

Oakwood University's Library is "Refreshed"

by Heather Rodriguez-James
Director, Eva B. Dykes Library



Under the directorship of Dr. Jannith Lewis, the Eva B. Dykes Library was dedicated on April 22nd in 1973. It was a beautiful, three-story structure, with reading and typing rooms and study carrels, that quickly became the center of study and research at the College. It was just what the Oakwood community needed at the time. Of course, that was almost 20 years to the day before the World-Wide Web (Internet) went public (April 30, 1993); 19 years before smartphones were invented, and 8 years before the first personal computer was released by [IBM \(Campbell-Kelly & Garcia-Swartz, 2015\)](#). When Paulette Johnson took the reins from Dr. Lewis in 2003, she realized that changes would have to be made to bring the library into the 21st century. For instance, there was need for



infrastructural changes to allow users to plug in their devices while studying, researching or collaborating. Mrs. Johnson's vision was noted in the library's strategic plan, and in discussions with administration and library staff. In 2019, as the library was going through a change of guard, the university administration gave the green light to the library to move forward with its plans through the allocation of Title III funds. Dr. Ruth Swan, the library's Interim Director, worked closely with Dr. Colwick Wilson, the Provost; Dr. Handel Fraser, the University's Director of Special Projects; and Mr. Ade Adewoye of Brooks

Architecture to, according to Dr. Fraser,

- Remediate or remove mold in the lower level.
- Replace the elevator shaft.
- Replace fluorescent lights with LED lighting on the main and mezzanine floors.
- Replace ceiling tiles with special acoustics and design.
- Repaint the entire main and mezzanine levels to brighten the library.
- Replace carpet on the main floor and on the mezzanine level.
- Add electrical outlets for users to plug in their devices.
- Install new furniture designed to create a learning and collaborative space for students, and
- Install new pavers at the front of the library with special plumbing below the pavers.

In addition, the open stacks shelves were relocated from the main floor to the mezzanine, and the reference and children's collections were relocated to the northeast side of the main floor in order to create the large open spaces for collaboration and innovation. The library staff is to be thanked for their faithfulness in assisting with the work despite the pandemic and safer at home orders. All these changes helped bring the university's library into the 21st century, and on April 6th of this year, during National Library Week, the Eva B. Dykes Library celebrated its refresh with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The students love the new look of the library and say the clean, open spaces and ambience are conducive for studying and collaboration. They are looking forward to returning next fall in hopes that the pandemic is well under control and pandemic guidelines are relaxed enough to fully enjoy the library's collaborative furnishings and study rooms. (Rodriguez-James, 2021)

Users have different seating options. The center table has outlets for recharging devices. It's a great area for bouncing ideas off one another.



Senior Express

Oakwood University Church

Summer Issue
2021

From the Editor:

Dr. Jessie Godley Bradley



On the first Sunday after Labor Day, we celebrate **National Grandparents Day**.

Day. This year the date falls on September 12, 2021.

Grandparents and children have a special connection. Grandparents Day is an opportunity to treasure that connection. In this issue, we shine a spotlight on Elder Katherine Davis, Pastor and Mrs. Fred Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dailey, Mrs. Ethel Mae Hooks Pugh, and Elder Jimmie Brown, for Father's Day.

We feel loved and important when gifts come our way. It can make our day, especially if the gift is unexpected, but the gift of life is the most important gift.

Congratulations to our Centenarian, Dr. Ernest Eugene Rogers, Sr., who celebrated his 105th birthday on June 17, 2021. Congratulations to those of you who celebrated, or will celebrate birthdays, and anniversaries during the months of June, July, and August. Count your blessings. We rejoice with you.

We share condolences and prayers with families and friends who lost loved ones recently, namely Centenarian, Mrs. Naomi Shelton Clark, and Nonagenarians

Mrs. Barbara Hamilton, Mr. James Lathon, and Ms. Elois Laurence.

You are the only person who is responsible for your body. Eat healthy and remain fit. Smiling and laughing are healthy for your body and your brain. They promote good mental health. There's no reason for you to not smile and have a good laugh at least every day.

So the next time you feel sad or blue, force yourself to smile.

Fake it until you make it.

Acknowledgements:

Congratulations to Dr. Carlton P. Byrd for your outstanding and faithful leadership to the Oakwood SDA Church and Community. We pray that God's blessings will continue as you and your family move to a new territory. Yes, we will miss you, but our prayers of support will continue.

Congratulations to Dr. Toussaint Williams, our Lead Pastor presently. We appreciate you and thank you for accepting this new leadership role. To Pastor Goodridge, North, Raphael, and Wilson, we say "thank you" for your service and continued commitment to excellence here at the Oakwood Church and in the community.

To all our grandparents, we say congratulations to you. May your days be filled with joy and happiness as you rejoice with your grandchildren.

Congratulations to Sis. Tricia McDonald, Bro. Harold Jacobs, and members of the Church Treasury Department for your good work. The Audit report received this year is the highest available rating! We say "thank you".

Thank you grandparents for your participation in this issue of the Senior Express representing the many wonderful grandparents in our church and community.

Did you know? Oakwood University and Huntsville Hospital celebrated the Grand Opening of the Community Health Action Center (CHAC) June 21, 2021, located at 1863 Sparkman Dr., NW, Huntsville, AL 35810

We live in an age where fraud and scams are a very normal part of our everyday lives. Scammers' favorite group is Senior Citizens.

Be watchful!

When we lift each other up, we all rise!

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



Tributes

A Life Worth Emulating
Father's Day
Grandparents
pp 2—6

Mothers in Prayer
Be Kind to Each Other
Chaplain's Gem

pp 7—9

Meet Adria Ware
Robert Shurney
Legacy Center
pp 10—11



A Life Worth Emulating

Ethel Mae Hooks Pugh, RN, Retired (1989)

She walks in beauty, like the night
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;....
And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent

Birth: On August 12, 1926, in Northwest Louisiana, practically a century ago, Ethel Mae Hooks was born the eighth of nine children to Sandy (the first Black postman in the Blanchard, Louisiana area) and Georgia Suttle Hooks (a midwife in the Shreveport, Louisiana area who died in 1929.)

A Connection with God: At the age of 9, she was responsible for preparing the afternoon meal for her family and all of the farmworkers (on a woodburning stove). One day the kitchen roof caught fire. Being so young, she had forgotten to turn the damper down. All alone, she was able to pick up a heavy ladder, lay it against the house, and carry buckets of the water she had heating on the stove to wash dishes up the ladder and pour them onto the burning roof. After making several trips up and down the ladder, she put the fire out, swept up the burned pieces that had fallen onto the floor, and put them into the trash. She finished preparing the meal and had it prepared on time. All of the adults were amazed that a young child had been able to put the fire out. Her answer to the question "Who put out the fire?" that day was "I did." Today, she says she knows it was an angel. Also, before the age of 10, she dreamed about people and events that came to pass. She never told anyone about her dreams, but she already knew the answers when she heard her elders talking about various things and questioning certain events. It became her confirmation that God was talking to her.

She spends her Christian life with a "forever prayer list." She is a mighty prayer warrior, interceding for needs around the world. Some answers to prayer have been miraculous. Her youngest daughter ate poisonous castor beans as a toddler—and was dying before her eyes. She lay that child upon the bed, reminded the Lord of His promise for healing, and that child is still living. She is

now a retired Critical Care nurse. One comatose patient, she had been praying aloud for as she cared for him for months, unexpectedly woke up, and recognizing her voice, called her by name.

An exemplary wife: She is the widow of John Pugh, a 30-year Air Force serviceman, WWII, the Korean War era, and Vietnam War veteran for over 70 years. He died in November 2019, two months before Veterans Day and two months before his 101st birthday.

A gifted homemaker—never "just a housewife:" she is the mother of six children--three daughters and three sons: Johnnye (Huntsville, AL), Ronald (deceased 2001), Alethea (Huntsville, AL formerly Jefferson, OR), Leon-tene (Huntsville, AL), Paul (Olympia, WA), and Mark (Shreveport, Louisiana). These children produced 14 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Although busy with her own children, Ethel readily accepted the request to provide a home for three very young siblings, one of whom began to call her "Mommy" even after his birth mother had returned home. Over the years, many adults (young and old—including her sons- and daughters-in-law) have sought and continue to seek her Godly motherly counsel and comfort. Those, along with her birth children, "rise up and call her blessed."

While she taught her children the 'normal' life skills of cooking, sewing, ironing, and cleaning, basing them all on the primary duty of loving and serving the Lord, she emphasized the importance of gaining advanced formal education. All of her children learned to type, and all completed college or trade school.

Education: In 1977, at the tender age of 51, she accomplished her high school ambition to become a nurse. She was selected Nurse of the Year at Oregon Technical Institute, Klamath Falls, Oregon. As an example to young and old, she lived what she taught: "It is never too late to achieve a dream."

A significant accomplishment: Charge nurse, Oncology. "God made me a nurse to grow in Him." "Nursing became my mission field." "I saw God work." When a patient asked her: "Are you a Christian?" She answered: "Yes." "Then, lead us in prayer!" came his terse response.



The Robert Shurney Legacy Center by Evaline Otieno *Circulation Manager, Oakwood University*



The official ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony of The Robert Shurney Legacy Center and the North Huntsville Public Library took place on April 7, 2021. Among those in attendance included Mayor Tommy Battle, Councilman Devyn Keith, the family of Dr. Robert Shurney, and Pastor Carlton Byrd among many other guests.

The facility is built on the site of the former Berachah Academy and the outdated Bessie K. Russell Library branch along Sparkman Drive. A gorgeous park and playground are also part of the 11 acre facility. All of the on-campus facilities are part of the Dr. Robert Shurney Legacy Center, named after Robert Ellerton Shurney, Ph.D., NASA aerospace engineer, in recognition of his valuable contributions to both the U.S. Space Program and the African American community.

Dr. Shurney's early entry into the space program qualified him for service as an Equal Opportunity Counselor for Marshall Space Flight Center employees. He never traveled into outer space though he spent more than 500 hours in a weightless environment. Not only did he help invent devices used by nearly every American and international astronaut in their space flights, but he also helped design the tires that were used on the Falcon, the Lunar Roving Vehicle used during the United States missions to the moon.

Dr. Shurney was an active member of the Oakwood community, serving as a deacon in the Oakwood College Adventist Church,

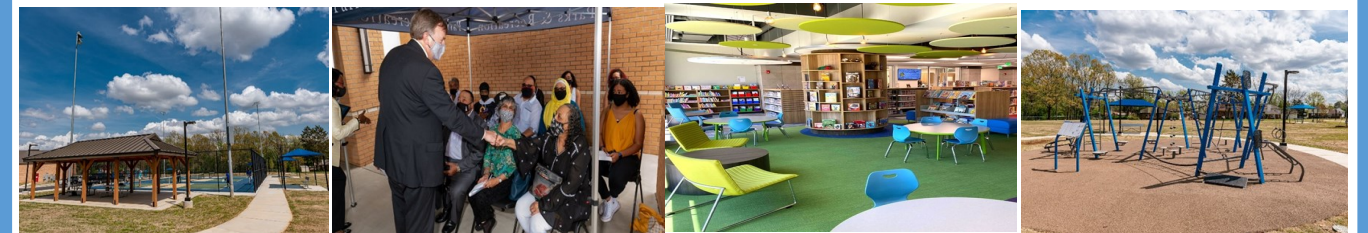
president of the Oakwood College Credit Union; and treasurer of the J. L. Moran Alumni Chapter of the Shurney Legacy Center.

Oakwood College Alumni Association. He and his wife, Susie, also helped establish the Huntsville Adventist Community Services Center.

The North Huntsville Public Library will serve as a community hub. The library contains many facilities including a public lounge, a reading room with fireplace, a laptop kiosk, a teen room, two meeting rooms, multiple study areas and a children's program space. It also has a workforce development lab, a makerspace with a 3D printer and an automated sorting machine.

Community members can enjoy the pickle ball courts, walk along beautiful paved walking trails around the field, exercise on some of the equipment provided on the grounds, and picnic in one of the pavilions while children play. The on-site gymnasium has also received a facelift and is ready for basketball, volleyball and indoor walking.

The \$11 million project was funded by the City of Huntsville and donations from private and government partners. This is a great addition to the Huntsville area. ***Be sure to check it out.***



Adria Kizer Ware

Adria Kizer Ware was born and raised in East Saint Louis, Illinois, and is the third of seven children. Her exposure to Adventism began at the age of 3, which afforded her the opportunity to receive a Christian education at Ramah Elementary (East Saint Louis, Illinois) and Hillcrest (Saint Louis, Missouri). After graduating high school, she elected to continue her education at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), where she studied commercial art. She also received additional training from Mississippi State University.



Adria is the mother of two beautiful daughters, both of whom were homeschooled. Crystal, the eldest, is a senior biology major with honors at Oakwood University, and Annah graduated high school a year early and is now pursuing an acting career through the Divine Legacy Conservatory.

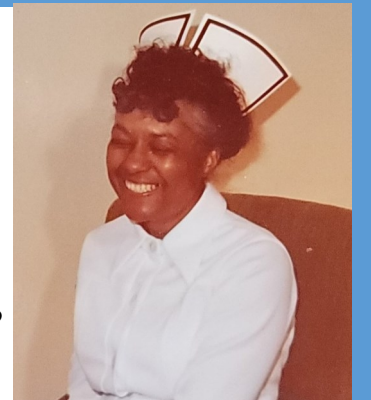
Adria has always been passionate about youth ministries and has been active in a number of endeavors, one of the most noteworthy being the Pathfinder club. A Master Guide and former Pathfinder director, Adria has found innovative ways to teach young people survival skills, healthy habits, and most importantly, how to cultivate a relationship with Christ.

Adria is a freelance artist and photographer and has been commissioned to create artwork for the history feature in the Southern Tidings magazine for 2021. Although Adria's specialty is drawings in graphite and/or color pencil, she also dabbles in mixed media, acrylic painting, wood-burning, keychain-making, sewing, and more. She enjoys nature and portrait photography as well.

Adria's greatest desire is to see her family, loved ones, and those with whom she comes in contact in the Kingdom of God, blessed to live eternally with the greatest creator of all.



And she did. When another patient was experiencing a difficult day and angry, Ethel calmly suggested that he pray. When he retorted, "I don't know how to pray," she quietly said, "Then repeat after me..." And he did. She knew he was connecting to the prayer when she spoke the words "forgive my sins," the patient interjected, "which were MANY!" She says, "It was my joy to introduce my patients and coworkers to Christ. When they asked how I got the vein every time on the first stick: I simply said, "I pray." Years later, a coworker who had moved to another state called her to let her know she had the same experience. Prayer makes the difference!



"In all my training or nursing years, I never failed to attend church, teach Sabbath School, do Bible studies. God's work never lacked because I was a nurse." She served in communities at home and abroad (as a VBS leader, in various church offices, medical capacities—health education, etc.) She was Sabbath School Superintendent in many churches, Sabbath School teacher from Cradle Roll to Earliteen as long as she had a child in the lower divisions. A continuing supporter of the evangelistic outreach of Adventist Christian education: She has provided student scholarships, funded school repairs and maintenance, and donated academic supplies around the country. She actively supports Adventist outreach ministries, including NAPS and 3ABN.

Though it appears "She always put others before herself," her attention to the details of balanced self-care manifested in how meticulously she cared for herself AND her six young children--carrying herself with the charm and dignity representative of a woman of God. She lives the lives of Dorcas, Martha, and Job; she seeks out the cause of the poor. She faithfully heeds the Biblical counsel that the older women are to teach the younger. (Titus 2:4,5)

Favorite Texts:

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

1 Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

3 John 1:4: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Authors: Alethea Skinner and Johnnye Yates

Photographer: Adria Ware (headshot)

Graduation Photos: from the family collection

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4, 2021

Independence Day

July 17, 2021

Oakwood University Church (Soft Opening) Must register at oucsda.org—Seating is limited

August 9, 2021

Oakwood Adventist Academy opens

August 9, 2021

Oakwood University opens

August 14, 2021

Dr. Carlton P Byrd's Farewell

September 6, 2021

Labor Day

September 12, 2021

National Grandparent's Day



Our Dad and Poppy A Father's Day Tribute *Jimmie Lee Brown, Sr.*

Dad, you have been such a positive influence in my life. You have also been my hero – the person I look up to and the person I try to emulate. You taught me to be a man, to work hard, to be honest, to treat others with respect, to provide for family, and most of all, to love the Lord. Thank you for being such an amazing dad. I love you.

~ **Jimmie Brown, Jr., son**

Dad, Thank you for your love, guidance, and care. You continue to pour into us, always checking in and asking what we need. You are an absolutely wonderful example of a father. We love you very much, and we strive to love our children the way you love us.

~ **Nelson & Suzie Brown, son & daughter-in law**

I know what it's like to have a good father. My father has always been in the home to take care of our family. He's a father who doesn't let worldly views influence his leadership, and he's a father who modeled what to look for in a good husband. I also know what it's like to see a father lean on God with all his might – I believe a man is the strongest when he kneels before his heavenly Father for daily guidance. That's what I saw every day during my growing-up years, and today my father still has that dependency on God. That's what makes Jimmie Lee Brown a good father. I love you so much, "Da"! ~ **Loretta Smith, daughter**

The day I met my father-in-law was the same day I asked him for his daughter's hand in marriage. That was over 26 years ago. Since then, I've come to know him as a God-fearing man, a loving husband and father, and a very hands-on grandfather. Mr. Brown did not know it, but from the beginning, I studied him. When a young man is fortunate to have such a father-in-law, good sense says to study him, question him, and most of all worship with him. I learned how to worship under the leadership of my father-in-law. As a result, I've become a much better man. Thank you, Dad. Because of you, my heart belongs to Christ today. I love you. ~ **Raymond Smith, son-in-law**

In the whole wide world, it was just meant to be. The nicest Poppy in the world was chosen just for me. The older I get the more grateful I am for my grandfather. He always pushes his grandchildren to put our best foot forward, put God first, and take care of each other. I enjoy watching him in the kitchen. That is where the magic is made! A lot of you may not know this, but when Poppy retired, it was because he had to start a new career as a professional spoiler. When our parents say no, we just tell Poppy. He always gets them straight.

Poppy, thank you for all the life advice, the stories that never get old, and the amazing memories made over a lifetime. I love you, ~ **Myla Brown, granddaughter**

When I attended Oakwood, my grandparents always let me invite my friends over for Sabbath dinner. They welcomed my friends with open arms. My granddad had a special way of bringing laughter – making them feel right at home. My friends still remember those days. They often tell me that they looked at my grandparents' house as their home away from home. I'm grateful that my granddad's humorous personality extended not only to me, but also to other college students. ~ **Anthony Smith, grandson**

There are many great things about Poppy that I can say. First, he's a great chef. Poppy can cook just about anything! Second, Poppy is a great yardman. He has a way of making any yard look like the best yard in the neighborhood! Last, Poppy is a great dresser. He gets very dapper when it comes to his suits! There are many things to say about such a multi-talented guy, but these are just a few that make Poppy such a great man. ~ **Nelson Brown, Jr. grandson**

Poppy, God saw fit to bless the world with your presence. Getting to know you over my life has been an absolute pleasure. You are one of the most caring, giving, and compassionate people that I have ever met. You are just so selfless, and I strive to be like that myself. I think so highly of you. That's why I value our relationship so much. I'm eternally grateful for you, and I thank God for you being in my life. Love you Poppy! ~ **Kobe Brown, grandson**

Continue on page 8



I love gardens – clean, tidy, pretty gardens with rows of green, lush, healthy plants. But, I'm really not fond of gardening. In fact, I can think of a hundred things I'd rather do than go out and pull weeds. The ideal garden would be one in which I could go out, prepare the soil, plant the

seeds, and then just sit back in an easy chair and watch everything grow. However, if I were to do that, I'd see everything –both good plants and bad grow. That's just the way it is with gardens. And so, if I really want a nice garden, whether I like to or not, I have to be ready and willing to work in it. I did that with no fuss when I lived in California. In addition, my firstborn son loved to garden and he was really good at it and was my right-hand helper. We had a really tidy, productive vegetable garden and beautiful flower gardens all around the pool in our backyard.

It didn't matter though, how hard he or I worked, and no matter how well the soil was prepared, and no matter how good the seeds were and how carefully they were planted, weeds still managed to get in and grow. A good gardener has to be constantly on the lookout so that the weeds will not crowd out the good plants and rob them of nutrients. The best garden is not a garden in which weeds cannot grow. Actually, it is one from which they are weeded out.

In the same way a good heart is not a heart without sin. Sin can grow in a good heart just as easily as weeds can grow in a good garden, but a well-tended, nourished heart is one that belongs to a person who believes in God and puts into practice what the Bible says, which includes weeding out the bad plants of sin. (selfishness, prejudice, adultery, fornication, envy, and others). **“To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin”.**

The story is told of a man who decided he was going to have the best garden in his neighborhood. He prepared the ground, went to the best garden shop, bought the best fertilizers, the best pesticides, the most expensive tools, and numerous packages of seeds. He took everything home and put it in his garden shed. His wife asked, “When are you going to start your garden?” The man shrugged. “Oh, maybe next week.” The next week came and went. The weeds began to grow taller and taller. The garden tools remained in the shed. All the man's good intentions and all his good equipment didn't do his garden any good because he didn't use them.

Just wanting to be a good Christian is not enough. Just having a good heart is not enough. We must use the tools available to us: **1) Bible study** (read and find out how Jesus interacted with people and follow His example) and **2) Prayer** which

“Opens the Door”

So petition Heaven with your request, the Lord will answer with what is best.

It may not be the answer we'd choose, but God knows the future; how can we lose?

The prayer of faith will surely be heard. We can always depend on God's word.

All of our fears and all of our cares rising to Heaven in faithful prayers,

Will touch the heart of the One above who will shower down many blessings of love.

So out with the weeds in the garden of your heart -- give them to God, prayer opens the door.

BE KIND TO EACH OTHER

by Chlora Jones



First and foremost let us remember as Christians, what the Bible tells us in John 15:12, “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” We must have love in our hearts for one another in order to be kind to each other.

Being kind to others should give you a good feeling. When we feel good about ourselves it makes it easy for us to want to pass our kindness on to others. I will share a few ways we can be kind to each another.

1. If you see a person struggling with groceries you can offer to assist. A parent may be shopping with a child. The child may be unhappy and just a smile and a kind word to this child may help to alleviate his or her stress and this in turn will give the parent some relief.
2. Send a card, make a call or send flowers to someone who may be sick and shut in. We can send greetings to the troops who are risking their lives serving our Country.
3. We can assist in yard work, especially for senior citizens or handicapped people.
4. Be kind to your siblings and family members when they are in distress or facing a major problem. Offer whatever assistance you can to help relieve them of their stress. In situations with family members, it is not necessary to know all the details, however, that should not keep us from doing our part.
5. You can go shopping for someone who is handicapped, ill or just stressed out.
6. You may assist a person who needs to pay a bill or write a letter and they need help in writing.

I was in line at an Ice Cream shop and the lady behind me dropped an item on the ground. Noticing she had a problem with other items in her hands, I picked up the item for her. She received her order before me and when I got ready to pay for my order the lady had paid for mine. Kindness pays.

Continued from page 4— Our Dad & Poppy

When I was younger, I often spent the summers in Alabama with my grandparents. During those months, I learned great lessons. One lesson was about consistency. Poppy used yard work to teach me that good things happen when I give it my full attention. We worked in his yard almost every day – digging through clay, trimming hedges, mowing grass, and going to The Home Depot for supplies. (That’s probably why my first fulltime job was at The Home Depot.) Our hard work always paid off, though. People always said Poppy had one of the best yards in the subdivision. Although I wasn’t fond of working in the yard back then, I learned life lessons that I’ll take with me forever and that I’ll pass on when I have kids. Poppy, I’m forever thankful for the lessons you taught me during those summers.

~ **Andrew Smith, grandson**

Poppy, you’re appreciated and loved. You’re a wonderful grandfather. You’ve always made me feel loved, asking me questions like, “Boy, do you need anything? Clothes? Food? A girlfriend?” Even though I always have everything I need, you always ask to make sure. Thank you for always thinking about me and showing your love.

~ **Branden Brown, grandson**

Celebrating our Grandparents

Joseph and Edna Dailey—We met in June, 1965 and were married April 29, 1966. We have four children, three daughters and one son, and a deceased son that passed away on August 1971. Adventist neighbors of ours that we did not know, were informed of our son’s death. The couple came to visit us with condolences for our son. We were given Bible studies by the couple for six months.

We joined the SDA church December of 1971. We were baptized March of 1972. This was followed by the hiring of both of us at Oakwood College.



We are both retired now after employment of forty years. Joseph has been retired for five years and Edna, six years. . We were also blessed to be five minutes away from our jobs.

We were blessed with another son December, 1975. In addition to our four children, we have ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Our children attended church school at Oakwood Academy.

Joseph Dailey was Assistant Food Service Director for thirty years and Supervisor for Custodial until retirement. Edna Dailey was cashier, department for salads and desserts, and assistant cook in the Food Service Department, moving to the telephone department as the first full time switchboard operator, later becoming the Director of Telecommunications until retirement.



Elder Fred and Birdie Williams have been married for 57 years and are the parents of three adult children, one deceased grandchild and seven living grandchildren, and one great-grandson. As a minister, Elder Williams has served as a Pastor and Youth Director in Lake Region Conference and Northern California Conference. Birdie has served as Conference office secretary in Lake Region Conference and teacher and Principal at Golden Gate Academy in Oakland, CA. After transitioning to Chaplaincy, Elder Williams served as Protestant Chaplain at the Oregon Penitentiary in Salem, OR. After seven years, he was invited to serve as Chaplain at the newly es-

tablished Adventist prison in Southern CA. Prior to retiring and moving to Huntsville in 2008, Elder Williams served six and a half years as Lead Chaplain at Hong Kong and Tsuen Wan Adventist Hospitals in Hong Kong, The People’s Republic of China.

Even as grandparents, they are actively engaged in service. Sharing God’s love with others has always been a part of their lives. It continues to be so today because there is no retirement from helping others. God blesses all of us that we may be a blessing to others. After retiring to Madison, Elder Williams began working with Chester Harris at the Community Service Center on Pulaski Road in Huntsville. He continues to volunteer under Pastor Reggie Johnson who pastors the Tree of Life Sabbath Worship Center. He picks up baked goods from Publix for distribution to the community on Mondays and Wednesdays. He presently volunteers with AARP as an instructor of the Safe Driving Class for Senior Citizens. Birdie enjoys water aerobics, ceramics and the balance class at Madison Senior Center. Her goal is to speak a word of cheer and bring a smile to everyone she talks with, especially senior citizens.

Just Grateful!

Katherine Davis was born in Akron, Ohio and relocated to California at an early age. She is the seventh of eight girls born to her Christian parents, Katie Mae and William Ezell Autrey (both natives of Georgia).

After graduating from Oakwood Academy, she returned to California and obtained a degree in Secretarial Science and has acquired more than 25 yrs. of experience coordinating office management and special projects with a high degree of efficiency. She has been a Certified Chaplain for over 10 years, is an Elder and is active in her church. She is also a Licensed Vocational Nurse.

She has been volunteer speaker to troubled young people at the Challenger Youth Facility in Palmdale, CA to men at Wayside Honor Ranch and at the Walter Hoving Home for Drug Abusers in Pasadena, CA. Her favorite volunteer work is visiting and assisting the elderly and the Sick & Shut-Ins. She enjoys baking pound cakes and giving away the slices to the homeless wrapped in cellophane paper with a label that talks about the sweetness of Jesus and how to get to know Him -- to "Taste and see that He is Good". She calls it her "SLICE OF CAKE MINISTRY".

She is a faithful and active member of the Oakwood University SDA Church here in Huntsville. She has a passion for encouraging others -- thus she sends letters of encouragement monthly to Oakwood's Sick & Shut-ins. In addition, she sends a "Happy Birthday Letter" to those listed in the Church Directory and have a valid mailing address.

Kathy is a long-distance grandparent with an endless supply of love and support for each of them. They are: Grands, Naomi and Isaac Keets - Altadena, CA; Darwin Lee (Charissa) - Lancaster, CA; Great Grands, Darwaun - Phoenix, AZ; Darwin Lee Jr., Victorville, CA; Great-Great Grands: Noah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Kazyiah, Ayana, and Semaj - Victorville, CA. Now Kathy herself speaks and says:

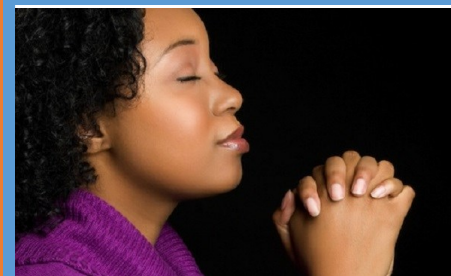
"As you can see, they are many. Each of them has ears that will hear and a mind and heart that will grow up. So, I must be careful, but intentional about a message to share with them -- a legacy to leave. I feel as though every challenge, every detour, and/or setback I have faced only made me a better person. They helped me to clarify "What's Important". I've learned that people are more important than things.

My grands and great grands, along with many others somewhere out there, need a breath of fresh air -- a gentle word of encouragement. So, hear me now: Let your first priority be to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. Secondly, even in less-than-ideal circumstances, Stay Focused and be "Grateful for the Little Things". Let your life be laced with gratefulness. Gratitude will give you a heightened sense of resilience. Just look up to Jesus, then look around! There's always something or someone to be grateful for. Now in closing, I'll say,

To the awe and possibly admiration of many and to the confusion of others, in times of trauma or tragedy, look for the silver linings. Muscle through the pain and Give God all the Glory Due Him. ***Be Grateful!***"

be

"Mothers In Prayer"



The Oakwood University Church Prayer Ministry Team is comprised of different prayer teams. One of the teams is Mothers In Prayer led by Hadassah Moore Dalrymple. Prior to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Mothers In Prayer group met every Wednesday, just before the OUC Prayer Meeting. However, CoVid did not stop

them from meeting. Sister Moore Dalrymple also leads out bi-weekly on the OUC Daily Prayerline on Saturday evenings. In addition, she is a very busy wife, mother, homeschool teacher, Oaktown leader and a teen group advisor and more. We appreciate her leadership and timely messages! Following is a message from our Mothers In Prayer Leader:

The Bible says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanks let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6 ESV). This is the mantra most mothers live by daily as we encounter any and all situations involving our children. It is out of this desire, to not be anxious, that Mothers in Prayer was birthed. In 2015, the desire to surround myself with like-minded mothers who also desired to seek God's guidance in the raising of His children brought about the Mothers in Prayer group. With the blessing of Pastor Williams, the Mother's Room (piano side) was secured each Wednesday evening, before Prayer Meeting, to hold our sessions. This group is not the 1st as years ago, there was another which I was unable to attend. The Mothers in Prayer group is composed of mothers of all ages, single and married, as we petition our Heavenly Father and present the requests we have for ourselves on behalf of our children and families. Meeting weekly each Sunday morning from 9:30-10am, we walk together, worship together, and most importantly, pray together. Ellen G. White tells us that "by your fervent prayers of faith you can move the arm that moves the world..." (My Life Today, pg 21). God promises us that "He will contend with us if we contend with Him, and save our children." (Isaiah 49:25 NKJV). We have seen God move in our lives as we continue to uplift our children and families. In this season, we have witnessed high school graduation secured through mothers in prayer, employment for a spouse secured through mothers in prayer, and the birth of healthy pre-term babies secured through mothers in prayer!!!! We will continue this prayer journey together, as mothers, praying over our children and reaping the blessings He has already secured for us. Amen!

The OUC Prayerline meets daily at 6:00 pm. Call in number is 1-605-475-4120, Pin, 8483381#. Email your prayer requests to prayerministry@oucsda.org.



Our facilitators are:

Sunday— 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 Mothers in Prayer prayerline & walk on Sundays at 9:30-10:00 am 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!!***