



Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, the Pastoral Team, DAP, and all the friends who assisted in sharing water, food, and goods to Texas and Mississippi residents in crisis.

To all our health care professionals, doctors, nurses, and hospital staff for your unwavering service to all patients.

To Dr. Toussaint Williams, and the cheerful team of volunteers who distribute food weekly, from the Family Life Center.

To the contributors to this issue of the Newsletter for your commitment and faithfulness in service.

To the faithful members and friends who share kindnesses all during the week, to neighbors and friends in need.

To our faithful postal workers who deliver our mail daily.

To Vivian Brown for her continued time and talent in designing our Newsletter.

Join the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, renaming the Berachah Campus on 3011 Sparkman Dr. in honor of the late NASA engineer, Dr. Robert Shurney, on April 7 at 1:00 p.m.

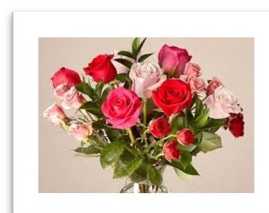
Celebrate Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, May 3-7, 2021. Show your gratitude and appreciation to those you know. **“Teachers make all other professions possible.”**

Celebrate National Nurses Week, May 6—12, 2021, with a call, a card, to a nurse that you know.

Congratulations to all our 2021 graduates, K-18, for your successful educational experiences.

Happy Spring!

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



Senior Express

Oakwood University Church
Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Senior Pastor

Spring Issue
2021



From the Editor: Dr. Jessie Godley Bradley

February allowed us to enjoy, experience, and learn many exciting experiences during Black History Month celebration.

Hopefully, you are a stronger richer person as a result of learning some new things.

My hope is that you will exemplify courage and determination as you face unknown challenges.

Do you remember “Bloody Sunday”? March 7, 1965? This year marks the 56th anniversary of those marchers, and yours truly is proud to acknowledge that I walked the “Bridge” too.

Are you a Prayer Warrior? Take a look at the testimonies from this Prayerline Ministry with Mrs. Shirleyann Cherry.

Do you know where the Millet Center is? Where did the name come from? Meet the daughter, Debbie Millet.

Capture meaningful moments. Be kind to everyone you see. You never know what they are going through. **When we lift each other up, we all rise.** Spread some cheer everyday.

Happy Birthday to Dr. Carlton Byrd, April 11, 2021, and all family and friends born in April, May, & June.

To those of you who lost loved ones, our prayers will continue for you. God is in control. Trust Him!

International Women's Day was celebrated very recently. Let's celebrate the trailblazers who preceded us, and the torch bearers who will follow.

Can you match the questions? Take a look. Black History is American History. Do you know these pioneers? p. 10

Mark your calendars for your future planning. Virtual:

April 1-4 — **Oakwood University Alumni Weekend**

May 6-8 **Oakwood University Graduation Weekend**

Oakwood Adventist Academy

May 25	Kindergarten	6:00 p.m.
May 27	8th Grade	6:00 p.m.
May 28	12th Grade	7:00 p.m.
	Consecration	
May 29	Baccalaureate	11:00 a.m.
May 30	Commencement	10:00 a.m.

All programs will be held at the OAA (school Gym)

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**Home Safety
Checklist**

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One of Debbe's greatest joys is being called "Auntie" by 16 nieces and nephews in her family and being "adopted" as an auntie by more people than she can count.



Debbe Millet



HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

Take a few moments now to check if your home is accident prone. This convenient list will help you locate potential hazards. Once located, correct them and prevent disabilities from occurring in your future.

- Check the following throughout your home:**
- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Do you have emergency numbers next to the phone? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Are electrical outlets exposed? They should be covered if unused. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Do you know how to turn off the electricity and gas in an emergency? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Do you have fresh batteries in the smoke detector and the carbon monoxide detector? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Is your fire extinguisher ready to use? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Are your floors non-skid? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Are your floor coverings and rugs secure? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Do you have protective screens in front of fireplaces? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Are candles kept away from walls and curtains? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Do interior doors have safety release locks so they can open from either side? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. If there are small children in your home, are windows and screens secure? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. Are furnaces and flues regularly inspected and cleaned? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. Are plastic dry cleaner's bags destroyed or kept out of children's reach? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Do tubs and showers have non-skid surfaces? Or mats? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Have grab bars been securely installed alongside the bathtub, shower and toilet – especially if someone is elderly or disabled? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Are all electrical appliances kept away from water and unplugged after use? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. Are all medicines (including vitamins) kept in locked cabinets – out of children's reach? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. Can the bathroom door be unlocked from inside and out? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. Are your steps and sidewalks clear, and free from toys, tools, ice and snow? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. Do you check play equipment and lawn furniture for safe use? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21. Are gas and charcoal grills kept clean and lit carefully? |

Easterseals is changing the way the world defines and views disabilities by making profound, positive differences in people's lives every day.

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FIRST IN LINE

These African Americans were the first in history. What did they do?

Directions: Write the letter from the photo above in a box below next to the description of these first African American accomplishments.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> JACK JOHNSON was the first to hold the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908. | <input type="checkbox"/> SHIRLEY CHISHOLM was the first to be elected to House of Representatives in 1968. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOHN MERCER LANGSTON was the first to become a lawyer when he passed the Ohio bar in 1854. | <input type="checkbox"/> MADAM C. J. WALKER (aka Sarah Breedlove) was the first self-made millionaire. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLAUDETTE COLVIN was the first arrested for not giving up her bus seat to white passengers (nine months before Rosa Parks). | <input type="checkbox"/> HATTIE MCDANIEL was the first performer to win an Academy Award for <i>Gone With the Wind</i> . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THURGOOD MARSHALL was the first to be appointed to the Supreme Court. | <input type="checkbox"/> JACKIE ROBINSON was the first major league baseball player. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER was the first to develop 300 products from peanuts. | <input type="checkbox"/> ROBERT JOHNSON was the first billionaire. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIRAM RHODES REVELS was the first to be elected to the U.S. Senate in 1870. | <input type="checkbox"/> BARAK OBAMA was the first president of the United States. |

You can learn more Black history facts at: www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-facts.



66

The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.

AMANDA GORMAN



May 31, 2021

365 Days of Prayer

Submitted by Shirleyann Cherry

Prayer Ministry Team Coordinator, Oakwood University Church

Oakwood University Church's Prayerline is the church's spiritual care center. Began in the Fall of 2017, the Prayerline is an auxiliary of OUC Prayer Ministry. The Prayerline met weekly on Sunday. In addition, we met on Friday to discuss a chapter of *The Great Controversy*. (We are currently studying *Ministry of Healing*.) However, on March 16, 2020, while I was visiting my daughter in Maryland, Pastor Vern Joyner, our Prayer walk team leader, called and suggested we begin praying *daily* due to the Coronavirus pandemic. I sent a group text to the OUC Prayer Ministry team, and we began that very evening. It was a scary time as I flew back to Alabama, amidst Covid19 with no mask requirements in place, yet.

We continued praying daily and joined the General Conference 100 Days of Prayer, but we would not stop when it was over. Intercessory prayers were being answered! We realized the importance of intercessory prayer for families, friends and church members suffering from Covid19. The team also prayed about the racist attitudes and political conditions in the country and world. The Prayerline also became a way to connect daily with church members during the lockdown, especially those living alone.

We sponsored the 40-days of prayer and fasting event before the presidential election; God answered our prayers! The team realized the need to continue weekly fasting and praying for the Georgia senate race; God again answered our prayers! One year later, we continue to pray daily on the OUC Prayerline. The fasting and prayer is from sunset Tuesday until Wednesday noonday, ending it with a Prayerline call, praying especially for our prayer warriors and world.

Each day of the week, a prayer ministry team member facilitates the OUC Prayerline. This team collaboration has inspired a spiritual and unique prayer experience as the facilitating team members have different personalities and interests. It is an honor to work with such dedicated Prayer Warriors! **Following are testimonials from some of our Prayerline attendees and team:**

"The prayer ministry has been a tremendous blessing to me. It keeps me connected to like-minded believers and to the throne room because, 'The darkness of the evil one surrounds those who neglect to pray.'" **Steps to Christ, p 94 – Dr. Lydia Andrews, OUC**

"First, I thank God for hearing and answering our prayers and the OUC Prayerline. This Prayerline has been an inspiration for me and people I know because I'm on this Prayerline almost every evening. People call or text and ask me to request prayer for people, because their prayers have been answered. My prayers are answered too. This pandemic has me shut-in and I live alone. Joining this Prayerline gives me comfort and peace. All the Prayer Warriors are pleasant, loving and ready to pray for any situation I bring including my own. Since I've joined on this Prayerline I'm learning the Ministry of Healing and how important obedience in taking care of my body is to God. There are so many prayers that have been answered. People have been healed from COVID-19, people are comforted in times bereavement, and my prayer life has changed because I am praying more for others and myself. The Prayerline is a way for me to reach out to God's people in



Huntsville, although I live in Washington, DC. I thank God for you all and thank you for your prayers. May God continue to bless this Prayerline and all the members."-- **Stephanie Adams, Washington, DC**

"The Prayer Line has given its participants access to a wealth of information that is spiritually uplifting and fulfilling. May it continue to blossom by His grace." -- **Elder Lenroy & Sis. Barbara James, OUC**

"Prayer ministry has been a blessings to me during this time of Covid 19 around us. God is showing us His love. Prayer ministry Prayerline is a way for me to seek God about my life, my needs and have fellowship with the Saints. It is a way to tell Him about others. -- **Iris Griffin – Loma Linda, CA (Frontline worker at LLU Hospital)**



"Prior to the summer of 2020 I intermittently joined the OUC Prayerline. I didn't participate...just listened. A "storm" was brewing in

my personal life when I decided to revisit the group. This time I heard heartfelt prayers and testimonies that arrested my attention. At the time, the prayer warriors were praying for the 2020 Presidential Election. After the election was over, I thought they would only meet on Friday evenings. When I learned they continued to meet EVERYDAY, I began attending EVERYDAY. What a blessing it is to have "family worship" each evening! My iPhone alarm is set for 6 pm, 7 days a week. I invite others to join us and will often connect my mother, a widow residing alone in SC, to my phone. She is blessed by the ministry and discusses the call with me after its conclusion. This group of faithful Christians have been a Godsend to me. I praise the Lord for them!" --**Mary Monroe, OUC**

"I love the nightly prayer line at Oakwood. I love the opportunity to hear the Word, to fellowship with other Christians, to participate in the prayer and to pray for others. It has not been so long since I've decided to submit my will and life to Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. In this day and age of coronavirus, this prayer line has been a lifeline for me as a newly dedicated Christian dealing with sin and warfare on a daily basis, looking for understanding, insight, encouragement and the support of other believers. I have been participating in the Oakwood nightly Prayerline since November 2020 and have been participating in the Bessong morning Prayerline (Mon.-Fri.) since October 2020.

I would like to gain more information and knowledge about additional biblical classes I can take regarding specific figures in the Bible. I am slightly challenged, whereas I am completely blind and my only access to the Word and reference materials are via the audible feature. So far, I was able to find "The Great Controversy" and the "Ministry of Healing" by Ellen White. God bless kingdom building!"--**DiDri Hurt, Miami Gardens, FL**

"The OUC Prayer Line Ministry has been used by my Savior to reach and revive my spirit to search and truly inquire of the Lord. I had allowed myself to be lulled into a kind of spiritual stupor due to the challenging restrictions of the pandemic, but God used Sister Cherry's kind and gentle requests to assist in the Prayerline ministry that began to take a hold of my spirit and refresh and revive me. Thank you for allowing God to lead you in my direction. Continued blessings on you and the ministry." -- **Sister Genoise Hampton, OUC**

I am blessed with the OUC Prayerline! I am a church member. It is a blessing that we can talk to our Lord together. It is so important that we can praise God every day. Thank you Jesus!" -- **Sis. Joyce Sweeney Vernon, OUC**

"By being a part of the OUC Prayer Line for a little over a year I can truly say,

A change, a change has come over me. He changed my life and now I'm free! Praise God! Hallelujah!" -- **Denise Gore, OUC**

**The OUC Prayerline meets daily at 6:00 pm. Central time
Call in number 1-605-475-4120,
Pin 8483381#.**

Email your prayer requests to prayerministry@oucsda.org

Our facilitators are:

Sunday– Sis. Cheryl Jones and Dr./Sis Taffe;

Monday– Prof./Sis. Lenroy James;

Tuesday– Dr. Lydia Andrews;

Wednesday – Pastor/Sister Hampton;

Wednesday Noon- Pastor Gabe Taylor;

Thursday– Sister Gwen Shepherd/Sister Debbie Slack;

Friday– Sister Denise Gore;

Sabbath– Sister Hadassah Dalrymple/
Sister Jaqueline Telesford.

Special Mother's in Prayer Prayerline -
Sundays at 9:30-10:00 a.m. hosted by
Sister Dalrymple.

Please join us on the OUC Prayerline journey. Let us partner with our Lord and Savior as He is in intercessory prayer on behalf of us all!

You WILL be blessed!!



GLOBALTIES > Alabama

Global Perspectives Institute Presents

"World Religions & their Spring Holiday Celebrations"

Tuesday | April 6, 2021 | 1:00p.m. CST



Click Here to Register In Advance for this Meeting



Moderator:
Rev Dr. Robert Ferrell



Dr. Carlton Byrd,
Oakwood University
Church



Ashfaq Taufique
Birmingham Islamic
Center



Rabbi Eric Berk
Rabbi of Temple
B'nai Sholom



Olga Osadcii,
Malenitsa Organizer



Dr. Narayana Bhat
University of
Alabama in Huntsville



BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
Promoting Mutual Understanding

GLOBALTIES > Alabama

Global Perspectives Institute Presents:



World Religions & their Spring Holiday Celebrations

Tues, April 6, 2021
@ 1:00 pm CST

[Click Here to register in advance for this meeting](#)



Success Characteristics Influenced by Sports

Tues, April 20, 2021
@ 1:00 pm CST



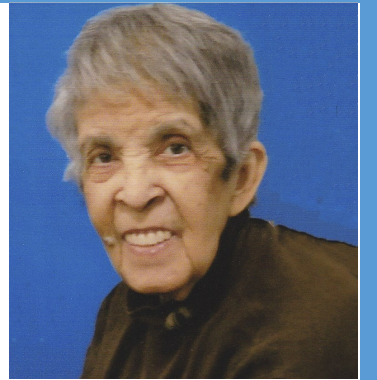
[Click Here to register in advance for this meeting](#)



BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
Promoting Mutual Understanding

Remembering Barbara Hamilton

Submitted by Deborah Ruff, daughter



As a young child I remember my mother with knitting needles, crochet hooks, paint brushes or sitting behind a sewing machine. She was always making something beautiful and unique, things you could not find in any store. Over the years she has made baby and children clothing, curtains and drapes, upholstered furniture and even cut glass work.

One Christmas she and her mother decided to make quilts for all the family members, siblings, and children. In a years time, they made over 50 quilts. It was her mother who taught her to sew at the age of six. The project that exhibited a lot of her skills and talent was making dolls both ceramic and porcelain. They are some of the most beautiful dolls I have ever seen. Some were two to four inches tall to a remarkable one that was over five feet tall who was named and dressed after her grandmother Elvira Brown.

When she was younger she had some pigment in her eyes that changed color according to what she wore. I am still amazed by it. Her desire was to become a nurse, but with raising a family and working outside jobs she was not able to reach her goal until the age of 52. She was the oldest in her class. She pursued it until graduating 4 years later. She believed in church school and made sure her children attended.



She enjoyed her grandchildren and great grandchildren helping with class activity by attending their school weekly and assisting the teachers, and sharing her crafting with them. The most precious memory I have of her is seeing her sitting teaching our Sabbath School Class bouncing my little baby brother on her knees to quiet him. I can honestly say the same as I did when I was four years old that she is the bestest mommy in the whole wide world.

In Memoriam
by Dr. Jessie Godley Bradley

Mrs. Barbara Hamilton passed away on March 3, 2021. She was gifted and active at the OU church. She contributed hundreds of hand crocheted footies, and blankets, to be given out at the Nursing Homes at Christmas every year. Mourning her loss are two daughters, Deborah Ruff and Shaun Hamilton.

Chaplain's Gem

By Katherine Davis, Chaplain

It was mid-January of 2020 that I received a phone call. The person on the other end said: "I'm sorry to tell you that your brother-in-law, Art, passed away today. I also must say that your sister is not feeling too well and needs you." I packed my bags, and made arrangements to fly American Airlines to Akron, Ohio. Arriving there, I rented a computer and printer, planned Art's funeral service and e-mailed his program to the Church Secretary. On that same day, I had to call 911 for my sister and she was taken to Akron General Hospital and was admitted.

On the day of Art's funeral what a fiasco and lots of red tape to get Ann out of the hospital to attend his service -- it was held up for 2 hours. They had been married 68 years and she was devastated. This was a tragedy for her, for me, and for her grandchildren (she lost her only child 6 mos. after I lost my only daughter in 2002). I spent night and day at the hospital with Ann for nearly 2 weeks and then one evening they told me I had to leave and not come back -- all due to COVID-19. I left, made arrangements to get back home. I was home in Harvest, AL for 2 days and received a call stating that my sister, Ann had passed away. I am convinced that my sister died of a broken heart -- another tragedy for me. I've also lost dear friends since then to COVID -- more tragedy. I was weeping for days and had trouble focusing on other things, but somehow, after a month or so, the Holy Spirit reminded me that "*weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning*". That put a stop to my "Pity Party".

It's a New Year now, but just because we flipped the calendar from 2020 to 2021 doesn't mean that all of our troubles and/or tragedies are behind us. There is no doubt about it, we will be confronted with situations -- even tragedies that will require us to look to God for solace, for solutions. I do not know what unbearable situations or tragedies you are experiencing. Could be you lost your job, a good friend or a loved one is battling COVID, maybe you're in the middle of a nasty divorce, perhaps your children or your grandchildren have attached themselves to a wild lifestyle, or maybe your doctor gave you a negative report. Whatever it is, God knows and through his servant Paul tells us "*For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God....*" (Rom.8:28) Do you love God? Then claim His promises, His word is sure, and His promises never fail. Make the most of what you have: family, friends, possessions, talents, etc. Live in the present, **Day by Day**. And by the way, a really good way to get through tough times is to serve others. So, look for opportunities to help someone else. Endure your Tragedies with patience and turn them into Triumphs.

- It is reality that tragedies befall those who are not walking with God as well as with those who are walking with and trusting God.
- Tragedies help us to stop and think about what is really important -- we then prioritize.
- Many times through tragedy we learn valuable lessons. So ask God "What can I learn from this tragedy that will help me be anchored in you and be a more effective disciple."
- Most tragedies tend to draw us closer to God. The Psalmist David said "*It is good that I have been afflicted. I went astray but now I have kept thy word*". Tragedy brought him back on course with God.
- Tragedies or adversities sets us free from the illusion of being in control. We realize that our God is supreme and is in control of the storms of our lives.
- Tragedies provide us the opportunity to watch God work and bring good out of any situation - He **turns Tragedies into Triumphs**.

No matter what is happening in your life, make an effort to turn to the Lord for help. He is always accessible to you and delights in helping you and me and giving us everything we need. He says: "*Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or terrified for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.*" (Deut. 31:6) "*Trust in the Lord at all times, pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge*". (Ps. 62:8) "*The Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man or woman who trusts in Him.*" (Ps. 32:10)

Claim those promises and with the Lord's help, **Turn Your Tragedies into Triumphs**. Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, says to you and to me, "*In the world you will have tribulations; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*". In His love and in His grace, He left the glorious perfection of heaven. In 33 years, He knew no sin, spent His life ministering to the needs of others, He willingly experienced the tragedy of abuse during his entire lifetime, He freely gave His body to be tortured -- endured horrific pain and suffering and bore the tragedy of being nailed to a cross and died. But, Praise God, He arose on the third day just as He said, and He had **Turned His Tragedies into Triumphs**, just for you and me. And Hallelujah, He's soon coming back to this earth for those of us who are ready to meet Him. He says "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me*". So now dear ones, the more the Lord becomes the focus of our desire and our praise, the more our problems and adversities seem to dissipate and by His grace, we will discover that our Tragedies have been turned into Triumphs.

Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER

