

## In Appreciation

“Thank you”, to our Pastoral Team, Dr. T. Williams, Pastor Goodridge, Pastor Raphael, and Elder Lloyd Wilson for a job well done, and your continued efforts, in service, to help us make God first in our lives.

To all church officers and workers, we say “thank you”, for your service this year, and your continued efforts, to assist us on our Christian journey at home, at church, and in the community.

To all our health care workers, doctors, nurses, and aides who serve others daily, in hospitals, nursing homes, health care facilities, policemen and firefighters, we say, “thank you.”

‘Thank you’, to the many friends who helped to make the Senior Express Newsletter a reality, by submitting articles, photos, and sharing information that is/was informative, and helpful to others.

To Mrs. Vivian Brown, we say “thank you” for your interest, commitment, exceptional talent, time and creativity used in designing all the Newsletters for the Senior Express. May God continue to bless you richly. If you missed any Newsletters, please go to [oucsda.org](http://oucsda.org)—Ministries—Senior Adult Ministries. You may also pick up the latest issue in the church office.

### Our need for love, care, company, and support never stops!

It has been a real pleasure for me to share information with you this year via the Internet, in person, and with hard copies of the Senior Express Newsletter.

Continue to count your blessings, wear your mask, and practice social distancing, to protect yourselves and others.

May God's richest blessings be yours to enjoy in the **New Year 2022.**



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



**2022**  
happy new year

# Senior Express

Oakwood University Church



From the Editor  
Dr. Jessie Godley Bradley  
Senior Adult Ministries

Hello Everyone,

**Smile**, God opened your eyes to see another day. **Thank Him often.**

**Labor Day** is gone. How did you celebrate? Did you connect with family and friends?

It seems like we are in a “season of shivers”. Lives and homes are ripped apart, and the unthinkable is a reality.

**Invest your time, talent, and energy, in helping someone else. via: a phone call, email, text, or card.**

Let's stay connected as much as possible. Is there someone you can call to give an encouraging word?

Again, we say, “thank you”, to Dr. & Mrs. Carlton P. Byrd, and family for the service, and love extended to the Oakwood University Church community and nation. Several of these photos will remind us of you, and your faithful and outstanding service to our church and community.

While we rejoice that schools are back in session, thousands of families have been, or are out of power, drinkable



water, medical supplies, safe shelter and access to food. join. The classes are free. Contact Vivian Brown to register at 256-655-2935.

Millions of Americans lost their unemployment benefits. Count your blessings and share with others in need.

A special “thank you” to Mr. Oliver F. Shipe for continued commitment in teaching the photography class on Zoom this year. We are extremely excited about the **Photography Class Exhibit, scheduled for November 7, 2021 at the Oakwood University McKee/Business and Technology building on the OU campus from 10 a.m.—2:00 p.m.** Congratulations to all the photographers for sharing in the exhibit.

**Photography classes are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.** Beginners at 9 a.m. and Intermediate at 10 a.m. New members are welcomed to

Congratulations to those of you who celebrated birthdays, wedding anniversaries, baby dedications and baptisms this quarter.

If you lost a loved one, our prayers and condolences are extended to you.

To those of you who are ill at home, our prayers will continue for you, your family, and care givers.

**Be strong, you never know who you are inspiring!**

Dr. Samanger Matthew  
and  
Police Chief Melvin Harris  
pg. 2

Pastor Donald Monroe pg. 3  
Dr. & Mrs. Mervyn Warren  
pg. 5

Thanksgiving by  
Dr. Standley Gellineau  
pg. 6







**Samanger Purcell-Matthew** is a General Pediatrician presently living in Florence, Alabama. She attends the Oakwood University Church along with her husband Dr. Dwight Matthew, a Nephrologist and their two children Davin and Skyler.

She is a native of the Spice Isle, Grenada located in the Southern Caribbean. She was born to a teenage mom, (Loraine Purcell-Charles) and was raised by her grandaunt, (Agnes Barry). She obtained her bachelor's degree of science from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1998. She returned to Grenada in January 1999 after receiving a government scholarship to attend medical school there, at St. George's University, School of Medicine. She did part of her clinical training in the United Kingdom from 2001-2002 and completed her final year of training in Paterson, New Jersey. In June 2003 she graduated with her medical degree and returned to Grenada.

There she worked at the Grenada General Hospital for the next two years. In 2005, she married Dr. Dwight Matthew whom she trained alongside in medical school. From 2005-2007, she worked as a clinical tutor in the pathology department at her alma mater. She then returned to the USA to fulfil her childhood dream of becoming a pediatrician. Dr. Purcell-Matthew completed her pediatric residency program at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey in 2012.

She moved to Florence in August 2012 and has been working in private practice since.

She has been attending the Oakwood University Church since 2013 and has served as kindergarten teacher and counsellor in the Adventurer Club.

Dr. Purcell-Matthew believes that the mind is powerful and stands by the moto "if you believe it, you can achieve it". Her mission is to advocate for all children and ultimately to see them saved in God's kingdom. She lives by this bible verse; "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6.

**Congratulations** to our Oakwood University Police Chief, Melvin Harris who has been elected as vice president of HBCU—LEE Inc. Their 2022 conference is scheduled to be hosted by Oakwood University.



### Calendar of Events to Remember and Celebrate September—December 2021

<b>September</b>	12	Grandparents Day
	15-Oct. 15	Hispanic Heritage Month
	22	First Day of Autumn
<b>October</b>		<b>Breast Cancer Awareness Month</b>
	3-9	Fire Prevention Week
	18-22	National School Bus Safety Week
<b>November</b>	7	Photography Exhibit McKee/Technology Bldg. 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
	11	Veterans Day
	25	Thanksgiving Day
	28	First Day of Hannukah
<b>December</b>	21	First Day of Winter
	25	Christmas Day
	26	Kwanza Begins
	31	New Year's Eve

### What the Kwanzaa Candles Represent

- Umoja**  
(unity)
- Kujichagulia**  
(self-determination)
- Ujima**  
(collective work and responsibility)
- Ujamaa**  
(cooperative economics)
- Nia**  
(purpose)
- Kuumba**  
(creativity)
- Imani**  
(faith)



# Banking on the future



Teller Marguerite Dotson, left, prepares to help a first-grade "customer" from Oakwood Academy. Principal Dr. Jessie G. Bradley, center, and Colonial Westbury branch manager Jan Bevis help the students. Bryan Bacon/Huntsville Times



Breast cancer **death rates declined 40%** from 1989 to 2016 among women. The progress is attributed to improvements in early detection

Other than skin cancer, [breast cancer](#) is the most common cancer among American women. [Mammograms](#) are the best way to find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms.

## What Are Some Symptoms?

- Any change in the size or the shape of the breast. Pain in any area of the breast.
- Nipple discharge other than breast milk (including blood).
- A new lump in the breast or underarm.

If you have any signs that worry you, see your doctor right away.

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/resources/features/breastcancerawareness/index.htm>



**Pastor Donald W Monroe, Jr. D.Min., MPTh., MA, Installed as Pastor of the First SDA Church (Decherd), 505 Horton Street Decherd, Tennessee 37324**

**Pastor Donald W Monroe, Jr.** was born to Donald Warren Monroe Sr. and Gracie Faye Monroe on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1960. He is the middle child of three - Donna Starks (Older sister) and Dia Tucker (Younger sister). His parents are retired Seventh-day Adventist Christian educators.

Donald graduated from Oakwood Elementary in 1974 and Oakwood Academy 1978. Upon graduating from Oakwood Academy, he enrolled in Oakwood College. While at Oakwood College he met Mary Jacobs, an extremely attractive and lively young lady. Their friendship grew into

courtship and they were married on August 2, 1980.

Pastor Monroe returned to Oakwood College in 1985 and graduated in 1989 with a degree in Biochemistry. For the past 27 ½ years, he has worked as a Biochemist/Lab Tech for Huntsville Pediatric Associates.

Pastor Monroe began working in Ministry by serving as a local Elder in the Oakwood University Church for the past 12 years. From 2017 to 2019 he worked with Pastor Larry Bailey in the Triana SDA Church (Madison Alabama) and the Alpha SDA Church (Decatur Alabama). From 2017 until the present, he has worked with Dr. Theodore Brown at the First SDA Church (Decherd Tennessee).

In 2015, Pastor Monroe graduated with a Masters of Arts, (MA) degree in Pastoral Studies: Church Development from Oakwood University. In 2017 he graduated with a Master's in Pastoral Theology (MPTh) from United Theological Seminary Dayton, Ohio. And in December 2020, he graduated with a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Counseling from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio.

God has blessed Pastor and Mrs. Monroe with two wonderful children Dionne Jacobs Monroe, and Dr. Donald Warren III (Allison Brown), Donald III and Allison have given them two precious grandchildren (Donald Warren Monroe IV and Dylan Aria Eileen Monroe).

Pastor Monroe's favorite Bible text is Psalms 121, which begins, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills - From whence cometh my help? My help comes from the Lord..." And his motif for living is "Serving God in Service to Humankind."







### “Teacher in Chief”

Dr. Jill Biden is a full time teacher. She has a passion for learning, and so does Principal Judy Dent.

We are excited that Oakwood Adventist Academy has been blessed with the leadership of Principal Dent. We have a staff of dedicated personalities. To those of you who are new to our school and community, we welcome you to OAA.

Covid wreaks havoc on schools: Remote learning looks increasingly necessary, but God has blessed us to have in person classroom teaching, and virtual learning at OAA. Our classrooms are filled with love and care. Praise the Lord!

Have you heard about the Spelling Bee contest at OAA? Parents, will your child be a winner? \$\$\$

*Parents, take the time now to work on your family crisis plan. This is the plan that your family follows in case of a school crisis. Things to make sure you review and decide on.*

*Family Phone Tree  
Family Rendezvous location  
Family Plan*

*Have your child memorize 5 telephone numbers for your family phone tree, and take time to review the family plan. Plans will be different for different families*

### Oakwood Adventist Academy Special Dates to Remember—2022

January 17	M.L. King Holiday
February	Black History Chapel
February 21	No School
March 7	No School
March 21 –24	Spring Break
March 25	Honors Assembly—Grades3—12
March 31	Parent/Teacher Conferences—No Classes
May 29	12th Grade Commencement

# Remember When?





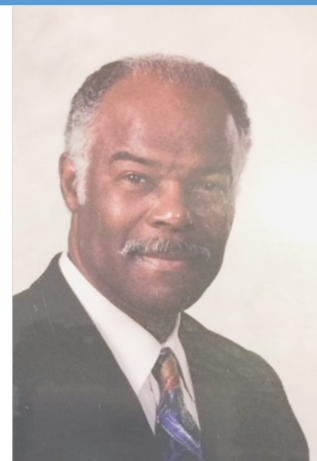


## Who Are Veterans?

Veterans are those who have chosen or have been chosen to serve our country in times of either war or peace. They serve wherever in the world they are ordered to serve.

Military veterans have left family and friends in order to serve our country. Regardless of which branch of service in which they served—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, etc.—there is a camaraderie developed because of their commitment to our nation.

Many of the skills developed while in service to our country transfer into civilian life as one leaves the military. One can often tell by the crispness of step and the way one carries himself or herself that they have served in the military. Once you have served you will never be the same, because there are actions, disciplinary and otherwise that remain with you throughout life. While your term of service may end, a veteran never forgets the experiences which helped shape who they are currently. Once a veteran, always a veteran.



Dr. Garland Dulan



Elder Charles Bradford

**Memorial Service for Elder Charles Bradford  
is Sunday, October 3, 2021 at the Oakwood University Church. 12 Noon**

**In lieu of flowers, the Bradford family is requesting that  
donations be made to:**

**Oakwood Adventist Academy  
7000 Adventist Blvd., NW  
Huntsville, AL 35896**

**Online donations can be made using the link below:**  
<https://oakwoodadventistacademy.org/donate>

**Your charitable donation in honor of Elder Bradford will afford young  
people to receive a quality Christian Education, one of the core values of  
Elder Bradford's ministry.**

Oakwood Adventist Academy has been migrating to a new phone system and the new number is **256-801-0534, #1**. This number will take you to the front office of Oakwood Adventist Academy High School.

## MERVYN A. AND BARBARA J. MOSELEY WARREN

A BRIEF OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY BIOGRAPHY



It all began in the mid-1950's when an Oakwood University Texan met on this campus an Oakwood Academy Alabamian. Missing the "stars at night big and bright" back in his Lone Star state became less an issue after Mervyn discovered there was more to capture his awe about Alabama's "red clay" than George Washington Carver's scientific miracles. It was Barbara Moseley herself (younger daughter of Elder and Mrs. Calvin E. Moseley) who became Mervyn's marvel.

By late 1950's and early 1960's, they were both college graduates (he Oakwood and she Washington Adventist University), married, and living in Takoma Park, Maryland (suburb

of Washington, DC),-- he studying at the SDA Seminary and she employed by Department of Labor for US government. Soon thereafter, Mervyn graduated from the Seminary of Andrews University with two graduate degrees. After teaching in the Religion Department for four years, Mervyn took a leave of absence to do doctoral studies at Michigan State University. While in Michigan, he pastored several years and was ordained to ministry by the Lake Region Conference (Elder Charles E. Bradford, President).

Both Mervyn and Barbara then joined the Oakwood University faculty where Barbara taught child development for thirty years in the Consumer Science Department (formerly Home Economics) with a Master of Science degree (all "A's" and magna cum laude from Alabama A&M University). Mervyn served at OU in six (6) administrative positions for half a century, maybe a record in both ways, while holding two doctorates and two masters degrees. Both Barb and Merv cherish their God-blessed experience in ministry and Christian education with members of faith, students, faculty, administrators, and governing bodies.

Much of their activities and engagements today include teaching, preaching, writing, "zooming," (and for him) golfing, and being loved and "taught" by their living children (Merv, Karis, Shana) and eight grandchildren Ashlee, Asia, Autumn, Ayana, Shellie, Malachiae, Imani, and Mikey. Otherwise, Barb constantly provides maternal wisdom and prayers for health, progress, and spiritual well-being for their immediate, extended, church, and world families. In the meantime, Merv's retirement moments include

**1) Co-authoring with Elder Charles Bradford a book on Dr. Gardner C. Taylor [famed Baptist preacher]; 2) Co-editing with Dr. Calvin Rock a "Study Guide for Social Justice" for Sabbath School during Black History Month, February, 2022; 3) Preparing a textbook for Homiletics and Preaching and more as the beat goes on in God's name.**

Mervyn A. Warren, PhD, DMin  
Retired: Dean, School of Religion;  
VP Academic Affairs/Student Affairs;  
Asst. to President; Provost; Interim President



## Thanksgiving

by Dr. Standley L. Gellineau



Norma & Standley Gellineau

Thanksgiving is a day that our nation has set aside to celebrate and give thanks to God for the blessings of the Harvest of the preceding year. It is a major holiday that is recognized by employers, schools and institutions as a day to pause and give honor and praise for all the blessings we have received.

In 1621, the Plymouth colonist and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest festival that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states.

Unfortunately, we have come a long way from the Plymouth Rock experience to today's practices and reality.

### Thanksgiving has evolved into:

- A day off from school and work.
- A day to take a vacation and visit families and friends.
- A day to clean the house.
- A day to catch bargains.
- A day to watch Macy's annual parade.
- A day to have wonderful dinners and watch football games.



The other day I had a doctor's appointment. As I walked into the lobby of the doctor's building and was about to press the button on the elevator to take me up to the second floor, I noticed a middle-aged woman reading a book seated in the lobby. I said to her "good morning, how are you?" She smiled and said, "how are you?" I said, "I'm fine, I can see you, I can hear you, and I'm pressing the button on the elevator." We both laughed and smiled. It was obvious that she connected with my thoughts. We both said goodbye.

### We often take God's blessings for granted.

I am thankful for another day. I am thankful that I woke up this morning with no help from anyone else. Sometimes I hum the lyrics of songs of blessings as I go through my day. Songs like:

### "Count your many blessings see what God has done" and "Give thanks with a grateful heart."

If we count our blessings each day, we will live that day well and have hope for tomorrow. The Bible says in 1Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will in Christ Jesus for you." "Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praises upon the harp unto God". Psalms 147: 7

Sir William Osler, a Canadian physician and one of the four Founding professors at John Hopkins University states:

"The future is today, there is no tomorrow! The day of man's salvation is now – the life of the present, of today, lived earnestly, instantly, without a forward-looking thought, is only insurance for the future. Let the limit of your horizon be a twenty-four-hour circle." William Osler A Way of life. 1913-19

### Look at God's blessings for today:

- The beating of your heart: The average heart beats per minute is 72, with an average life span today of 75 years,
- Your heart beats 4,320 times per hour, 103,680 times a day, 37,843,200 times a year and
- 2,838,240,000 times a life time on average. [www.newhealthadvisor.org/](http://www.newhealthadvisor.org/)  
The average person takes between 17,280 and 23,040 breaths a day. - EPA'S Office Research and Development
- "We are fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalms 139:13-14.

As you can see, we have so many reasons to be thankful. Thanksgiving is not only on the fourth Thursday of November we as a nation celebrate, but on every day of the week.

### How can we begin our day with a thankful heart?

"Consecrate yourself to God in the morning. Make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, take me Oh Lord as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me and let all my work be wrought in Thee." - Steps to Christ p.46

When we are thankful, we feel better, we look better, and we brighten our days of others we meet. We make God smile and we all have hope for tomorrow.

"Today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope."

William Osler

### Inspiration says:

"We have nothing to fear for the future except as we forget the way the Lord has blessed us and His teaching in the past. Life Sketches p. 196

I would like to follow this statement and say,

"We have all things to praise God for in the present and in the future when we remember what God has done for us in the past."

**This is the true meaning of Thanksgiving.**

*Dr. Standley L. Gellineau is the former Director of the Master of Social Work program at Walla Walla University. He and his wife, Norma, retired to the Oakwood community in 2007.*

