

The Northside News

A printlink for neighborhoods of change

DOING THE WORK OF EDUCATING KIDS

Meet Superintendent Pam Baldwin

Just over one year ago, Dr. Pamela Baldwin became the first black superintendent of the Chapel Hill Carrboro city school system. She says she is used to being a first and accepts the honor, but she has mixed feelings about it. “It’s 2018. ... Everytime I hear that [I’m a first] I get a little sad. I feel like maybe it should have been my mom or my grandma.”When she stopped by the Jackson Center on a hot and sunny July day, she spoke to us about what it means to her to be in this place at this time in her life.

“I have always been headstrong,” she began. She is also fiercely independent but credits her success and drive to the family that raised her and to the children she has raised. She grew up in Hampden, Virginia, where her grandmother and her mother taught her many important lessons: “They allowed me to be myself and they taught me how to respect authority and to listen to my elders and to listen before I spoke. ... They said, you need to listen, form an opinion, be yourself and fight for what is right.” And that’s precisely what she did. Long before she even knew exactly what she was fighting for and long before she heard the word ‘equity’ she was challenging the low expectations many of her teachers had of black children. “I just thought, this is my place. I’m not going to run out of here.” Looking back, she realizes that on some level her purpose was already clear then: “to help other people just find their place.”

She had always wanted to be a pediatrician, but after a stint in the military, getting married, and giving birth to twin girls, she had a sudden realization that education was her calling. As she describes it, “Life shifted and pivoted in a moment.” She applied to teach middle school and was hired on the spot to teach biology and math. Since she had been a cheerleader iat George Mason University (another “first”), she also became the middle school cheerleading coach. As she was getting her first experiences in the classroom, she also worked towards a master’s degree in education administration and raised her daughters as a single mom. When she reflects on the path that led her to the place she’s in today, she emphasizes how important family and community support were to her. As she put it:

I am sitting here because I had a really strong--female, mostly--support system that helped me raise my girls. ... And I worked this hard and have for a long time because I get that this is what I’m supposed to be doing and I am what my girls are supposed to be watching. I want them to see that the only person that can tell them ‘no’ is themselves and that once they’re in a place where it is truly their assignment, they will know. And then the fight is theirs. That’s what I want them to know.

Her two girls are “everything” to her, and so she understands why some parents are such fierce advocates for their children. Her calling is to do “the work” of meeting the needs of all children. Beginning with her first teaching assignment, she was drawn to the classes no one else seemed to be very excited about teaching. At what she calls “her core and her center,” is love for children and for “doing right” by all kids. And she is not afraid to challenge the assumptions underlying the systems and structures of education. Here is how she puts it: “I won’t work in a system or a structure that my core cannot live with. I just believe too much that it’s the right thing to do for kids.”

- Dr. Pam Baldwin spoke with the Jackson Center staff on July 13, 2018.

John Williams: Called To Serve

- Brentton Harrison

Recently I had the distinguished opportunity to meet with Mr. John A. Williams. Mr. Williams is currently the principal of Phoenix Academy High School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and was CHCCS Principal of the Year in 2017. During our meeting I asked him why he does what he does. His answer was immediate:

I do the work that I do because I was called to serve. It’s the impact of the work and how the work affects the young people with whom I work. My service to these young people will impact not only their life, but their friends and their families as well. I do not consider myself a servant leader and neither do I believe in servant leadership. I am just a servant who happens to be in a leadership position. Selfishly speaking, I do the work I do because I am not complete without helping others. My personal growth depends on how much I help others grow and reach their personal and individual potential. Someone asked in a meeting one time how a principal is supposed to manage a school, discipline students, support staff, and deal with the pressure of the school system, I answered simply ‘always do what is right.’ If I do what is right when it comes to serving the children and staff I serve, then I sleep well with myself and have no problems defending my actions. In fact, I have often said, if you do not like what I am doing fire me, because I am going to always do what is right by the staff, students, family and community I serve.



The Work

- Pam Baldwin

To have to say, ‘racial equity’ in itself is a problem for me.

And so when I first started hearing the phrase, which was in Asheville, I was kind of recruited because of that phrase, and I was like, I don’t understand what’s happening. You just do what’s right for kids. So, hearing it bothers me to begin with, I’ll be honest with you, because I think it’s just the work.

And so, when you see it from that lens, I’m the little black girl sitting in the class hoping someone’s not saying, “Oh, she’s black. Let me figure out what to do with her.” Like, I’m hoping they’re just saying, “Oh, she’s a student. Let’s see what she needs.”

I just see it from a different lens. And again, I have to be living in the skin I’m in, and so, when you are of color in this country, you think about race all the time because you have to. And so when someone says ‘racial equity’ to me, ... honestly, sometimes it becomes offensive. How about just do the right thing for children? We’re talking about children. They didn’t ask to be born in a certain skin or in a certain town or in a certain family. Every kid deserves what’s right. And so, that term rubs me a little bit. And I’ve said out loud that I think it’s important that we bring it to the light when there are inequities. But if we go about it in a way where it’s something outside of the work, we are counterproductive in the work.



Going Places: A Northsider Takes Off!

To mark the start of another school year, we asked one of our youth neighbors, Elodie Deneassembaye, to reflect on beginning her senior year at Chapel Hill High School:

Living in the Northside community is wonderful. I get to go to one of the best high schools and be around amazing neighbors and family. I’m a very petite person, and it surprises people when they learn that I am a senior and not a seventh grader. The Northside Community is very supportive and helps me a lot..Activities like the walk-in community and back-to-school backpack program help me a lot to get to know my community. Getting school supplies made it easy for me to have everything I need for school and helped me stay organized and prepared for class. My classes are varied. I really enjoy music, and I get to express that in band class, as well as on the marching band as captain of my section. I enjoy learning new languages (I speak three) and I’m improving my French by taking French class. Due to that and living in the Northside community, I got a full scholarship to study abroad in Toulouse, France. It was a fabulous experience that I would not have had if it weren’t for the support of both my Northside Community and school. My goal after high school is to go to a four-year university, so as of now I’m working on my 3.8 GPA to make it at least a 4.0. I plan to positively impact the community once I get back from college. I hope that every kid in the Northside Community gets the opportunity to experience high school to the fullest just as I have, if not more.

Keeping Your House a Home (KYHAH): Preservation Tools Workshop

What is this? This is an interactive 1.5 hour workshop developed by neighborhood leaders and civil rights attorneys to share many additional tools and resources that can keep a house a home. This includes information regarding property tax resources, home repair programs, legal and financial tools to help ensure the future you want for your home. In this workshop, we discuss the values of homes in the neighborhood, walk through tools that can be used to ensure the future you want for your home, and discuss existing resources and programs that help families stay rooted in our community and ways residents can help shape neighborhood outcomes. The workshop is designed to be a small group discussion because many neighbors know of tools and others do not. This workshop does not require any private information to be shared.



What does participation require? You can simply participate in a workshop hosted at the Jackson Center, by calling 919-960-1670 and letting our Community Advocacy Coordinator, Ms. Kathy Atwater, know you are interested in attending or hosting a workshop.

What does hosting a workshop involve?

We have had several neighbors who have invited a few of their neighbors to their homes and hosted the workshop along with Jackson Center staff. This provides an opportunity to ensure the discussion is with neighbors you know well. This also allows other neighbors who are homebound or prefer privacy to participate by hosting a private workshop at their homes.

What if I have already attended or hosted a workshop? We ask that you help organize a workshop with neighbors or family members who have not attended or sign up for a one-on-one follow up session with our staff.

Who is this workshop for? Everyone is welcome. Participation is required as part of the application process for property relief funds. The goal of the property tax relief program is to assist neighbors with the rising costs of living and to help neighbors stay here who wish to stay here. There are many other additional resources, many of which are more substantial and permanent than our grant funds. We want to make sure all of these resources are shared and mobilized. This also gives us a chance to learn about new tools from neighbors as well.

Please contact Kathy Atwater at the Jackson Center at 919-960-1670 for more information and/or to schedule a time for the workshop.

-Kathy Atwater

In this month's issue, we want to remember Mother Lida Malloy who went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, July 1, 2018. Those of us who knew Mother Malloy knew how much she loved the Lord and how much she wanted others to know Him too! Her daughter, Delores Bailey, said, "That's what she lived for!"

Mother Malloy moved to Graham Street in 1975. She brought Delores with her, and Delores went off to college shortly afterwards, graduating from UNC. Mother Malloy had a total of seven children and was big on education, sending all of her children to technical school, college, and beyond. She always said, "I push education!" Mother Malloy began her career as a private duty nurse and afterwards worked at what was then N. C. Memorial Hospital for thirty-two years in the newborn nursery where she helped many native Northsiders prepare their babies for coming home. In 1977 she accepted Christ in her life. Recognizing the hurt in Northside, she shared her Lord, her home, her food and her love with anyone that would accept it. Students flocked to Mother's home. Delores believes-- and we do too-- that the community is a better place because of Mother Malloy and because of her prayers. She passed her love for this community on to her daughter who is now the Executive Director of Empowerment, Inc., the Midway non-profit dedicated to grassroots economic development in Northside/Pine Knolls and surrounding neighborhoods.

Mother Malloy's homegoing service was held at Barbee's Chapel Harvest Word Baptist Church on Saturday, July 7, 2018. It was said that she left this earth with His praise on her lips and a smile of peace on her face, ready to go home. It is only fitting to end this article with the last comment from Mother Malloy's family: "Every day is a day of slvation. We plan to join her when Jesus comes back for us. How about you? Today could be your day to be sure that you are ready."

Avon Royster Lassiter, Sr.

On August 23, 2018, Northside lost one of its longtime residents, Avon Royster Lassiter, Sr. Originally from Chatham County, he graduated from Horton High School in Pittsboro, NC where he played on the football team and drove the school bus. His family moved to Lindsey Street where he lived close to cousins and extended family. He worked with J.B. Robbins in Chapel Hill and for UNC housekeeping and lived in Durham before moving back to his family home in Northside. He was married to Mae Ruth (Farrar) Lassiter with whom he had six children.

Mr. Avon joined Holland Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church at an early age. He was a member of the Junior Choir and Usher Board. He also attended services at O'Bryant Chapel A.M.E. Zion when he couldn't get to Holland Chapel. Few people knew the terrain of Northside as well as he did, and in his later years he covered much of it regularly in his motorized chair. Mr. Avon remained close to his cousins who stayed with them growing up as well as numerous other relatives and friends. He was a grandfather of eight and a great grandfather of two girls. He was laid to rest on August 27 following a service at Holland Chapel and will be remembered lovingly by family and friends in and around Northside.

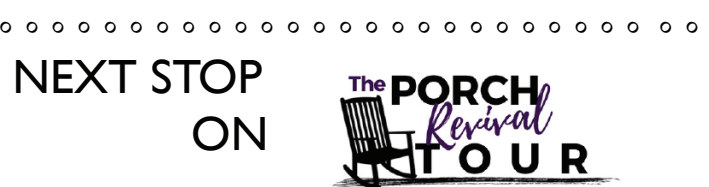
What is the name and location of the first African-American daycare center in Northside?

If you think you know the answer, call the Jackson Center at (919) 960-1670 any time after 9am. The first one to call with the right answer wins a Northside button! Whoever ends the year with the most buttons will be our Northside News Trivia Champion!!!

10/9- Megan Stanley
10/21- Velma Perry
10/22- Jonetta Roberson
10/23- James and Destiny Burnette
10/24- Theresa Shaw
10/31- Charley Norwood, Lillian Edwards

Welcome back everybody! We welcome back students and people who have recently moved into the Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin-Top communities! To begin the year, we want everybody to be informed about one of the most important ways you can keep in touch.

#1, the Jackson Center & the Northside community developed the Northside Newsletter as a means of communication with one another within Northside and throughout the broader community. This newsletter informs you of all the activities and things that relate to our community and others, and the community's continued development. It encourages everyone to be involved, with not only the newsletter; but also the community and its issues. This is one of the main ways our neighbors connect with one another:



223 N. Graham Street
September 27, 2018
5:30-7:30 pm

Come meet Adante and Tia, the residents of the very first Intentional Living Learning House for students who want to become active members of the Northside community. Join your neighbors for good food, conversation, and maybe even a game (or two...) of spades!

CHHS-Lincoln HS Hall of Fame Night |
September 28, 6:30 pm | FREE
Chapel Hill HS vs East Chapel Hill HS Soccer Game
(at CHHS, High School Road)
 The event will honor all members of the Hall of Fame and
 members who attend will walkout onto the field and be
 introduced at half-time. Questions? Call Sharon Davis at 919-
 260-6279.

Festifall Arts Festival | October 7, 12-6 pm
FREE
West Franklin St
The annual downtown festival features artist vendors, live performances, and local food trucks.

Hargraves Fall Carnival | October 12, 5-7 pm
Ages 6-12 | FREE
Hargraves Center
Enjoy an evening of entertainment and games in Northside!

St. Paul AME Fundraiser for St.Paul Village
at Carrabba's Italian Grill | Oct. 13, 11am-2pm
101 N. Merritt Mill Rd., Chapel Hill
 Eat in or take out. Menu includes grilled chicken, pasta, salad,
 dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$13. For info go to www.stpaulsamechapelhill.org or contact members of the 5K Planning
 Committee.

Haunted Hill | October 20, 5-9 pm | FREE
Chapel Hill Community Center

This celebration features a Trunk-or-Treat, with games and activities, ghost stories, haunted walk, and a movie in the park. Event times: Trunk-or-Treat (5-6:30 pm); Glow-in-the-Dark climb for kids over 6 years (7-9 pm); movie begins at 6:45 pm. Don't forget your costumes!