

Pastor Mann Continued from page 4

From 2019-2022 Kimberly served as the very first female Youth Director of the South Central Conference and served on the BAYDA committee where she founded the P.U.S.H. Initiative, a Social Justice Action model for youth & young adults.

Her combined 17 years of ministry experience includes creative arts ministries, children's ministries, women's ministry, youth & young adult ministry, and marriage/relationship ministry

She has preached to congregations and communities across the U.S., Caribbean, Africa, Australia, and Brazil.

Kimberly now serves as the Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, AL.

Pastor Mann and her supportive husband, Robert Mann Jr, are the proud parents of Carter, age 7, Judah, age 5, and baby Teagan, who is 2 years old.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**“Expressing thanks has no expiration date!”
How often do you say, “Thank You”?**



Appreciation is expressed to Pastor Debleaire Snell and the Pastoral Team, Media Team, and Church family for your support in all church-related activities

Thank you, to the friends who contributed to this issue of the Newsletter and to Mrs. Vivian Brown for her continued dedication, time and talent in designing the Newsletter.

Thank you to the Medical Team of Doctors, Nurses, and Hospital Staff, and Caregivers that continue to provide daily services to the patients in need.

Thank you to Dr. Purcell Matthew for providing photos and a video link of the Bible Bowl Team.

Our prayers continue for the families who lost loved ones this year.

**Count your blessings daily, and rejoice in the Lord.
Keep the holiday spirit glowing, but always trust and obey God's Call.
Join us with a smile as an agent of kindness**



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



Dr. Jessie G. Bradley
Editor

January –March 2023

Senior Express

Oakwood University Church

Debleaire Snell, Senior Pastor

Greetings and Happy New Year!

God has blessed us to see another day and another year **2023. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We are very excited about the many wonderful and exciting things that are happening around us, **and the additional church family members** who have joined us. *See page 11.*

Congratulations to the ladies from our community who wrote the devotional thoughts that appear in the new 2023 **Women's Devotional Book, “New Every Morning.”** Thank you **Shirley Iheanacho**, for encouraging other women to write

Congratulations to Dr. McGann and Leaders of the Bible Bowl Teams that traveled to Toronto, Canada, to participate in the Bible Bowl activities. Thank you **parents** for your commitment and participation in the program that continues to prepare our young people for service.

Congratulations and best wishes to all newly weds,

Welcome to Flight #2023. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Attitude and Blessings are secured and locked in an upright position. All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should we lose Altitude under pressure, during the flight, reach up and pull down a Prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated you can assist other passengers. **There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight.** The Captain (GOD) has cleared us for takeoff. Destination GREATNESS.

♥️ 🙏 📖 **Happy New Year 2023!**

Submitted by Charmaine Godley

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HANDBOOK FOR LIVING IN 2023
Katherine Davis, Chaplain

Health:

1. Don't let yourself get thirsty. Drink plenty of water.
2. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a beggar.
3. Eat lots of fruit and vegetables and cut down on saturated fat and sugar.
4. Live with the 3 E's: **Energy**--yours, **Enthusiasm** about knowing God, and **Empathy** for others
5. Make time and take the time to pray.
6. Play more games and read more books than you did in 2022 .
7. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day
8. Sleep for 7 hours.
9. Take a 10-30 minute walk. And while you walk, smile and think of your blessings.

Personality:

10. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what battle they are fighting.
11. Don't have negative thoughts about things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive, present moment.
12. Don't over do. Keep your limits.
13. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
14. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip. (**Ephesians 4:29**)
15. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need..
16. Forget issues of the past. Don't remind your partner of his/her mistakes of the past.
Forgive and bury it. That's what God does for you.
17. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
18. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
19. Joy comes from God and is given to those who are honest in heart. (**Psalms 97:11**)
20. Life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appears and fades away like an algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.
21. Smile and laugh more. "***A merry heart does good like a medicine.***" (**Proverbs 17:22**)
22. You don't have to win every argument. So, just agree to disagree...

Society:

23. Stay in touch with your family more often.
24. "***Do unto others as you would have them do to you***" (**Matthew 7:12**)
25. Forgiveness brings healing for you and for the other person.
26. Spend time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6.
27. Do a good deed for someone every day.

Life:

28. There's no way to do the wrong thing and be right. **So, do the right thing!**
29. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
30. GOD heals, blesses, and refreshes. There's nothing too hard for God.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change..
32. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
33. The best is yet to come!
34. Happiness is to know the Savior, *Living a life within His favor, Having a change in your behavior, Happiness is the Lord!* **So, be happy!**

Last but not the least:

35. Celebrate life every day and remember to thank God for His sustaining power.

For Your Information

HAPPY PEOPLE

<https://hackspirit.com/how-to-radiate-to-joy/>

1. Don't complain
2. Express gratitude
3. Smile a lot
4. Live in the present
5. Are accepting
6. Look for the best in others
7. Have more compassion
8. Look after themselves

Laughter is one of the most universal human emotions. It is found in every culture, and it plays an important role in your social interactions. When you laugh, you release endorphins, which have mood-boosting effects and many more health benefits. Read some of the top health benefits of laughter.

<https://forseniorsmag.com/6healthbenefitsoflaughter.>

- 1 Laughter Reduces Stress
- 2 Boost Immune Function
- 3 Improves Cardiovascular Health
- 4 Laughter Reduces Pain Perception
- 5 Helps You To Relax And Sleep
- 6 Connect With Others And Build Relationships
- 7 Start Reaping The Health Benefits Of Laughter Today!

Mental Wellness Sabbath, Feb. 18, 2023. To many of our neighbors, friends, family, and even fellow church members, the stress and strains of society can lead them down a dark and lonely path—perhaps at the cost of their lives. Join the North American Division and It is Written at nadhealth.org/restored/sabbath for resources.

2023 NAD Power to Heal Summit—April 2-8 - nadhealth.org/summit
Lexington, KY

The new OUC Women's Ministry leader is Dr. Kem Roper. Associates are Shayla Little and Gwen Shepherd.

Did you Know?

The tallest man living, Sultan Kösen, (8ft. 2.8 in.) turned 40 years old on December 10th, 2022? <https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2022/12/worlds-tallest-man-sultan-kosen-celebrates-40th-birthday-729062>



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. "
2. There are two classes—Basic (where you'll learn the basics of your digital camera)
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.
7. Basic class—9 a.m.—10 a.m., cst. Intermediate 10 a.m. to Noon, CST
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



Oliver Shipe



Cecilia Yarborough

Johynne Yates

Dr. Jessie G. Bradley

Pastor T. Marshall Kelly



On March 2nd of this year, Elder T. Marshall Kelly will celebrate his 93rd birthday, and we are blessed to still have him with us. In a career that has spanned over 70 years in the gospel ministry, Elder Kelly has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a Pastor, Bible Teacher, and Singing Evangelist.

In retirement, he served as College Chaplain and Interim Pastor of two churches in Southern California. In 2015, Elder Kelly lost the love of his life and bride of 63 years, Garnett Jean Kelly. Since then, the Elder has chosen to remain a resident of Huntsville, Alabama. He has led an active lifestyle, traveling for speaking and singing engagements and spending extended holiday time in Texas and California with his son and daughter, Eric and Nadine. His expressed

desire to remain in Huntsville is because his dear wife, Jean is interred at Oakwood Memorial Gardens. His wishes have been respected and honored, even to this day.

Over the past two years, Elder Kelly has experienced a significant decline in health and mobility, which has saddened his family. Most recently, his decline in health, mobility, and vision has reached a point where it has become necessary for 24-hour nursing care to be provided in his home or in an assisted living community environment. The Village of friends and loved ones that have surrounded Pastor Kelly has been absolutely incredible! However, the urgent need for around-the-clock caretaking has been stressful, even with frequent visits from Eric and Nadine from Texas and California.

Elder Kelly has faithfully served the Seventh-day Adventist denomination for over 70 years. However, due to the associated costs involved, his denominational pension and monthly social security are at levels that would not support 24-hour caretaking in his home or an assisted living community.

After much consideration and prayer, the family has decided to publicly ask all those whose lives have been blessed by the ministry and friendship of Elder Kelly to contribute financially to sustain this man of God.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in this fundraising campaign. May God richly bless you as we ensure Elder Kelly has the caretaking he needs, both now and in the future.

Please go to this GoFundMe website to contribute to this worthy cause.
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/t-marshall-kelly-love-fund>



Search these songs on YouTube sung
by Pastor Kelly

- It Takes Everything to Serve the Lord
- There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
- Nobody's Fault but Mine
- All That Thrills my Soul but Jesus
- Under His Wings



Welcome to

Pastor Kimberly Mann

Mrs. KIMBERLY MANN originally hails from the state of Maryland and is the only daughter of Elaine Pearson. Her calling to share the gospel has been evident since her early years when she preached her first sermon at age 9 and began being published at 10 years old.



She is a proud product of Pine Forge Academy & received a bachelor's in education degree from Oakwood University in 2005. Kimberly served as an educator with the Florida Conference of SDA for 5 years until she was called to ministry full time.

In 2012 she graduated with a master's degree in Youth & Young Adult Ministry from Andrews Theological Seminary, and then spent the next 7 years doing young adult ministry, organizing the freshman worship experience, branding a young women's leadership program, and completing over 12 national & international mission trips while serving as Associate Chaplain at Oakwood University. In addition to preaching and teaching, she can be seen as a panelist & co-host on the television show, Pure Choices on the Dare 2 Dream Network.

Kimberly spent over 15 years advocating for justice within underserved communities & youth in the non-profit sector through the Children's Defense Fund under the famed Civil Rights Activist, Dr. Marian Wright Edelman, where she was named as one of the Top 40 under 40 leaders in America by the Organization. Additionally, Kimberly was recognized by Pine Forge Academy as Alumni of the year for community service in 2017. She is a Commissioned Minister and has been endorsed as a Chaplain by the North American Division.

Continued on page 16

Pastor and Mrs. Michael Ross



Pastor Michael Ross, Sr. is a native of Montgomery, AL. He is a product of Christian Education. He is a graduate of Oakwood University and Andrews University Theological Seminary. After 39 years of pastoral ministry, on December 31, 2021, he retired from the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Currently, he is serving on the OUC pastoral staff for pastoral care.

In addition to pastoral ministry, his desire is to complete the Clinical Pastoral Chaplaincy program. He has served on numerous boards and executive committees of the South Central Conference of SDA. He is currently the speaker of the radio broadcast, "The Voice of Hope" in Athens, Alabama.

Pastor Ross enjoys family time. He is happily married to Judy Ross of the U. S. St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. She serves as the first and second grade teacher at Oakwood Adventist Academy. They have two sons and daughter-in-laws. Michael (Shoniece) and Matthew (Jada). Michael serves as a Mental Health Services Coordinator and Matthew serves as a Science and Math instructor. Also, in his leisure time, he enjoys watching the Dallas Cowboys and Golden State Warriors.

His favorite Bible text is Joshua 1:9. "...As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Date: March 19, 2023

Time: 2p.m. – 5p.m.

Place: OUC Family Life Center

Donations are welcomed. Please send a picture of the item(s) to be donated to jlmachsv.2020@gmail.com by March 1st.

Donated Items may be dropped off from 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. at the OUC Family Life Center. Refreshments will be for sale.

Auction items can be brand new or gently used clean household items

NO APPAREL PLEASE

Sponsored by J.L. Moran Alumni Association for scholarship funds



Why the Bible Bowl?

While I have worked in the Sabbath School department, AY and other youth ministries, my focus over the past twelve years has been the Bible Bowl ministry at the OUC.



Dr. Desiree McGann

While we seek to represent well the 'school of the prophets', our determined emphasis has been to develop our children into champions of the Word - disciples who are able to rightly divide God's Word and who have developed a love of the truth, and of **the One who is Truth.**

With this ministry the Lord has brought some wonderful families and children into my life. I have watched them grow in years and stature and have been able to contribute to their growth and development in Christ. We have traveled extensively across the US and even internationally as we represented our conference at the 2022 National championships in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

While I have no children myself I consider that the Lord has given me many sons and daughters after the common faith to love, encourage and exhort.

My prayer is that He will allow me to continue to do this; to declare His power to this next generation, His character of love and mercy to all who are to come.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2023

JANUARY

1 New Year's Day
16 Martin Luther King's Day

FEBRUARY

1-MARCH 1 Black History Month
14 Valentine's Day

MARCH

17 St. Patrick's Day
19 J.L. Moran Alumni Chapter's Scholarship Auction 2:00
5:00 p.m. FMLC

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY



2023 Black History Month theme—"Black Resistance"

February 1 - March 1, 2023

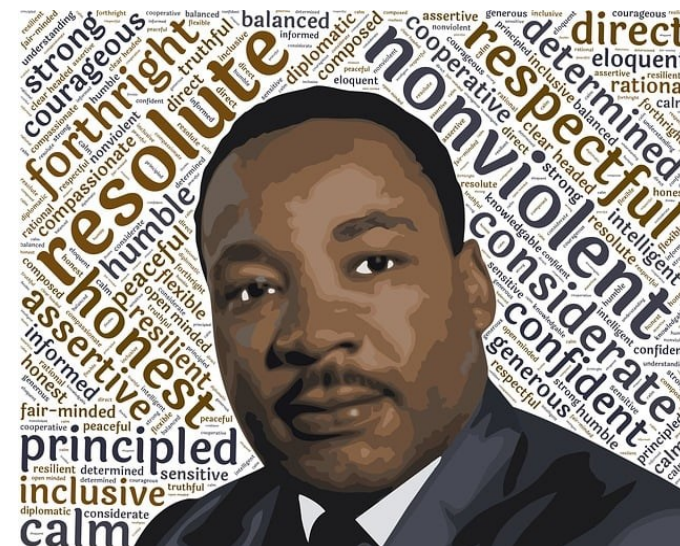
10 Facts About Black History Month

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/black-history-month-facts/>

1. BHM began as Negro History Week
2. Black students protested for BHM
3. February honors Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas
4. BHM themes change yearly
5. Civil rights leaders popularized BHM
6. BHM honors prominent Black Americans
7. National Organizations sponsor BHM
8. Countries worldwide celebrate BHM
9. HBCUs promote BH year round
10. BHM recognizes all African American experiences

"Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 16, 2023



Pastor Kirk Nugent and Family



The "Geek Speaker Preacher," Kirk R. Nugent, uses his expertise in the ever-changing, technological world to empower content entrepreneurs to gain visibility and expanded reach through online video. As an accomplished speaker, content creator, and online video coach, he continues to be the go-to consultant for everyone's brand needs.

Expert online video coach and accomplished content creator, Kirk Nugent, has reinvented how small businesses, entrepreneurs, and faith-based entities reach the world. Whether he is engaged in one-on-one training to help those who seek to grow their reach, or he's captivating audiences through Amazon and CNN with his expertise as a product ambassador. Kirk's goal is to help organizations leverage innovation. As

the host and producer of the show "How it All Werks," he believes that organizations, no matter their purpose, should "stop selling, start creating, and let the people come to you!"

Following his passion to help small businesses, entrepreneurs, and faith-based entities, Kirk and his wife started Komposition, LLC, a web design and online video strategy company that provides a full range of services to cater to individuals or small businesses based on their unique specifications.

Pastor Jacqueline Lynch Lawrence

Pastor Lawrence is a native of the State of Minnesota but has lived in Michigan, California and Alabama. She earned her Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University Theological Seminary in 2003 with an emphasis in Pastoral Care. Prior to entering the Seminary, Pastor Lynch (at that time) was a Social Worker for approximately twenty years, primarily meeting the housing, social and emotional needs of homeless women and their children in the St. Paul & Minneapolis areas of Minnesota. But she left behind that career to, finally, heed the call of God to enter a different phase of service in that of church ministry.



Her first ministry call, after receiving her Master of Divinity, was to become the first, female Chaplain of Oakwood College (now University). She especially enjoyed ministering to and mentoring the college students and helping them to find and maintain a relationship with Jesus Christ. After three years as Chaplain, she was called by the Southeastern California Conference to pastoral ministry.

Pastor Lynch Lawrence has had the opportunity to pastor at several churches in the California area. She was the Pastor of Community Services & Outreach at the Loma Linda University Church in Loma Linda, CA for six years. Then she was called to the San Diego area where she served as the Associate Pastor of the Chula Vista Church in Chula Vista, CA for three years and lastly, served as an Associate Pastor at the 31st Street Church in San Diego, CA. for an additional six years.

Pastor Lawrence retired from pastoral ministry in San Diego, CA in June 2019 and relocated back to her beloved Huntsville where she resides with her husband, Elder Latham Lawrence. In September of 2022, Pastor Lynch Lawrence became part of the Oakwood University Church pastoral staff as an Assistant Pastor serving primarily in the areas of Bereavement and Counseling. Pastor Lawrence has two adult children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild who live in Minnesota. Her favorite scripture is:

Romans 8:28 – "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose". Pastor Lynch Lawrence is confident that God is still fulfilling His purpose and plans for her life even in her "Seasoned Senior" years and she's grateful for the ministry opportunity at Oakwood!

Bible Bowl Teams Photos/

Video: <https://youtu.be/1V46-Vs674>

submitted by Dr. Purcell Matthew

The Oakwood University Church Bible Bowl teams (pre-juniors, juniors, youth, and adult) represented South Central Conference at the National Bible Bowl championship in Toronto, Canada in October 2022. The games commenced on October 21st 2022 and ended on October 22nd. The adult team was the first runner up in their category, and the pre-juniors came in 3rd place. All the teams received a plaque for participation.



Oakwood University Church November—December 2022

Submitted by Marilyn Lang

WELCOME!

Baptisms

Mhadihulawntay Anderson
Erin Destiny Cowley
Aaliyah Golden
Jamar Hamilton
William Haygood
Tenyah Hughes-Taylor
Ariel Johnson
Carter Mann
Hayley Mayo
Caleb Alexander Mullins
Miriam Angel Nembhard

Rebaptisms

Joshua Cunningham
Natasha Noel
Billy Woods

Professions of Faith

Marcy Burden-Tiggs
Sharon Ford
Di-Dri Hurt
Dalah Mason Blake

***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.

Order and study the following FREE Bible Study Lessons:

Breath of Life - www.breathoflifestudy.com

It Is Written - www.itiswritten.study

2023 Women's Devotional Articles "New Every Morning"



Shirley Iheanacho
Feb. 9, Nov. 11,
Nov. 20



Flore Hamilton
Mar. 16, July 2



Lydia Andrews
Feb. 27



Cherryl Galley
October 4



Raschelle McLean Jones
Feb. 7



LaKeisha Williams
Jan. 21



Debra Slack
Dec. 30



Edith Fraser
Jan. 17, June 3



Barbara Stovall
May 4



"Music Makes the World Go Round"!

Meet a very talented musical family: The Matthew Family



Davin playing the trumpet
Dr. Matthew on the piano



Davin playing the trumpet
Dr. Matthew playing the saxophone
Skyler playing the piano



Dr. Dwight Matthew at the piano



Davin playing the drums

"Music is very spiritual, it has the power to bring people together." — Edgar Winter



Skyler playing the violin

Getting Your Affairs in Order

Submitted by Marilyn Lang

🏠 **Make sure all bank accounts have direct beneficiaries.** The beneficiary need only go to the bank with your death certificate and an ID of their own.

🏠 **TOD = Transfer On Death deed if you own a home.** Completing this document and filing it with your county saves your heirs THOUSANDS. This document allows you to transfer ownership of your home to your designee. All they need to do is take their ID and your death certificate to the county building and the deed is signed over. Doing this will avoid the home having to go through probate.

👤👤👤👤 **Living Will:** Allows one to put in writing exactly what you want done in the event you cannot speak for yourself when it comes to healthcare decisions as well as other final decisions.

👤📄👤 **Durable Power of Attorney:** Allows one to designate a person to make legal decisions if you are no longer competent to do so.

👤 **Power of Attorney for Healthcare:** This document allows one to designate someone to make healthcare decisions for them.

📄 **Last Will and Testament:** Designates to whom personal belongings will go to.

🏠 **Funeral Planning Declaration:** Allows one to say exactly one's wishes as far as disposition of the body and the services.

If the above documents are done, you can **AVOID** probate.

If all the above is not done, you have to open an estate account at the bank. All money that doesn't have direct beneficiaries goes into this account. You have to have an attorney to open the estate account. The attorney also has to publicize your passing in the newspaper or post publication at the county courthouse, to allow anyone to make a claim on your property. - It's a complete PAIN.

📄📄 **Make a list of all banks and account numbers, all investment institutions with account numbers, lists of credit cards, utility accounts, etc.** Leave clear instructions as to how and when these things are paid.

Make sure heirs know where life insurance policies are located. 📁

📄 **Make 100% sure SOMEONE knows your Apple ID, bank ID account logins and passwords!**

🚗 **Make sure you have titles for all vehicles, campers, etc!**

Set up a **TRUST** for intended beneficiaries, especially those that are too young, and appoint a trustee of said trust.

MOST IMPORTANTLY!!!! - Talk with those closest to you and make all your wishes **KNOWN**. Talk to those whom you've designated, as well as those close to you whom you did not designate. - Do this to explain why your decisions were made and to avoid any lingering questions or hurt feelings.