



Dr. Jessie Bradley,
Editor

Senior Express

Oakwood University Church

Debleaire Snell, Senior Pastor

Hello, Happy Summer!

Yes, thank God for allowing us to see another day. What a blessing!

Do you know **BENTLEY**? Yes, he is found on page 2. Take a look. He is playful and curious,

ATLAS is another friend. He is happy when traveling in the car. Look on page 3

Meet **JAZ**—a 12 year old who doesn't like anyone to touch her. page 3. And then there's,

SMILES - In the future, he will have advanced training to become a pet therapy partner. page 9

People are amazed at what some dogs do. It is an honor to be loved by a dog.

Does your behavior model Christ?

Our prayers continue for the many people, and friends who lost loved ones this year.

Mrs. Vivian Brown lost her husband, Jimmie this quarter, but she didn't miss a beat in her continuation of service to the church programs and the Senior Adult Newsletter. Thank you Mrs. Brown.

Are you amazed and shocked by some of the things people do? The daily news are so different and painful, but we know God is in control.

Continue to count your blessings and share words of love to everyone you know.

Congratulations to all our newlyweds, and friends who celebrated birthdays and anniversaries.

Welcome to all additional family members who joined our church family this quarter.

“Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.” Ralph Waldo Emerson



Our Furry Friends
Pages 2, 3, 9

Meet Pastor Dorsey
Page 4

Holy Land Tour
Pages 5-8



How Pets Provide our Senior Citizens & Families with Companionship & Happiness

Pets help senior citizens with companionship, help them stay active, and keep their minds sharp. Dogs provide natural outlets for affection, giving seniors a change to express emotion. Studies have shown that the bond between people and their pets can increase fitness, lower stress, and bring happiness to their owners. Some of the health benefits of having a pet include: decreased feelings of loneliness and increased opportunities for socialization.

Watch on the next few pages as our members share their pets with you and what benefits they give to the family and friends.

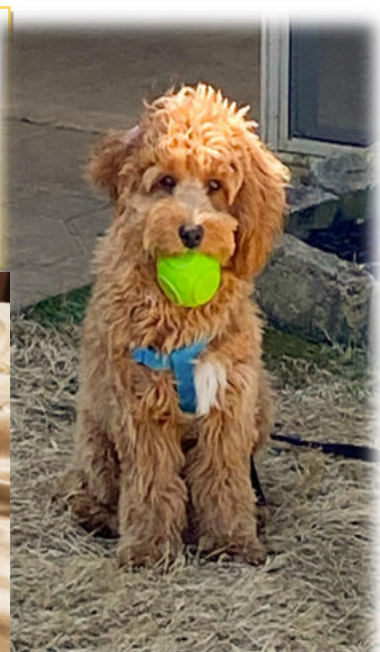


HELLO, BENTLEY

**Branden Brown's
10 month old puppy**



Bentley, a comfort to Poppy.



Bentley

by Alvona Brown

Outgoing, friendly, playful and curious describes our Bentley. He's a mix between a King Charles Cavalier and a Poodle making him a cute, loveable, cuddly Cavapoo puppy. Our day begins with breakfast, then a short walk and a fun filled day of play. Grammy (Vivian) babysits Bentley when the family is off to work making sure he gets a snack and potty breaks. Bentley also was a companion & therapy for Poppy, Jimmie Brown, before he passed away.

When we return for the day Bentley is always there to greet us with happy barks, and a wagging tail that melts our hearts. We end our day with dinner and another short walk. We thank God for Bentley because he brings us so much joy!

MEET JAZ

by Dr. Eurydice Osterman

Jaz is a 12 yr old female Chihuahua mix. When she first met her owner, it was love at first sight. Jaz took to her like a duck takes to water.

Jaz doesn't like for anyone to touch her. Hence, she has to be groomed by her owner and muzzled when going to the Vet.

When the lawn man comes, she frantically runs from the front door to the back door chasing the mower.. She loves to sunbathe, chase rabbits, squirrels, and birds from the yard.

At the end of the day, after her neighborhood walk and treat, she snuggles next to her owner and goes to sleep.



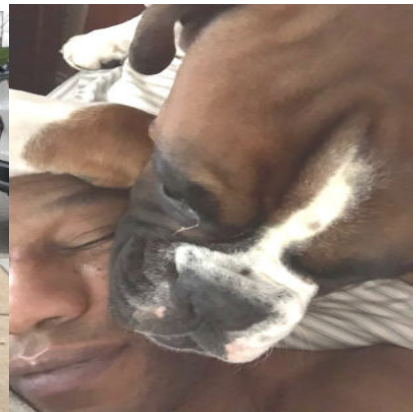
Hello Atlas

Fun facts about Atlas
by Edwin Bradley

Atlas is a 5 year old boxer that is very muscular, weighs 75 pounds, still acts like a 5-month-old puppy, and is convinced that he's a lapdog. He is obsessed with the game of "Fetch", cannot walk by a pile of leaves without diving into them, and couldn't care less about chasing squirrels, but rabbits are a different story.

He loves, bananas, green beans, and carrots, and has mastered the art of the sad, neglected puppy face when the previously mentioned delights are not offered to him.

He doesn't believe that I should have privacy when I go to the bathroom, and has been known to stick his head around the shower curtain while I'm showering to supervise.



WELCOME TO PASTOR STEVEN CHRISTOPHER DORSEY

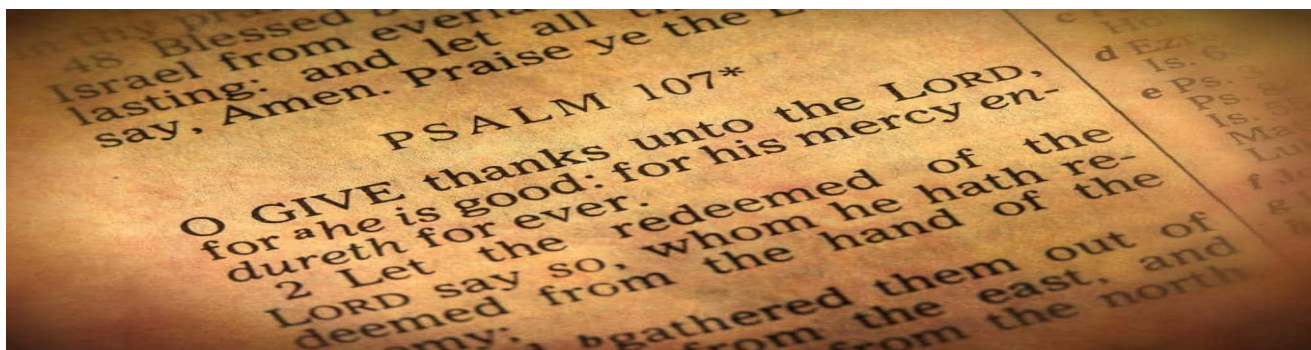


Steven Christopher Dorsey was born in Monroe, Louisiana May 2nd 1996 to Alison Dorsey, Lawrence Dorsey and Beverly Dorsey. He is a 4th Generation Adventist and went to Glendale Adventist Academy and Newbury Park Adventist Academy. He is also a product of Oakwood University and graduated in May of 2023 with a degree in Theology. Last summer he had the opportunity of working in his first City-wide evangelistic meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina for Breath of Life TV ministries; as a result 54 souls gave their hearts to the Lord and Christopher had a part in bringing many of them to Christ. While attending Oakwood last fall he had the privilege of working again with Pastor Snell and Breath of Life for the Hope Rally in Huntsville, Alabama where 69 souls gave their hearts to the Master. Currently he just finished another Evangelistic campaign in Seattle, Washington where more should come to the Lord.

During his time at Oakwood University, he had also been a student athlete. In 2019 Christopher was appointed an Ambassador for Fellowship of Christian Athletes for the state of Alabama and he also served as the team pastor and helped three of his teammates to get baptized. His final year of playing basketball he made 2nd Team All American for his Conference. He also has served as an pastoral Intern under Pastor Snell who is the Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church for over a year and has learned much from him.

Throughout the years he has had the privilege of working in evangelistic crusades with his grandfather, **Evangelist Lawrence S. Dorsey Sr.** In the Southern California Conference and Port Charlotte, FL, he has spoken at numerous youth days in the greater Los Angeles area and assisted with the youth ministries at the annual Pacific Union Pastor Retreat. Most recently he spoke for Oakwood University during the On the Verge Series and for the Annual Pacific Union Bible Instructors Guild in San Diego, CA.

God has impressed upon his heart that the key to evangelism is active Bible work and personal relationships. He understands that by meeting people's personal daily needs along with teaching scriptures, helps to build strong spiritual people of all ages, that will lead them to the Kingdom. On August 5th he was installed at the Oakwood University Church as an Associate Pastor and is looking forward to continuing the work of God. Christopher's mission is to empower the youth with the Word of God and bring souls to Christ one day at a time.



The Holy Land, 2023

Written by
Dr. Eurydice Osterman

On Sabbath, August 13, 2022, an announcement was made at Oakwood University Church that Breath of Life (Pr. Debleaire Snell) and Oakwood University (Dr. Leslie Pollard) would be sponsoring a trip to the Holy Land, but there were only 40 seats available. Before the day ended all the seats had been filled. However, because so many others wanted to take advantage of this opportunity, more seats became available and approximately 200 people on four buses (Blue, Black, Green, and Yellow), were able to go.

June 1, 2023, the day of departure, finally arrived, and from five ports in the United States (Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, NY, and D.C.), everyone arrived safely in Tel Aviv on June 2. There was some lost luggage, but eventually that arrived, too.



Upon leaving the airport, the tour began by heading to **Cana of Galilee**. There the group ate lunch and bought souvenirs (and unfermented grape juice) at a nearby gift shop. From there the group proceeded to the hotel to check in, rest, and eat the phenomenal dishes prepared by the hotel. Watermelon became the hot item at every meal. Later that evening the group met to open the Sabbath and meet the leaders and other dignitaries on the trip.

The next day, Sabbath, the group visited the **Wedding Church at Cana** where approximately 27 couples renewed their vows. As this ceremony took place, the rest of the group explored the ruins where Jesus turned water into wine. The photo is an ancient water pot. From there the group went to the **Basilica of the Annunciation** located in Nazareth, the site where the angel told Mary that she would be the mother of the Messiah. This is the largest church in the Middle East. An interesting feature of the church is the appearance of the image of Mary in various races.



The Sabbath ended with an unforgettably beautiful baptismal service conducted at the **Jordan River**. Approximately 130 people were baptized. Upon returning to the hotel, the group met after supper to receive their Baptismal Certificates (they registered to be baptized before coming on the trip).



The tour on Sunday began with a trip through the ruins of **Caesarea Philippi**, the location of one of the largest springs feeding the Jordan River. Then it was on to **Tabgha**, the site where Jesus fed over 5,000 people. As if things could not get any better, the group enjoyed a boat ride on the **Sea of Galilee**. Two boats carrying the group were tied together, making it possible for all to hear what was being said. The Star Spangled Banner was played as a special welcome. After the speeches, everyone pushed back the chairs and participated in a cultural dance to Hava Nagila, a Jewish folk song traditionally sung at celebrations and other occasions. The day ended with a trip to the **Mount of Beatitudes** where Dr. Prudence Pollard and Gianna Snell read them to the group.



After spending an exciting weekend in Israel, the group headed to Jordan. The long bus ride enabled everyone to see the dry, desert terrain of the country. Upon arrival in Jordan, the group was required to go through Customs. It took three hours in the hot sun to process everyone, but finally they were on their way.



HOLY LAND TOURS

While in Jordan the group visited **Jerash**, a Roman city that was part of Decapolis which, according to history, was the home of the demoniac Gerasene. They also visited **Mount Nebo** at the same location where Moses observed the Promised Land. **Petra** was an amazing site to see. That, by the way, is the site where Indiana Jones movies were made. There were a few brave souls who walked the two miles through the rock formations to the target site, the Treasury, an ancient temple believed to have been the mausoleum of the Nabatean King, Aretas IV in the 1st century AD.



After a long, hot, dusty day in the sun, the group returned to the Hilton Hotel located at the **Dead Sea**. Some took advantage of a mud bath, covered from head to toe (the mineral properties are very beneficial for the skin), or went swimming in the salt water.



The adventures of Jordan had come to an end, so the group headed back to Israel. They visited **Qumran**, the place where the famous "Dead Sea Scrolls" were found. It is believed that John the Baptist may well have spent time in this community. From there they went through the Judean desert to **Jericho**, the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. From there they went to the **Mount of Temptation**, the place where Jesus was tempted by the devil, and **Nebi Musa**, the place where tradition says Moses was buried.

The **Valley of the Shadow of Death**, a literal location known by that name, gave new meaning to Psalm 23, for it is the same place where David himself traversed with his sheep. It is a narrow, rocky road with crevices in which robbers could hide to attack travelers along the way. Other sites visited were **Shiloh**, the place where the ark of the covenant was installed until it was captured by the Philistines, and **Jacob's well**, where Jesus met the Samaritan women. Some from the group were privileged to drink water from that well.



Then it was on to **Bethlehem** to visit the field of the shepherds and the site where Jesus was born. Contrary to the western portrayal of the nativity, Jesus was born in a cave, which has now become the Church of the Nativity. A service had just ended when the group arrived.



The group also visited the **Mount of Olives** with a great view of the old city of Jerusalem and its wall, **the Upper Room** on Mount Zion, and the **Church of the Nations** which enshrines a section of bedrock where Jesus is said to have prayed before his arrest.



The timing of the visit to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, Friday afternoon, was very reflective and impactful. Everyone had opportunity to walk and muse upon the same turf which Jesus walked and enter the tomb in which HE lay until HIS resurrection. Afterwards, a very moving Communion service was held in the garden just before sunset.



HOLY LAND TOURS

The last Sabbath was spent visiting the site of the **Room of the Last Supper** and the site of the most recent **Passover** celebration that took place in April. A blessing instead of blood is inscribed over the doorway entrances in the region.



While stopping in Samaria for lunch, who would ever have imagined seeing the logo of The University of Alabama hanging on the window of the restaurant, or the proprietor's daughter wearing an Auburn University T-shirt! An unexpected reminder of home. While at this site, the group saw some of the ruins that had been unearthed, dating back to the 1st century, A.D.



Upon returning to the hotel at the end of the day, the last group meeting convened wherein instructions were given for travel the next day because half the group would be leaving to go back home, and the other half would continue to Egypt. Those returning home would transfer to the Bethlehem buses (since they were already in Bethlehem) and those continuing to Egypt would transfer to the Cairo buses.

Sunday, the last day, was just as busy as all the previous days. Upon checking out of the hotel, the tour began with a sobering visit to the Via Dolorosa. There they walked upon the same ascending cobble streets that Jesus had walked upon. Every situation HE incurred while walking to Calvary (falling, speaking to His mother, Simon's location, etc.) is documented with a marker affixed to the wall.



Contrary to the words of the hymn, "On a hill far away," Jesus was crucified at street level outside the city wall so that passersbys could see what would happen to anyone who might even think of attempting to overthrow the Roman government. Crucifixion was a brutal Roman tactic to maintain its power and longevity.

From the Via Dolorosa the group visited the **Holy Sepulcher Catholic Church** containing a replica of the tomb which claims to house the rock upon which Jesus laid. Because the Bible cites landmarks describing the area of the tomb in which Jesus laid (the skull, the winepress, etc.), there is controversy among scholars over the authenticity of this rock. Nonetheless, it is deemed a sacred emblem and thousands of worshipers pray there.



The last stop of the Holy Land tour was a visit to the Western Wall, also known as the **Wailing Wall**, which is the remnant of the temple built by King Herod. There, individuals had an opportunity to pray and reflect. Some in the group took the underground tour beneath the Wall to see those ruins which are believed to have been the residence of King Herod. This discovery was made during the COVID shutdown.



After an eventful day, the time had come to depart. Everyone loaded their respective busses after dinner and headed to the airport.

The Cairo extension was just long enough to see some of the main attractions of Egypt. This group visited the pyramids, the Sphinx, the Nile River, and the museum.



This was a wonderful trip and a wonderful experience. Because there was so much to see, the daily schedule required the buses to roll between 7- 7:30 a.m. and return to the hotel around 6 p.m. The unique element of this trip is that the majority of travelers were 60 and over. Only a handful were younger. Moving almost 200 seniors was no small feat. But it was done remarkably well.



Special Agent (SA) Tiffany Booth joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 2018

and was assigned to the Dallas Field Office. In her current role, SA Booth investigates white collar crimes. Prior to this assignment, she served as a member of the Northern Texas Strike Force, investigating gangs and organized crimes with state and local law enforcement.

In 2021, SA Booth made history when she completed the US Public Safety Bomb Technician Certification Program. She became the first black female special agent certified as a Special Agent Bomb Technician (SABT) in the FBI. SA Booth responds to situations where explosives may be present, domestically, and internationally. She performs this work in addition to her investigative duties and is currently one of the five certified SABTs assigned to the Dallas Field Office. SA Booth is also an alternate member of the Evidence Response Team.

SA Booth served with the US Capital Police (USCP) for nearly 11 years and earned the rank of sergeant before joining the FBI. During her time at USCP, SA Booth was one of the five officers from over 100 applicants selected for the prestigious canine unit where she became the first black female canine handler and first female Sergeant assigned to the canine unit. While at USCP, SA Booth worked three inaugurations, 11 State of the Union presidential addresses, and numerous special events. She was also appointed as a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team.

SA Booth is married to Jermaine Booth, the son of Joseph and Jennifer Booth. She received her B.A. in Biology from Temple University and an M.A. in Human Science from Hood College. When she's not working, SA Booth loves traveling, designing, and creating custom projects, binge-watching Netflix and hiking with her husband.

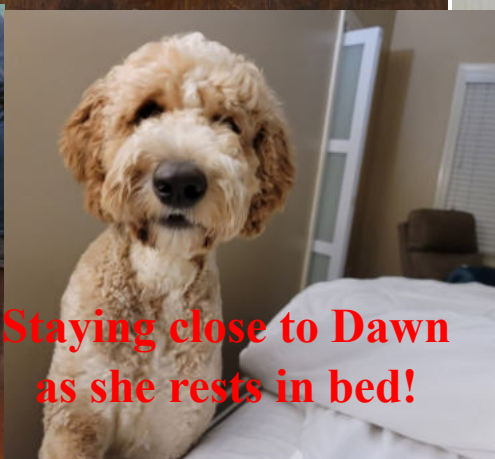


Hi! My name is Maycee. My name means a gift/surprise from God. I am 3 years old. My Mommy is Shavavian Allister. I love to laugh, play with playdoh, read books with my Mommy, play dinosaurs with my Daddy, and go to Sabbath School with my grandma.

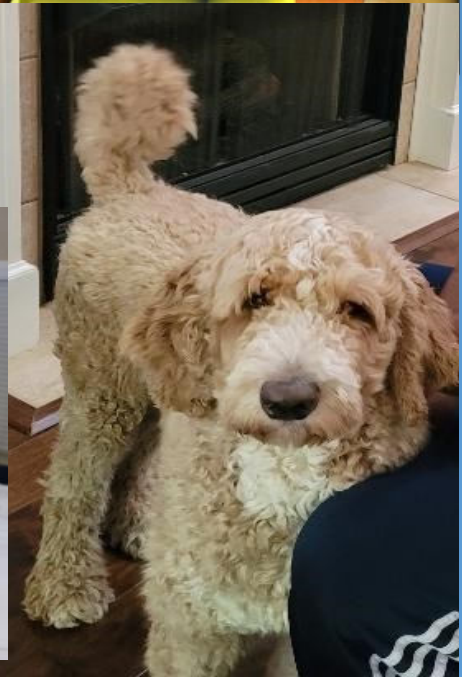
MEET SMILES

My name is Larry (Trace) Meet our family dog, 'Smiles', and pet bird, George. These pets make our family and friends happy.

Smiles is a 2-year-old Goldendoodle. He loves to hike, fetch, and herd his older "furlblings". He is very sensitive to our emotions. In the future, he will have advanced training to become a pet therapy partner.



Staying close to Dawn as she rests in bed!



Celebrating Henrietta Lathon: A Life of Service, Adventure, and Dedication

by Kyra Lathon

Introducing Henrietta Lathon, a remarkable individual whose passion for service, love for family, and thirst for adventure have shaped a life filled with accomplishments and cherished memories. Henrietta dedicated her career to Oakwood University, making a lasting impact on countless students as she guided them through the registrar's office for 30 plus years, ensuring their success in college and beyond.



As an Associate Registrar at Oakwood University, Henrietta played a vital role in helping students register for college, obtain their transcripts, and navigate the path to graduation. Her commitment to their success went beyond administrative duties, as she became a trusted mentor and advisor to many students, providing guidance and support during their educational journey.

Henrietta's own educational journey concluded at Oakwood University, where she earned her Bachelor's of Science degree. This alma mater holds a special place in her heart, as it laid the foundation for her professional accomplishments and personal growth.

Retirement has not slowed Henrietta down; instead, she continues to make a difference in her community. Actively engaged in her church, she tirelessly devotes herself to feeding the sick and shut-in, as well as hosting delightful potluck dinners that bring the congregation together. Henrietta's kindness and generosity exemplify the true spirit of community and fellowship.

In her leisure time, Henrietta finds joy in various activities that enrich her life. Gardening allows her to nurture nature's beauty, while taking long walks invigorates her mind and body. Her love for travel and sightseeing has taken her to numerous captivating destinations. Recently, she embarked on an unforgettable journey to South Africa, immersing herself in the vibrant culture and awe-inspiring landscapes.

Family remains at the core of Henrietta's life. She was happily married to the late James Lathon for 45 years, cherishing a partnership built on love and companionship. Together, they raised four remarkable children who have continued their parents' legacy of excellence. The joys of being a grandmother to three precious grandchildren bring immeasurable happiness and fulfillment to Henrietta's life.

Her wanderlust has led her to explore 35 states within the United States, with the ambitious goal of traversing all 50. Additionally, she has embarked on memorable adventures in 18 countries. Among these, Spain and Egypt hold a special place in her heart, as their rich history, captivating landscapes, and warm hospitality left an indelible impression.

Today, as we celebrate Henrietta Lathon, we honor her lifelong dedication to service, her unwavering commitment to education, and her boundless love for family. She is an exceptional individual whose impact extends far beyond the registrar's office. **Henrietta's adventurous spirit, compassionate heart, and thirst for knowledge serve as an inspiration to all who have the pleasure of knowing her.**

A VIRTUAL FAMILY REUNION New Leaves from Strong Roots

by Vivian Brown

On July 21 –23, 2023, the Harris Family, roots from New Orleans, LA, held their second virtual family reunion. Our chairperson, Gail Grant and committee planned a well organized weekend. *How can this be, you ask?* Well, family members and friends logged into a provided Zoom link beginning with Vespers on Friday evening, Sabbath School, Divine Worship, Finance seminar, Diabetes seminar, Cooking with the Harris', and an art contest among young people to end the weekend. Presenters included family members, Jamar Grant, Friday night, Vesper Speaker; Vivian Brown, SS Superintendent, Dr. Alfred Booker and son, Alfred Booker, Jr., SS Lesson Facilitators; Pastor Joseph McCoy, Divine Worship speaker, Nicolete Nathan, Finances-God's Way presenter, Nicole Nathan, and Wanda Phillips, Game Night; Dr. RaShae Freeman, Diabetes seminar presenter; Cooking with the Harris' by Leon and Vanessa Verrett.



An eBook was created by Vivian Brown. Type the link below into your browser to view the eBook. Other information is included in the eBook, oldest, newest members, honoring nonagenarians, and much more. Enjoy!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k2-VBr3J9tKBSXudyceI1QDZHdHbSabQ/view?usp=sharing>

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 26	Ministry Fair	OUC
September 4	Labor Day	
September 9	The Longest Table	OUC
September 10	Grandparents Day	
October	Breast Cancer Awareness Month	
October 8	Photography Exhibit/Tech Building 10-2	
October 9	Columbus Day	
October 14	Wintley Phipps Benefit Concert – 7 p.m. OUC for Oakwood University's state-of-the-art music facility	
November 10	Veteran's Day	
November 23	Thanksgiving Day	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Thank you to the friends who provided the information shared in this issue of the Newsletter for your enjoyment.

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

