

Northside News

Meet the McDouglases and the Smiths: Educators with a Legacy

The McDougles have established a place in the hearts and minds of residents and students through their combined 70-year dedication to education. Charles A. McDougale, Jr., the son of Charles A. McDougale, Sr., and Lucile McDougale, was proud to remind local neighbors about the McDougale legacy. It “dawned on him the role of his parents,” particularly after they became namesakes for McDougale Elementary School and McDougale Middle School. He recalled moments when former students shared memories about his father with him, keeping the memory of the McDougles alive through their stories. Charles is proud to be a McDougale and come from a family of educators. His late sister Charlene McDougale Smith reflected on her early days at school: “It was a time when there were expectations of what you needed to be about or to do, given that both my parents were educators. And there was a sense that you wanted to do well, and all of your friends equally wanted to do well, and did succeed in many endeavors. I can look back at the experiences and see the pride that we had, the self-confidence that each person had, because there was always something that each person could participate in and be successful.” Today, Mr. McDougale is blessed to see his niece, Tamara Smith, be an educator at Estes Hill Elementary, the last school his mother worked at.

Likewise, R.D. Smith and Euzelle Smith are part of the rich CHCCS educational legacy. The Smith Middle School library carries their memorabilia and is a shrine to their preservation of black history. Euzelle Smith hoped to “get [the Smith family’s oral histories] together in some way that anyone who is interested can pick it up and get a sense of what the town was like, how it is now, and what is projected for the future. And so that person can come in and read it and get an overview of the whole town was and is like and probably get some perspective of where we’re headed.” As desegregation supporters, the Smiths recall their experience was worth it. R.D. Smith said “ I mean we developed a relationship, black and white. And they [students] began to believe that I was on their side, you know, because I didn’t take any mess. I had a set of rules and regulations that everybody went by.” Mr. Smith was known as The Master because of his ability to tinker, build, and grow. Mrs. Smith worked at the library and cafeteria when she was not teaching. The self-sufficient, well-rounded Smiths reveal how education extends beyond the classroom.

Charles A. McDougale, Sr., Lucile McDougale, Charlene McDougale Smith, R.D. Smith, and Euzelle Smith have left a dynamic legacy through their commitment to empowering the black community. Now they live on because their families and neighbors honor their lives by engaging with their oral histories and sharing more memories about them.

You can listen to the full interview with Mr. McDougale and find more information on the Smiths and the McDougles at www.fromtherockwall.org
Nya E. Smythe, Ms. Kathy Atwater, Ms. Mae McLendon

Northside Elementary School—Education Rooted in History

Northside Elementary School (NES) carries a rich legacy that began in 1924 at Orange County Training School (OCTS) and was continued at Lincoln High School and the first Northside Elementary School (NES) until it was closed in 1966. NES re-opened its doors for K-5 students in Fall 2013.

Principal Coretta Sharpless credited the rebuilding to former CHCCS superintendent Mr. Neil Pedersen. He was “committed to community and uplifting the history...in an area that has not had a community school...since the days of integration.” NES thrives today and gives homage to its founding history. Sharpless’s predecessor Cheryl Carnahan agrees that students “need to be a part of the history of what has happened at Northside.” This led to collaboration and community outreach in the social studies curriculum with the Jackson Center and Northside long-term residents like Keith Edwards and the late Willie Mae Patterson.



Nya E. Smythe & Mrs. Coretta Sharpless

Sharpless and NES staff are committed to reviving these histories with the Navigators (NES mascot name). Projects aiding the ongoing community-driven process to share and create history have highlighted businesses and the pillars of the church and featured community tours and seminars. These collaborations teach navigators criticality and positive self-identity in a community that respects elders and themselves. Community pride emanates from the OCTS, Lincoln High School, and Northside Elementary archival materials, along with the interactive timeline featuring the quote from Marian Cheek Jackson: “Without the past, we have no future.” The timeline is personal to Sharpless because she is a Northside native, and her grandmother’s photo is on the timeline.

“Look at the walls and see you” is reflected in Northside Elementary displays. “The Black People are Timeless” display features *Time* magazine covers with black icons. There are two mirrors on the Northside timeline: students look into the lower mirror that says, “You are Northside history” as their elementary school journey begins, and the mirror above says, “The legacy continues” as their graduation approaches. Technology reinforces this commitment to history. Students conduct oral history interviews, write books, and recreate scenes from the past with green screens. The school also emphasizes “teaching kids creation rather than consumption.”

The rooftop garden is another spot for hands-on learning. Students created rain catchers for the rooftop garden to take weather measurements, and each grade level has a section of the garden, planting things like watermelon, kale, and sunflowers. Navigators can read plaques about solar lights, the garden roof, rainwater cisterns, and sun screens. The natural lighting in the classroom comes from solar tubes on the rooftop garden, which NES won a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design award for.

Sharpless addressed how NES discussed racial divides and expressed her method to bridge educational gaps. She creates space for conversations about race, “not by coincidence, so students have “tools and a context for how to engage in conversation and understanding that race is connected to power and power structures that want to be able to keep the dominant force as it is. And there are people who work to help dismantle those structures and not just people of color”. Her goal is for teachers to teach many vantage points and the truth for criticality and agency to develop within navigators. To her, “You can’t talk about history without talking about the racialized impact.”

Principal Sharpless is excited to welcome new and returning students to the corners of Caldwell and Church next month. “Community matters”, “joy matters”, and “learning matters” are NES values that she pours into students and staff. She embodies the love, respect, community, joy, and learning she experienced as a child in Northside, which is why she excels in her position!

You can listen to the full interview with Mrs. Sharpless on www.fromtherockwall.org and purchase her book *Sharp Daily Devotionals* on Amazon.
Nya E. Smythe & Ms. Kathy Atwater

New North Carolina Civil Rights Trail Marker Coming to Chapel Hill

On Saturday, September 23, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, located out on Highway 15/501 where the former Watts Restaurant and Motel used to be, will be unveiling a new NCCRT marker to commemorate the sit-in protests that took place in January 1964 at the Watts Restaurant. The marker will honor the Black and White high school students, college students, and professors from Duke and UNC who were verbally and physically abused by the restaurant owners and patrons during their peaceful protests over several days. Community members are invited to attend the ceremony and luncheon to follow. To receive an invitation to this historic commemoration, please send an email to Dianne Martin at dmartin@gwu.edu or call 202-725-7260.

This will be the second NCCRT marker installed in Chapel Hill this year. The first one was unveiled on Juneteenth Day at the Hargraves Center.

New Vision Church of God of Prophecy

We learned from one of our neighbors that something was going on at the church on Church Street and upon questioning, learned that the ministry would no longer be using the building and were selling the property. Due to the pandemic, the congregation could not hold their services for two years. When they were able to meet again in person, the building had decayed from sitting idle for 2 years and the church held their services at the Carrboro Century Center. Our mission with the Northside Neighbor Initiative is to acquire properties to preserve the neighborhood for future families. The ministry leaders allowed us the NNI to purchase the church property. We interviewed the former Pastor, Rev. Dardanella McMillian, who shared with us the church’s rich history! Church of God of Prophecy is an international ministry with congregations all over the world. More information can be found on the ministry website www.cogop.org

The Beginning of The Ministry: The church leaders commissioned Rev. Roosevelt Ashford and members to start a church in Chapel Hill, so their first gathering was a tent meeting on the corner of N. Graham and Whitaker in 1959. Many people from the community attended and became part of the ministry. The Pastor and new converts later moved their services to 214 Merritt Mill Road and on August 6, 1960, Rev. Ashford was appointed Pastor of Church of God of Prophecy. To fit a growing congregation, the ministry purchased the 605 Church St. property and built the current church in 1971.

There have been other pastors since Rev. Ashford (now Bishop Ashford) until Rev. McMillian was appointed Pastor in 2019. Because of the pandemic, the membership declined so Pastor McMillian felt the call to do more community outreach. The church name was changed under her leadership to New Vision Church of God of Prophecy. They continued to minister through community outreach as well as conducting church services every 4th Sunday to the residents of Signature Rehab. Several residents of Signature passed away from COVID, which was very heartbreaking for Pastor McMillian and the members of New Vision. Before the pandemic, family members of some of the residents of Signature would bring their loved ones to the church. Everyone that came were glad to be in the service because they felt so much love from the Pastor and the members. Pastor McMillian was thankful because that was their mission, to show love!

We asked Rev. McMillian what it felt like being in the neighborhood after some of the residents had moved out and some of the homes turned into student rentals. Rev. McMillian shared that the students were very nice and would participate in the services! She shared that she along with the congregation were very sad that the church had to close. Many members were new converts and didn’t want to leave the ministry to go to other churches. Although many of the older members had passed away, their children continued to come after they became adults. Rev. McMillian retired from Pastoring once it was decided not to continue the church on Church Street.

Information about the New Vision Church of God of Prophecy can be found on www.fromtherockwall.org. You can also share your memories of the church at fromtherockwall.org/respond.

Ms. Kathy Atwater

August Birthdays

- August 1 Jason James
- August 2 Sheila Alston
- August 4 Gracie Polly Webb
- August 5 Kathy Atwater
- August 5 Steve Pendergraft
- August 6 Mae McLendon
- August 10 Elizabeth McCain
- August 10 Seth Murray
- August 10 David Lyles
- August 12 Ryan LaValley
- August 13 Doris Wilson
- August 13 Warren Jones
- August 14 Roy Atwater
- August 15 Floyd Foushee
- August 16 Rev. Kevin Brown
- August 17 Esphur Foster
- August 18 Anna Spencer
- August 19 Jesse Chavis
- August 20 Karie Lee
- August 22 Tiffany Watson
- August 25 Tonya Barrett
- August 28 Rosalyn Alston
- August 28 Sherdenia Weaver
- August 28 Steph Pierson
- August 29 Keith Edwards
- August 31 Freda Andrews

In Memoriam



Mr. Frank Gregory Norwood
July 29, 1955 ~ June 11, 2023



Mrs. Annie Mae (Gattis) Burnett
November 18, 1926 ~ July 5, 2023



Mr. Howard Leroy “Buddy” Baldwin
March 19, 1931 ~ July 13, 2023



Ms. Phyllis Ann Clark
June 29, 1957 ~ July 13, 2023

The Marian Cheek Jackson Center conducts the Northside Census every 2 years to collect accurate demographic information to assess the impact of our housing work. Please fill out the info for your household at <https://forms.gle/7H6U9n91K1JgTHaV6> This info will be kept CONFIDENTIAL!

Home For Sale: A Mother’s Legacy and a Mason’s Craftsmanship

The Neville house is planted in the Lloyd-Broad neighborhood within Northside. The home holds the legacy of matriarch Ethel Neville, a lifelong resident and descendent of the enslaved in Orange County. She resided in the home from the time it was built in 1945 until her passing in 2013 at 99 years old. The uniquely masoned stone walls bear witness to a mother’s abounding love, care, and commitment to her children and community. Mrs. Neville’s legacy has been exemplified through her five children with her husband Jeter Neville, all of whom were involved in the local civil rights movement. Jerry F. Neville, James Wilbert Neville, Johnson Henry Neville, Calvin Neville, and Ethel Neville Worley. Mr. Jerry Neville speaks of his mother’s proverbial wisdom in maintaining the home and supporting their family during tough times. “She is the true legacy of this home,” he reflects. Today the Neville House stands as a pillar in an evolving landscape that honors the burdens, perseverance, and humanity of the black women and mothers of the Northside community.

The Neville House is also perhaps the most stylistically distinctive of the buildings built in Northside by black mason, John Wesley Campbell. Today, the home has been newly renovated including brand new systems including HVAC, plumbing, electrical as well as brand new bathrooms and a new kitchen. Experience the unique charm and craftsmanship of a World War II-era artisan-built home while still enjoying the modern conveniences of a 21st century full-home renovation. Anyone who is community-connected or a first generation homebuyer could be eligible for up to \$15,000 in funding towards the costs of the home. Read more about the home at <https://jacksoncenter.info/nevillehouse/>

Do you want to find out more or see the home? Contact Christine at christine@jacksoncenter.info or call us at 919-960-1670. The home is deed restricted—no investors.

Aging in Community Student Reflections

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, Northside Residential Fellows (NRF) and LINKing Generations students were encouraged to submit monthly reflections about their engagement in Northside. Through active participation in community initiatives alongside elder partners, student reflections reveal a deeper understanding of their role in fostering positive community relations.

Improving Community Relations. Students reflected on their actions in the community and the impact they have on long-term residents. One student described an increased awareness of their actions when in Northside. Similarly, another student considered how to be more respectful when greeting residents near their homes or at community events. Students came to see themselves as members of the Northside community and acknowledged the power of their actions to support or harm community experiences.

Justice in the Community. Other students reflected on the social justice issues impacting the community such as gentrification, property taxes, and student housing. One student discussed their involvement with the social host ordinance and acknowledged its role in mediating the ongoing issues between students and neighbors. Student reflections demonstrate increased attention to and engagement with the social injustices impacting the community.

Gratitude. As students reflected on their actions and social issues impacting Northside, they emphasized the connection and care they felt while engaged with elders. The students and the Aging in Community Team express our gratitude to all the elder mentors.

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Grab your swimsuit and a towel and get ready for the

2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY

pool party

CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF

A.D. CLARK POOL AT HARGRAVES CENTER

216 N. Roberson Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

FRIDAY AUGUST 11, 5 PM TO 7:30 PM

HOT DOGS, SOFT DRINKS, AND CONCESSION STAND FAVORITES!

POOL TOYS FOR THE KIDS & FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART!

FREE!

BUT CALL BY AUG 9 TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

919-960-1670