

# Oak City News

**Oak City Baptist Church**  
**Rev. Dr. William T. Newkirk, Sr.**  
**Pastor**

*Congratulations Oak City Baptist Church  
2023 Graduates*

*May the light of your glory never go dim.  
May the wisdom of God remain in  
you, and may mighty doors  
be opened up for you.*

*Congratulations on your Graduation!  
Oak City Baptist Church members.*



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# From The Pastor's Desk

Rev. Dr. William T. Newkirk, Sr.

## Things I Have Learned!

Since this is the "Graduates Issue" of "Oak City News," I thought I would share a few nuggets of wisdom similar to what I've shared with graduates in the past. It is my prayer that they will be a blessing to our graduates as they move on to the next chapter in their lives and to others.

### **THINGS I HAVE LEARNED:**

I've learned ....that the more mistakes I make, the smarter I get.

I've learned....that words harshly spoken are as difficult to retrieve as feathers in a storm.

I've learned....that life is like a roll of paper towels. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned....that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the means to help in some other way.

I've learned....that we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned....that money doesn't buy character and integrity.

I've learned....that under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned....that the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes us think we can?

I've learned....that if you are still talking about what you did yesterday, you haven't done very much today.

I've learned....never to humiliate another person. Always give him/her an honorable way to back down or out of something and still save face.

I've learned....that to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned....that when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned....that no matter how serious you are in life, everyone needs time and space to relax and be your true self.

I've learned....that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! Don't ever stop learning! Grab hold of the simple and ordinary things of life. Living a successful life is not as complicated as some try to make it. I pray that God will shower you with every blessing He has in store for you!

Pastor Newkirk



# Impressions by the First Lady

Catherine White Newkirk

## "The Bible, Your Eternal GPS"

*Congratulations are extended to all of our "2023 Graduates!" Excitement fills the air with "Pomp and Circumstance" (written by Edward Elgar) swelling the excitement to an all time high in a variety of ventures. That vibrant arrangement is synonymous with high school and college graduations/commencements, but its lyrics are virtually unknown.*

*When I think of graduations, I think of beginning on a new adventure or phase in one's life. You've had so many experiences on how to do decide which road to travel. The Bible is your eternal Global Positioning System (**GPS**) with no update of roads/streets necessary. God knew that you would need a **GPS**/compass and that is why He has given us His Word throughout the Bible.*

*Know without a doubt, that God knows the plan He has for you as written in **Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.** I challenge you to dig deeper into the Word of God while developing a personal relationship with Him.*

*Days of joy will surely follow days of turmoil, **Look to God!** Friends will become few and may even attempt to give poor advice, **Look to God!** Let your past stay in your past so you will not become stuck in yesterday, **Look to God!** Remember to forgive and let go, **Look to God!** Forgiving is more for you than the person who hurt you. God will grant you peace, mercy, grace, sunshine on a cloudy day, wisdom and whatever you need regarding all situations. Trust Him and believe in Him for He will always keep His promises. God never leaves us, but often we leave His side.*



*Ponder over what the **Lord** told Joshua as he took over the leadership from Moses: **Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good***



***courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."***

*Graduates, I leave you with these profound words, which I hope will be embedded into every fiber of your being.*

***Watch your thoughts, they become your words.  
Watch your words, they become your actions.  
Watch your actions, they become your habits.  
Watch your habits, they become your character.  
Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.***

*Lao Tzu*

***Endeavor to thrive and not merely to survive!***



*I still believe,  
Lady K*



*Oak City Baptist Church 2023 High School Graduate*



***Kamenga Muanji**  
Athens Drive High School  
High School Diploma*



## *Kamenga Muanji*

*Ms. Kamenga Muanji received her High School Diploma from Athens Drive High School.*

*Kamenga's parent is Ms. Mokango Jeanette Beluebekledje and her Paternal Grandparents are Mr. Mosete Illunga and the late Monka Akamboge.*

*Kamenga's future goal is to receive her real estate license.*

### *Graduation Blessings*

*May God guide your footsteps as you embark on this adventure, we call life.*

*May you find your inspiration from above, and your strength from within.*

*May your dreams be fulfilled and your future be established through our Lord and Savior.*

*May your future hold all that you hope as you seek His face and learn to lean on Him.*

*Unknown*





*Oak City Baptist Church 2023 High School Graduate*



*Ilana Sams*  
*Apex High School*  
*High School Diploma*



## *Ilana Sams*

*Ms. Ilana Sams received her High School Diploma from Apex High School.*

*Ilana's parents are Trustee Michael and Mrs. Sheilah Sams. Her paternal grandparent is Ms. Anee Floyd and her maternal grandparents are Mr. William and Mrs. Voleta Henderson.*

*Ilana's special recognitions are for all of her relatives and church family.*

*Ilana was asked what blessings she is grateful for. "Lord thank you for your many blessings; thank you for blessing me with the most amazing and loving family I could ask for."*

*Ilana's future goal is to become an OB/GYN (Obstetrics and Gynecology) doctor.*

*Inspiration comes in many forms. Ilana is inspired by her mom, because she always encourages her and pushes her to do the best she can to succeed.*



## *Graduation Blessings*

*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 (NKJV)*

*Let no one despise your youth, but be an  
example to the believers in word, in  
conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in  
purity.*

*1 Timothy 4:12 (NKJV)*





*Oak City Baptist Church 2023 Master's Graduate*



*Patricia Ndombe*

*North Carolina State University  
Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing | Poetry*



## Patricia Ndombe

*Ms. Patricia Ndombe received her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing | Poetry degree from North Carolina State University.*

*Patricia's Parents are Deacon Mosengo Jose Ndombe, Sr. and Deaconess Jacqueline Winstead Ndombe. Her paternal grandparents are Mr. Mosete Ilunga and the late Monka Akamboge and her maternal grandparents are The late Robert Winstead and Mrs. Lessie Winstead.*

*Patricia's special recognitions are for the "From Theory to Nia (Purpose)" Award of the 2023 Ebony Harlem Awards of Excellence.*

*Patricia was asked what blessings she is grateful for? "Lord thank you for your many blessings; thank you for providing confirmation, direction, and guidance for a new life chapter.*

*Patricia's future goal is to receive her Ph.D. in Africology and African American Studies at Temple University.*

*Inspiration comes in many forms. Patricia has been inspired recently by individuals in the Bible who had to journey away from their homes and live elsewhere in order to fulfill God's calling for their lives*



## Graduation Blessings

*May He grant you according to your heart's desire,*

*And fulfill all your purpose.  
We will rejoice in your salvation,  
And in the name of our God we will set up our banners!*

*May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.  
Psalm 20:4-5 (NKJV)*



# Growing Up OCBC (Oak City Baptist Church)

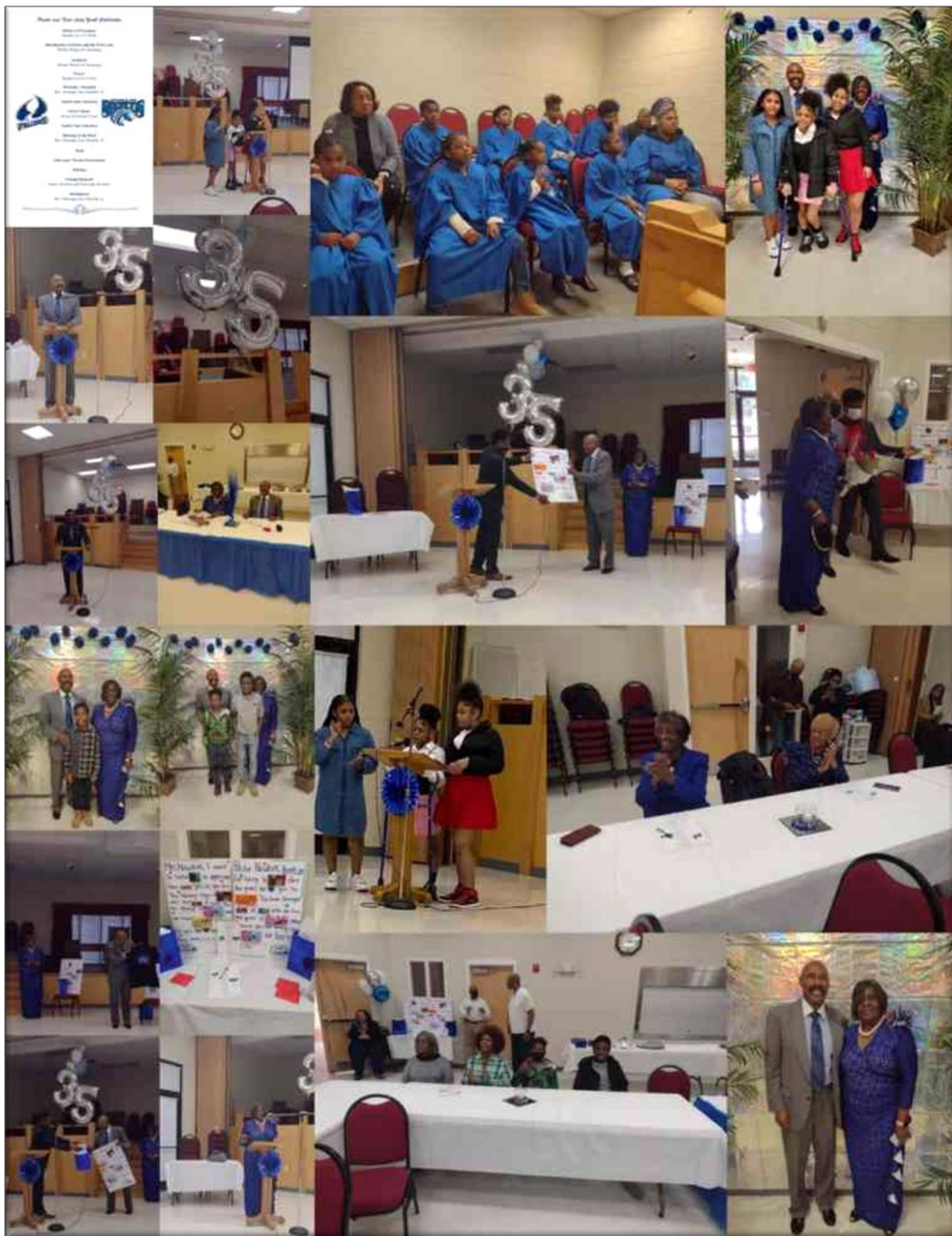
## James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest

The James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest was held on Saturday, May 6th at 1 pm at Williams Grove Baptist Church. In all, there were six contestants from four of our association churches. Each contestant did an outstanding job sharing their speeches with confidence and boldness. Oak City Baptist proudly presents our two winners: Levi Pettis—First place in the Senior Division and Kaylee L. Evans—First place in the Junior Division. They will represent WMBA in the state competition. Congratulations Levi and Kaylee!



# Growing Up OCBC (Oak City Baptist Church)

## Youth Celebrating 35th Church Anniversary with Rev. William T. and Mrs. Catherine White Newkirk



# Untitled Story

Author Unknown

[http://godslittleacre.net/inspirationalstories/untitled\\_story.html](http://godslittleacre.net/inspirationalstories/untitled_story.html)

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's pastor slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit and, before he gave his sermon for the evening, briefly introduced a guest minister who was in the service that evening. In the introduction, the pastor told the congregation that the guest minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the church and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service.

With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak. "A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific Coast," he began, "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to shore. The waves were so high that, even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright, and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized."

The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in the story. The aged minister continued with his story. "Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy he would throw the other end of the life line. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian, and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of the waves. As the father yelled out, 'I love you, son!', he threw out the life line to the son's friend. By the time the

father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered."

By this time, the two teenagers were sitting up straight in the pew, anxiously waiting for the next words to come out of the old minister's mouth. "The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus, and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's friend. How great is the love of God that He could do the same for us. Our heavenly Father sacrificed His only begotten Son that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer to rescue you and take hold of the life line."

With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room. The pastor again walked slowly to the pulpit and delivered a brief sermon with an invitation at the end. However, no one responded to the appeal. Within minutes after the service, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," politely said one of the boys, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. Sorrow began to overtake the old man's smiling face as he once again looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm here today to tell you that I understand more than most the pain God must have felt to give up His only Son. For you see, I'm the man who lost his son to the ocean that day, and my son's friend that I chose to save is your pastor."

*"What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Matthew 18:12-13 (NKJV)"*



# I know what you're going through: Combatting Church Hurt

Patricia Ndombe

"Confrontation is *scary*...in word *and* deed...for *anyone*. It should be exercised with much wisdom and caution.

But when we settle for silence, the hurt never heals. It will continue to hack at the spirit of community in your church family until it *splits* it apart.

On the other hand, if we include those three together in our conversations to combat church hurt — *respect*, *accountability*, and *the absence of judgment*; if we add some *forgiveness*, plus a corrective action plan to move forward *together*, you will find *God's love* already there. You will have made Him proud.

You will have also killed two birds with one stone. You will have wisely and actively *combatted church hurt* — pledging to let it end with *you* — and will



have edified the body of Christ...all at the same time."

To read the entire article, please follow the QR code.



## A Little Humor

### A Wise Man's Jokes

A wise man once faced a group of people who were complaining about the same issues over and over again. One day, instead of listening to the complaints, he told them a joke and everyone cracked up laughing.

Then, the man repeated the joke. A few people smiled. Finally, the man repeated the joke a third time—but no one reacted. The man smiled and said, "You won't laugh at the same joke more than once. So what are you getting from continuing to complain about the same problem?"

### The Moral:

You're not going to get anywhere if you keep complaining about the same problem but do nothing to fix it.

Don't waste your time complaining, expecting other people to continue to react to your complaints. Instead, take action to make a change.



# Habitat for Humanity

## Baptist Build

Richard H. Jones

Habitat for Humanity is once again in full force trying to answer the housing shortage in Wake County. To aid in this process, the Baptist Build, which Oak City Baptist Church is a part of kicked off earlier this year. The Baptist Build initial efforts started with a Wall built during the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Weekend. The walls that were built during this weekend were for the house being built on Rose Lane in Raleigh.

Some of the original OCBC Thursday Crew have not been able to return due to health concerns. We want you all to know you all are truly missed!



OCBC Thursday Crew



Group picture from the MLK, Jr. Wall Build

There have been several delays due to a rainy season, thus, there have been several days when outside work could not be completed. When work could not be done at one site because general contractors were on site, our OCBC Team was shifted to the Old Poole Road Site to help out. We were able to hook up with some of the staff and fellow volunteers which we had not seen in nearly three years. They still remember ***“The OCBC Thursday Crew.”*** Hopefully, within a month or so, the Rose Lane Build will be completed and dedicated. Then it will be off to another site.



Baptist Build—Rose Lane



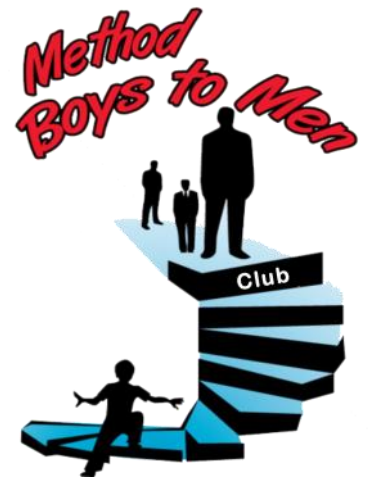
Old Poole Road Build

# The Method Boys to Men...

Richard H. Jones

In the beginning... Most of the original **Method Boys to Men** members grew up in Method and attended school together in the early 1950s to late 1960s. Upon returning to the area later in life, they saw a need for assistance in their community. Today, the group is made up of members who have an association to the area through church membership, etc. Their activities include bread drives and providing assistance with food, clothes, and cash donations to local churches.

The Method Boys to Men Club is back in full swing after being basically shut down for nearly three years due to the Covid Pandemic. We are back to nearly full strength.... with the welcomed addition of women from neighboring churches of Saint James and Oak City Baptist and some others. We appreciate their support and help as we continue to provide sustainability to the Method Community in the form of food with the Tuesday Food Give-A-Way. This event takes place on Woods Place at Rich Park in the parking lot... if the weather forecast is calling for rain, it might be moved indoors at the Pioneer Building.





Please check your emails and listen for announcements for confirmation or changes to traditional programs held during the year 2023.



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Web Site  
[www.oakcitybaptist.org/](http://www.oakcitybaptist.org/)

Watch Live Sermons  
[oakcitybaptist.org/watch-live-now/](http://oakcitybaptist.org/watch-live-now/)

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## Inspirational Words of Wisdom

To know wisdom and instruction,  
To perceive the words of understanding,  
To receive the instruction of wisdom,  
Justice, judgment, and equity;  
To give prudence to the simple,  
To the young man knowledge and discretion—  
A wise man will hear and increase learning,  
And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,  
To understand a proverb and an enigma,  
The words of the wise and their riddles.  
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,  
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:2-7

