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# OAK CITY NEWS

OAK CITY BAPTIST CHURCH  
REV. DR. WILLIAM T. NEWKIRK, SR.  
PASTOR



## CONGRATULATIONS OAK CITY BAPTIST CHURCH GRADUATES



*O God, You have taught me from my youth;  
And to this day I declare Your wondrous  
works.*

*Psalm 71:17 (NKJV)*

*God is not done with you yet,  
He is still guiding your journey,  
offering wisdom, and inviting  
you to align with His purpose  
for your life, Trust In His  
direction and let your choices  
reflect His guidance,  
Keep going, keep seeking Him*

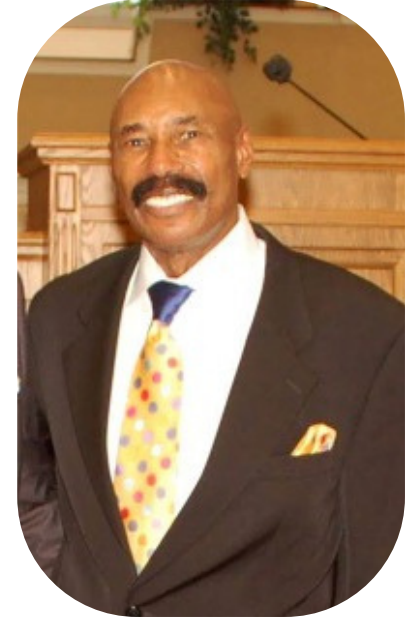
# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

REV. DR. WILLIAM T. NEWKIRK, SR.

**“Learn from Yesterday, Live for Today, and Hope for Tomorrow!”**

Someone once said, “If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn’t happen, you have worried in vain.” Instead, try these 21 Tips:

1. Pray!
2. Go to bed on time and get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
3. Say “No” to projects that won’t fit into your schedule, so they won’t compromise your mental health.
4. Delegate tasks to capable others.
5. Talk less and listen more.
6. Live within your budget. Financial issues will stress you and others out.
7. Do something for the kid in “you” every day.
8. Download a Bible app on your phone to read while you are waiting.
9. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
10. Eat right.
11. Get organized so everything has its place.
12. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
13. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud.
14. Make friends with Godly people.
15. Keep a listing of favorite Scriptures on hand.
16. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good, “Thank you Jesus!”
17. Laugh often!
18. Laugh some more!
19. Take your work seriously, but not yourself.
20. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
21. Every night before bed, think of one thing you’re grateful for. God has a way of turning things around for you!
22. Pray!



Pastor Newkirk

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# IMPRESSIONS BY THE FIRST LADY

CATHERINE WHITE NEWKIRK

## Immeasurably More

As I gleaned through this devotional, I was prompted to read it several times.

Therefore, I felt the urgency to share it with my fellow parishioners.

What's the boldest prayer you can think to pray?  
Or the most incredible thing you  
can dare to imagine?

Did you know that God can top it?

Paul said it like this:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..."

Ephesians 3:20 NIV

You know those quiet dreams in your heart? God put them there. You know that ache for something better than this broken world? God gave you that desire. You know the deepest longings of your soul? God knows how to fulfill them.

Like Paul said, God can do more than we ask or imagine, but we also must remember the second part of His words: according to His power at work within us.

It's all God's power and His plan. But He has invited us into it.



So, what's our part in this process?

We can give glory to Him—knowing that it's Him who gives us the desire and power to do what pleases Him (Philippians 2:13). He created us, loves us and has entrusted us with sharing His message with the world.

We can submit ourselves to His plan—knowing that it's all God, but He chooses to work in and through His people to accomplish His purposes. He doesn't need us to be perfect; He just wants us to be willing.

We can trust Him with the process—knowing that He is good, righteous, worthy, strong, and eternal. We don't have to know all the answers because we already have Him, and He can do more than we can ask or imagine.

In summary, God's Immeasurable Power is seen as actively working within believers enabling them to overcome challenges while experiencing God's Blessings.

I Still BELIEVE,  
Lady K





## 2025 GRADUATES

# ***Katilyn Evans***

Congratulations Katilyn on graduating from South Garner High School and receiving your High School Diploma.

Katilyn's parents are the late Ms. Latoya Bond (Mother) and Ms. Monica Bond (Aunt); her paternal grandparent is the late Ms. Gail Bond.

Katilyn would like to give special recognitions first, she wants to thank God, her Godparents and also a special shout out to her Oak City family for guiding her.

For the youth at Oak City, she would like for them to know God say, *"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."* — Jeremiah 29:11.

To Oak City she leaves her favorite scripture James 1:5 (NKJV), *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him,* that helped me when I felt overwhelmed.

She wants her family to remember; God says, *"He has a plan for me, He definitely didn't make no mistakes, and I trust His words for me."*

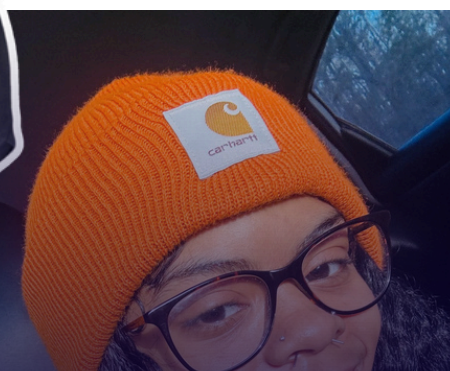
Katilyn is thankful to the Lord for His many blessings; and allowing her to grow under His guidance and loving her for her no matter what!

Katilyn's mom inspired her the most. *"She had my life set in ways most kids don't get, and I thank her for the knowledge she passed on to me and the guidance she kept about us."*

Katilyn's future goals are to attend Wake Tech and major in either speech or phlebotomy and to maintain high grades.

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**KATILYN EVANS**

South Garner High School  
High School Diploma



## 2025 GRADUATES

# Kaylee Laila Evans

Congratulations Kaylee on graduating from South Garner High School and receiving your High School Diploma.

Kaylee's parents are the late Ms. Latoya Bond (Mother) and Ms. Monica Bond (Aunt); her paternal grandparent is the late Ms. Gail Bond.

Kaylee would like to give special recognition to God, her mother, her Oak City family, friends and everyone who has supported her through this journey.

For the youth, I would like for them to know God says, 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. '" — Jeremiah 29:11.

To my Oak City family, I leave my favorite scripture Isaiah 60:22 (ERV), When the time is right, I, the Lord, will come quickly. I will make these things happen." that helped me when I felt overwhelmed.

To my family remember, God says. "You are chosen for a purpose" and I trust his words for me.

Kaylee is thankful to the Lord for His many blessings; *"for the strength to face each day the peace that that calms my heart and the purpose you've given to my life. I trust in your plan and praise you for all you've done and all you will do."*

Kaylee's mom inspired her the most. *"She has always shown strength, love and sacrifice no matter what life threw at her. Her faith, kindness and determination push me to be a better person every day."*

Kaylee's future goals are to be a future educator and a daycare owner.

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# Kaylee La'ila Evans

South Garner High School

High School Diploma





## 2025 GRADUATES

# ***Mulamba (Benny) Kamenga***

Congratulations Mulamba on graduating from Athens Drive High School and receiving your High School Diploma.

Benny's parents are Mr. Ndibu Mputu and Ms. Janet Mokanga; his maternal grandparent are Mr. Monsete Joseph Ilunga and Ms. Monka Marie Akamboyibe.

For future graduates, I would like for them to know God says, 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.' " — Jeremiah 29:11.

To Oak City Baptist Church, I leave my favorite scripture Psalm 34:18 (NKJV), "*The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as [a] have a contrite spirit*" that helped me when I felt overwhelmed.

To my family remember, God says. "*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,* and I trust his words for me." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

Benny is thankful to the Lord for His many blessings and lessons; "for helping me overcome the hardships that I have faced in my life."

Benny's mother inspired him the most. "She's the reason why I could accomplish anything."

Benny's future goals are to graduate with an associate's in Applied Sciences and earn a Bachelor's and Master's in Construction Management.

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# Mulamba Kamenga

Athens Drive  
High School Diploma





## 2025 GRADUATES

# ***Gabriella Carman Rosita Negron***

Congratulations Gabriella on graduating from Athens Drives Magnet High School and receiving your General Educational Development (GED).

Gabriella's parent is Ms. Crystal Evans; her paternal grandparent is Ms. Annette Horton.

Gabriella would like to give special recognition to her grandmother Annette for never giving up on her, her mom Crystal for having her back and pushing her to be best version of herself, her sisters and all close family members.

For her family, she would like for them to know God says, *'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'* — Jeremiah 29:11.

To her grandmother, she leaves her favorite scripture that helped her when she felt overwhelmed.

She wants her family to remember; God says, *"to trust His words for me."*

Gabriella is thankful to the Lord for His many blessings; *"continue to strengthen me and build me up. Amen."*

Gabriella's mom inspired her the most. *"She works night and day and never gets a break. She is very strong and just the woman I want be and she learned that from her mom, which is my grandma the beautiful woman has instilled this in everyone she raised in her home. I love them both so much"*

Gabriella's future goal is becoming a hematologist

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*GABRIELLA CARMAN ROSITA NEGRÓN*

Athens Drives Magnet High School  
General Educational Development Diploma



## 2025 GRADUATES

### ***Whitney Battle***

Congratulations Whitney on graduating from Gwinnett College- Raleigh Campus and receiving your Certification as a Professional Massage Therapist.

Whitney's parents are Mr. Kelvin and Mrs. Gwendolyn Battle; her paternal grandparents are Mr. John and Mrs. Lillie Ward; and her maternal grandparents are Mr. Jessie and Mrs. Mary Pilgreen.

Whitney would like to give special thanks to her family, friends, and church family for their prayers and emotional support.

For those uncertain about starting a new career path, I would like for them to know God says, *'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'* — Jeremiah 29:11.

To the youth and young adults, she leaves her favorite scripture Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV), *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall [a]direct your paths,* that helped me when I felt overwhelmed.

She wants her family to remember; *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. Let your requests be made known to him and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,* and I trust his words for me."

Whitney is thankful to the Lord for His many blessings; *"for opportunities, and protection against this constantly changing world."*

Whitney was most inspired *"by God creating me with an entrepreneurial mindset and passion for the health care field I was inspired to change my career path to create a new legacy for my future."*

Whitney's future goals are to become a self-employed massage therapist, providing education on self-care and mental health through a therapeutic gentle touch.

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## 2025 GRADUATES

### ***Kyara Leslie***

Congratulations Kyara on graduating from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Science.

Kyara's parents are Mr. Antuwan and Mrs. Theresa Wheathers Curtis; her paternal grandparents are Mr. Elroy Leslie and Ms. Vanessa Douglas; and her maternal grandparents are Deacon William Brown and Rev. Dr. Jean D. Brown.

Kyara received special recognition for Certified Phlebotomy Technician, Lab Assistant and 6-Tech Student Associate.

For my church family, I would like for them to know God says, *'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'* — Jeremiah 29:11.

To those that are entering college and may feel unsure at times, she leaves her favorite scripture Proverbs 16:3 (NKJV), *Commit your works to the Lord, And your thoughts will be established*, that helped me when I felt overwhelmed.

She wants her family to remember; God says, *Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.* Isaiah 30:21 (NKJV), and I trust his words for me."

Kyara is thankful to the Lord for His many blessings; *"for love and grace that you have shown me within these past four years."*

Kyara's Nana and mom inspired her the most. *"They showed me what it means to be faithful no matter what life brings. Their wisdom, love, and belief in God continues to guide me every day."*

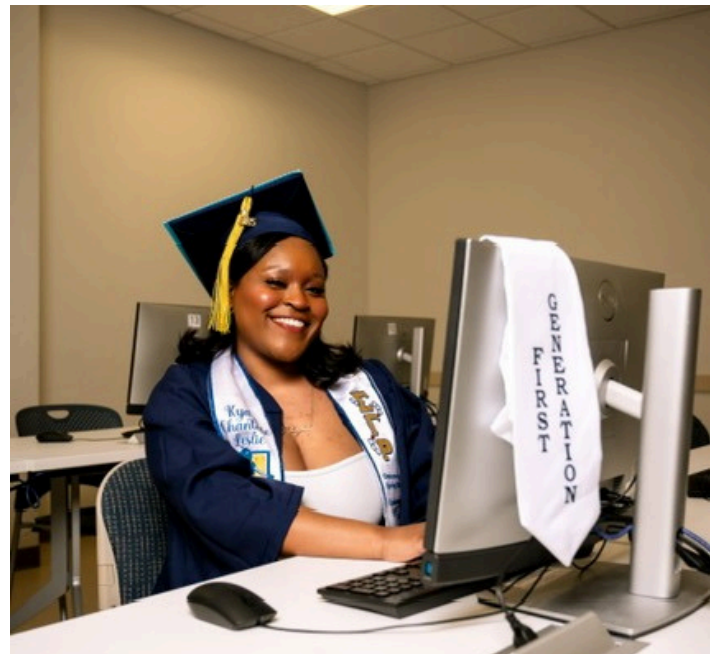
Kyara's future goals are attending UNCG for a Masters in Informatics and Analytics while pursuing a career in Health Informatics.

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# Kyara Leslie

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO  
BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SCIENCE





## *Sunday School Lessons*

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*  
*Sunday School Ministry*

### **Summer - 2025**

#### **The Genesis of Altars and Sacrifices**

June 1 The Offerings of Cain and Abel----- Genesis 4:1-16  
 June 8 Noah Builds an Altar----- Genesis 8:13-22; 9:11-13  
 June 15 Abraham Makes an Offering----- Genesis 22:1-14  
 June 22 Isaac Calls on the Name of the Lord----- Genesis 26:24-33  
 June 29 Jacob Sets Up a Sacred Pillar----- Genesis 28:10-22

#### **Jesus and the Temple**

July 6 The Boy Jesus in the Temple----- Luke 2:41-52  
 July 13 Lord of the Sabbath----- Matthew 12:1-8  
 July 20 Cleansing the Temple----- John 2:13-25  
 July 27 Jesus Predicts the Temple's Destruction----- Matthew 24:1-14

#### **Christians and Sacrifice**

August 3 Christians as God's Temple----- 1 Corinthians 3:10-23  
 August 10 Our Bodies Belong to God----- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 August 17 The Two Made One----- Ephesians 2:11-22  
 August 24 Sacrifices of Praise----- Hebrews 13:9-21  
 August 31 Livings Stones in a Spiritual Temple----- 1 Peter 2:1-12

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# OCBC NEW MEMBERS

Oak City has been blessed with several new members. Welcome to our church. Our arms are always open to embrace you.

In love's embrace, we welcome you,  
First time joined, spirits anew.  
Step into our holy place, warm and bright,  
Where faith and hope take flight.  
With open arms, we share our grace,  
A family here in this sacred space.  
Together we'll journey, side by side,  
In God's love, we'll faithfully abide.  
So come, dear souls, and feel the love,  
In this church home, a gift from above.

Mr. Eric Bellamy -- March 2, 2025  
Ms. Sarah Sanders -- March 30, 2025  
Ms. Mary Louise Jones -- April 6, 2025  
Artimus Brown -- April 13, 2025  
Nija Amira Renee King -- April 13, 2025  
Javian Zion Lucas -- April 13, 2025  
Kataleya Leilani Morgan -- April 13, 2025  
Benjamin Lamar Reynolds -- April 13, 2025  
Jada Reynolds -- April 13, 2025



# OCBC NEW MEMBERS

## ***Eric D Bellamy Sr.***

*Mr. Eric Bellamy joined our church family March 2<sup>nd</sup>. He completed the New Members Orientation and, yes, he has already begun a good work here at Oak City Baptist Church.*

*Eric was born in Tarboro NC to Lonnie Bellamy and Willia Mae Ward on June 5, 1958. His Father was in the military and was stationed in Baltimore. They lived in Washington, DC. His mother passed in 1976 and his father passed in 2006. He is one of seven siblings, four boys and three girls.*

*Eric graduated High School in 1976. He joined the US Navy in 1979 with an Honorable Discharge in 1988. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a minor in Human Resource Management. He has over thirty years of experience in the Printing Industry. Eric retired from North Carolina State Government as a Section Chief and Print Shop Manager for the Department of Labor.*

*Eric started his Catering and Mobile Food Service Business (Don Bell's Grill House) in 2010 with a smoker, tents, and tables, and in 2015 he purchased a Food Trailer. He has done events; Down East Classic Football Game for Elizabeth*



*State University, Apex Pop Warner Football Games, Phoenix Festival in Durham, South Carolina State University Alumni Pregame Meet and Greet, other events and private parties.*

*Eric was a previous member of Grace Christian Church: 7715 Louisburg Road Raleigh NC, Pastor Timothy Martin and New Life Community Church, Apex NC. Pastor Herbert Kears.*

*Eric enjoys model cars, cycling, cooking, financial budgeting, Washington Commanders.*

# OCBC NEW MEMBERS

Elaine Hopkins

*A few weeks ago, following Pastor Newkirk's sermon, he came down out of the pulpit as he began extending an invitation to be saved. Arya and Skylar Townes came almost running toward him like a 'mighty rushing wind' to give their lives to Christ, as well as to be baptized! Oh, what a sight to behold to see those babies running to the altar to be saved.*

## **Arya Townes**

*Oak City Baptist Church congregation, I present to you seven-year olde Arya Townes, a second grader at East Garner Elementary School. She described her day at school as being awesome because it being Field Day: they were outside, they played games, and they ate popsicles. Arya explained it was important to go to school to get good grades, so you won't be held back while others are passing.*

*Next, I asked Arya how she determines or selects her friends. She explained how they help each other, they play with each other, and they sit with each other. She concluded that playing on the computer and writing were her favorite things to do.*

*I asked Arya what she would do if she was asked to pray in Sunday School or youth church. Her answer was:*

*What is God's favorite thing to do? 😊*

## **Mary Jones**

*I cannot begin to express what a blessing it was to interview Sister Mary Jones on the phone recently. Her warmth and pleasant demeanor made this an interview to be long remembered.*

*Sister Jones was born and raised in Oxford, North Carolina. Later, when the family moved to Raleigh, NC, she graduated from DeBois High School. She met, fell in love and married Zollie Jones. They were married for many years and had*





# OCBC NEW MEMBERS

## **Mary Jones continued**

*six daughters. Her daughters also live in Raleigh, and they often enjoy many family -related gatherings. Sister Jones counts it a blessing to have fifteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.*

*She worked first at Rex Hospital for twelve years in Environmental Services and now she works full time at Wake Med in EVC as well.*

*I asked Sister Jones what led her to join Oak City Baptist Church. Her reply was about her desire to continue to live her life in the service of the Lord and to get baptized. She explained how she was raised by her grandma and her happy life is complements of the solid joy and the close family ties they have maintained throughout life. She is thankful for God's covering during her lifetime. She went on to say serving the Lord is what we all need to be doing. She expressed a desire to be involved in Bible Study since she lives on Method Rd. down the street from the church.*

*Hebrews 13:2*

*“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”*

## **Skylar Townes**

*Skylar will be in the fourth grade at East Garner Elementary School. She prefers going directly to school as opposed to learning virtually. Her favorite subject is Math and Skylar says the most important thing in her school is following MAPS:*

- *M = Make Good Choices.*
- *A = Always Do Your Best.*
- *P = Practice Self- Control.*
- *S = Show Respect for Others*

*I asked Skylar how she preferred to work in school alone or in a group. She liked working best by herself because in a group they maybe walking around instead of doing what they are supposed to be doing. I asked Skylar to tell me 3 words to describe her.*

*Her response was smart, nosy and kind.*





# OCBC NEW MEMBERS

## ***Sarah Ellen Sanders***

*On this beautiful Sunday afternoon, I drove Sister Sanders home to do her interview for this article. Her tenacity, along with her sense of humility clearly left me speechless! I felt that I was in the presence of an icon and legend in her own right.*

*Sister Sanders and her two other siblings spent their early years with their very supportive parents in the Oberlin community.*

*After graduating from high school she went to Saint Augustine's College for two and a half years. She met Swade, her husband, and a few months later they were married and relocated to the Method community.*

*The families got along beautifully once they got to know each other. She worked at Nationwide Insurance Company at the entry level in files while advancing to cooperate management before retirement. After retirement, she went to Five Points for many years for exercise classes and later to volunteer teaching and showcasing her work with crafts. She travelled a lot and won several metals for her arts and crafts, much of which is displayed in her home today.*

Her husband, Swade, was the first Black employee to drive the Greyhound bus. He did all of the cooking, became a deacon in their church and became known as being a good man. Out of the five children they had, four are still living. She is blessed to have children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren calling to check on her continuously.

At her age, her children have asked her not to drive. Beautifully, taking things in stride while smiling, she expressed a desire to continue teaching her sewing, knitting, tatting (whatever that is) as well as creating and designing more of the same. It is her desire to continue to keep busy! It's in her spirit!

Sister Sanders had seventy beautiful years with her husband; he was ninety-two years old when he passed away.



**Welcome to our Church**

# PRIORITIZING MEN'S HEALTH: AN ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST FOR EVERY AGE

*Taking charge of your health is a responsibility that should never be overlooked, regardless of your gender. However, men, including African American men, often tend to neglect regular health check-ups, which can result in delayed detection and treatment of potential health issues.*

*To help men, especially African American men, prioritize their well-being, Black Health Matters present the Men's Health Checklist. While it is important for each individual to be cognizant of their family history and personal issues, this comprehensive guide outlines the essential screenings and exams that men should consider at different stages of life, ensuring proactive health management and an improved quality of life.*

## *In Your 20s:*

- *Annual Physical Exam: Make it a habit to schedule an annual check-up with your primary care physician. This will allow them to assess your overall health, review your family medical history, and establish a baseline for future comparisons.*
- *Sexual Health: If you're sexually active, it's important to get tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) annually or more frequently based on your sexual behavior. Openly discuss safe sex practices and any concerns you may have with your doctor.*

- *Skin Check: Regularly examine your skin for any new or changing moles and other skin abnormalities. If you notice any concerning changes, seek the advice of a dermatologist.*

## *In Your 30s:*

- *Blood Pressure: African American men, in particular, have a higher risk of hypertension. Have your blood pressure checked at least once every two years. If you have a family history of hypertension or other risk factors, consider more frequent monitoring to stay ahead of any potential issues.*
- *Cholesterol Levels: Starting at age 35, it's advisable to have your cholesterol levels checked every five years. African American men tend to have higher cholesterol levels, increasing the risk of heart disease. If you have risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, or smoking, consult your doctor for earlier and more regular screenings.*
- *Testicular Examination: Perform monthly self-examinations to detect any lumps or abnormalities in the testicles. If you notice anything unusual, consult a healthcare professional.*

## *In Your 40s:*

- *Prostate Health: African American men have a higher risk of prostate cancer and tend to develop it at a younger age. Engage in a discussion with your doctor about prostate cancer screening, usually through a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. Consider starting discussions earlier, around age 45, to stay proactive*

# PRIORITIZING MEN'S HEALTH: AN ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST FOR EVERY AGE

## In Your 40s:

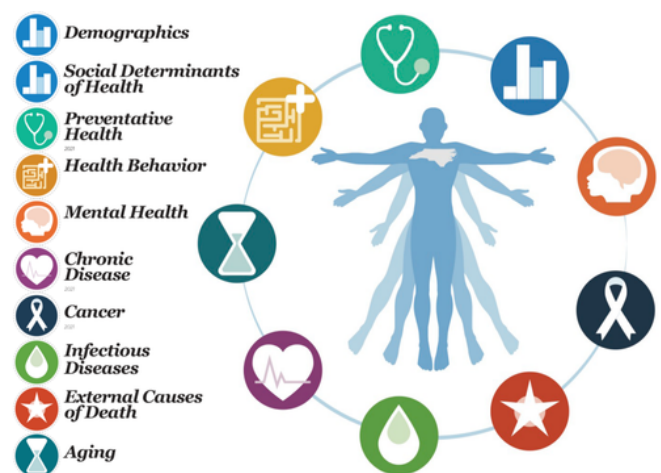
- **Prostate Health:** *in your health management.*
- **Diabetes Screening:** *African American men are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes. Consider getting screened for diabetes every three years, especially if you have risk factors such as obesity, high blood pressure, or a sedentary lifestyle.*
- **Colon Cancer Screening:** *Beginning at age 45, African American men should have a conversation with their doctor about the various screening options available for colon cancer, including colonoscopy or stool tests. Regular screenings can help detect early signs of colorectal cancer.*

## In Your 50s and Beyond:

- **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening:** *If you're between the ages of 65 and 75 and have ever smoked or have a family history of AAA, including African American men, it's important to consider a one-time ultrasound screening to assess the health of the abdominal aorta.*
- **Bone Density Test:** *African American men are at a higher risk of developing osteoporosis and fractures. Discuss a bone density test with your doctor, particularly if you have risk factors. This discussion is especially crucial for men aged 65 and older.*

- **Eye Exam:** *African American men are at a higher risk of developing glaucoma and other vision-related issues. As you age, regular eye exams become essential. Schedule comprehensive eye exams at least every two years or as recommended by your ophthalmologist.*

Taking proactive steps toward maintaining good health is of utmost importance for men of all ages, especially African American men. The Men's Health Checklist serves as a valuable reminder, outlining crucial check-ups at various stages of life. By prioritizing regular screenings and exams alongside adopting a healthy lifestyle, you can identify potential health issues early on and significantly contribute to a healthier and happier life. Remember, investing in your health today will pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.







*Please check your emails and listen for announcements for confirmation or changes to traditional programs held during the year 2025.*

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

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