

Listening to Our Elders

At the core of the Jackson Center's education work is the Community Mentor Team. These Northside and Pine Knolls elders are the best sources for local African-American history and the best communicators of that history to young people, most of whom have never heard about the major impact local civil rights activists had on Chapel Hill. Their voices and narratives tell a more complete, truthful story and disrupt the popular narrative of Chapel Hill as the "Southern part of Heaven." The connections Community Mentors make with students by telling their stories -- live!-- in classrooms lets all kids know about the abundance within the African-American community here and the importance of acting to challenge injustice. Community Mentor and former teacher, Ms Gwen Atwater, put it like this: "By us going into the classroom and telling students about our lives, it shows the students that they can do the same thing. They need that encouragement. The children need to see us."

At the first Community Mentor Team meeting of the school year in late August, mentors from Northside shared some of their most memorable stories:

Mrs. Linda Carver: “When the civil rights movement came around, my father told us we could not go, because he had to deal with a lot of business and he didn’t want to lose his white customers. If we went out there and if we had been seen, they could have shut his business down. So we would sneak and go. I thank God that we did it, because we would have missed out on that opportunity. I don’t know how many times children now have the chance to do something that powerful.”



Rev. Albert Williams: “John Carswell [the owner of Colonial Drug on Franklin Street] knew everyone in the community. So when we began to protest, he said, ‘I’m going to give you all a few minutes to leave.’ And we didn’t. And that’s when he called the police, and they put us under arrest and served warrants later on. He put us on a \$10, bond and that’s what stirred it up.”

Mr. Ronnie Bynum: “When I was growing up, once you crossed the tracks where Cat’s Cradle is in Carrboro, you were in no man’s territory, as we called it. You didn’t cross the tracks after dark. In second grade at Carrboro Elementary, I was chased by Klan members off the bus and into the school.”

Mrs. Pat Jackson: “I have had the opportunity to stand on the shoulders of a lot of people in my community and church. Because I felt so proud of my community, my church, my town, I made it my business to let everyone know that this is MY town. I consider it my life’s mission to make sure history is not forgotten.”



Mr. Braxton Foushee: “The time of the civil rights movement [1960-1964] was a creative time when some changes needed to be made, and we decided we were going to make those changes and never look back. We didn’t think it was a big deal. I think we accomplished what we set out to do, to make a change in town. I’m very proud of what we did.

“There are a lot of people who try to tell our story, but when it really comes down to it, we’re the only ones who can tell our own story.” Braxton Foushee

Schooling a Community

The Northside and Pine Knolls communities have always had a strong tradition of education. And because teachers lived in the communities, went to church and shopped where their students did, they were closely connected to them and their families. As some tell it, everyone knew everyone's business. Some educators' names pop up in many a story about what it was like growing up in Northside. These educators did much more than teach lessons on math or English; they made sure every child knew they were expected to be successful and respectful. Teachers and principals checked in on families; and they listened. After desegregation, community leaders worked as truant officers, after school program directors and mentors, making sure kids got to school and had what they needed.

A few of the Jackson Center Community Mentors who grew up here had this to say about some of these outstanding figures:



Mr. Stan Foushee remembered Northside icon R.D. Smith, namesake (together with his wife Euzelle) of Smith Middle School in Chapel Hill: “We had a lot of sit-ins at school, especially Guy B. Phillips. White people said, ‘This is our school!’ So we just left. There were people in the community like R.D. Smith who said, ‘You’ve got to calm down. You’ve got to stay at school.’”

Rev. Albert Williams shared a memory of Charles McDougale, principal of Lincoln High and namesake, (together with his teacher-wife Lucile) of McDougale Elementary and Middle schools in Chapel Hill: “Citizenship was a big deal at Lincoln High School and being responsible. We didn’t need the police. We had our school principal [Mr. McDougale]. He’d ride around town, checking on us.”

Ms. Freda Andrews talked in an interview about Chapel Hill civil rights leader, Hilliard Caldwell: “He was like a mentor to me. He was always in the community. And he was just such a positive role model. He inspired me. He took us to hear a Christmas choral concert at Duke. I had never seen such a beautiful place! He was one of the reasons why I wanted to leave Chapel Hill and go places I didn’t think I’d ever go to.”

Education Can Happen in Many Places



[Davis] made sure that people treated me as if my mama was the wealthiest person in the community. And I believe that Nate understood that the content of my character-- which I had not yet defined-- was worth being celebrated. He embraced me and helped other people embrace me.” To hear the rest of her powerful message, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RozHC7zKecg>.

Get to Know Your Local Teachers!

Many Northside neighbors worked or work in the classrooms, cafeterias, sports fields, libraries and offices in the local public school system. Meet two of the district's most highly prized teachers who have close connections to the Northside community:

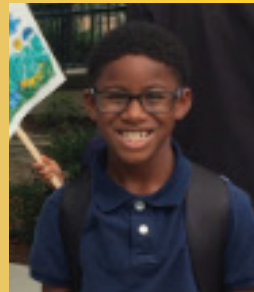
Northside Elementary fourth-grade teacher, Ms Ashley Quick-Hooker, attends St. Joseph's CME Church, just a few blocks from her school. She was named Northside Elementary Teacher of the Year and CHCCS Honor Teacher in 2018.

Ms Kim Fearrington still lives on the Northside street she grew up on, next door to her mother and grandmother. A beloved kindergarten teacher, she was named the school district's Teacher of the Year in 2014.

Student Quote

“My first day of school was good. I had pizza for lunch. What I like about school starting is that I get to do more reading.”

-Jamare Lee



Residential Fellows are UNC graduate students who have made a commitment to living in community together and becoming active service partners in Northside. They moved into their house in August!W



Kaitlyn Van Peurse is a current 3rd year graduate Pharmacy student at UNC. Home for her is southern California, but she has loved exploring this new region the past two years. Outside of school, she is involved in a local church, and she loves her faith-based community here. She is looking forward to meeting neighbors and sharing new experiences with you throughout the upcoming year.

Molly Remch is a graduate student at UNC's School of Public Health and focuses on the study of infectious disease. She is originally from New York and has been living in Carrboro for the past two years. In her free time, she loves to workout, ride her bike, hike, and go for walks. She hopes some of her neighbors will want to join in on a walk!

**ME AND YOU, YA MAMA AND YO COUSINS TOO!
DADDIES, AUNTIES, GRANDPARENTS, SISTERS,
BROTHERS AND ANYONE WHO CARES ABOUT
YOUNG PEOPLE BEING SUCCESSFUL ARE ALL
INVITED!**

-Toni Morrison



The Jackson Center has received funds to offset the cost of property taxes for aging, longterm, low-moderate income households in Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin Top. (If this paper was delivered to your home, you are in this area!) Contact the Jackson Center (919-960-1670) and ask for Kathy Atwater or come by 512 W. Rosemary for an application.

Want to read the *Northside News* online? Get a copy delivered to your inbox. Just drop us an email, and let us know you want to be an E-reader! contact@jacksoncenter.info

A: 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 News* 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, as well as the community's continued development. It encourages everyone to be involved not only with the newsletter, but also with the community and its issues. This is one of the main ways our neighbors connect with one another.

Q Why do you want to live in Northside? Do you have any connections. I want to live in the Northside Naborhood because I can walk to school, and some of my friends live here. It's also shady and you can walk to so much stuff. There is also a lot of historic stuff conserved in Northside. My connection to this naborhood is that my school is here.

On August 25, neighbors joined together to honor Della Pollock, retiring Executive Director of the Jackson Center. This joyous occasion of serenades, toasts, laughter and fellowship concluded with a community blessing and laying on of hands. We thank Della for sharing her vision and her love with us all and wish her well on her next great adventure!



October Birthdays

10/31- Charley Norwood