



Acknowledgements

It is with joy and thankfulness for me to express my appreciation to each of the contributors to this November/December 2020 issue of Senior Express.

To our First Lady of SCC, Mrs. Carol Jones, each of our Pastors' wives, Elder Shirley Iheanacho, Ms. Marion Joseph, our Church Clerk, Mrs. Marilyn Lang, Edmund Alexander, Media, and Mrs. Vivian Brown who enjoys and continues to design each of the Newsletters for your information, reflection, update, and enjoyment.

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

Take time to thank your postal workers who deliver your mail daily.

Congratulations to Oakwood University, a historical landmark, in Huntsville, AL, founded in 1896 celebrating, 124 years of service to families around the world.

Dr. Jessie Mary Godley Bradley
Senior Adult Ministries, Leader



Special Edition-A Tribute to our Pastors' Wives

Senior Express

Oakwood University Church
Dr. Carlton Byrd, Senior Pastor



Letter From the Editor—Dr. Jessie Godley Bradley

November/December 2020

Greetings Family and Friends,

It is November and our thoughts immediately think of Election Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving, in addition to birthdays and other family celebrations.

Election Day, this historic moment, is one we will always remember. Congratulations to the newly President Elect and Vice President Elect of the USA. "Time to Heal."

Happy Birthday to our First Lady, Mrs. Danielle Byrd, and to each of you born in the months of November and December.

Today it is my privilege to share words of thankfulness from Marion Joseph and recognize two of our **Veterans**, Elder Lloyd Wilson and Robert Wright, two very special and faithful servants of God. To all our **Veterans**, men and women in uniform past and present, we say "God bless you and thank you for your dedication, bravery and hard work to protect us in this great nation."

Now, **Thanksgiving** is the day that families put forth the effort to be together--some who gobble until they wobble--but this year many celebrations will be virtual. My wish for you, whatever the situation is, that your day be filled with **joy** and **happiness** for you, your family, and friends.

Do you have an **Estate Plan**? Without a written plan, you force your loved ones to **guess** your intentions. Estate planning involves officially writing down what you want to happen after you die. For additional information on Estate Planning you may contact the Madison County Extension office at (256) 532-1578.

The **Holiday season** is considered a time of **joy** and **celebration**. Many families are already planning their December family gatherings with excitement, while many other families are grieving, hungry, lonely, and homeless. Please take the time/opportunity to show that you care, by making a phone call, sending a card, email or text to a family member, friend, or sick & shut-in who are unable to join you physically for celebrations. Remember your body is the temple of God, treat yourself with care.

You are your best friend. Enjoy the holidays, **don't get scammed!**

*A Tribute to Our
Pastors' Wives
page 2*

*Our
Pastors' Wives
pages 3-6*

*Our Veterans
pages 7-8*

*But God Said
"No"
pages 10-11*



A Special Tribute to the Wives of Our Pastors

Submitted by Shirley Iheanacho

We thank God for our Pastors, and we must give Him thanks for you too, For when your husbands came to the OU Church, God also sent us You!

Thank you for loving our Pastor, supporting him, and walking this tough and often lonely journey with him. And for being a great example of balancing marriage, motherhood, ministry. Thanks for being brave in the face of adversity.

Thank you for giving your time and resources so sacrificially without expecting anything in return, and for the grace you portray.

Thank you for sharing your husband with our entire congregation and accepting his unwavering dedication to the work of the ministry.

Thank you for everything you do behind the scenes to knit the Church together.

Thank you for following the voice of the Lord and that of your husband, even when it's difficult to understand.

Thank you for keeping confidence, even though You may know our deepest darkest secrets.

Thank you for being slow to judge or criticize us, always choosing to focus on the positive.

Thank you for responding with humility, grace, and forgiveness, even when coming under attack or criticism.

Thank you for the days and nights you've had to spend alone with your children so that we could get counseling and spiritual support from your husband.

Thank you for navigating such an unpredictable life schedule with graceful flexibility and skill.

Thank you for adjusting your life to meet the needs of your husband's congregation; it seems you are able to cope with almost any situation.

Thank you for your genuineness, your warm embrace, and smile, for being patient and listening to us even when facing your own challenges.

Your presence blesses all of us who know you from day to day as our pastor's wife. You are serving God in such a great and awesome way. It takes a special person to be a Pastor's wife, for it is not an easy task or a simple way of life.

Phenomenally Strong, Beautiful, and Courageous Woman! You are our special gift from God!

We love You!

Dr. Goodall, the surgeon on my case performed three successive surgeries, just exploring. At the end of the third operation, my aunt who had traveled from Curacao to be with me was told that there was nothing more they could do medically, for every organ in my body was damaged and I had suffered three heart attacks while under their care. It was just a matter of time until my body would shut down.

At that point, Viola got hold of my little address book and called every number listed, explaining the gravity of my situation and requesting prayer – the brethren in St. Thomas, in Montserrat, in Antigua, and people who did not know me, were interceding with God.

The doctor told me after, that even in my unconscious condition, I seemed to be saying, death you will never conquer me, and he resolved not to give up, but to join me in the fight. A retired internist then in his late 70s was contacted. After reviewing my case, he suggested another surgery. My relatives were told that there way no guarantees that I would live through the surgery because I was very weak. There was a prayer chain going throughout the operation and God brought me through. But then came the sad news. My loved ones were told that I am going to live, but as a vegetable, because there is now a blood clot on my brain.

My body could not withstand another surgery. They tried to dissolve it but was not successful. At that point, my aunt and my sister went down in prayer. My aunt told the Lord, please don't let her live as a vegetable. Put her to sleep until the resurrection. At that point, my sister interrupted, Lord do not listen to aunty, let her live like a vegetable. They will put her in a home and every afternoon after work, I will visit her – comb her hair and kiss her.

How long I remained in that vegetable state, I do not know. But Dr. Goodall reported to me after, that every morning he would go to my room and look at me. One morning, he realized that my eyes were following him around the room. He called my name, "Miss Joseph", but I did not answer. This continued for some mornings. Then it happened. One morning when he called my name, I answered faintly. He rushed out of the room and called the nurse and said to her, "call her name" I answered. She asked me, "do you still have your faith" I replied, "yes". She said, "hold on and say like Job, "though He slay me...and I ended by saying, "yet will I trust Him." Dr. Goodall said that it was all uphill after that.

The day I was discharged from the hospital, my aunt said to the medical director, "I cannot take her home without saying a big thank you to you and your staff." His answer was, "please don't thank us. I do not know how she is alive. Say thanks to the Man above."

In subsequent visits for checkups both Dr. Goodall and Dr. Boyd told me not to go back to full time teaching, because of the damage to my brain. I told them I am only in my 30s. They promised me that they will request the school board to give me something to do around the school. Maybe an aide to give me something to do.

I decided to rededicate my life to God. I promised Him that I will give Him my all. I told my loved ones that I am going back to St. Thomas to continue where I left off. They were nervous, but with God's leading, I returned and worked there for nine years. God also helped me to continue my education. With His help, I completed a Masters in Education and a Masters in Library Science. To God be the glory! Medical Science said a Vegetable, ***but God said, "No."***

Medical Science Said a Vegetable: God Said, “No”

by Marion Joseph



In 1972 while living in Montreal Canada and working in the public-school system, I received a call from South Caribbean Conference asking if I would consider going to St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Island to assist in the church school there. Because years before I had promised the Lord, if He would see me through getting an education, I would go wherever He needed me in His work. God kept His part of the bargain, and so I had to keep my part. In September of 1972, I landed on the island of St. Thomas. I enjoyed my work. I began falling in love with the students and the parents.

Then it happened. By December, I started having pains throughout my digestive tract. I could not keep down anything. I was hospitalized. Several tests were taken, but nothing helped. One day Dr. Meath, the doctor on my case, came to my room. He looked at me and said, “You are a mystery, every x ray picture just shows black. We cannot read anything, but mysteries are here to be solved, and I am going to solve it.” I requested his permission to go home to my mom in Monserrat, the island I am from. He said, “go, but be back by January, for I have scheduled you for surgery, January 15, 1973.”

I went home to my mom, but I got worse. By then, I was very weak. I had to be hospitalized. The doctor there asked my permission to perform surgery. I complied. At the end of the surgery, he explained that he could do nothing, but stitch me back up.

My sister, Viola, who still lived in Canada came to Monserrat to take me back to Canada for medical attention. The doctor refused to let me out of the hospital. He explained that it was against the medical profession to allow a patient as sick as I was to leave the hospital unless that patient was going to another hospital. My sister then contacted one Dr. Mark Boyd back in Montreal. He spoke to the doctor in Monserrat, letting me know that he works in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and he will take care of me. At this time, I was still having pains and vomiting, even though there was nothing to come up, coupled with that I was drifting in and out of consciousness.

When it was time for me to board Air Canada bound for Montreal, a stewardess standing at the entrance to the plane looked down on me lying on the stretcher and then at the two men carrying me and asked demandingly, “what is this we have here?” At that moment, Viola burst into tears and looking at the stewardess replied, “she is not this. She is my sister,” and I was told I had to pay for three seats so she could lie comfortably.

Just then a young lady dressed in a nurse’s uniform told the stewardess, the hospital in Montreal requested that a nurse be on the plane to attend to her during the flight. Meanwhile, a lot of prayers were going up for a successful flight.

On arriving at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I was subjected to several tests. After reading the results, Dr. Boyd asked my sister how did she get so sick? She answered with tears, “I do not know. One test showed that someone who donated blood to me back in the Caribbean gave me sickle cell.”

Mrs. Danielle Byrd

First Lady of Oakwood University Church



Danielle Mounter Byrd was born in Hartford, CT. When she was five years old, her parents, Pastor M.A. Bob and Carolyn Mounter, felt the call to Pastoral Ministry and moved to Huntsville, AL to attend Oakwood College. Her father later became the first Assistant Pastor of the then Oakwood College Church. Danielle was baptized at the Oakwood College Church, and has always considered the Oakwood College Church to be her home church.

As a Pastor’s kid, Danielle lived in multiple cities in the South Central Conference including Huntsville, AL; Montgomery, AL; and Knoxville, TN. When she went to Oakwood College as a student, she was so happy that her moving days would soon be over. Danielle came to Oakwood College with two goals: to complete a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and not date any Theology majors as she was hopeful that her days of moving about would soon come to an

end. While she completed her Biology degree at Oakwood, she also met the love of her life, Carlton Byrd, a Theology major. So although Danielle had hoped that her days of moving would be over, they were just beginning.

On December 21, 1997, Danielle married her college sweetheart, Carlton Byrd, at the Oakwood College Church and their journey began. As a Pastor’s wife, Danielle has supported her husband’s ministry as they have served together in numerous places including Tuscaloosa, AL; Nashville, TN; Houston, TX; Atlanta, GA; and Huntsville, AL.

Danielle is the proud mother of Christyn, Caileigh and Carissa, and she enjoys spending time with her husband and children, listening to music, and traveling. Danielle currently serves as the Field Services Director for Breath of Life Television Ministries. Her favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

Danielle wants to live a life pleasing to God so that she can unite with Jesus and be reunited with her firstborn daughter, Caitlyn, at Christ’s Second Coming.

Mrs. Carol Jones

First Lady of South Central Conference of SDA

Carol Vanderhorst Jones was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and is the eldest of four children. She has one sister and two brothers. She attended North High School in Youngstown and graduated from Columbia Union College, now known as Washington Adventist University, which is in Takoma Park, Maryland.

She has been married to President Benjamin Jones, Jr. for 51 years and they have been in ministry for 49 years. They have two adult children, Anetra Anderson and Paul Jones, and eight grandchildren.

Her favorite text is Job 23:10, “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” One of her goals is to be like Jesus and meet Him in Heaven.



Mrs. LaKeisha Williams, Ph.D

LaKeisha is the wife of Dr. Toussaint Williams, one of the associate pastors at OUC. Together, they have two sons - Eleazar (15) and Uriah (11). LaKeisha has worked as an educator for a number of years. Her professional interests include special education and nonprofit leadership. This summer, LaKeisha completed a doctorate in Organizational Leadership with a focus in Human Resource Development.

LaKeisha also has a number of personal interests. She loves to sing, and write original songs and raps. She also loves to tell stories and has identified unique ways to continue to share her gifts even during the pandemic. Most recently, LaKeisha and her family have developed a number of hobbies including playing card games, singing songs together, video-chatting with their long-distance family, baking random dessert treats and going on long walks with their dog, Rocky.

LaKeisha's favorite scripture is **Proverbs 30:8, Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.** She believes that peace in life is found in trusting God one day at a time. It's easier said than done, but she works toward this goal everyday.



Mrs. Rhonda Raphael



Rhonda Raphael, formerly Jones was almost born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Her mother, the church pianist, accompanied the choir, on their annual choir festivals to Las Vegas, and to everyone's surprise another member was added to the choir. Rhonda has had a deep passion for gospel music since day one. As well as her love for gospel music, she enjoys sewing, crocheting, needlepoint, decorating her home, and baking and cooking for the holidays. She also enjoys working with her husband on Oaktown projects, as costume and set designer and makeup artist.

She counts her family as one of her greatest blessings. She has been married to Pastor Marc Raphael for the past 30 years. They have 7 adult children and 9 grandchildren. She truly adores her family. The other great blessing is her relationship with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! She enjoys studying the word of God daily. Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 139:1-18. She and her husband accepted a call to come and minister at the Oakwood University Church in January 2019. This is the first call they accepted outside of California. She feels blessed to be able to serve with the Oakwood University Church Pastor's wives. These beautiful ladies have made the transition to Huntsville much easier. I thank God for their friendship, as well as the warm welcome from the church at large.

Celebrating the Holidays



Christmas is celebrated to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. December 25, 2020

Kwanzaa is a Swahili word that **means** "first" and signifies the first fruits of the harvest. From December 26 to January 1



The Hebrew word **Hanukkah** means rededication. The hanukiah (or **Hanukkah** menorah) is a candle holder, an important **Hanukkah** symbol December 10—18, 2020



Robert D. Wright, a native of Indianola, Mississippi, moved to Huntsville, Alabama in 1968. Upon graduating from Council Training High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He retired from the Air Force in 1995 at the rank of Master Sergeant after serving 21 years. He retired again in 2015 after working 17 years as Assistant Building Superintendent, maintenance department of the Madison County Courthouse.

As a retiree, Robert volunteers most of his time helping seniors within the community. He drives them to their appointments and shopping, and performs yard work and gardening.

He and his wife Christina are members of the Oakwood University SDA Church where Robert served as an usher for 12 years--10 years as head usher. He was President and a member of the Oakwood University Church Bowling League from 2016-2019. He serves on the Board of the Advent Thrift store, an entity of Christian Brotherhood Enterprise, Inc. He is a member of the Huntsville Association of Retired Adventists Workers (HARAW) organization and served as President of HARAW from 2017-2019. Robert's favorite text since childhood is Psalms 91:11, "For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

Happy Thanksgiving!



Mrs. Ellengold Goodridge



Ellengold Goodridge is the only girl among seven brothers. Growing up in Brooklyn, NY, Ellen (as she is known to her friends) has always had a passion for the church and education. She has served as a Sabbath School teacher, Sabbath School Superintendent, and Adventist Youth Leader. Her passion for education manifested itself in her calling as a teacher and later her serving adult learners. She currently serves as the Director of the Adult & Continuing Education Department which manages the Leadership Education for Adult Professionals (LEAP) program at Oakwood University.

She received a B.S. in Behavioral Science from Atlantic Union College, and an M.A.Ed./AET (Adult Education and Training) from the University of Phoenix.

Ellen has been married to Pastor Paul Goodridge for 20 years and together they have two children, Isaiah, a sophomore at Oakwood University, and Katherine, a sophomore at Pine Forge Academy.

Throughout her life, Ellen has served as a mentor, confidant, and coach to youth, young adults, and couples. Her hobbies and interests include traveling, cooking, reading, playing volleyball, entertaining, hosting game nights, meeting new people, and spending time with her husband.

Her favorite Bible texts are Jeremiah 33:3 which says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not;" (KJV) as well as James 1:5 which reads, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (NIV)

Mrs. Angela Steward Wilson

Angela Wilson was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She is the youngest of three children. She attended Baltimore Adventist Academy, grades 1-11, graduating from Oakwood Adventist Academy in 1946.

After attending Oakwood College for two years, she returned to Baltimore and attended Morgan State University, graduating in 1951 with a major in Secondary Education, and minors in Math and Science.

Angela taught Math and Science at Northeastern Academy, 1951-1953. In 1963, she worked for the NYC Department of Public Assistance as a Case-worker. She taught in the Public School Systems in Michigan, Connecticut, and Maryland.

Angela was Principal and 8th grade teacher at the Anna Knight Elementary School, 1969-1972, in Huntsville, Alabama.

After the family moved to Riverside, CA, she taught at LaSierra Academy for 25 years. 1972-1975, she was an elementary and Junior High teacher.

Angela and her husband, Elder Lloyd Wilson, have four children, 2 Grands, and 3 Great-grands. She has helped to rear many others who call her "Grammy".



Mrs. Angie North



Angie C. Coddington-North hails from the beautiful island of Bermuda. She grew up in the parish of Devonshire, where she learned to fish and swim off the rocks in the clear blue Atlantic Sea. She attended Dellwood Primary School where she developed the love of art and singing. She matriculated to The Berkeley Institute, (Class of 1993) and later graduated from the Bermuda Institute of Seventh-Day Adventist (Class of 1994). Angie has been a baptized, active member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church since 1997. She joined, sang and directed in a few choirs and small groups. While in this pandemic, Angie's interests have included cooking, reading, and walking her mighty little dog, Nani. Angie finds joy daily, because she knows, His mercies are new every morning. She has fun with everything she

does.

Angie has worked in various educational settings as a Paraprofessional working with children Pre K - 3rd grade. Another interest of Angie's, includes American Sign Language (ASL) which she has an Associates Degree from Vincennes University, IN. Angie also holds an Associates Degree from Parkland College in General Studies. After recently settling in Alabama, she pursued and graduated from Oakwood University, Class of 2020, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in General Studies.

Pastor Jason C. North, who is presently the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Associate Pastor of the Oakwood University Church, met Angie while he served as the physical education teacher at the Bermuda Institute of Seventh-Day Adventist. This later led to their wonderful union as husband and wife. Shortly after their union, the couple moved to the United States to allow Pastor North to attend Andrews Seminary while Angie worked and tended to their children. In their marriage of 18 years, the couple have been blessed to raise 3 outstanding children, Dijae Stephen (son), Jadae Celeste (daughter), and last but not least Jason Conrad Jr (son). Angie and Jason have served as shepherds of many churches, including serving as the Youth Director of The Lake Region Conference. Angie has learned not only to serve God while serving others, but to love them because God loves her.

Angie's favorite scripture is Isaiah 40: 29-31 "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youth grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint." NIV



Lloyd H. Wilson Jr. was born in New Haven, CT, to Lloyd and Josephine Wilson. His paternal grandmother was instrumental in his conversion into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

PFC Lloyd H. Wilson was drafted into the Army during the Korean Conflict in 1953. He did his basic training at Camp Pickett, VA. Upon completion of basic training, he was awarded the "Best Medical Soldier" trophy. After basic training he functioned as an assistant in an Army Dental office and later as a chaplain's assistant, serving with Chaplain Joseph T. Powell. Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to his employment at Security Insurance in New Haven, CT. He also took on lay responsibilities at the Mount Zion S.D. A. Church, his home church.

After the birth of his second child, Lloyd felt the "call of God" to enter the gospel ministry. He and his wife, Angela Steward Wilson, moved to Huntsville in 1956 where he enrolled at Oakwood College, graduating in 1960. He graduated from Andrews University in 1962, with a M. Div. A fruitful ministry followed his graduation. He has served as a Youth Pastor, Pastor, and as Dean of Men at both Oakwood College and Loma Linda University (LLU). At Loma Linda University, he was the first African American male to serve at any of the North American Division Seventh-day Adventist colleges or universities, other than Oakwood, as a residence hall dean.

While working at LLU, Dean Wilson completed a second master's degree in counseling and guidance. Having worked 25 years as Dean of Men at the Loma Linda/La Sierra University Campus, Dean Wilson has the distinction of serving in this position, on one campus, longer than any other male dean at any Adventist college or university in the North American Division.

The Wilsons have four children--L. Duane (Tina), Cheryl (Kenneth) Jenkins, Jeffrey, and Lori Wilson. He is currently the Minister of Pastoral Care at Oakwood University Church.