

# The Voice of Thanksgiving, p. 8

**FREE**



## On Lady Macbeth, p. 6

The Valley Weekly

Friday  
November 19, 2021  
Vol. 8, No. 11  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

**SALUTE!**  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Butch Damson

*"When we finally stop asking America to love us and begin to love ourselves, we will prosper as a people."* - Bebe Moore Campbell

## HudsonAlpha to Partner with Alabama Colleges, Assist Farmers

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey recently awarded HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology \$968,365 through the Alabama Research and Development Advancement Fund. The state-funded program was established to encourage new and continuing efforts to conduct research and development activities within the state to increase employment opportunities and products and services

available to the citizens of Alabama.

HudsonAlpha, along with Auburn University's departments of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences and Entomology and Plant Pathology, and Alabama A&M's Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station are working to develop better agriculture seed varieties to produce healthier and more productive crops.

During the pilot project,

barley will be tested as an overwinter crop for a spring harvest in Northern and Southern Alabama and

dry beans will be tested as a summer crop in North Alabama.

## AAMU Facility to Be Dedicated to Icons

A ribbon cutting ceremony has been scheduled at Alabama A&M University to honor two musical icons who are an integral part of the institution's nearly 150-year history in the Tennessee Valley.

The ribbon cutting program for the Dr. Henry and Nell Lane Bradford Auditorium will be held Thursday, November 18, at 2 p.m.

The auditorium is located in Walter S. Buchanan Hall (formerly Bibb Graves Hall).

For more than 40 years, the couple formed a musical dynasty at AAMU, garnering admiration and respect internationally. Dr. Bradford led the music program on

"The Hill," while his wife directed the AAMU Choir.



## Drake State Honors Vets

During the Veterans Day observance at Drake State Community and Technical College, the North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence (NACEE)

awarded two book scholarships through personal and corporate donations.

Scholarships were presented to U.S. Army veterans Tariq Reddick and Joseph Green. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Patricia Sims, president, Drake State; LTC (Ret) Samuel Scruggs,



keynote speaker and NACEE Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) coordinator and operations officer; Neoka Hambrick, Drake's Veterans Affairs coordinator; scholarship awardee Tariq Reddick; scholarship awardee Joseph Green; and Dr. Nicole Bell, Drake dean of students.

The Valley Weekly

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Washington in One Minute, Page 2  
Preston Brown's Champion Game Plan, Page 3  
Valley Deaths, Page 3  
Valley Events, Page 3  
tim allston: Perspectives, Page 5  
Rev. Michael Rice: Called 2 Preach, Page 6  
"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 7  
Spotlight on Our Elders, Page 7

## Rocket City Selected for Unique Housing Solutions Workshop

Huntsville recently was named one of five localities in the nation to participate in the Housing Solutions Workshop. The program helps small and midsize communities form and implement local housing strategies.

The NYU Furman Center's Housing Solutions Lab, Abt Associates and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy selected Huntsville;

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Gallatin County, Montana; Kalamazoo County, Michigan; and Pasco, Washington. Senior officials from key housing agencies and regional partners in these communities will take part in a series of virtual sessions led by prominent housing experts and researchers.

The program selected cities and counties that

are grappling with a wide range of challenges and housing market conditions. For instance, Huntsville and Gallatin County, are growing rapidly and confronting housing cost pressure that comes with high demand.

Affordability and a competitive cost-of-living are crucial to Huntsville's success in attracting and retaining new industries

and workers.

Manager of Community Development Scott Erwin is hopeful the workshop will help the City gain new ideas and improve its approach to affordability.

"The City is honored to be able to participate in this workshop to get a fresh perspective that better informs our direction moving forward," he said.

- Excerpt from huntsville.gov

**Publisher**

The Valley Weekly, LLC

**Editor-in-Chief**

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

**Editorial Consultant/  
Senior Editor**

Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

**Editorial Assistants**Linda Burruss  
Phyllis Chunn  
William Huston, Sr.  
Gary T. Whitley, Jr.**Advertising Associate**

Phyllis Chunn

**- Contributing Editors -**tim allston  
Minister Preston Brown  
Robert Drake  
Ron Hamm  
Pastor Michael D. Rice**Website Administrator**

Calvin Farier

**Mailing Address:**The Valley Weekly  
415A Church Street - Suite 100  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(256) 651-9028  
www.valleyweeklyllc.com  
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*Ahhh ... Thanksgiving!*

Let's rejoice, pray and give thanks for all situations we face. As a child, Thanksgiving in our home, family and community included being thankful for another season of harvest from Spring to Summer and Fall. Our harvest included fresh vegetables like collards, turnips, beans, peas, okra, corn and the like. The potato cell was stocked with sweet potatoes to last us through the winter.

My dad was isolating and feeding the livestock that he would slaughter and take to the local cold



storage company to have packaged and labeled for all of our family who wanted farm-raised beef and pork.

Bill and I married in December. Therefore, when we went home for Christmas, dad always had ribeye steaks, pork chops, beef for stew, sirloin steaks, along with Conecuh Sausage that he would cross county lines to get for us each year.

We had a small part in making Conecuh Sausage popular before others knew what it was. My brother Roosevelt, who lives in Boston, would drive home annually to get his 'farmed-raised' meats and treats! I literally thought Bill would

*From the Editor*

hurt himself by eating the amount of meat that he was consuming. Almost daily, he would come home from work and turn the grill on to grill for dinner.

We were always told to cut back on the meat when we left the farm in that we were not burning enough calories each day in our 'desk' jobs. He still likes a lot of meat and I can live



without it! Once you get steaks, grits, eggs and homemade biscuits for breakfast, lunch

and sometimes dinner, you've likely had enough.

The global pandemic has impacted most of our families in some way. There are a few things that we have been able to celebrate after getting our vaccines plus the booster, and even the flu shots this year.

My Aunt Cath-

erine's family hosted her '80 plus 10' birthday in August.

She has been a loving aunt for most of our lives, including serving as our children's Grand-God-mother. Bill and I were able to attend the totally-masked event, with vaccine cards for everyone as a permit to enter. All of us followed the CDC's rules and were able to participate with care. To date, everyone is still well who attended. We are thankful for the positive impact she has made on our family's lives over the years. Remember that we have families that we are born into, marry into and those we choose. God has given her longevity, and we are proud to call her "Aunt."

One of my brother's daughters, JaLissa, postponed her wedding last year until July 2021.



Thank God, she was able to find an 'outdoor' venue for her special day. Everything was almost "perfect" for her and our families.

Also, one of our employees, Becca, married at the same outdoor venue. The dates and time for both of them were not planned together; however, both were awesome.

Congratulations Jalissa Williams-Cothron and Rebecca Farmer Hill. We pray for God's continued blessings on your lives and families.

Next month, Bill and I will celebrate our 40th

wedding anniversary. We are thankful for each other; and, proud that grace and mercy have kept us committed to our vows. During this upcoming Holy season, we wish for each of you joys of "Thanksgiving," filled with wellness and safety for your families. Until next time ...

*Dorothy*

Captions (from top to bottom by column):

-Dorothy Huston and Dr. Carter Womack  
-Dorothy with Monnette Glason  
-Dr. Wendi Willis, Marc Willis, Catherine Willis, E. Scott Willis, Tricia Kerney Willis, Geoffrey Carroll  
-Dr. David and Dione Bennett and Catherine Willis



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



**NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**  
2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

*Memorial service for MR. JOHNNY FLOYD JIMMIS-ON (b. 1958) will be Saturday, November 20, at 11 a.m. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.*

*Graveside service for MRS. MYRTLE C. PINCHON (b. 1926) was held on Saturday, November 13, from Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Pastor Gary Battle officiating.*

*Graveside service for THE REVEREND LARRY BATTLE (b. 1961) was held Sunday, November 7, at 2 p.m. at Valhalla Memory Gardens with The Reverend Ricky L. Sykes officiating.*

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME**  
4315 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

*Funeral service for MRS. VENITE CYRIUS MICHEL (b. 1961) was held Saturday, November 13, at the West Mastin Lake Baptist Church (4705 Mastin Lake Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Willie Hinton officiating.*

*Memorial service for MR. TRUMAN PORTER, III, was held Saturday, November 13, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Jarvis Jamar officiating.*

*Public viewing for MRS. BARBARA A. BROCK (b. 1958) was held from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, November 13, at the Royal Funeral Home.*

*Funeral service for MR. RAEQUON MIKAL CARTER (b. 1997) was held Friday, November 12, at New Shiloh Church Ministries (5101 Mastin Lake Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Bishop Dexter Elston officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. BOOKER T. COWAN, Sr., was Friday, November 12, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Willie Green officiating.*

**SERENITY FUNERAL HOME**  
2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

*The family of MR. ROY J. RUSSELL (b. 1965) will have a private memorial at a later date.*

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

**November 18-21**  
Chico Bean  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7 p.m.

**November 20**  
Mayor's Tree Planting Day  
John Hunt Park  
8 a.m.

Advent Market  
7200 Governors West NW  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Fall Haunts & Haints**  
The Historic Lowery House  
1205 Kildare Street  
Huntsville, Ala.

**November 20-21**  
Exotic Pet Expo  
Jaycee Community Building  
Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
4 p.m.

**November 21**  
Out Loud Huntsville Open Mic  
Straight to Ale  
6 p.m.

**November 25**  
Annual Thanksgiving Day Hike  
Monte Sano Nature Preserve  
2442 Bankhead Parkway  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 a.m.-12 Noon


Birmingham Bulls at  
Huntsville Havoc  
Von Braun Center Arena  
7 p.m.

**November 28**  
"Music of the Spheres"  
U.S. Space and Rocket Center  
1 Tranquility Base  
Huntsville, Ala.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN



**"ATMOSPHERE IS EVERYTHING"**

Psalms 71:8 says, "My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long."

There is a popular song that goes, "The Presence of the Lord is here, the presence of the Lord is here, I feel it in the atmosphere, the presence of the Lord is here!"

Did you know that atmosphere is everything in the life of a Believer. In other words, what is the condition of the atmosphere that you live in? Is it peaceful or is it stressful? Is it full of love and joy or is it filled with anger, rage and hostility? Is it filled with compassion or confusion because atmosphere is everything.

Whether on your job or at home, the condition of your environment can be the difference in a happy life or a stressful life filled with unmanageable difficulties and hardships.

Now, don't get me wrong. We all go through difficulties and hardships in life; however, I believe the atmosphere we live in will dictate how we handle these difficulties.

So how do we control the atmosphere that we live in? First, it all starts with allowing God with the love of Jesus to reside in your home. And we do this by reading and knowing the word of God. Reading God's word daily will help you realize that God is not the author of confusion.

Next, we need to pray for the holy spirit to "rain down" on our lives in such a way that we feel His presence in tense situations so that we can have a heart that forgives and a heart filled with love and compassion.

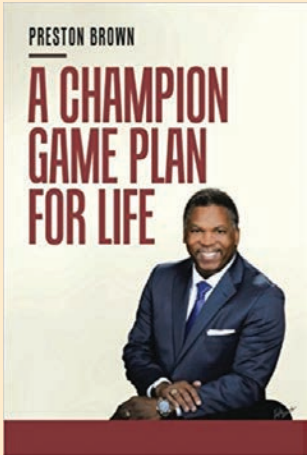
Finally, we need to open up our mouths and give


God the praise that he is worthy of and declare His splendor all day long!

When we do these things, we will create an atmosphere where we feel God's presence in our lives, because atmosphere is everything ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

PRESTON BROWN

A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE





SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Dr. NW  
Huntsville, Alabama 35816  
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A New Generation Of Service

# THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY

Longer life spans and low fertility rates have positioned 47% of middle-aged adults to take on the demanding task of caring for their dependent children and aging, simultaneously. This creates a “sandwich generation.” No one plans to have this demanding responsibility.

Oftentimes, the female takes on the majority of emotional and physical care, while males tend to provide financial support. Almost three hours a day are spent caring for these family members. Hence, many caregivers neglect themselves in the meantime. Following are some tips for caregivers.

1. **Prioritize self-care.** Take long walks, meditate, go to the gym and/or join a support group.
2. **Discuss financial matters** with all who will be impacted. Will employment situation change? Parent's estate able to pay expenses? Will children's

college fund be affected?

### 3. **Talk to your employer.**

It helps to apprise your employer of your family status. Resources like the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Care and Work program may be valuable resources.

**Delegate tasks** to other family members. Ask reliable family members to keep the parent or child for a period of time, transport child or parent to appointments. If they live far away, ask for financial help.

**Seek support groups.** Go online and look for childcare, adult daycare and/or home health services.

**Hire outside help.** Hire professional cleaner, for identify free rides to appointments, hire a sitter for a few hours or a day.

### ~Think About It~

The sandwich generation will only last for a season. So, prioritize tasks, and realize



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

that while this is a challenging, emotionally and physically draining responsibility, a positive attitude and reliable support system, can help you manage it more effectively.

### Sources

American Psychological Association  
PEW Research Center  
U.S. Census Bureau 2021

## Huntsville Launches ‘Maintain, Don’t Gain’ Challenge for the Holidays

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, many people are already thinking about their favorite seasonal dishes. To help promote a healthier holiday season, the City of Huntsville and Huntsville Hospital are partnering up for the seventh annual “Maintain, Don’t Gain” challenge.

The six-week weight maintenance program kicks off Monday, Nov. 15, as part of the City’s Healthy Huntsville initiative to help educate citizens on wellness and good physical health.

“Working with our local health organizations, such as Huntsville Hospital, allows us to have the biggest impact in the fight against obesity,” Mayor Tommy Battle said. “Everyone can use a little help from time to time. That’s definitely true when it comes to our weight and fitness goals.”

Throughout the program, Healthy Huntsville will post tips and tricks on the Healthy Huntsville Facebook page to encourage participants to think about diet and exercise through the holidays.

In 2019, nearly 1,000 people joined the “Maintain, Don’t Gain” challenge, weighing in at one of several City recreation centers or Huntsville Hospital Wellness Centers. For those who completed the six-week plan, 54% maintained or lost weight.



“We are pleased to work with Mayor Battle and the City of Huntsville in this effort to promote wellness and better health for the residents of our community,” Huntsville Hospital Health System CEO Jeff Samz said.

From Nov. 15-21, participants can sign up and weigh in at one of several “Maintain, Don’t Gain” registration sites. Participants will weigh out at the same location the week of Jan.

3, 2022. Those who weigh in and out will receive a participation prize.

### Participating locations:

Brahan Spring Rec Center: 3770 Ivy Ave.

Fern Bell Rec Center: 107-A Sanders Road

Optimist Rec Center: 703 Oakwood Ave.

Showers Rec Center: 4600 Blue Spring Road

Johnson Legacy Center: 6000 Cecil Fain Drive NW

Jones Valley Wellness Center: 1345 4 Mile Post Road

Madison Hospital Wellness Center: 8391 US-72

Medical Mall Wellness Center: 1963 South Memorial Parkway

For more information, please contact Healthy Huntsville Coordinator Kevin Ready at 256-929-2622 or kevin.ready@huntsvilleal.gov. Participants can also contact Huntsville Hospital “Maintain, Don’t Gain” Coordinator Rachel Murie at 256-265-0066 or rachel.murie@hhsys.org for additional details.

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## The NBA at 75 salutes GOATS ... and GOTES (Part 1 of 2)

As the National Basketball Association this year celebrates its 75th anniversary, I too celebrate my 55th "NBA anniversary."

On November 5, 1966, I attended my first NBA game, a notable season of a sea change for its showcasing silver-mettle leaders (SMLs).

SMLs report to someone in their organization (silver), foster courage (mettle), and nurture influence and relationships (leaders).

Enter arguably pro sports' greatest rivalry.

The defending NBA champion Boston Celtics hosted the upcoming champion Philadelphia 76ers featuring defensive legend Bill Russell against offensive phenom Wilt Chamberlain, respectively.

During their careers, however, each accepted a lesser role and achieved greater greatness for it.

### How #1 became #2 - and Won

Russell led both his college and 1956 Olympic championship teams in scoring.

But in '56, Celtic coach Red Auerbach convinced his rookie that his greatest service would be getting the basketball to fellow Celtics and future Hall of Fame scorers Frank Ramsey, Bob Cousy, Tommy Heinsohn, and K.C. Jones.

In April 1966, Russell became pro sports' first Black coach and continued winning NBA championships. When someone later asked Russell for his Celtics scoring average, he answered, "11 championships in 13 years!"

Similarly, in 1966, Chamberlain agreed with new 76ers coach Alex Hannum: become less of a scorer and more of a passer to help teammates and future Hall of Fame scorers Hal Greer and Billy Cunningham, called "assists." By serving teammates assists, the 76ers won their first NBA title; in '68, Chamberlain led the NBA in assists!

By agreeing to accept lesser roles, both Chamberlain and Russell exemplified the message Jesus taught his disciples.

When they were arguing amongst themselves who'd be #1 with him, Jesus told them that the greatest they could do would be to be of service to others. "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant" - Matthew 23:11.

Agreeing to serve their teammates didn't hurt either Russell or Chamberlain in the long run, as both were selected to be among the NBA's top 75 all-time players - but who is the GOAT (greatest of all time)?

Share your GOAT choice with me at [timallston@gmail.com](mailto:timallston@gmail.com).

**Hint:** most of us spell GOAT the wrong way (Part 2)!

*tim allston is the author of the printed/digital/audiobook, The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the "Silver-Mettle" Leaders, and now U.S. Politics The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders, both Amazon best-selling books.*

## Huntsville Public Library Spotlights Local Artist

The Huntsville Public Library has featured the Valley's Tasha Madison in its local artist spotlight section.

Madison is an author, speaker, and coach who helps those overwhelmed by life's challenges, disap-

pointments, and traumas to harness their strengths so they can gain clarity on how to conquer their fears, achieve their goals, and live their best life. In the past 20 years,



she has helped people "to become the hero of their own lives with customized programming tailored to maximize transformational results."

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## This Sunday's Lctionary

Sunday, November 21, 2021



(Track 2)

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalms 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

## COVID-19 Assistance

### UNITED WAY COVID-19 Assistance Fund

Donate:

[www.uwmadison-county.org](http://www.uwmadison-county.org)

Get Assistance: Call 211

### SMALL BUSINESSES

[disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

sba.gov

(800) 659-2955

### COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department of Labor

(866) 234-5382

[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

### MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(256) 539-3711

### LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

### TAKEOUT/ DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

<https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/>

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CALL 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## A Spot Worse Than Lady Macbeth's

Jude 1:23

I recall how brilliantly and believably that



*My sister and her best friend in high school were debutant participants. Each deb had to perform some talent and her friend's talent was the performance of Act 5, Scene 1, of Shakespeare's "Macbeth."*

performance of Lady Macbeth's monologue was, as with "real tears" my sister's friend cried out the most famous line of that monologue, "Out \_\_\_\_\_ spot!" In that scene Lady Macbeth was seeking to remove from her hands that haunting spot of blood that had seemingly appeared in her hands from the murders and other crimes that she had participated in with her husband.

Jude tells us in his epistle of another *spot worse than Lady Macbeth's* that without the "mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ," would remain permanently and make it impossible to be 'snatched from the fire.'

Jude says that it is the knowledge of this deadly



spot that keeps believers in a posture and paradigm of readiness as they build up themselves in their "most holy faith."

Jude was warning believers of the need to beware of the defilement of what he called being "spotted by the flesh."

His first readers were dealing with the influence of 'false teachers' who were influencing some. Jude says that it takes courage and compassion and cognizance of the danger of that "spot" (the flesh).

It helps to remember that that spot is worse than Lady Macbeth's.

That's how we help other believers.

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**NOVEMBER 19 - AHMAD RASHAD** Ahmad Rashād is an American sportscaster (mostly with NBC Sports) and former professional football player. After his football career, Rashād covered NFL, NBA, and MLB televised contests as a studio anchor and game reporter for NBC and ABC, as well as hosting NBA Inside Stuff for 16 seasons.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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***"The role of the artist is to  
make revolution irresistible."***

- Toni Cade Bambara



Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Butch Damson

Mrs. Butch Kohler Damson was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., and moved to Huntsville, Ala., in 1953. She is the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Otto Philip Kohler. Mrs. Damson attended Huntsville High School and graduated in 1957. She pursued her college education at the University of Alabama, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961.

In the Huntsville-Madison County community, she has been actively involved in volunteering her time and talent with various organizations for over 45 years. 1 Peter 4:10 states, "As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms."

The work that Mrs. Damson did in the community is truly an embodiment of that scripture. She worked untiringly to help her community and did so with a great deal of humility and pride.

Mrs. Damson could easily be characterized as an organizer, inciter, motivator, or even "Wonder Woman", because she pos-

sessed a pleasing personality and always knew the right words to say to lure one to her team.

As a volunteer in the community, she served as a Board member and committee member for numer-



ous organizations: chairman of the board, Burritt Museum; founding member, Greater Huntsville Humane Society's Advisory Council; member, Huntsville Hospital Foundation; president, Botanical Gardens, Board of Directors; Cancer Society; Board of Directors, The Land Trust; Board of Directors, City of Huntsville Beautification Board; and Board of Directors, Voluntary Action Center.

While serving as a mem-

ber on many of the organizations' boards, she was the initiator of many programs and activities, such as the City of Huntsville Beautification Awards in 1975, The Clean Community Program now called The Green Team, the Botanical Gardens' Welcome Center, The BMW Brunch, Burritt's Barnyard and the Master Plan for Burritt City.

In her church community, she served as Secretary of St. Joseph's Parish Council and taught Sunday School to the sixth grade children.

In recognition of her contributions to the community and service to humanity, she received scores of awards and honors. Among these are: Path of Honor, Senior Center, 2007; Pineapple Award, Huntsville-Madison County Hospitality Award, 2005; Honoree, Rolls Royce of Roasts, American Diabetics Association, 2005; and the Grace Award, 2001.

Damson married Mr. Jerry L. Damson, and they have two children, Deke and Susan Park, and six grandchildren.

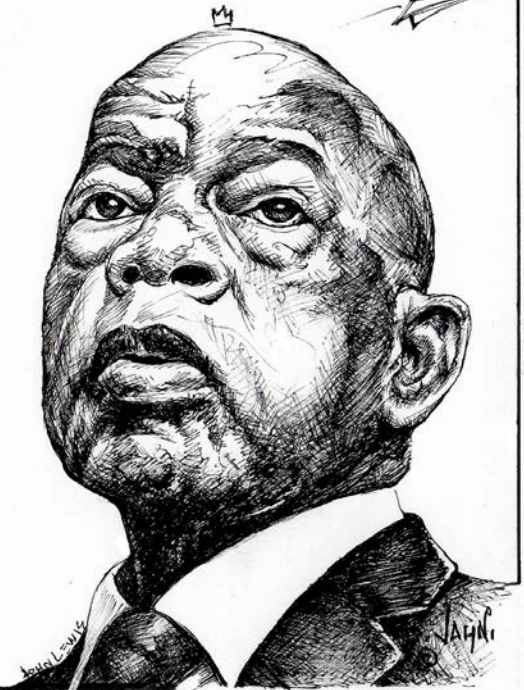
"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



## Powershot

"If you come together with a mission, and it is grounded with love and a sense of community, you can make the impossible possible."

John Lewis



*"Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."*

- John Lewis

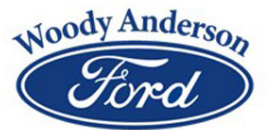


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# The Voice of Thanksgiving

by Rev. Dr. O. Wendell Davis, Pastor  
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

*That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.*  
(Psalm 26:7)

What would you do if you suddenly found out that this Thanksgiving Day would be the last one you would ever share with your family and friends? Would your plans for the day change? Would you spend the day watching parades on television? Would you spend it all cooking fine foods and fellowshiping with friends? Would you sleep all day?

The response to the question depends upon what purpose and distinction you place on Thanksgiving Day. If you view it as a day to relax, kick back, and eat fine foods, you might do a few things differently. If you view it as a day to sleep or watch football, you might change a few more things. However, if you view it as a day to praise the Lord, you will probably gather your family together under one roof and reflect upon a year of activity and give God praise and thanks for the good times. Your last Thanksgiving would be spent like all others, giving praise and thanks to God for his mercy and his goodness.

There are many who feel that life has given them a bum deal, and they have nothing for which to give thanks. When the pilgrims came to

America, their first year was not all pumpkin pie. Many of them died of diseases and cold. They endured hardships and difficulties. But when the harvest came, they looked beyond their difficulties, saw all of the other ways God had blessed them, and gave Him thanks. That was the first Thanksgiving Day in America. As Christians, we have shared similar moments. We should always remember to give thanks to God for everything because He is the source of our blessings.

This Psalm focuses on David as he gives six characteristics that are unique to the righteous: In verses 1-2, he notes that the righteous are usually open to examination. Before God their lives are open books.

In verse 3, obedience is highlighted. David says that he has tried to walk in the truths of the Lord consistently.

In verses 4-6, David reflects on his general victory over the efforts of the wicked to influence his life in favor of living the godly life.

In verses 9-10, he reiterates his desire not to be obstructed or frustrated by the wicked schemes of the ungodly.

In verses 11-12, he restates his desire to walk in the steps of the Lord with integrity.

Verses 7-8, in which David declares that God has been so good to the righteous

that they should declare and publish his good works for everyone to see and hear of his greatness. Accordingly, he says that Christians should let the world know that they love the Lord and they love the indwelling of His Holy Spirit in their lives daily.

Every day should be a day of praise, thanksgiving and testimony. Those who are working in the kingdom know the importance of giving thanks to God everyday. That is what was unique about Jesus' practice. He offered thanks every time He broke bread. We, who follow His footsteps, do exactly the same thing. We thank God every day for every blessing we have received from Him.

While Thanksgiving is noted as a special day of thanks and reflection, those who know the Lord see it as a continuation of their own personal Christian habit.

We thank God for blessings. Certainly, nothing we have achieved and attained was because of our deserving character. We thank Him for blessing us, despite the fact that we do not deserve such blessings. We recognize some of the ways that we have been blessed immediately. We see material evidences such as homes, cars, and a reasonable portion of health and strength. We thank Him for those. We have been protected from unseen

dangers and miraculously steered around them. We have no way of knowing all of the unseen dangers that we have been spared from, just this day alone.

*Every day the world should hear the voice of thanksgiving!*

Not only do we give God thanks for blessings, but we also give Him thanks for our burdens. First Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." The word "everything" includes our burdens and problems. We thank God for everything, because we know that all things work to our good, if we are in Christ Jesus. So, we thank Him for everything. Even if it appears there is nothing for which to be thankful, thank Him

anyway!

We should testify of God's goodness, and show thanks to God by telling the world about His goodness! Let others know that what He has done is too good to keep to ourselves.

Finally, the Psalmist writes, "O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people. Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him: talk ye of all His wondrous works. Glory ye in His holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD" (In Psalm 105:1-3).

When God has done something good for us, we should be willing to glorify Him and show our gratitude. We should tell it on our jobs! We should tell it in the songs we sing! We should tell it in the joy that bubbles in our soul!

Never back down from a



chance to say to the world,  
'I just want to thank God for being so good to me!'

Your Humble Servant,  
O. Wendell Davis

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