

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



June 18

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Pastor Snell, the Pastoral Team, Media Team, and church family for your services.

Thank you Mrs. Brown for your continued efforts and creativity in designing the Newsletter.

Thank you to the friends who provided the information shared in this issue

Count your blessings daily, and **Rejoice** in the Lord. Each day is a **Gift** from God. Make it **bloom** and **grow** into a thing of beauty.



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



April-June, 2023

Senior Express

Oakwood University Church
Debleaire Snell, Senior Pastor



Dr. Jessie G. Bradley
Editor

Greetings .

April showers bring **May** flowers! God is still in control. Did you see **daffodils in bloom** at the beginning of February this year?

We are so blessed to be able to share flowers with friends and neighbors, maybe from your yard, the super market or the florist. Surprise a friend with flowers this week with God's blessings.

We are rejoicing with our many **new church family members on page 13**. Did you see the **additional team member of the Pastoral Team on page 4**?

Who is the **Chief of Police at Oakwood University?** **Congratulations, Chief Staples**. We are thankful for your faithful service to our church community through the years.

Congratulations to the Children's Choir director, **Angela Baptist** and **her husband, D.J., the organist for your dedicated musical commitment** to our

children and their parents. Keep up your good work! **Pastor Raphael**, we are overjoyed with your leadership and commitment to our children. May God continue to give you the ability and energy to lead our children to Christ through this ministry of you and your family.

Congratulations to all our newly weds, and friends who celebrated anniversaries, families who have Pathfinders **leading the way for excellence and beauty in life every step of the way**

To our grieving families, be reminded that God is in control. We love you and are here for you. We will continue to keep you in our prayers.

Congratulations to all graduates from Kindergarten through post graduate. Remember, "Instructions end in the classroom, but education ends with life." Louisa Alcott

SAVE THE DATE!

South Central Conference Camp Meeting **"It's Time to Go!"** June 9-17, 2023 Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL. Ten days of powerful preaching, inspirational music, and family fun! Registration for housing and meals will begin soon. Stay tuned to www.iamsouthcentral.org for updates #sccommunications

Pastor Alfred Johnson
The Lai Hing Family
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Jordan, Staples,
Brown, Alexander
Pg. 9

New Members
Bible Studies
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Oakwood Adventist
Academy Pg. 14
OU Alumni
Pg. 16=18

Oakwood University Seventh-day Adventist Church
5500 Adventist Boulevard, Huntsville, Alabama 35896

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Debleaire K. Snell, Senior Pastor



Dr. Jessie G. Bradley, Leader

Dear Nonagenarians and Centenarians,

On behalf of the "Adult Senior Ministries Committee," I take this opportunity to congratulate you (29 Nonagenarians and 2 Centenarians), and to let you know how truly excited we are about how God continues to bless you to enjoy long years of life.

The last three years will go down in our history books as three of the most trying years in the history of not only our nation but the world. They are years we will never forget -- the Coronavirus captured the attention of the world. Many of our traditions were interrupted in ways we never dreamed possible. Nevertheless, "Praise God", He has sustained each of you thus far. Your determination, dedication, and drive are truly impressive. The hard days made you stronger, and the good days got you further. So, welcome to the next chapter of your life.

As we continue to forge ahead into the future, be reminded that "nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35). I trust you will always find encouragement and strength to do what you can to keep in touch with each other and give any help you can render to one another.

I wish for each of you (those who have already experienced a birthday in the last two months and for the rest with an upcoming birthday) a wonderful 2023. May you have all the love your heart can hold, all the happiness a day can bring, and all the blessings a life can unfold. Enjoy every moment of your special day!

Sincerely,

Jessie G. Bradley

Dr. Jessie G. Bradley, Leader
Senior Adult Ministries
Oakwood University Church



Join our Photography Class sponsored by the
Senior Adult Ministries of Oakwood University Church

Dr. Jessie G. Bradley, Leader

- 1. Learn the basics of using a DSL camera with our instructor, Oliver Shipe, a nature photographer. From Oliver Shipe: "We strive to duplicate as much as possible the flowers, mountains, sunrise, and sunsets presented to us by the Great Creator."



Oliver Shipe

- 2. There are two classes—Basic (where you'll learn the basics of your digital camera)



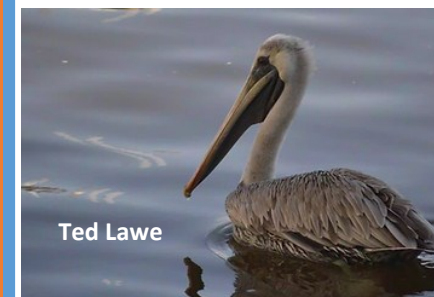
Cherryl Galley

- 3. Intermediate class—Continue learning the menu/modes/lens, etc. sharing/critiquing photos

- 4. Learn the fundamentals of Photoshop

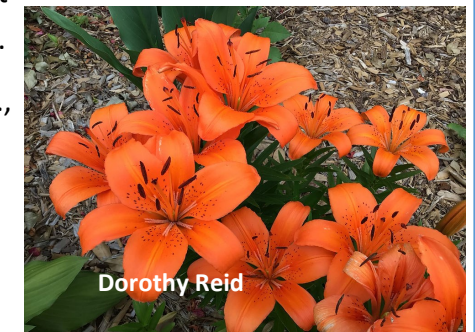
- 5. Experience photo field trips, both near and far.

- 6. This is a fun interactive class. Zoom classes are held on the first and 3rd Sundays of each month.



Ted Lawe

- 7. Basic class—9 a.m.—10 a.m., cst. Intermediate 10 a.m. to Noon, CST

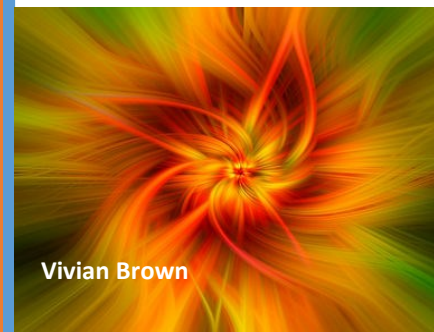


Dorothy Reid

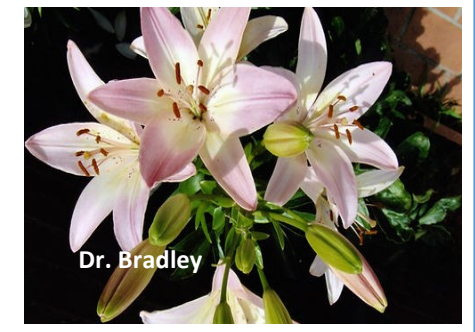
- 8. Photo Exhibits once a year. Next exhibit October 2023

- 9. Contact Vivian Brown, Secretary, to register for the class. vbrow.100@att.net, text or call for more information at 256-655-2935.

- 10. Check out our website to view photos taken by our class members. vbrow1001.wixsite.com/mysite



Vivian Brown



Dr. Bradley

Oakwood University

Commencement Exercises

2023

Wednesday - May 10, 2023

- 1:00 p.m. Education Teacher Dedication Ceremony
 3:00 p.m. Social Work Pinning Ceremony
 5:00 p.m. Nutrition and Dietetics Pinning Ceremony

Thursday - May 11, 2023


- 3:00 p.m. Nursing Pinning Ceremony
 5:00 p.m. School of Theology Dedication Service Moseley Complex
 7:00 p.m. Adult & Continuing Education Senior Ceremony

Friday - May 12, 2023

- 8:00 p.m. Consecration Oakwood University Church

Saturday - May 13, 2023

- 9:15 a.m. Sabbath School Von Braun Center/Propst Arena
 10:45 a.m. Baccalaureate Von Braun Center/Propst Arena
 7:00 p.m. Aeolians Mini-Concert Von Braun Center/Propst Arena
 7:30 p.m. Vespers Von Braun Center/Propst Arena
 8:00 p.m. Commencement Von Braun Center/Propst Arena



What It Means To Love One Another

Katherine Davis, Chaplain

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.... by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13: 34-35)

Do you know what it means to love one another as Jesus loves you? It's not an option you know. It was part of Jesus' farewell speech to his disciples which took place on the night before his crucifixion. He said, *“it's a new commandment I give to you.”* It's really quite a tall order. **Let me share with you what I think it means:**

1. I believe the opposite of love isn't necessarily hate. It's selfishness. Do yourself the favor of asking the Holy Spirit to free your life from selfishness and fill you instead with His love.
2. Learn the value of compassionately sharing others' sorrow, distress, and misfortune. Rejoice with them in their successes.
3. Discipline your time, your eyes, your mind, all for the sake of others.
4. Utilize the incredible privilege of prayer. **You and I** have been **commissioned by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit** to do battle for others. Pray for them and see God's glory in your prayers. Jesus said, “Whatever you ask in my name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified.” Ask God to help you step out of your comfort zone. **Make the connection, offer encouragement,** and start diligently praying as an act of love. **Ask God for discernment.**
5. Patiently spend time with others, do as Jesus did, **He loved them enough to warn them, challenge them, teach them, and forgive them all the way to the cross.**
6. Be willing to part with money, time, and possessions in order to serve other people. Give them **what they need**, not what **you** want to give.

In closing, Jesus said “People will know that you are my disciples by your love for each other.” Dear ones, please Hear Me Now! **Tackle The Challenge To:**

Live To Make A Life

Do not live just to make a living,
 Rather live to make a life;
 For the measure of succeeding
 Is your service in the strife.

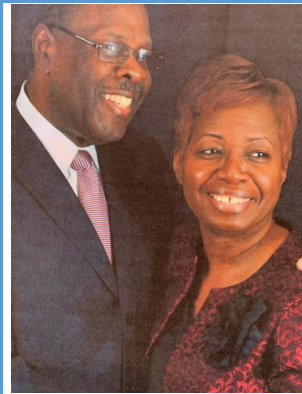
Build your life with care and patience,
 As the sculptor hews the stone,
 With the Master as your model,
 And your eyes upon the throne.

All you ever leave behind you
 When your soul has crossed the bay,
 Is the good you've done to others,
 As you tarried by the way.

Noble lives have been the beacon,
 Lighting mankind's upward way;
 Blessing others with much kindness
 Cherished servants of a better day.

Build a life as pure as crystal,
 Build a spirit full of love;
 Build your mind by noble thinking,
 Build **unrealistic faith** in God above.

Let your life shine out in service,
 Noble living — noble deeds;
 And until time's course is ended
 Good will blossom from your seeds.



Pastor & Mrs. Alfred Johnson

In February 2023 Pastor J. Alfred Johnson II accepted the privilege of serving as an Associate Pastor of The Oakwood University Seventh-day Adventist Church, sharing responsibilities for Pastoral Care and Visitation.

Pastor Johnson, a grateful member of the Oakwood University Honor Class of 1973, is a forty-nine year retiree of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Having previously served as Pastor, Local Conference Departmental Director, President of the Central States Conference, and Executive Secretary of the Mid-America Union, he concluded active service as Director of the North American Division

Adult Ministries Department for twenty-three years! He delights in returning to his "First Love", Pastoring!

He shares a loving marriage of fifty years, and four offspring (all of whom are employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church) with Paula I. Johnson (BS, OU 2019, MBA OU 2021). Sister Johnson designed the Minister's Wives Training Protocol for Twenty-Six Consecutive years prior to the predecessor of "PELC".

The Lai Hing Family

Hello! My name is Steven Lai Hing, and I along with my family are longtime members of the Oakwood University Church. I am currently an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Oakwood University where I have taught General and Honors Chemistry (among other courses) for the past six years. I am happily married to the love of my life, Dr. Ebony Lai Hing, a medical writer with Oxford Pharmagenesis. We are blessed with three wonderful children, Steven II (7), Divya (5), and Lylah (2).



I was born and raised in Huntsville; both Ebony and I are proud alums of Oakwood University. My parents served as professors at Oakwood: My mother, Professor Jean Lai Hing served as faculty in the business department, and my father Dr. Kenneth Lai Hing is currently a Professor in the Chemistry department. Together my father and I run the Lai Hing Research Group, where we conduct environmental and antibiotic research.

My wife Ebony was born and raised in Dallas and is the granddaughter of Elder W.C. and Dorothy Jones. Elder Jones served as Conference President in Southwest Region, and ironically, pastored my parents at Bethel Church in Brooklyn, NY long before Ebony and I were thought of. Ebony's parents, Dr. Cynthia and Robert Hammond, live in the Ohio area where Dr. Hammond serves as faculty at Kettering. Ebony has two siblings, Sierra Hammond, an Oakwood alum and voice professor at Alabama A&M University and Opera Director, and Dr. Robert Hammond, an Oakwood alum and PhD researcher from UAB who is also completing Medical School this year.

After Oakwood, Ebony and I accepted research fellowships to Texas A&M University where we completed our Master's and Doctorate degrees. We are active in both our Church and community, participating with Children's ministries and Adventurers, as well as the American Red Cross and School Boards. It is our greatest desire to have a positive impact on our city and our circle of friends and family, and we are thankful for our blessings and ability to give back.

2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SYMBOL KEY

- In-Person Event
- LIVE STREAMING
- ZOOM

Masks are **OPTIONAL** for all in-person events.

- SABBATH, APRIL 8:**
 - 9:30 a.m. - **ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2023 SABBATH SCHOOL** at VBC (📺 & 📺) on Oakwood University Facebook & YouTube Channels). Presented by the Reunion Honor Classes of 1983 & 2003.
 - Oakwood Legacy photo studio in VBC main lobby.
 - 10:45 a.m. - **ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2023 INFORMATION & INSPIRATION** at VBC (📺 & 📺) on Oakwood University Facebook & YouTube Channels).
 - 11:00 a.m. - **ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2023 DIVINE WORSHIP SERVICE** at VBC (📺 & 📺) on Oakwood University Facebook & YouTube Channels). Speaker: **Dr. Abraham Jules '83**, President of Northeastern Conference. Music by **The Aeolians**, and other Special Guest artists.
 - Oakwood Legacy photo studio in VBC main lobby.
 - Reunion Honor Class Pictures taken immediately following service on and near front stage.
 - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - **NEW EVENT! THE HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER ALUMNI HOMECOMING FELLOWSHIP LUNCH** at OUC FAMILY LIFE CENTER - (📺) **EVERYONE IS INVITED!** To pre-purchase tickets and join in the fellowship use the Fellowship Lunch Link: <https://give.oakwood.edu/health-and-wellness-center-fellowship-lunch/>. A portion of your ticket cost will go toward the new **OU Health & Wellness Center** Capital Campaign. Some of our platform guests, honorees, and Reunion Honors Classes will be present. **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL** only \$25 per person until March 14, then goes to \$27.99. Tickets must be pre-purchased by March 20 or until seating lasts.
 - 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. - **REUNION HONOR CLASS MEMORIES PROGRAM** viewing at OUC (📺 & 📺) on Oakwood University Facebook & YouTube Channels).
 - 6:15 p.m. - **SABBATH VESPER PROGRAM** at OUC (📺 & 📺) on Oakwood University Facebook & YouTube Channels). Speaker: **Pastor Kimberly Mann**.
 - 7:15 p.m. - **THE AEOLIANS CONCERT** at OUC (📺 & 📺) **LIVE STREAMING** on Oakwood University Facebook & YouTube Channels). Under the Direction of **Jeremy Jordan '13**.
- SATURDAY NIGHT FUN:**
 - 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. - **ALUMNI HOMECOMING BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2023** at **ASHBY AUDITORIUM** - (📺) Presented by the OU Athletic Dept. For more information email: sjacob@oakwood.edu
 - 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. - **NEW EVENT! "THAT DREDED LIFE" THEATRICAL PRESENTATION** at **MORAN HALL** (📺) Oakwood University's History & English Departments present a historical and theatrical presentation on the life of **Dred Scott**, the enslaved Social Activist who sued his master for his freedom. This controversial case was a harbinger for the Civil War and Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. **MORE INFO** call 256-726-7223, or email pdnixon@oakwood.edu or starks@oakwood.edu.
- 8:30 - 11:00 p.m. - **VIRTUAL ZOOM REUNION HONOR CLASSES GET-TOGETHERS** Check OU APP or alumni@oakwood.edu for updates and more details.
- SUNDAY, APRIL 9:**
 - 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. - **"RIDE WIT US" HUNTSVILLE** in collaboration with the Office of Alumni Relations. This is a **FREE** cycling ride during Oakwood Alumni Homecoming 2023 for all who enjoy a good bike ride. Bring safety helmet and your own bike or rent one in the city. **Kellie Hart**, coordinator. **Starts at Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center**
 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - **ALUMNI HOMECOMING BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2023** at **ASHBY AUDITORIUM** & possibly **OAKWOOD ADVENTIST ACADEMY GYM** - (📺) Presented by the OU Athletic Dept. For more information email: sjacob@oakwood.edu
 - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **VIRTUAL ZOOM DEPARTMENTAL ALUMNI 360 EVENTS** - (some 📺). For updates & more details go to: alumni.oakwood.edu
 - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **OAKWOOD ALUMNI HOMECOMING VENDOR VILLAGE SUPER EXPO** - (📺) at **OAKWOOD FARMS MARKET** surrounding area. Featuring Oakwood apparel & items, giveaways, 125th Celebration clearance bargains, music, and spoken word. **VIP VENDOR REGISTRATION** go to: alumni.oakwood.edu
 - Oakwood Legacy photo studio here.
 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - **NEW EVENT! THE GRADS OF '83 AND FRESHMAN OF '79 SUNDAY BRUNCH** at the new **REGIONAL CONFERENCE MINISTRIES BLDG.** - (📺) Tickets available for you and your family by email: alumni@oakwood.edu by March 20 to secure your spot.
 - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **HISTORIC OAKWOOD CAMPUS TOURS** - (📺) **Corner of WADE HALL & EDWARDS HALL** at the "Morning Star Connection" Historical Marker. This walking tour takes approx. 1.5 hours. Some riding carts may be available for our senior citizens.
 - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - **ALUMNI 360 EVENTS (TBD)** For updates & details go to: alumni.oakwood.edu
 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. - **NEW EVENT! A GOLD SOCIETY (Graduates of the Last Decade) EVENT.** The Reunion Honor Classes of 2013 & 2018 are especially asked to attend, as well as any other Oakwood alums who are Graduates of the Last Decade. Get some inspiration and information, and pickup a GOLD Society keepsake from Alumni Homecoming 2023.
 - 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. - **OAKWOOD ALUMNI HOMECOMING PARADE 2023** - (📺) Parade will start on **OAKWOOD RD.** near the **UNITY POND**. The Parade route heads west on **OAKWOOD RD.** to the **MILLET ACTIVITY CENTER (MAC)**, left at the **ANNA KNIGHT BLDG.**, left at **CAMPUS DR.**, right onto **UNIVERSITY WAY**, bear right to the main gate, then right on **ADVENTIST BLVD.** End at **WYNN DR./MCKEE BT BLDG.** parking lot.

The OakwoodU APP: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.readyeducation.oakwooduniversity&hl=en>

For updates, check the **OU APP** or alumni.oakwood.edu

OAKWOOD ALUMNI HOMECOMING

AMBASSADORS OF THE EXPERIENCE

All TIMES *Central Daylight Time (CDT)

MONDAY, APRIL 3:

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. - (Tentative) **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** at MCKEE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX AUDITORIUM (📺). In-Person Event! **A FORUM** in association with OU LaunchPad. Presented by students for everyone, no matter what your major or profession.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4:

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. - (Tentative) **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** at MCKEE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX AUDITORIUM (📺). In association with OU LaunchPad. Presented by students for everyone, no matter what your major or profession.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5:

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - (Tentative) **ALUMNI 360 LAUNCH 2023** with WSB (Willing Succeeding & Black), a legendary Oakwood campus group. 15 or more WSB alumni members from across the country are coming into the classrooms to share their Oakwood stories and career readiness tips.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6:

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - (Tentative) **ALUMNI 360 LAUNCH 2023** with WSB (Willing Succeeding & Black), a legendary Oakwood campus group. 15 or more WSB alumni members from across the country are coming into the classrooms to share their Oakwood stories and career readiness tips.

9:50 a.m. - **ALUMNI HOMECOMING CHAPEL** at OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH - (📺) Honors Convocation: a special Homecoming 2023 Edition of our weekly campus Chapel experience.

12:00 - 11:30 p.m. - **ALUMNI HOMECOMING BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2023** at ASHBY AUDITORIUM - (📺) Look for the full schedule available by April 1. Presented by the OU Athletic Dept. For more information email: sjacob@oakwood.edu

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - **ALUMNI 360 EVENT** at MCKEE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX AUDITORIUM - (📺) WSB will meet with the USM Officers and all student leaders on campus. Refreshments will be provided (first come, first served).

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. - **NEW EVENT!** **OU GOLD & BLUE SCHOLARSHIP GALA** at VON BRAUN CENTER (VBC), NORTH HALL - (📺) Special Guest alumna **Brenda Wood** and music by the gifted alumna **Brandie Inez Sutton**. The Aeolians and others will be performing also. To be a sponsor or purchase tickets go to: <http://marcus32.sg-host.com/>

FRIDAY, APRIL 7:

7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - **UNCF GOLF CLASSIC** - (📺) at HAMPTON COVE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE 450 Old Hwy 431, Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763.

To register, go to: give.oakwood.edu/uncf-golf/.

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - **ALUMNI HOMECOMING BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2023** at ASHBY AUDITORIUM - (📺) Look for the full schedule available by April 1. Presented by the OU Athletic Program. For more information email: sjacob@oakwood.edu

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - **ALUMNI 360 EVENTS**. Alumni 360 is our initiative where Oakwood alumni circle back to their alma mater to network for their profession, and help current students by providing mentoring, internship opportunities, and jobs. For updates & more details go to: alumni.oakwood.edu

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - **OAKWOOD FARMER'S MARKET** with 20+ vendors, food, fun, and fresh bargains! - (📺)

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - **ALUMNI HOMECOMING KICK OFF EVENT CELEBRATION & REUNION HONOR CLASSES REGISTRATION** at OAKWOOD FARMS MARKET Parking Lot (📺 & some parts 📺) LIVE STREAMING on Oakwood University Facebook & YouTube Channels). Featuring fellowship, music, spoken word, VIP interviews, apparel and OU 'Swag' giveaways, and more!

📍 **Oakwood Legacy photo studio here.**

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - **ALUMNI 360 EVENTS (TBD)** For updates & details go to: alumni.oakwood.edu

6:15 p.m. - **FRIDAY VESPER PROGRAM** at OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH (📺 & 📺) on Oakwood University Facebook & YouTube Channels). Speaker: **Dr. Juleun Johnson** - Regional Vice President at Advent Health

7:15 p.m. - **OAKWOOD HONORS PROGRAM** at OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH (📺 & 📺) on Oakwood University Facebook & YouTube Channels). HONOREES: **Elder T. Marshall Kelly** (In Memoriam), **Dr. Zavon Kanion**, **Dr. Laura Davis**, **Dr. Craig Jackson**, **Dr. Wayne Bucknor** - with singing groups and artists like **Dynamic Praise**, **Madison Mission Mass Choir**, and many others.

Get a real-time, updated
Alumni Homecoming 2023
Schedule—scan here ➔



This Schedule of Events is subject to change.

David Person grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home on Chicago's southside. His parents, the late Josiah and Lillie Person, both joined the SDA church as adults and remained members until their deaths.

David attended Shiloh Academy, the church's K-12 school, from pre-school until he graduated from the 12th grade. When he was 7, he was baptized at the Shiloh SDA Church by the late Pastor Harold Lindsey.

After graduating from Shiloh in 1981, he enrolled at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), graduating with a bachelor's degree in Communication and a Theology minor in four years.

David began his career as a media professional in 1986 as a producer at WLRH-FM, then the only National Public Radio affiliate in Huntsville. For the next 23 years, David became known as a radio and TV personality in north Alabama. During that period, he also became a columnist and editorial board member at The Huntsville Times. At the same time, David's work also was featured nationally on NPR and in USA TODAY, BlackAmericaWeb.com, Message Magazine, and various other media outlets.

In 2009, due to the beginning of the decline of print journalism locally and nationwide, David took a buyout from The Times. He began working as a media consultant, creating audio and video content for clients as well as serving their media relations, public relations, and marketing needs.

As the owner of DavidPersonMedia, LLC, David's list of clients and partners includes former U.S. Senate candidate Will Boyd, environmental justice activist Catherine Flowers, Estella's Brilliant Bus (a CNN Hero company), and Breath of Life Television. He also is a monthly guest on Kenny Anderson's popular radio show Second Chance, broadcast Sundays on 90.1 FM, WJOU, and a political analyst at WHNT News 19 in Huntsville.

David co-hosts two weekly podcasts: Breathe, featuring Pastor Debleaire Snell and Alabama Politics This Week, with Josh Moon. He also co-created and co-produced Finding Tamika, an Audible Original hosted by actress/director/producer Erika Alexander. Comedian Kevin Hart and syndicated radio/TV host Charlamagne are executive producers. Finding Tamika, won the 2023 Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Award, one of the most prestigious awards in the news business.

David's community commitments include being a founding member of three organizations: the Community Faith Partners, the Madison County Remembrance Project and Huntsville's Rosa Parks Day Committee. He's also a member of the Drake State Community & Technical College Foundation board, and an active member of the Oakwood University Church.

David is the proud father of one son,

Jeremy.



This is from the Dupont-Columbia Awards in New York. Our podcast Finding Tamika, won the award. At the podium, actress Erika Alexander. Behind her, from left to right: Producers Ben Arnon, Rebekah Howard, James T. Green and me (David Person).



Isolation during the pandemic - the Otieno story.

Dressed up for church, drove around the block and back to the make-believe OU Church. We picnicked often, made our own movies and watched them with our stuffed animals (which we took with us camping too!). We read a lot of books and practiced violin many hours. Our sandbox got an upgrade. We even did a grown-up project – polishing furniture. We learned a lot and are glad it is all different now!



Shalunda Allen-Sherrod, DSW, LICSW-S, PIP, Chair, and Associate Professor of the Department of Social Work at the Oakwood University, in Huntsville, Alabama. Dr. Sherrod completed her Doctor of Social Work degree at the Walden University. She has 28 plus years of clinical experience in several prominent sectors, to include hospitals, non-profits, local and federal government, independent practice, and education. Dr. Sherrod is an effective trainer and educator for administrators, faculty, staff, and students. She has strong analytical skills, capable of assessing conditions and implementing appropriate interventions as needed. Dr. Sherrod is passionate about imparting knowledge to others through leadership, training, consulting, and mentorship. Her educational scholarship focuses on immigration, intimate partner violence among immigrant women, and sexual and self-efficacy and sexual purity among emerging adults.

In 2021 the Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama initially appointed Dr. Shalunda Sherrod to the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners (ASBSWE). She was reappointed for a 3-year term on October 25, 2022. Dr. Sherrod serves as the Representative for District 5 in North Alabama.

Under the leadership of Dr. Sherrod and her team, the Department of Social Work recently received approval, by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE), to move forward with the master's in social work (MSW) graduate program. The MSW will be a fully online program, featuring both a traditional and advance standing curriculum. A 4+1 combination (BSW + MSW) option will be available for all new Oakwood University majors. Students can leave Oakwood University with a bachelor's and master's combination in just five years!

WORSHIP: FROM PRAISE HIM TO PRAISE HYMN
EURYDICE V. OSTERMAN

Online Course
Climate change, mass shootings, high gas prices, famines, earthquakes. . . .
Could the way we worship have anything to do with this?

This course will answer that question by examining the transition from traditional worship to praise worship, what's behind it, its impact upon our spirituality, and what God has to say about it.

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Oakwood Adventist Academy

ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN FOR THE
2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

It's that time of year again: admissions and enrollment began on February 15, 2023.

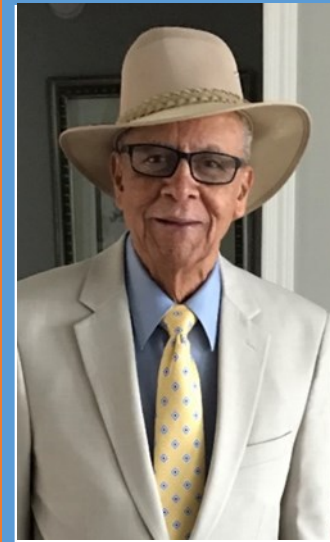
How to Apply-

Go to oakwoodadventistacademy.org—Admissions—Apply

Applying is easy using our **Online Application**. We encourage families to apply online as it simplifies submission and provides parents a tool for tracking the status of their admission online after their application has been submitted. **A non-refundable fee of \$100 for U.S. Residents and \$185 for International students** must be submitted with each application.

All fees are billed and payable via facts financial. Multi child families of 3 or more children will receive a **50% discount** on the last child's registration fee until **June 1, 2023**. After **June 1, 2023** registration is **\$450.00 per student**. **Enrollment fees are non-refundable.**

Save your bottle caps. We receive money for them! Yes, all sizes are welcome! Please take them to OAA Elementary School or bring them to the church office.



Pastor Horace Lawrence Jones was born in Salem County, New Jersey, January 24, 1926.

His early years of education began in the small town of Alloway New Jersey. He spent his senior year at Oakwood Academy and continued his education at Oakwood College, now Oakwood University. He graduated with a degree in Theology in 1947.

Horace was hired by the South Central Conference of SDA and pastored in the Yazoo City and Greenville Mississippi District. From there, he was sent to Chattanooga, Tennessee. During his pastorate in Chattanooga, he married Chlora McClure on March 4, 1951. Horace also pastored in Knoxville, Tennessee before being moved to the Gulf States. While serving in the Gulf States, he pastored in three states at one time, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

While working in the Tennessee area, he held a tent meeting in Cleveland Tennessee and baptized 24 individuals. From that meeting, a church was established. While ministering in the Gulf States, Horace held a meeting in Atmore, Alabama and 32 people were baptized. A church was established from that effort.

Horace was called to the Lake Region Conference in 1963. While in Lake Region, he pastored in Illinois, Michigan and Indiana. He also worked in the Lake Region Conference Office in the Community Service and Sabbath School departments.

Horace continued his ministry at the Lake Union Conference as the Personal Ministries Director before moving on to South Atlantic Conference. While in South Atlantic, he pastored in Savannah, Griffin, and Lawrenceville Georgia.

Pastor Jones always believed in Christian education and aggressively supported it. While he pastored in Savannah, Georgia, Ramah Jr. Academy became the largest Adventist school in the North American Division with an enrollment of 495 students.

After 69 years of service, he retired and relocated to Huntsville Alabama. Elder Horace Jones has three daughters, Phyllis L. McCree, Alva L. Arrington and Lorna F. Knight. He has 6 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.



The Beauty in Words

by Taniesha Robertson Brown

As far as I can recall, a large portion of my high school years featured my involvement in writing and publishing those writings in some form or another. Those writing experiences spanned poetry, essays, debates, and orations. It was clear that I had a deep appreciation for the power of rightly used words. And then, in adulthood, I discovered the General Conference's annual women's devotional book, and I was hooked! The stories seemed to leap off the pages at me and the life lessons embedded in the very first copy

I received infused hope, determination, and courage in my mind. Each story I read became a burning flame of inspiration that lit a fire in me to do just what those lovely ladies did for me some thirteen years ago. And thus began my journey...

I too, wanted to encourage other women in their spiritual walk with Christ, and so I asked God to inspire me to write and submit devotionals to the said publication. I was blessed to have my first publication accepted and subsequently published in 2013. It began with one publication each year and my motivation increased. This motivation led me to make a commitment to God that I would try to have at least one devotional published for every year that I am alive.

My inspiration for writing always seems to come when I am reflecting on God's Word, and the more time I spent in His Word, the more inspiration I received. So, I kept writing and submitting more than what was required. As a result, I always have submissions in the devotional's database. And the 2023 publication *New Every Morning* surprisingly included three of my submissions. I felt so thankful and humbled all at once.

As I aim to inspire other women, I continue to be inspired by the stories of every woman featured in the daily devotionals I read. Every contributor gives me a window into their fears, struggles, triumphs, and even their failures so that I can gain a better glimpse of who Jesus is and how we can be drawn closer to Him. Today, I continue to be inspired by the lives of women who write devotionals and even more so by those who take the time to pour into the lives of other women with words of affirmation, encouragement, and wisdom. And today, I am grateful to have the loving support of a group of wonderful women at my local church here in Huntsville, Alabama-The Abundant Life Seventh-day Adventist Church. I pray that you too will find beauty in the written and spoken words of the godly women in your life.

Taniesha Robertson-Brown received her formal training in education where she served in that field for over a decade. But she has found herself serving in various accounting roles throughout her life. She is married to Courtney, and they have two sons: Preston and Prescott. Above all, Taniesha loves the Lord and enjoys testifying of His goodness through her passion for writing. She enjoys a delightful read, is author of the book *Godly Families in an Ungodly World*, and is a devotional contributor to many other books.



To Oakwood University Church January-March 2023!

Submitted by Marilyn Lang, Clerk

BAPTISMS

Olivia Allen
Jordan L. Baker
Sofia Clark
Naomi Isaac
Nia James Battle
Esther Naggalye
Jenita Phillips
Aaron T. Wright

REBAPTISMS

Andrea Barham-Gibbons
Jacqueline Battle
Alondra Henry
Anastasia Love
Cicely Thomas

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Carrie Sanders

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!

Order and study the following **FREE Bible Study Lessons:**

Breath of Life - www.breathoflifestudy.com

It Is Written - www.itiswritten.study

GOD BREATHED ON “US” THE BREATH OF LIFE

God connected Jacqui Gates to Oliver Shipe via technology in December, 2007.

They enjoyed endless conversations and photos as they learned about their differences and similarities—Jacqui of Cuban/Caribbean roots, Seventh-day Adventist, corporate/academic executive and Oliver of East Tennessee roots, Methodist, high school principal/athletic coach.

One Sunday, in 2008 during a blizzard in Greeneville, TN, Oliver shared with Jacqui that he couldn't go to church that day so he watched his favorite television evangelist. He noticed for the first time that the broadcast credits listed “produced at Oakwood College”. Jacqui immediately responded “that's Walter Pearson, Director of Breath of Life ministries”. Oliver asked, “you know him?” She said “yes”.

Two weeks later Walter Pearson and his wife, Sandy, traveled to spend the Sabbath with Oliver at the Knoxville airport.

Oliver began attending the Brainard SDA Church in Greeneville, TN and continued facilitating Bible studies at the Tate Chapel United Methodist Church using “Amazing Facts” lessons.

Oliver was baptized into the SDA truth on May 17, 2009 by Pastor Dr. Craig Newborn, the day before he married Jacqui at the Oakwood College Church. The ceremony was officiated by Pastor Dr. Newborn, Pastor Dr. Norman Knight and Pastor Martin Lister, Jr.

Oliver and Jacqui have a blended family of 5 children, 15 grandchildren and 1 great grandson.

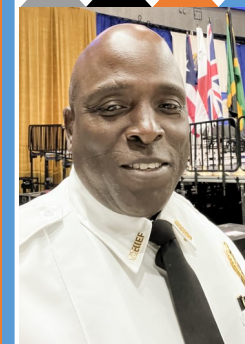
Oliver is an elder at the Abundant Life SDA Church and the First SDA church of Decherd, TN. He is the instructor of the Oakwood University Church Senior Ministries photography class. Jacqui is Women's Ministries leader at Abundant Life SDA Church which launched its global sister devotion in March, 2020.

Oliver and Jacqui are energized daily BY GOD'S BREATH OF LIFE.



Jeremy Jordan is a native of Huntsville, AL, an alumnus of Oakwood University ('13), and a former member of The Aeolians under the direction of Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand.

He is returning home after spending nine years as the Music and Choir Director of Miami Union Adventist Academy located in North Miami, FL. Jordan also serve as Conductor and Composer In-Residence for the New Canon Chamber Collective Orchestra whose goal and purpose is to promote new and existing compositions by BIPOC composers. Jeremy now serves as the director of the Aeolians and teaches music classes in the Music Department at Oakwood University.

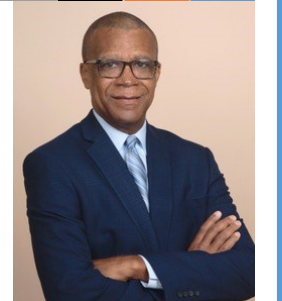


Maurice Alan Staples, Sr., a native of Charlerol, PA was born to Ephriam and Ella Staples Jr., as a twin into a family of five siblings. He was educated in the public school system in Miami, Florida. He held positions of leadership at Miami Northwestern Senior High School finishing early in the 11th grade. After being awarded a diploma he attended Miami Dade Junior College and later decided to matriculate at the then Oakwood College. While in college he worked as a transportation driver and a student security officer. In 1990 he was awarded a degree. Later he attended Drake State College and obtained an AS in electronics in 1999.

Maurice was hired to work as a security officer and advanced through the department to sergeant in 1996, and Police Sergeant in December 2009, Police Lieutenant in 2019, Interim Chief for the spring of 2022, and now Interim Chief currently from mid January..

He acknowledges that he did not get there by himself, but by God, the loving support of his wife, the former Marcia Benta, and two industrious sons, Maurice II, and Maurvin. His favorite pastime is music among other enjoyable hobbies. He is currently enrolled at Oakwood University pursuing an MBA degree.

Congratulations to Dr. Jimmie Lee Brown, a 1984 graduate of Oakwood College on his recent retirement from Miami-Dade County Public Schools in Miami Florida. Dr. Brown served the school system for thirty-seven years as teacher, assistant principal, principal, director of Professional Standards, and assistant superintendent. We wish him well as he moves into the next chapter of his journey.



Dr. Brown is the son of Elder and Mrs. Jimmie Brown, members of the Oakwood University Church.

Special thanks to ***Edmund Alexander*** for his untiring support to the Senior Adult Ministries department. He is so diligent, humble, and always willing to assist in printing the Newsletter. We are forever grateful.

A Parent's Heart Cry

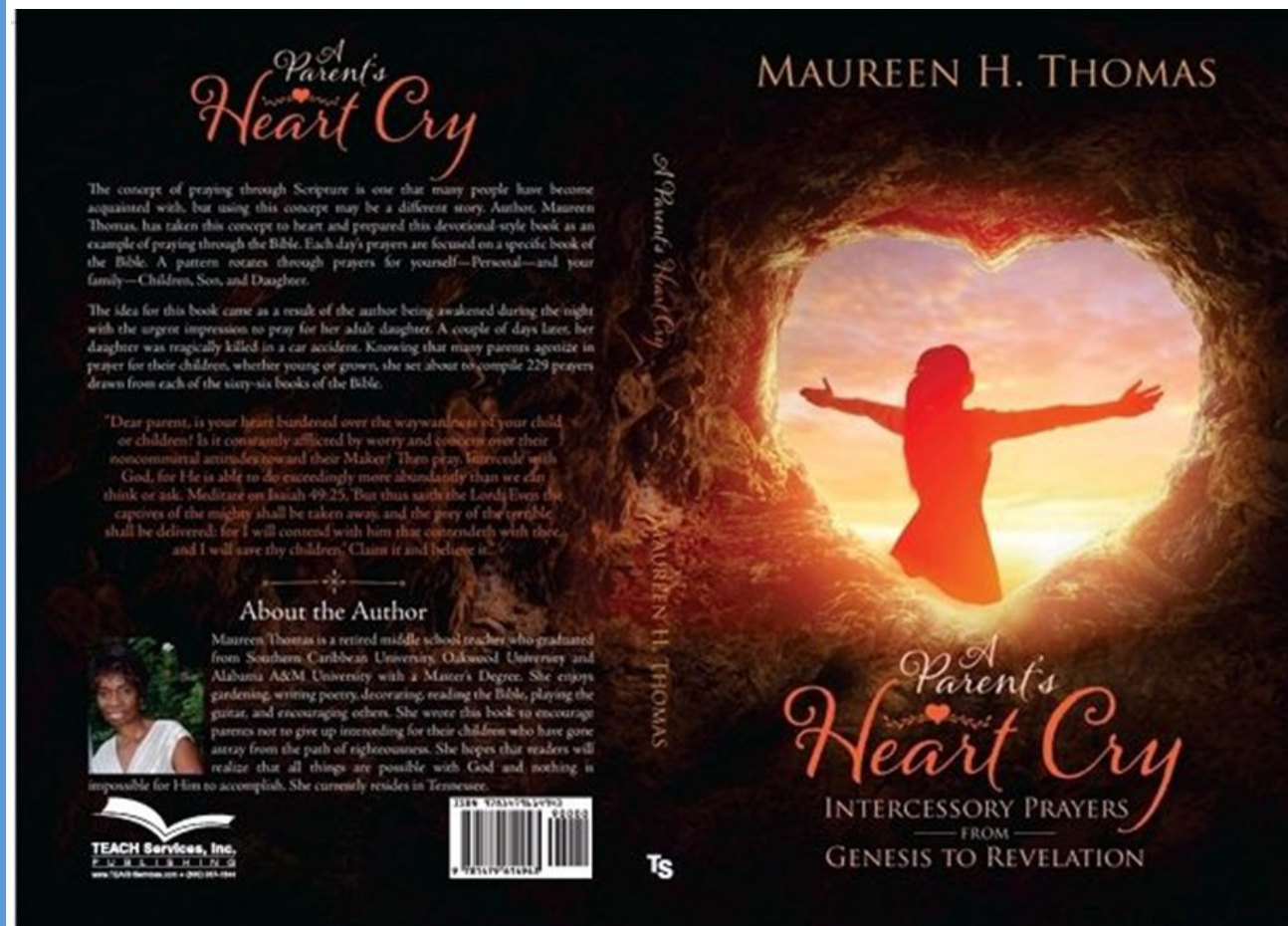
author, Maureen H. Thomas

A Parent's Heart Cry is exceptional. A masterpiece of impressive research and insightful study. It is a well-presented, beautifully articulated book and touches the heart of its readers. This treasure trove of 229 intercessory, inspirational prayers is indeed a breath of spiritual rejuvenation. It is a breeze of God's precious promises and a wind of sustained power waiting to be released in the heart and home of every parent and grandparent who understand that children are truly "the heritage of the Lord." The book speaks with authority. It builds unwavering faith, trust, and total abandonment to God's will. It depicts the total and honest commitment parents must have as they petition God for the salvation of their children.

The author, Maureen H. Thomas, stirs the heart and makes a direct, refreshing impact on the reader. She writes from her personal experience with an intensity and passion that God cannot ignore. The book is a breath of fresh air for the fainting, discouraged soul that languishes in hopeless despair and for parents whose hearts are constantly afflicted by worry and concern for their children over their noncommittal attitudes toward their Maker. Thomas believes that by passionately interceding with God through faith and hope, salvation for our children will be rewarded.

After attending the Oakwood University Church for 37 years, Maureen Thomas now resides in Tennessee.

A Parent's Heart Cry can be purchased from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or major bookstores.



BLACK HISTORY PRAYER

by Rhoda Benjamin



Oh God who understands the language of Tears
You've been our Guiding Light through the dark, depressing years
Come by here, dry our tear, alleviate every feeling of anxiety and despair
Help us recognize our rights to be free from slavery, cruelty, and racial injury
Throughout the year; not just during Black History month of February
Empower us to celebrate our ancestry, dignity, discovery, and ingenuity
Not only in this life, but all through the ceaseless ages of eternity

Creator of this vast, complex universe
Draw near to us, forgive us, and dispel the myth that the black race is cursed
Remove any cognitive distortion about black inferiority
Protect us from the evils of bigotry, hatred, and black on black superiority
Human trafficking, gun violence, and white supremacy
Give us autonomy and liberate us from any propensity towards a slave mentality
And irrespective of our age and status in society, help us feel proud of our identity

End the political malignancy and conspiracy theory that threaten our democracy
Give sobriety to those intoxicated with the fallacy of stolen elections in Nov. 2020
Open their eyes and help them face reality
Guide the president in addressing COVID-19 tragedy, health care disparity
Attempts to suppress minority votes by some members of the opposition party
Threats of war that may end in World War Three, and anarchy
Restore integrity, truth, transparency, and morality
And let there be justice and equality for all in this Land of Liberty

Bless every person gathered to pray
Direct our footsteps in the straight and narrow way
Help us execute our plans wisely
Shower upon us good health and prosperity
Strengthen our faith and our love for God and all of humanity
Let us not indulge in self-pity and mediocrity, indolence, and infidelity
Nor abuse our positions of power and authority

Resurrect any dormant, impossible dream
Unleash in us the hidden potential within
Like Martin Luther King, help us follow our dream
With the conviction, that we are all born, to win
As the Black History bells across this nation may one day cease to ring
Inspire us as women, men, and children, to join hands, lifting our voices singing
Marching onward, singing the victor's song, keep on rejoicing, praying Reverberating
"Born to Win, Born to win, Born to Win." In Jesus' name. AMEN