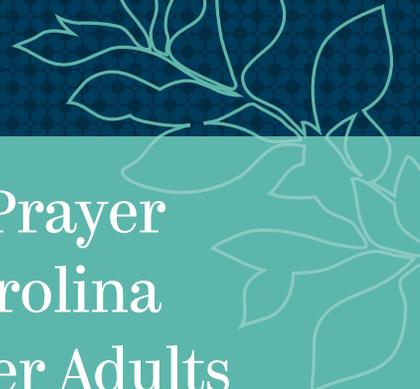


FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023



## 2023 Week of Prayer and North Carolina Offering for Older Adults

**Psalm 92: 12-14** speaks of the word “flourish” twice and states that the righteous “will bear fruit in old age” and “stay fresh and green”. The word “thrive” can also be used for the word “flourish”. Our communities are blessed to see this happen daily in the lives of many residents. Making new friends, worshipping together, sharing a meal and receiving compassionate care from dedicated staff are a few reasons life is vibrant, meaningful and flourishing.

Our residents also find meaning as they minister to one another and by creating and giving items for charities that touch lives in surrounding communities. Your generous offerings make this kind of life possible! Your generosity contributes to a flourishing, thriving life! There are not enough ways to thank you for your gifts, which make this possible! You are bearing fruit in a significant way! Thank you!

We covet your prayers and ask for your continued giving as we minister to those God has called us to care for!



**JANUARY 29, 2023 UNTIL  
FEBRUARY 4, 2023**

100% of the funds will provide quality care for older adults who cannot afford the care they need and deserve!

BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES  
**FOUNDATION**  
FAITH • FAMILY • FULFILLMENT

**BROOKRIDGE - WINSTON-SALEM**  
**TAYLOR GLEN - CONCORD**  
**TAYLOR HOUSE - ALBEMARLE**  
**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA - ASHEVILLE**



*Online contributions accepted at*  
**THRIVEMORENC.ORG/FOUNDATION**

**Leviticus 19:32** “Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.”

We are blessed to be able to fulfill scripture in our organization by showing respect for older adults that call our communities their home. We are blessed by you who step up to fulfill scripture through your financial support of older adults. Despite a clear biblical command, it feels as a society that too often we save the leftovers for older adults. They get the leftovers of our time and our money.

As a society, we have a growing population of older adults. Women who reached age 65 in 2016 can expect to live to nearly 86, and men to 83. More than 25 million Americans aged 60+ are economically insecure and, according to a Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis study, 40% of today's older middle-class workers will live at, or near, poverty in retirement. In this country we are very philanthropic, however only about 3% goes to serving older adults and of the money distributed by Foundations only about 1% goes to serving older adults. I believe this generation deserves better from us.

During this Week of Prayer for Older Adults, please focus your prayers on how you can help older adults. It might be an opportunity to volunteer, help a family member or neighbor or direct a portion of your donation dollar to charities that directly support older adults.

Reed Vanderslik  
President and CEO, ThriveMore

Ramelle Rummage Staton was born in Mecklenburg County weighing only 2½ pounds and now at the age of 93 is still going strong. She graduated from Albemarle High School and continued to work at the Stanly County Public Library where she started as a student.

While on her lunch break one day, she saw an old friend, Tommie Staton, who recently returned from serving in the Army. She told him she was glad he made it back! When she got off work that evening, he was waiting for her. After dating for a year, they married on December 27, 1953.

Tommie, part of the first graduating class at Pfeiffer College, worked as a school teacher. They had a son and daughter whose families have given them four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren! Spending time with her family, especially the grandchildren and great-grandchildren, is her favorite pastime as they are her pride and joy!

Ramelle is a member of the Annunciation Catholic Church. She loves the friendly staff at Taylor House and going out to restaurants. From a small beginning to a still active life at 93 is a life that is blessed! Your support of the Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation makes a loving home for Ramelle possible. Pray for God's continued blessing on this dear lady!

**Romans 10:5** says, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

From the inception of Baptist Retirement Homes, now (ThriveMore Communities), the feet of those who are called to “bring good news” have walked the grounds of our communities. Many served as Pastors, Missionaries, Chaplains, Musicians, Church and Convention staff, along with their loving spouses. The footprints of these dedicated servants brought hope to people around the world and in the communities they have resided.

Rev. Leland Kerr, brought good news to countless lives in his ministry. His call took him to Baptist Associations in Gaston, New Hanover and Cleveland County. Leland pastored Eastside Baptist twice and worked at Baptist Hospital with FaithHealth. He is still touching lives from his assisted living apartment at Brookridge.

Each of us needs a caring friend to walk beside us in trying times. Our grounds are blessed with God's servants who are still fulfilling their call. Your gifts ensure that there will always be footsteps of those who bring “good news” in our care! The Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation makes it possible for that care to never end!

Velma Ruth Douglas was born on May 11, 1928 in Davie, West Virginia as the only child of Gertrude Barnes, a homemaker, and James Barnes, a coalminer. Growing up she enjoyed baby dolls, jumping rope and playing basketball with her cousins.

On June 23, 1945, she married Jesse Furrow, whom she met at church, who was a coalminer like her father. They had four children; three who are deceased and a daughter living in South Carolina.

After the death of her husband, a friend introduced her to another coalminer, Roy Douglas and they were married on September 6, 1966 having a son, Robert Douglas, also deceased.

Working as a nurses aide at Grace Hospital in Welch County, West Virginia, Velma felt her place was at home raising her children. As a member of the Church of God, she sang in the choir, donated items for bake sales, and volunteered wherever she saw a need. She has five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren. She also has a five-year-old dog named Lexie.

Her hobbies include embroidery, word puzzles, and she is known as a great cook with family saying she makes the best biscuits and gravy. Velma loves “Everything” about living at the Taylor House and her infectious smile and laugh affirms that! Come and visit Velma and you will leave with a smile too!

Pray that each day will be filled with joy for our residents and staff!