What Easter Means to Me

Easter morning, God be praised, Allelujah!
Jesus Christ from death was raised. Allelujah.
On Good Friday, Jesus died; Allelujah!
All for us, He was crucified. Allelujah.
Jesus bore the pain for me, Allelujah!
From my sin, to set me free. Allelujah.
Death could not confine our Lord, Allelujah!
And to life, He was restored. Allelujah.
Easter morn we consecrate, Allelujah.
His resurrection to celebrate. Allelujah.
Jesus’ love means when we die, Allelujah!
We’ll live in heaven with Him on high. Allelujah.
Our Savior loves us awesomely; Allelujah!
That’s what Easter means to me. Allelujah.

By Joanna Fuchs
“SEVEN UPS” Guaranteed To Brighten Up Your Day!

1. **WAKE UP** and decide to have a good day. “Today is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” *Psalm 118:24*

2. **DRESS UP** by putting on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. “For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” *1 Samuel 16:7B*

3. **SHUT UP** and say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. “He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.” *Proverbs 13:3*

4. **STAND UP** for what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” *Galatians 6:9-10*

5. **LOOK UP** to the Lord! “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” *Philippians 4:13*

6. **REACH UP** for something higher. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” *Proverbs 3:5-6*

7. **LIFT UP** your Prayers! “Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING.” *Philippians 4:6*

~Source – Anonymous~

Pastor Newkirk
Why did you spill the coffee? "Because someone bumped into me!!!!!" Wrong answer. You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

*Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.* Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

*So, we have to ask ourselves... "what's in my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills over? Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility? Anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions? Life provides the cup; YOU choose how to fill it.

Please join me in filling our cups with the Fruits of the Spirits while genuinely loving everybody.

Watch your ACTIONS, for they become HABITS. (Lao Tze)

Remain standing on God’s Promises!
Believe
Lady K
Oak City Spotlight—Joyce M. Robinson
Coprecia Robinson

It is indeed a pleasure and honor to introduce and present to some, Our Mom - Joyce M. Robinson. Our Mom is a native of Newton Grove, North Carolina. She is from a family of 13 children, 4 sisters and 8 brothers. She is married to our step dad, Mr. Tommy Robinson and has three children, five grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Our Mom received her elementary and high school education from Sampson County public schools. After graduating from high school, she attended Sampson Technical Institute (now Sampson Community College) majoring in Executive Secretary. In January 1972, she started classes at Shaw University where she enrolled in their Early Childhood Education Program. She graduated from Shaw University with a BA degree in Early Childhood Education in May of 1975.

Our Mom started her career as an assistant teacher at a childcare center in Raleigh on June 25, 1975. Her dream at that point was to go back to school and further her education and own her own quality childcare center. She continued to work at the same childcare center for 18 ½ years, moving from assistant teacher, lead teacher, kindergarten teacher, assistant director then director. She felt that she had a great deal of experience and knowledge to offer in the profession of childcare. To fulfill her dream, she began working on her Masters in 1992 at North Carolina State University completing her Masters in 1995 in Higher Education Administration.

Our Mom then knew it was time to complete her dream, and on October 1, 1993, she opened The Happy Face Preschool and Childcare Center with 6 staff and about 40 children. The preschool has really grown. During the completion of 27 years the preschool now has an enrollment of 81 students and 14 staff. The Happy Face Preschool has received the National Accreditation twice and was the first childcare center to receive the 5-star rating in North Carolina, which is the highest rating in childcare. There have been over 50 college students from different universities trained at the preschool. Happy Face Preschool is a family business. Mrs. Robinson's daughters, husband, granddaughter, sisters and brothers have worked under her leadership. Her motto is quality, not quantity. Mrs. Robinson's philosophy has been to offer an enriched program meeting the highest standards of Early Childhood Education. The preschool is open to all children regardless of race, color, economic status or religious background. The preschool is geared to the individual needs of each child.

Our Mom has been a member of Oak City Baptist Church for 19 years. Her church activities consist of being on the Trustee Ministry, member of the Missionary Ministry, Usher Board, Hospitality Committee and Chair of Library Committee. Believe it or not she also sung in the Eveready Gospel Choir.

Our Mom has received many awards including: Raleigh Wake Chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (Community Recognition Award for Achievement in the Area of Business), Omicron Zeta Chapter Woman of the Year Award, The Garner Road Family YMCA (The Chairman’s Award), The Golden Circle of Saint Matthew AME Award, The Hargett Street YWCA Honoring Director’s Award, 100 Black Men of Triangle East Award of Education, Wake County Smart Start Jorean Debnam Champion for Children Award, The Garner Road YMCA (The Bronze Corporate Sponsorship Award), State of North Carolina Distinguished Women Awards Nominee, The National Congressional Committee (National Leadership Award), North Carolina Early Childhood Professional Development Award, Unsung Shero Award by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and was honored by the Links of Raleigh.

Our Mom is always busy serving the community and different organization. She has served on several Board of Directors and Organizations including: Parliamentarian for the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Childcare Committee for the Garner Road Family YMCA, Policy Committee for the Childcare Services Association, Secretary of the Shaw University Raleigh Wake Alumni Executive Board, North Carolina Early Childhood Board, President of the Wake County Association of Education
God gave us a Mom who is God fearing, loving, caring, giving and always puts God first. Our Mom has instilled in us that with God first, everything else will fall into place.

Our Mom's hobbies include spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, reading, caring and volunteering for senior citizens and volunteering her time and expertise to help other childcare centers receive their stars.

As her children, we can say through all of the accomplishments, volunteering and helping others, we are thankful and blessed that
Oak City Baptist Church (OCBC)  
Senior/Retiree Ministry “Twilighters”  
James Simuel  

By the grace of GOD, we are still active in 2021 although unable to fellowship in person. We stay connected via telephone, text, emails and cards. We realize the importance of hearing encouraging words and thoughtfulness from each other and church family. In God’s time, we will fellowship with each other and the church family “in living colors”.

We have continued our weekly Bible study each Wednesday from 12:00 P.M.-1:00 P.M teleconference #978-990-5000 access code #772312. All call ins are welcome. We are studying the teachings of Apostle Paul, the spread of Christianity and living accordingly. Our journey has taken us through the Books of Acts, Romans and will continue with I Corinthians beginning March 3, 2021. Deacon Fitts facilitates our study as we are all learning together.

Inspirational Thoughts to help you through situations

Psalms 121 – Help  
Romans 15:13 – Hope  
II Thessalonians 2:16 – Encouragement  
Isaiah 35:4-6 – Joy  
I Thessalonians 5:16-18 – Prayer

Ephesians 4:2-3 – Patience  
Proverbs 3:5-6 – Guidance  
Philippians 4:6-7 – Peace  
John 13:34-35 – Love

OCBC Twilighters thank you Lord for your continued blessings to this ministry and church families.

To God be the glory,  
James Simuel  
OCBC Senior Ministry Leader
Many members of OCBC have received the COVID-19 Vaccination and a few members have expressed their thoughts, concerns, and over-all experience of the encounter. As the Health and Wellness Ministry continues to bring awareness to the church, please remember to seek guidance through consultation with your medical doctor, prayer, scripture(s), meditation, healthy eating/dieting and continue to be studious about educating yourself and loved ones about the Coronavirus and the vaccine.

As with many people, I was apprehensive about COVID-19 because it was such an abrupt change for the entire world! Many restrictions required us to Stay-At-Home, which resulted in a total life style change.

This opportunity allowed me to self-reflect and become content with ALL that I have at home by Praying and BELIEVING that God is bigger than any virus or concern and provides much needed comfort in time of need. I’ve had both of my vaccines and encourage EVERYONE to take advantage when your phase is announced.

Believe me, the risk or alternative for not taking one of the vaccines is NON-NEGOTIABLE! The needle isn’t as long as seen on television and I didn’t cry! Blessings and always BELIEVE.

-Catherine W. Newkirk

I was initially undecided about receiving the vaccine until after discussions with family members and friends and doing more research for myself. As a result, I decided it was better to get vaccinated to reduce the severity if I became infected by COVID-19.

As of today 2/27/2021, I am at full immunity. I received my second shot of Pfizer on 2/13/2021 and experienced a sore arm for one and a half days, felt drained, achy and sluggish for about two days. These were some described side effects. I did not have any allergic reaction and I am doing just fine.

I pray God continues to keep us covered with HIS blood.

-Simuel

I received my first shot at Duke Health on Executive Drive on February 6, 2021. I was pulling my sleeve down and I was saying, “oh, I don’t like shots”. Before I got it out, she had already given me the shot. If Terrye had not been with me, I probably would not have believed that I had the shot because I did not feel it. So, my first shot, I did not have any symptoms. My arm was not sore or anything. Nothing! I felt fine.

Then, I had my second shot at Duke Health on Saturday past (February 27, 2021). And I felt that one! It had a sting to it. Terrye was with me again. Afterward, my arm was kind of sore but not bad. I did not have any other side effects whatsoever. Everything went well.

-Barbara Fish

I advise everybody to take it regardless to how you feel about it. At first, I was not going to do it but for us to get through this, we all need to get the shot. This is my experience with the COVID-19 Vaccine.

-Deacon Davis

I had the opportunity of having both vaccinations. Both experiences were pretty much the same. Thank God all went well. I had slight soreness in my arm that lasted about two days, but other than that, no problems. I hope everyone will listen and read the information which is in the news, TV, internet etc. and consider taking this shot.

-Karen Bethea-Shields

Originally, I had several questions about the vaccine. I received the first vaccine in February and I was so nervous. I will receive the second shot soon and I hope it is as smooth as the first shot.

-Kimberly Alexander (Kim)
ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED!!!!!

Zoom ID: 282 415 3619
Password: 38737

BELONG  BELIEVE  BECOME

TUESDAYS @ 7:00PM ON ZOOM

OAK CITY BAPTIST CHURCH
REV. DR. WILLIAM T. NEWKIRK, SR., PASTOR
726 METHOD ROAD RALEIGH, NC 27607
(919)839-5869
Youth on the Move
Belong - Believe - Become
Monya Lindsey, Awana Director and Youth Ministry Co-Ordinator

At Awana, all youth have an opportunity to experience a sense of belonging in a relational environment led by loving, caring, and committed adults. We can all agree that youth are more interested in learning if it relates to something they are curious about. Each lesson focuses on who God is (John 3.16), who we are (Romans 3:23 and 6:23): what God has done (Romans 5:8) and what we need to do in response to God (Acts 16:31). This Gospel truth is what we believe and is very important in helping youth become resilient disciples for Christ as they deal with real life situations and cultural changes. Engaging topics such as prayer, fear, anxiety, love, Ten Commandments, making good choices and winning have all been included in discussions. We also took some time to discuss current issues like social justice, the importance of voting, and government responsibilities.

Even in the midst of the pandemic and all of the opportunities it presents, we learned that we are more than conquerors. The Virtual Oak City Baptist Church (OCBC) Awana Ministry has expanded and now includes youth who are local as well as youth who live in Asheville, NC, Chesapeake, VA, and Woodbridge, VA. Below are comments shared by a few of our Awana Clubbers:

“Since being home because of the pandemic, it has been difficult to focus on school work while doing online school. Every Tuesday night I look forward to participating in Awana. The lessons we learn help me during my week and the games we play that connect to the lessons are fun and educational. The lessons we learn also helps me focus on how much God loves me”.

Mariah Lindsey - 6th Grader
Parents: Tyrone and Monya Lindsey

“The Awana bible study is very enjoyable. Past bible studies that I have been to either didn’t teach you anything or just showed me ideas instead of actually teaching. What I love about Awana bible study is they actually engage the students and seem enthusiastic and happy to teach about the word of God. They teach by reading verses, playing fun games, having discussions, and watching videos related to the lessons. I absolutely love it!

The people that teach are all so nice, funny, and understanding. Their attitude really helps you to actually want to participate. They don’t force you to say anything if you don’t want to or patronize you when you don’t have an answer. Awana bible study is an amazing experience and I really like doing it every Tuesday”.

April Williams - 7th Grader
Parents: Reginald and Kamika Williams
Grandparents: Brother James and Sister Ora McLean

“From the time I started Tuesday night bible studies to now, I would say I had a great experience. I got to know new people, learn many new things, and learn many life lessons that connect to God. One of my favorite things about going to the Tuesday night sessions is the games we play at the end of each session. By interacting with people that come together to talk and study the scriptures; I would say has impacted me because I could look at things from another point of view and learn things I didn’t know before. It also has led me to build a great relationship with God.”

Kayla Jones - 9th Grader
Parents: Stan and Erica Jones

We invite all youth and parents to join us each Tuesday night at 7:00 pm, where Gospel-centered lessons are taught. We have lots of fun with games in an exciting virtual environment.

See you soon!

AWANA MINISTRY
Youth on the Move
The Power of One Loving Adult!
Monya Lindsey, Awana Director and Youth Ministry Co-Ordinator

For the past six months, youth leaders of various ministries at Oak City Baptist Church (OCBC) have come together on Zoom to have a new conversation! Our book review on Resilient: Child Discipleship and The Fearless Future of the Church has been engaging, insightful and empowering. Resilient focuses on the Gospel truth, examines the current cultural shift away from Christ and confirms that now more than ever, the Gospel truth must be shared with a sense of urgency. We must continue to point our youth to Jesus!

Highlights and content directly from the book include:

We want our youth to love Jesus for the rest of their lives.

The power of the church when it loves will help transform lives and create resilient disciples for Christ.

Radical love could be the fearless future of faith for our youth, if we just remember how.

We are all fire carriers sharing the Gospel which brings hope, purpose, and sustains our youth during their faith walk.

Every child who winds up doing well has had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult.

The presence of a loving, caring adult in a child’s development is being raised as one of the most pressing needs for today’s children across the globe.

Think back, who was that one person that made an impact on your life? Who was your fire carrier?

My fire carrier was Mrs. Lillie Powell. Mrs. Lillie was one of my Sunday School teachers, church bus driver, youth choir director and the one who always encouraged me to do well, believe in and serve God. Mrs. Lillie not only encouraged me, she demonstrated Christ-like qualities each and every time I was in her presence. Mrs. Lillie was a very busy woman. She had kids of her own, worked a full-time job and cared for her elderly mother. As much as my siblings and me sometimes wished that she would not show up to pick us up for choir rehearsal or Sunday school (lol), she was always prompt. Pulling up in the drive way, honking that horn and always greeting us with the biggest smile. Mrs. Lillie made sure I knew on a regular basis that I belonged and through these encounters I began to believe in God and become what God would have me to become.

As you think about your power of one experience, you too, will see how important it is to be a fire carrier in the lives of our youth. Our roles and the opportunity God have given us to share the Gospel truth is so important. It is through us that an entire generation will see Jesus, seek to have a relationship with him and serve him for the rest of their lives.

All are welcome to join the engaging conversation! Please see the church announcements for Zoom connection details.

AWANA MINISTRY
DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?
In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent so you can listen.
Inspirational Words of Wisdom

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.
Let all that you do be done with love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NKJV)

Due to the Pandemic, please check your emails and listen for announcements for confirmation or changes to traditional programs held during the year 2021.

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Just Prayers

No colored eggs
Or bunnies here,
Just deep-felt love
For Christ, so dear.

No Easter baskets
Full of fluff,
No jelly beans
And other stuff.

No superior looks,
No strife, no fights
With those who keep
The worldly rites.

No condemnation
For those who do,
Just prayers for them
To love Him, too.

By Joanna Fuchs