. He is in control of the universe so PRAY, Trust and Obey.



In His Service,
Dr. Jessie Mary Godley Bradley,
Senior Adult Ministries, Leader



April—June 2022



Dr. Jessie G. Bradley
Editor

Senior Express

Oakwood University Church

Pastor Debleaire Snell, Senior Pastor

Happy Spring!

Are you smiling? God is so good. He opened our eyes to see another day. Rejoice, and be glad in it.

Did you hear/read about the joy and excitement created by Dr. Prudence Pollard and Dr. Calvin Rock? Well, you need to read it and see it.

April 2, 2022 is Love Our Children Day. Do you show love to your child everyday, in every way? If you don't have a child, show love and care to any child you see or know.

The best inheritance parents can give their children is a few minutes of their time each day.

April showers bring May flowers and many reasons to celebrate. In addition to **Memorial Day, Mother's Day, and Cinco de Mayo.** Take a deep dive into Mexican American history, and learn what Cinco de Mayo means; tacos, fun and fiestas. There are baby births, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and weddings to celebrate.

Our prayers go out to the many families who have lost loved ones during this quarter. God will keep you in perfect peace. Continue to trust Him.

Church family, **do you take the time, to call, or send a card to a lonely or sick person?**

To each administrator, faculty & staff members K-16, we express our gratitude for your energetic faithfulness during these two years of uncertainty.

Many prayers have been answered, and many students will have their dreams filled with a bright and exciting future, because of you, and our financial support.

Does your heart tell you to reach out, and help a graduating senior in these final days? Don't delay! You can make a difference now!

Take a look at the calendar of dates on page 7, and mark your calendar for the activities that involve your attention and or participation.



President
HASDA
OAA School
Board Chair

Dr. Rhonda Tsoi-A-Fatt Bryant is President/CEO of The Moriah Group, an international consulting firm, based in Huntsville, Alabama. Dr. Bryant serves as the Director of Forward Promise. She possesses more than 25 years of program development and public policy advocacy experience focused on issues faced by children of color from birth to young adulthood. Her expertise has been integral to advancing the national work on BMOC through Forward Promise and other initiatives. Dr. Bryant holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Services, a Masters degree in Urban Affairs & Public Policy, and a Doctorate in Education Leadership.

Meet the new Executive
Administrative
Secretary/ Free Bible Lessons

The Peters Families
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Happy Parent's Day
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My 'God' Journey pg. 9

Meet the New President
of the King's Daughters
Pg. 10

"Boost Your Spiritual Fitness Up a Notch"

By Katherine Davis, Chaplain

"For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which come."

For the last six to eight months I have received on a daily basis, an e-mail from *ArcaMax Health & Fitness*, emphasizing physical fitness – a general state of health and well-being and more specifically the ability to perform aspects of occupations, sports, and daily activities. It is generally achieved through proper nutrition, moderate to vigorous physical exercise, and sufficient rest. I believe there is an inexplicable tie between our physical, mental, and spiritual health. Even though our physical health is important, our spiritual health is even more important than our physical fitness. We don't want to neglect our bodies. But even more so, we must not neglect our spirits. So after deciding to write an article about spiritual fitness (our spiritual dimension and outlook on life), I began to do a little research and to browse through my repertoire of articles. I ran across the following, it's a **"10-Day Spiritual Fitness Program"**. If I recall correctly, it was by an anonymous writer. I altered it a bit and I deem it appropriate to share with you. I think it is practical for us all.

- FIRST DAY:** Today I will dine on gratitude – thanking God for the life He gave me and seeing that my "helpings" are generous. I'll share, saying "Come to the table of the Lord: taste, and enjoy!"
- SECOND DAY:** Today I will skimp on pessimism, substituting optimism. I shall pray for "sweet things" and know that they will be served when I get into God's Word.
- THIRD DAY:** Today I will go on a liquid diet of cheer, sharing a cup of joy with everyone I meet. I shall experiment with flavors of sunshine and song.
- FOURTH DAY:** Today I will nibble away until I find something good in each member of my family and friends. I will sift and sort until I find it!
- FIFTH DAY:** Today I will drink from the cup of forgiveness – even when the dregs are bitter. I will discard every grudge – no "snacks" allowed!
- SIXTH DAY:** Today I will indulge myself in prayer! I have worked very hard on this program and I must rest and ask for new energy.
- SEVENTH DAY:** Today I will clean my pantry, removing self-pity and selfishness. I have been gluttonous and these must go! *Lord, let me not be tempted.*
- EIGHT DAY:** Today I will discard all of yesterday's leftovers, letting today be sufficient unto itself. "warmed over" past can spoil my day!
- NINTH DAY:** Today I will serve low-budget "happiness food," remembering that a tender touch, a pleasant smile, a phone call are great nourishment.
- TENTH DAY:** I will fast – refraining from complaint; listening to others -- exercising **"Unrealistic Faith"**

Physical fitness is important. But spiritual fitness is even more important. It could be, you will be the only "Bible" that someone else will ever "read". So put it on your schedule to strengthen your Spiritual Fitness today!

SHAVONNE D. JONES



For such a time as this God has allowed Shavonne Jones to be Chief Accounting Officer for Oakwood Adventist Academy and to be used for the Glory of God!

EDUCATION

2017-2019

MAcc
Saint Leo University

2008-2013

Bachelor of Science Accounting
Oakwood University

SKILLS

Financial Consultant
Interior Designer
Travel

ABOUT MYSELF

TITLE

Chief Accounting Officer

COMPANY

Oakwood Adventist Academy

While as Oakwood Adventist Academy's Chief Accounting Officer has an exceptional career for herself in the Adventist Treasury work, her path started with a summer auditing internship program at South Central Conference,

Shavonne born 1989 is an accomplished accountant, entrepreneur, and CEO of The Christ Minded Accountant Jones' Z LLC, a financial consulting business.

In the Fall of 2021 Jones returned to her hometown Huntsville, AL to take on the role of Chief Accounting Officer at her Alma Mater, Oakwood Adventist Academy.

Since entering this position Jones has exemplified efficiency in a fast-moving environment using her knowledge and guidance to help guide Oakwood Adventist Academy during a time of forward thinking.

Jones previously was the Associate Treasurer at Southeastern Conference where she managed along with the CFO a \$2 million corporation.

Jones is adventurous, sassy, lighthearted, and excellent at what she does.

For such a time as this, God has allowed Shavonne Jones to be where she can be used to the glory of God.

Our New King's Daughters President

Alberta (Cookie) Long



I am the eldest of eight children. I was born and raised in New Haven, Conn., and grew up not far from Yale University. As a little girl I remember my mom being visited by a group of ladies who told her that Saturday was the Sabbath day, and they would give her Bible Studies to prove it. I learned later that they were the Blend Wright Sisters who sang and witnessed for Christ as they traveled. Because of their witnessing, we became Sabbath keepers, and my family became members of the Mount Zion Seventh-Day Adventist Church in New Haven, Connecticut.

With the encouragement of Dr. Jessie Bradley, who was also a member of the Mount Zion SDA Church, I attended Oakwood College from 1969-1973 where I met my husband of forty-seven years, Maurice D.

Long (Tank) of Miami, Florida. Although I attended Oakwood College from 1969 to 1973, I received my BA degree from Barry University in Miami, Florida, and my MBA with emphasis in Health Care Administration from Ashford University.

I worked at the Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital as a Physician Credentialing Coordinator/Specialist. I enjoyed this position because of the research I had to perform to ensure there were no discrepancies or grey areas in a physician's history for either employment and/or medical staff privileges.

I have three adult children who grew up in Miami, Zsa-Nai Long, Texas, Maurice D. Long, II, Arizona and Kri'Shon Long-Polk, Harvest, AL. I am blessed with six grandchildren; five very handsome grandsons and one beautiful granddaughter, all of whom I adore, love, and protect. My husband, an educator, and I retired and moved to Huntsville five years ago to be closer to our three younger grandchildren and to get away from the hustle and bustle of Miami.

In Miami, I attended the Miami Bethany church. Just before moving to Huntsville, I served as Technology Director, a position I inherited from Sis Vivian Brown. I served in this capacity for more than six years and during the six years as TD, I was able to implement and install a professional sound system under the leadership of Pastor William C. Byrd. Prior to the Technology Director I also served as Women's Ministries Leader, AYS leader, Youth Sabbath School Leader, Adult Sabbath School Leader, Children's Choir director, Personal Ministry Leader, and a member of the Miami Bethany King's Daughters.

I love catering to my grandchildren, reading EG White's books, studying the book of Revelation, walking, cutting, and edging the lawn. I also enjoy sending cards to our Sick & Shut-In members.

As the newly nominated position of President of the King's Daughters, I look forward to working with our members as we strive to help one another grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. Let us continue to strengthen our love and fellowship among each other. Let us also continue to identify those unmet needs of fellow believers and persons in the community. I solicit the prayers of each member on my behalf so that what I say and do will be to the edification and glorification of God.

Meet the new Executive Administrative Assistant for Oakwood University Church!!



Shavavian Allister (pronounced sha-vay-vee-an) graduated from Oakwood in 2010 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, and then went on to obtain a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology. After graduating, she decided that Psychology was not the field for her. She has done several different jobs over the years, but always comes back to administrative work as that is her natural gift. God has blessed her tremendously with a husband (Ray) of almost 9 years, and a daughter (Maycee) who just turned 2.

Shavavian loves to crochet sweaters and baby blankets, get lost in a good book, hike to waterfalls, and binge watch competition shows.

YOU WANT TO LIVE A LIFE THAT PLEASES GOD AND GIVES HIM GLORY?

by Katherine Davis, Chaplain

A study of the powerful Word of God will do just that -- 'twill build your faith, will deepen your relationship with God and dramatically impact every area of your life. As we study God's Word, He is speaking to us and we will experience an encounter with Jesus which will

- 1) light our way, giving wisdom so we can clearly see which way to go,
- 2) help us grow in faith and Christ-likeness,
- 3) transform our characters (the only thing we'll take to heaven)
- 4) make us complete and equipped for every good work,
- 5) bring reconciliation,
- 6) keep us from falling for Satan's persuasive lies, and
- 7) reveal to us earth's final events.

Oh how powerful the Word of God is! You can be victorious in your walk with God. Dear ones, you are encouraged and challenged to give God the opportunity to do something amazing in your life.

DON'T WAIT! DO IT TODAY! EMBRACE THE WORD OF GOD!

Study the Word of God with Dr. Toussaint Williams on Monday nights at 6 p.m.

Register at twilliams@oucsda.org

Order and study one of the following FREE Bible Study Lessons:

Breath of Life - www.breathoflifestudy.com

It Is Written - www.itiswritten.study

Amazing Facts - www.amazingfacts.org

CHAPLAIN ROBERT W. PETERS III

Chaplain Robert W. Peters III is a native of Boston, MA. He is the eldest of three sons born to Robert and Elizabeth Yvonne Peters and alum of Oakwood Adventist Academy. He is an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is endorsed by the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries to serve as a chaplain in the United States Navy.

Chaplain Peters earned undergraduate degrees in Commercial Art Illustration from Oakwood College (now University) in Huntsville Alabama and Communication Graphics from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He received a Master of Divinity from Andrews Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He became a Doctor of Strategic Leadership from Regent University, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

In March of 1992 Chaplain Peters joined the United States Marine Corps. Over the next eight years he became a Naval Aviator. He was a helicopter pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162. He deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit and participated in Operations Autumn Shelter, Balkan Calm, Silver Knight, and Operation Deliberate Forge.

In August of 2000 Chaplain Peters joined the Navy to become a chaplain. Since, he has served as Command Chaplain with Command Carrier Air Wing Eight (CVW-8), Third Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego CA, 1st Battalion 1st Marines and 1st Marine Division Headquarters Battalion Chaplain, Camp Pendleton, CA. He is a graduate of the Naval War College, in Newport RI. He was an Instructor and Professional Development Deputy Director at the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center in Columbia, South Carolina. He served as the III Marine Expeditionary Force Deputy Chaplain, 3D Marine Expeditionary Brigade Chaplain and III Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group Chaplain, in Okinawa Japan. He currently serves as the Head Chaplain Officer Recruiting and Accession at Commander Navy Recruiting Command in Millington TN.

Chaplain Peters is married to the former Dollis Arlene Henry of Long Island, NY. They live in Millington, TN and have two children: Kara, and Robert IV.



My 'God' Journey

by Kobe Brown



I was always surrounded by music. My father, Nelson Brown, a composer and arranger, and my grandmother, Vivian Brown, a piano teacher. However, in my younger years, I did everything I could to avoid musical activities, except for taking piano lessons from my grandmother.

God had other plans through this journey.

Two musical giants, Dr. Phillip Williams from Oakwood Adventist Academy, and Dr. Jason Ferdinand, Music Chair at Oakwood University, had a profound effect on my decision to pursue a musical career. They discovered that I had perfect pitch and vocal harmony. After I matriculated through my undergraduate studies at Oakwood University where I gained considerable knowledge and practice with the best instructors in the music department, I excelled in my classes and received a B.S. degree in Music Education, specializing in Vocal/Choral.

As a member of the renowned Aeolians, my commitment was reinforced to pursue a career in Choral conducting. I learned the importance of grit, expression, passion, and attention to details that are needed to create exceptional music.

During my time with the Aeolians, I had the honor of becoming the student conductor and student assistant for Dr. Ferdinand, learning experiences in the ins-and-outs of managing a choir.

I took off a year after graduating from Oakwood University to prepare for graduate school. I became more involved in my community and was hired as the Minister of Music at a Methodist church, which gave me additional experience in managing a church choir, preparing music for church services and other special events. I'm also a member of the Huntsville Master Chorale, a premiere choir in Huntsville. I'm a member of the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers, a newly formed choir that travels throughout the U.S.

I continue to follow God's leading as He orders my steps. I'm happy to announce that I've been accepted in the graduate program in the fall at the University of Maryland, seeking a Masters degree in Choral Conducting and eventually seeking a Doctoral degree. The world needs a level of music that reaches higher and still higher; music that considers the moral, mental, and spiritual dysfunctions that increasingly enclose us.

I'm excited to begin this journey as God leads. My humblest thanks to all those who inspire, pray, and support me.

Happy Mother's and Father's Day to our parents, Jimmie and Vivian Brown

The Jimmie Lee Brown Family

established October 9, 1960



Almost sixty-two years ago, our parents pledged their lives together before God and friends at the Ephesus S.D.A. Church in New Orleans, LA. They continue to impact our lives with their Christian values, helping us to establish strong families. They are strong role models and we value their counsel. Their most important advice that they continue to give us, is to live our lives that represent God, and to prepare for all of us to be ready when Jesus comes.

We are a close knit family and remember fond memories of family gatherings, church activities, and traveling. Each summer, they made sure that we were exposed to other cultures, by traveling around the country. They provided Christian education for all of us.

Three children added additional joy to our family; Dr. Jimmie L. Brown, Jr., Dr. Loretta Brown Smith, (Raymond) and Dr. Nelson Brown, (Suzie); and six grandchildren; Myla, Anthony, Andrew, Nelson, Jr., Kobe, and Branden.

As they are in their golden years, we still have the most fun when we get together several times a year. We always seek their advice in making major decisions.

Mom and dad, we love you both a lot, and appreciate your efforts and love in bringing us up to reflect God in our lives.. We are blessed to have you both as our parents and thank God for you. Of all the friends and teachers we've had in our lives, you both have been the best. Thank you.

Eric Peters
Youth Director
Allegheny West Conference

Pastor Eric K. Peters is a native Bostonian who grew up on the campus of Oakwood University in Huntsville, AL. He had the privilege of being raised in a godly home and came to know Christ at an early age. He attended Oakwood Elementary and is a graduate of Oakwood Adventist Academy. He also attended Oakwood University before transferring to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree and has studied at Andrews University Theological Seminary.



Pastor Peters has served as Associate Pastor for Youth at Madison Mission SDA church, Hillcrest SDA Church, and Patmos Chapel. During 2016 through 2018, Pastor Peters assisted the South Central Conference of SDA as Youth Director in serving and ministering to the youth.

Pastor Peters, the son of Elizabeth Yvonne Peters, is spirit-led and mission-driven, with a heart for today's youth. He strives to help all youth connect to God, connect to one another, and connect to the community.

Pastor Peters is married to Donna Peters who is a gifted and passionate woman of God. They are the proud parents of three; Makenzie, Ethan, and Regan.

Congratulations to Pastor Peters as the Youth Director of Allegheny West Conference!

Congratulations

to
Dr. Prudence LaBeach Pollard
and
Dr. Calvin B. Rock
for receiving
The President's Volunteer Service Award



Meet Yvonne Peters

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." Ministry of Healing, p. 143

"The Advent Thrift store was birthed on the premise of these principles," said Elizabeth Yvonne Peters.

Men's ministry, under the leadership of Dr. Stafford Cargill of the OUC, and other groups from the Huntsville area came together to serve the community by offering clothing, and furnishings at affordable prices. In addition to affordable items, the store distributed food, clothing, provided a listening ear and prayers as needed.

"The ministry determined they needed female support on their board and invited me to join as one of those ladies," said Elizabeth.

Due to the death of several members, Elizabeth was asked to step in and keep the store running until they were able to find someone to manage it full time. She will tell you it was only the grace of God that kept it running for ten years.

"Many friends and testimonies were made over the years," said Elizabeth.

She shared one experience, "One morning the workers in the store were about to have prayer. Just before we invited all willing shoppers to join us, we heard tires squealing from outside. Shortly after the sound stopped a lady came in we had never seen before. We invited all the willing shoppers to join us for prayer. One lady, we had never seen before, called from the back of the store that she was coming for prayer and the lady who came through the door after the tires squealed came too. The moment "Amen" was said at the end of prayer, the young lady that came from the back of the store broke out in song. She sang "The Lord's Prayer" as beautiful as an angel. We were in awe! When the song ended the lady who came through the door hugged me and said "Now, I know why God told me to come in here today! I was just diagnosed with cancer and you all ministered to me in my time of need." Everyone hugged and departed and none of the workers asked either of the women their names. About a year later, a lady came into the store with a young man. She wanted him to meet the workers in the store who prayed for her that day. She also, wanted us to know she had beaten cancer! All praises be to God!

I am Elizabeth Yvonne Peters, born in St. Augustine, FL to Cecile and Pecola Daniels. I graduated from Atlantic Union College with a Bachelor in Science degree in Home Economics. In 1967 I married Robert W. Peters Jr. (deceased). To our union three sons were born; Robert III, Gregory, and Eric.

Yvonne, as I am better known, taught in public and church schools for 40 years. I also taught at schools in Boston MA, and Oakwood Academy, and Oakwood College in Huntsville, AL.

I served the Boston community as the Assistant Director of The Community Welfare Service, sponsored by five churches, and as the Director of the Boston Gas Girls.

My hobbies are sewing, decorating, crafts, and helping people. I have three wonderful daughters-in-law, and seven amazing grandchildren.



ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEK 2022

Schedule of Events APRIL 11th – APRIL 17th

THEME: "One Faith, One Future, & One Oakwood"

(ALL INSIDE EVENTS WILL REQUIRE MASK)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2022

April 2	USM Sabbath/National Love Our Children Day
April 8	OAA Honors Assembly via Zoom
April 11-17	OU Alumni Weekend
April 17	Easter
April 18	Tax Day
April 23	OUC Ministry Fair Sabbath
April 24	HARAW Meeting FLC 1:30 p.m.
April 27	OAA Spring Concert 6 p.m. Madison Mission
April 29	NJHS Induction Service OAA Gym 9 a.m.
May 7	Oakwood University Graduation
May 8	Mother's Day
May 15	HARAW Meeting FLC 1:30 p.m.
May 16	OAA Year End Honors Program, OAA gym grades 3—12 6 p.m.
May 24	OAA Kindergarten Promotional, Gym 5 p.m.
May 26	OAA 8th grade Promotional, Gym 6 p.m.
May 27	OAA Consecration 12th grade OUC 7 p.m.
May 28	OAA Baccalaureate 12th grade OUC 11:00 a.m.
May 29	OAA Commencement 12th grade OUC 10 a.m.
May 30	Memorial Day
June 6-11	General Conference Session, St. Louis, MO
June 14	Flag Day
June 15-18	SCC Camp meeting
June 19	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth
July 4	Independence Day
July 23-24	SCC 26 th Quinquennial Constituency Session