



## **“You’re About to be 80! Let’s Celebrate!!”**

**by Rev. Mattie Gipson**



Those are the words that my daughter, Tamara, uttered a few months ago. That was the beginning of an idea to celebrate the birthdays of her parents as they both approached their 80th birthdays—milestone birthdays. That then led to conversations among the siblings about the when and where and who would do what. After asking the parents a few pertinent questions, a date was

set and the location secured. Enlisting the aid of a few of Oxford First UMC members and our Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Pamela Flemmons, the event planning began to take shape.

The purpose of the Celebration was to gather Family and Friends for an afternoon or evening of just having conversation and fun

and a little food on the side. It was to come together on a happy occasion and celebrate the goodness of God as He has allowed us to become octogenarians. It was to gather Family and Friends under one roof and share reflections on the lives of Mattie and Frank Gipson.

And so we gathered at Oxford First UMC on December 13, 2025. Along with family from far and near, there were high school classmates from as far as Cookeville, TN. There were members of the first church I pastored in Laurel, MS. There was a couple

who drove down from Fort Campbell, KY to celebrate with the pastor who officiated their wedding. A surprise guest from Jackson appeared on the scene. Our former Pastor and First Lady were among the attendees.

Of special note was the fact that there were four generations of the family present, the youngest being Mattie and Frank's five year old great grandson, Dwayne Day III. The Celebration was indeed A MOMENT TO REMEMBER. A heartfelt appreciation goes out to all who attended and all who helped to make this event a resounding success.



Rev. Mattie Gipson on December 28th and Bro. Clarence H. Franklin on December 21st shared their life experiences with the congregation.



# Youth Christmas Program

Under the direction of Minister Tressie Johnson, the OFUMC put on a wonderful Christmas program that included Praise Dances and a play: "The Real Story of Christmas" on 3rd Sunday.



## Merry Christmas Pastor Anderson

Representing Oxford First UMC, Sister Minnie Milliner presented a special Christmas gift to Pastor Anderson and wife Tarnika from the congregation. They both expressed their heartfelt appreciation.

# Skyler Anderson on Winning Team

On December 13, 2025, Skylar Anderson (pictured here with her mother), daughter of Pastor Quennel and First Lady Tarnika Love Anderson, performed with her award winning team, the Memphis Allstars at **The American All Star Birmingham 2025 Cheerleading Competition** in Birmingham, AL. They received first place and an invitation to the National Cheer Competition in Orlando, Florida.

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