

A Decade of **DISTINCTION**

HONORING THE MINISTRY OF DR. CARLTON P. BYRD



August 14 | 2021

Speaker

Dr. Carlton P. Byrd

Delivering his farewell message to OUC

Oakwood University Church

5500 Adventist Blvd, NW,
Huntsville, AL 35896

www.oucsda.org



WELCOME FROM THE OUC PASTORAL STAFF

On behalf of the OUC Pastoral Staff, church officers, and members, I want to welcome you to our services here at the Oakwood University Church. We are pleased that you have chosen to join us for worship today. Not only do we have our church members worshipping with us today, but we also welcome our college, high school, middle school, and elementary school students. Please consider Oakwood University Church your church home away from home. We look forward to you experiencing a successful semester academically, financially, socially, and spiritually. To aid in your spiritual journey, we are pleased to host a Fall Back to School Revival.

Our speaker for today is Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, who will present his farewell message capping his near decade tenure as Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church. During his leadership, the church has experienced spiritual, financial, and numeric growth. We have expanded our online reach to the world and have been a source of blessing to tens of thousands of people. Joining Dr. Byrd in ministering to our hearts is gospel music legend, Pastor Donnie McClurkin, and the world-famous Aeolians Choir of Oakwood University.

As our hearts wait on the Lord to water our thirsty souls, may you be richly blessed by this worship experience here with us. If there is anything we can do to make your time here more comfortable, please do not hesitate to let us know.

God bless,

Dr. Toussaint Williams
Interim Lead Pastor

A NOTE FROM THE BYRD FAMILY FAREWELL COMMITTEE

How do you plan a farewell service for someone who for the past decade has been the heart and soul of a congregation and a community? And then on top of that, how do you plan such a farewell service during a global pandemic? Such was the challenge this committee faced in saying goodbye and thank you to our pastor, Dr. Carlton P. Byrd. Social distancing would not allow the church to be filled and overflowing, such as we wanted. Time would not permit everyone to pour out their affection on him, such as they would want. And there is no way to fully recognize him for all that God has done through him for our church, such as we would desire. In the end, we made every effort to plan and execute a farewell that would not only reflect the excellence that Dr. Byrd exudes but would also allow him to see how much he and his family are loved and have meant to us.

As you say goodbye to Dr. Byrd, in your own way, and thank him for his tremendous contributions, it is our prayer that he will look back at his time at the Oakwood University Church as one of the stellar highlights of his ongoing illustrious career in ministry.

On a personal note, I want to thank you, "Buddy," for once again looking into the vast field of worthy candidates and recommending me to serve in your Oakwood University Church administration nearly twenty years after we first served in leadership together on the campus of Oakwood College.

Pastor Paul Goodridge
Chair, Byrd Family Farewell Committee



A SYNOPSIS OF THE MINISTRY OF DR. CARLTON P. BYRD AT THE OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH

*F*rom the moment Dr. Carlton P. Byrd was installed as the Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church (OUC) on January 14, 2012, he has been a man on a God-directed mission. His mandate from the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' president, Dana C. Edmond, was three-fold: grow the church, engage the Oakwood University students, and build a high school for Oakwood Adventist Academy.

With his marching orders intact, Dr. Byrd immediately began to fulfill that mission in earnest. That same year, Dr. Byrd conducted an evangelistic meeting in which over 150 persons were baptized. In fact, over Dr. Byrd's tenure at OUC, more than 800 persons have given their lives to Jesus Christ or renewed their vows to Him through baptism. Every year during Dr. Byrd's assignment, the church either led or was near the top of the list of churches with the highest number of baptisms for the year. *To God be the Glory!*

Dr. Byrd holds a Master's degree in Business Administration and a Doctor of Ministry degree. He has put that business and financial acumen to good use as he has been able to increase the tithe revenue of the church from \$2.6 million annually to approximately \$4 million annually, raise the combined budget revenues from \$900,000 annually to \$1.4 million annually, raise over \$2 million for capital construction and renovation projects for the church and the academy, liquidate the Oakwood University Church renovation mortgage, and outline a plan for the church to complete renovation and new ministry projects. Annually, the church led or was near the top of the list of churches with the highest tithe income for the year. *To God be the Glory!*

Never one to shrink from a challenge, Dr. Byrd sought to reach out to the students on Oakwood University's Campus to invite them to make Oakwood University Church their church home

away from home. To this end, he conducted annual Fall and Winter Back to School Revivals where special guests would inspire students through singing, the spoken word, and personal testimonies. Whenever these guests would come, Dr. Byrd saw to it that they interacted with the students, as long as schedules permitted. At times, he even gave recommendations for internships and jobs and provided networking opportunities. Dr. Byrd also sought to be inclusive in the worship service and created weekly opportunities for students to participate in the service. He ensured that the worship experience was engaging for youth and seniors alike and welcomed students and youth to participate in various ways. *To God be the Glory!*

Dr. Byrd is a product of and has a deep passion for Adventist Christian education. He fought tirelessly to make sure Oakwood Adventist Academy had what it needed not only to survive but to thrive. He championed the cause of teachers to make sure they were compensated fairly for their labor. He routinely saw to it that there were resources available to allow students to enroll in school. He kept the academy at the forefront of the hearts and minds of the congregation each week. *To God be the Glory!*

But most importantly, he saw to it that Oakwood Adventist Academy had state of the art facilities in

which to operate. He oversaw the renovation of the elementary school, which was completed in 2013. The following year, he constructed a 28,000-foot Multi-Educational Complex, used to house the middle school, complete with classrooms, kitchen, cafeteria, and a gymnasium with locker rooms and showers. Then in 2020, the ribbon was cut on a high school facility named after Charles and Etta Dudley. His love for Christian education also drove him to host "Fall Classic" weekends highlighting Seventh-day Adventist academies from across the United States. But his passion for Christian education did not stop at elementary, middle, or high school. Each semester, scores of university students would come to his office seeking assistance with financial clearance. After phone calls to Student Accounts or anonymous donors, these students would often be seen sitting in class or studying for final exams. *To God be the Glory!*

Dr. Byrd loves church: he loves organizing church, he loves being in church, and he loves the church building. He fervently believes that God's house should be reflective of the awe and majesty of God Himself. With that in mind, Dr. Byrd instituted a program named "Restoration 40" to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the original construction of the Oakwood Church building. The goal was to renovate the sanctuary and additional rooms in the church building. During his tenure, Dr. Byrd initiated the renovation of the restrooms, choir



▶ room, classrooms, foyer, kitchen, and conference room. In the sanctuary, he repainted walls, installed new carpet, pews, lighting, a video wall, HD Screens, and media equipment. To God be the Glory!

One of the tenets of Dr. Byrd's beliefs is that the church exists to save the soul and serve the community. Consequently, Dr. Byrd spearheaded the construction of the Oakwood University Church Family Life Center, complete with a gymnasium, health food market, barbershop, health services center, classrooms, restrooms with showers, kitchen, and outreach ministry storage space. This space has been consistently open to serve the community, and has served as a voter registration site, polling station, Covid-19 testing site, flu and Covid-19 vaccination site, food distribution center, clothing distributing center, drop-off site for water donations to send to Houston, Texas, and Jackson, Mississippi, town hall meeting site, and meeting space for businesses and organizations. The church doors have also consistently been open to the community, and the community has, in turn, shown its appreciation to the Oakwood University Church. To God be the Glory!

Along with serving the community, Dr. Byrd has proven to be a champion for social justice. He was always willing to speak truth to power, and, especially during the pandemic, he played a pivotal role in making calls for justice, equity, and accountability. Under Dr. Byrd's leadership,

Oakwood University Church invited leading figures in social justice and advocacy to attend church and honored them with numerous awards for their contributions to humanity. Dr. Byrd marched in the streets, lobbied in front of city officials, signed petitions, and used his voice to draw attention to the plight of "the lost, the last, the least, the unlucky, and the left out." That compelling voice made a difference in the lives of countless people who needed someone to speak for them. To God be the Glory!

When Dr. Byrd arrived at Oakwood, he was already serving as the Speaker/Director for Breath of Life Television Ministries. Under his leadership, he saw to it that Oakwood University Church would become the home of Breath of Life Television Ministries. As a result, Oakwood University Church hosted multiple national television specials on ABC and NBC television, including four Christmas Specials and two Easter Specials. This symbiotic relationship between Oakwood University Church and Breath of Life Television Ministries allowed Dr. Byrd to expose the church and its teachings to numerous media platforms, as well as political, entertainment, media, and sports personalities. Many of these same individuals regularly watch and enjoy the Oakwood University Church service and Breath of Life Television Ministries. To God be the Glory!

Dr. Byrd's visionary leadership was on full display as he sought to prepare the church to increase its online presence. Months before the crisis and challenge of



the global pandemic emerged, Dr. Byrd upgraded the church's technology equipment, expanded its media footprint, assembled a stellar media, music, and pastoral staff who were equipped to provide exemplary weekly worship experiences, such that each week during the height of the pandemic, over 10,000 people tuned into the virtual services live and up to 30,000 people watched rebroadcasts. This expanded reach enabled the Oakwood University Church to be viewed worldwide, and many viewers became "virtual members" as a result. To God be the Glory!

Dr. Byrd's impact on the church and organization has resulted in him receiving numerous awards and recognitions, including the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists "Pastor of the Year" award in 2012, 2018, and 2019;

"Pastor of the Year" for the Alabama NAACP – Huntsville/Madison County Branch in 2016; "North American Division Lifetime Achievement Award for Evangelism" in 2019, listed among Marquis' "Who's Who in America" in 2020; and an appointment to the United Negro College Fund's National Faith Initiative Advisory Council; to name a few. To God be the Glory!

On May 23, 2021, Dr. Byrd was elected President of the Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Dallas, Texas. With that election, his appointment as Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church would come to an end. As we celebrate the "Decade of Distinction" wherein he served, and we honor the ministry of Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, all we can say is, "To God be the Glory!"

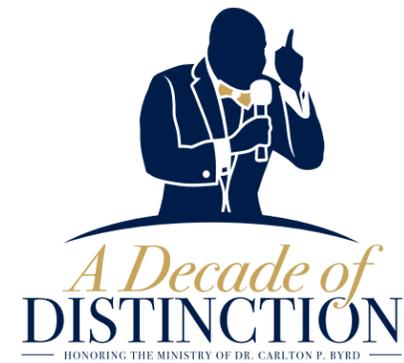




Special Musical Guest
Pastor Donnie McClurkin

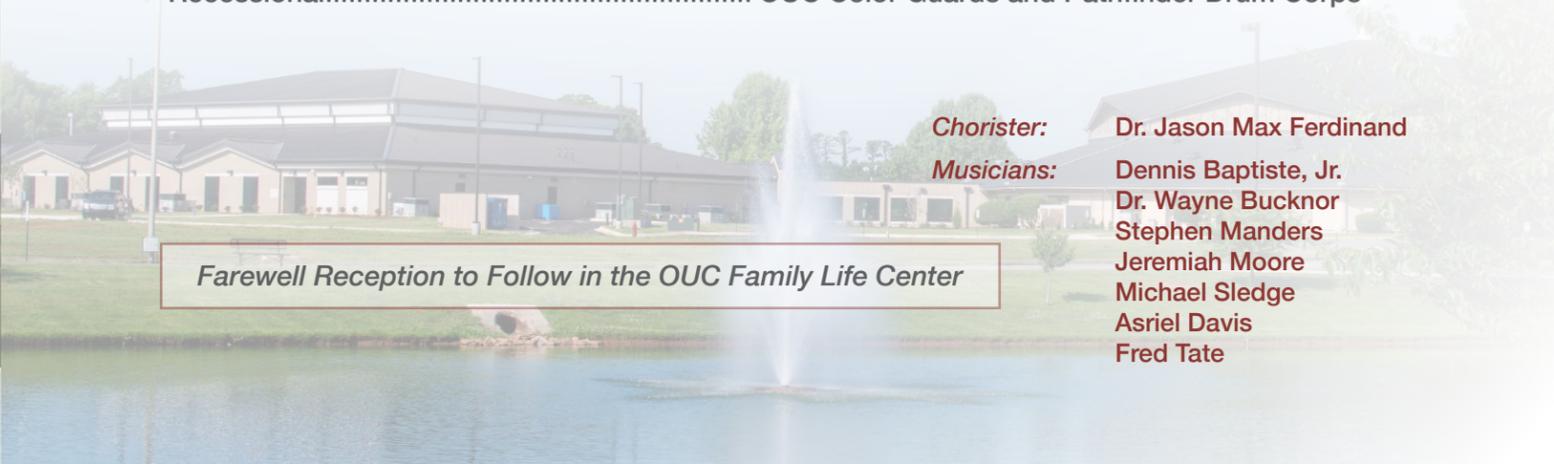
Donnie McClurkin is one of gospel music’s most beloved and sought-after singers. He has won 3 Grammys, 10 Stellar Awards, 2 BET Awards, 2 Soul Train Music Awards, and countless others. In 2019, he received the Founders Award for Lifetime Achievement at the NAACP Image Awards for his trailblazing and transformative music and ministry.

Along with his musical gift, he is the Founder and Senior Pastor of the Perfecting Faith Church (PFC) based in Freeport, New York.



SABBATH SERVICE - AUGUST 14, 2021 - 11:00 AM

Posting of Colors.....	OUC Color Guards and Pathfinder Drum Corps
Processional.....	Ministers & Officers
Opening Song.....	OUC Praise Team
Call to Worship.....	Pastor Paul Goodridge
Invocation.....	Pastor Lloyd Wilson
Welcome/Pastoral Remarks.....	Dr. Toussaint Williams
Music of Praise.....	Oakwood University Aeolians
Praise & Worship.....	OUC Praise Team
Hymn of Worship.....	Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand
Intercessory Prayer.....	Dr. Toussaint Williams
Offertory.....	Elder Malcolm G. Taylor, III
Music of Thanksgiving.....	Oakwood University Aeolians & Orchestra
Special Recognition.....	OUC Pastoral Staff and Special Guests
Music of Meditation.....	Donnie McClurkin
Worship in the Spoken Word.....	Dr. Carlton P. Byrd
Benediction.....	Pastor Marc Raphael
Recessional.....	OUC Color Guards and Pathfinder Drum Corps



Farewell Reception to Follow in the OUC Family Life Center

- Chorister:** Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand
- Musicians:** Dennis Baptiste, Jr.
Dr. Wayne Bucknor
Stephen Manders
Jeremiah Moore
Michael Sledge
Asriel Davis
Fred Tate





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Special Thanks to the Byrd Family Farewell Committee:

Pastor Paul Goodridge - Chair
Pastor Marc Raphael
Dr. Toussaint Williams
Pastor Lloyd Wilson
Joe Booth
Kab Gabriel
Marilyn Lang
Tricia McDonald
David Smith
Elder Malcolm G. Taylor, III
Shelley Vaughn
Tiffany Williams

*We also thank the officers and members of the Oakwood University Church
for making this day so memorable.*

