

Northside News

THE STUDENTS OF NORTHSIDE

In community with students and students within community. What a year of abundance as we accommodate the normalcy of air safety, and navigate proximal relationships. The fellowSHIP of students within the community has been in the ship yard for maintenance as we figure out how to be in community in these unprecedented times. The sea of life has been turbulent as of late but the ballasts of community: Church, School, Home and Business have held the ship steadfast and the ship upright through the storm. The bow of the ship strengthened with a golden commandment, the port side hull reinforced with generosity, the starboard linked with seamless connection, our stern deep love for a better tomorrow. Critically scrutinized, welded of faith, this ship is built to handle many things life winds to us.

-B.L. Harrison

STOP! LOOK! and LEARN! About Northside Elementary’s Favorite Crossing Guard, Paul Caldwell

Every school day, students, motorists and passers-by at the corners of Church and Caldwell streets will see Mr. Paul Caldwell’s familiar face, smiling as he greets school children and their parents while directing traffic to help everyone travel safely between home and school and back again. Most of them don’t know, however, that Mr. Caldwell was once a student walking to school at the site of what is now Northside Elementary.

Mr. Caldwell recalls, “...my first grade was Orange County Training School, which later was named Northside. And back then Orange Country Training School was the Black school here in Chapel Hill.” OCTS taught first graders through twelfth graders, all in the same building. Later, Lincoln High School opened for Black students in 7th through 12th grades, and Mr. Caldwell graduated from Lincoln in 1959. Eventually the older school was renamed Northside Elementary. It closed after the school system integrated and built several new elementary schools. Ten years ago, Northside Elementary was rebuilt as the modern school that a new generation of students attends today on the same site as OCTS.

When he attended OCTS, Mr. Caldwell had to walk nearly a mile and a half to school. Mr. Caldwell remembered, “Only the kids who stayed out in the rural areas got to ride school buses,” and so 20-25 kids from his neighborhood all walked to and from school together. He recalled, “We had one or two places where you could stop and get a Pepsi Cola for 10 cents; get a pack of crackers for five cents. They sold individual cookies for a penny apiece, and we shared...One Pepsi – we’d take five kids and each one would take a drink out of it until it was gone.”



In his elementary school days, Mr. Caldwell was taught by many well-known educators in the community – Mrs. Euzelle Smith, Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Frances Hargraves, and Mrs. Hogan. In high school, he had shop class with Mr. R.D. Smith. Since high school, Mr. Caldwell worked various jobs, most notably as a UNC Police officer. In his twenty-seven year career, he became the department’s first Black supervisor, serving as sergeant, lieutenant, and captain before his retirement. When the new Northside Elementary school was built just a few doors down from his home, he donned a new uniform and became a crossing guard.

A lot of kids in the neighborhood live “close enough to the school that they can’t ride the bus. They have to walk,” and “...they need somebody [to help them cross] with so much traffic at the intersection in the morning and at 2:30 in the evening when they get out of school.” The little kids hug him on their way across the street saying “I love you, Mr. Caldwell.” And the feeling is mutual. He says, “I love the kids...they’re my heart.” Parents show their appreciation with honks, waves, and gift cards to thank him for keeping their children safe, and teachers will roll down their windows and greet him on the way to school. He says, “I’ve got some of them that really make my day [saying] ‘Good morning Mr. Caldwell,’ you know. And that just starts your day out knowing that somebody cares about you.”

Today, his five year old grandson attends Northside, on the same spot where Mr. Caldwell went to school decades ago. The school today is much different than the segregated schools Mr. Caldwell attended. He recalls that when they rebuilt Northside, “they put top technology in that school.” While he remembers using hand-me-down textbooks from the white school when he attended Lincoln, his grandson’s kindergarten classroom has a digital smartboard and computer in the classroom. Mr. Caldwell proudly said about his grandson, “he can add, he can count, he knows his ABCs and he’s just five years old...He’s something else.” Looking back to his own school days, he says, “I think back sometimes about...I say, ‘God what if we would have had crossing guards’ and things like that” but adds, “things are getting better. They’re not there yet, but they’re getting there.”

Mr. Caldwell offers this advice for the young people he helps across the street each day: “Just take one day at the time...Don’t plan on tomorrow or next week. God gives you one day at the time; you take that one day and you thank Him for it, you be blessed with the one day, and you take advantage of that one day. You go to sleep, you wake up in the morning, and you say, ‘Thank you, God, for one more day.’ Just one day at the time. That’s it. That will do it for you.”

You can listen to the full interview with Mr. Caldwell on From the Rock Wall! www.fromtherockwall.org

By Christine Abernathy and Kathryn Wall

Stepping into New Adventures

It’s almost the end of the school year! As this time approaches, another round of Northside Residential Fellows are preparing to go off into the world. The Northside Residential Fellowship is a program where 3 undergraduate or graduate students live in the Northside neighborhood and learn about housing, organizing and aging while also completing service projects. One of the main aspects of the Northside Residential Fellowship is the twice a month meetings where



we co-learn on local topics. This past month members of the Jackson Center staff and the Northside Residential Fellows have come together in a new way to share their knowledge base with one another by having the fellows lead. Here they share back from their studies and what they have learned from the experience of being a fellow. From this current cohort of NRFs we have been learning such an array of topics. Holly taught about the importance of K-12 students having safe communities and feeling involved in their surroundings. Crystal spoke about the importance of healthy schools and their effect on students. Khalid spoke about mental health services and how to provide the most impactful environment for those around you. This year has been one of growth and celebration for the fellows. I for one am so proud of them.

- by Aisha Booze-hall

Here’s an image of Crystal Collins, Sita Tayal and Khalid --- after our last official NRF Meeting. (Not pictured Aisha Booze-hall, Ryan Lavalley, and Holly Neyer)

A Northside Residential Fellow Reflection


The opportunity to connect with a local elder has been a great opportunity. I have learned so much from her: local history, African American history, and a new perspective on the changing landscape of Chapel Hill. We have been able to connect about our mutual shared faith. We will do bible studies together and have an opportunity to share favorite scriptures and sermons. This has helped grow my personal faith and connect me with a faith community as I moved into a new area. During the holiday season, I coordinated a holiday party during which we wrote dozens of holiday greeting cards to send to local elders in Chapel Hill.

Working with the education side of the Jackson Center has allowed me to further my connections with the K-12 community in Orange County. From my perspective as a school counselor, with particular interest in supporting mental wellbeing in school environments, I was able to help the education program adopt grounding exercises and mindfulness techniques to support students as they delve into heavy topics related to Civil Rights.


Holly Neyer, Northside Residential Fellow

Reflections from UNC Students Engaged in Community	Northside Then and Now
<p>Caroline Englert, Jackson Center Student Leadership Group I feel honored to say that the Jackson Center — and the Northside Neighborhood as a whole — has been an essential part of my four years at Carolina. My freshman year, I had the opportunity to take Della Pollock’s (the founding Executive Director of the Jackson Center) service learning class. This course provided me my first glimpse into Northside’s deep history. Professor Pollock sent us out into the neighborhood to uncover and record stories and provide additional support to other service projects that we were passionate about. I was repetitively forced out of my comfort zone and simultaneously nurtured by the kindness, authenticity, and culture of service in the community.</p> <p>Following this class, I continued volunteering with the Jackson Center and ultimately joined the Student Leadership Group. In this role, I was given more responsibility and collaborated with other students in fundraising, community building, and mission-focused efforts. The pandemic disturbed our plans and normal operations for over a year, but it was really interesting seeing how the staff at the Jackson Center iterated and adapted to changing needs within the community. Now, as we are approaching some sense of normalcy, I’ve been able to continue some event planning efforts and I recently spearheaded the Jackson Center’s Neighborhood Music Day at the Boys and Girls Club.</p> <p>Northside gave me a second home apart from crazy college life and I’m so grateful it was part of my Carolina experience these past few years. There’s a whole other community in Chapel Hill outside the walls of UNC that many students live in without knowing it. I wish more undergrads got involved in Northside, whether by connecting with the Jackson Center or even just making time to get to know their neighbors.</p> <p>Sita Tayal, Partnerships in Aging Intern and Jackson Center Student Leadership Group Over the past two years, I’ve worked with the Jackson Center to coordinate the LINK and Northside Residential Fellowship programs as well as helping out on other projects, such as hot meal delivery, the Halloween parade, and the creation of a Salesforce database. Through the LINK program, I am fortunate to have formed a relationship with a long-term resident who is caring, kind, and always joyful. While she teaches me to sew, we talk about our families, careers, and histories. I appreciate her mentorship and kindness every day and am grateful to the Jackson Center for connecting us. I’ve also learned so much from the Jackson Center staff who have encouraged me to slow down and listen. My mentors, Ryan and Aisha, have been particularly influential in my growth over the past two years, helping me build hard skills (like database management, note taking, and written communication skills) but also encouraging me in my soft skills, such as talking to neighbors, leading group discussions, and much more. I also love talking to other students, hearing about their experiences in the neighborhood and learning alongside them how to be a better neighbor and advocate. From this internship, I’ve realized how much passion and energy I get from being active in the community and am excited to pursue a career in community health.</p>	<p>Ms. Keith Edwards attended Northside Elementary as a student and now her grandchildren’s mother is the Principal of Northside Elementary. Northside was the very beginning of Ms. Edwards’ childhood, starting at the age of 6. These were important years for her and to have the school back in the neighborhood brings her much joy. The learning experience in the school helped her in life. It was a community effort. Black teachers were respected and she grew up knowing she could be somebody. The first six years at Northside Elementary were wonderful, but when she had to change schools because of integration, everything changed. She cried every day, because she did not receive the same love and respect like she did at Northside. When asked, what advice would she give to today’s students; pay attention and don’t be afraid to talk to the teacher; ask questions. You learn more when you ask questions. Show respect. When you have respect, the teachers and other adults will give you respect. Be also respectful of the other children who are there to learn also. Do the best you can, never give up! You can learn! When asked what advice would she give the teachers; first she would give them a big hug because they have a lot to contend with. Teachers should set the rules in the classroom the very first day and don’t back up. Look at the student as an individual and teach them in line with how they can learn. Students can excel when they have the right amount of motivation from the teacher. Do whatever you can to let the children know you care, starting day 1. Treat them all the same. Every child deserves respect in the classroom. They are there to learn and they need the teacher to create an atmosphere where they can learn.</p> <p>In our next issue, we will hear from Ms. Coretta Lynn Sharpless, the Principal of Northside Elementary who gives her perspective of being the Principal of the school in the neighborhood she grew up in.</p>


In Memoriam




Mrs. Mary Mayester (Atkinson) Burnette
March 20, 1939 - April 23, 2022




Mrs. Rochella Vivian (White) Rice
August 24, 1940 ~ April 21, 2022



Ms. Stella Mae Farrar
April 18, 1946 ~ April 18, 2022



Mr. Melvin Parrish Jr.
July 24, 1979 ~ April 15, 2022



Mr. James Atwater, Jr.
January 4, 1940 - April 24, 2022


Oral Histories on Desegregation

From the Rock Wall houses many oral histories related to education and student experiences in Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin Top. One of these collections is a series of over 60 interviews conducted by Bob Gilgor in 2000-2001. The interviewees include former teachers, staff, and students from Lincoln High School, the historically Black high school in Chapel Hill. Interviewees talk about their education, extracurricular activities, and high school social life before and after integration. These interviews provide insight into the complex history of integration in Chapel Hill, showing that while integration was necessary it also brought demotion and dismissal for Black educators and highlighted inequalities faced by Black students.”


To listen to these oral histories, search “Gilgor” on fromtherockwall.com

Save the Dates



Community Cinema at the Chelsea Theater
Tues 6/14 at 2 PM & Mon 6/20 at 5:30 PM
Enjoy a documentary film about Civil Rights in Chapel Hill and learn more about new features of From the Rock Wall with neighbors.



Info or RSVP:
919-960-1670



Happy 104th Birthday to Mr. Garland Foushee!
There will be a birthday procession on May 17th. For more information or to send well-wishes, email Pat Jackson at stjosephcme@att.net



“There’s No Longevity Living of Negativity” -Big Pun



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTEREST SESSION
Wed, May 25 6:00PM • The Jackson Center
Food & children’s activities!
RSVP: christine@jacksoncenter.info or 919.283.3841
Habitat applications open June 1st!

Come Out on May 20th

Weaver Gospel Singers Tribute
by The Junior Weaver Gospel Singers
Joined by Josh Weaver, Praise Dancer
At the Carrboro Town Commons | 6:30 p.m.



CHAPEL HILL - CARRBORO

JUNETEENTH

SUNDAY, JUNE 19 © 2-6 P.M.
HARGRAVES COMMUNITY CENTER

June Birthdays

- June 1 Molly Remch
- June 9 Phyllis Joyner
- June 9 Louise Felix
- June 10 Michael Parker
- June 16 Vickie Weaver
- June 16 Neill Goslin
- June 18 Boyd Jackson
- June 18 Imasha Adisa
- June 19 Mark McDaniel
- June 24 Loretta Perry
- June 24 Rachel Glasser
- June 27 Brittany Walker