

# A golden friendship

## Friends since 1st grade now roommates

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Staff Writer

**WALLACE** — Best friends can sometimes make the best roommates.

That's what Daisy Turner and Laura Johnson are learning as they spend their golden years together at Dayspring of Wallace.

"We've been friends since first grade, and have stayed friends all these years," Turner said.

"It's amazing we got back to the rest home or assisted living facility, or whatever you want to call it, after all these years," Johnson added.

The two grew up in Wallace, attended school together and even owned successful businesses in town for decades.

Turner owned and operated Wallace Variety for many years, while Johnson owned Johnson Furniture for more than 30 years.

The pair had many loyal customers who still actually visit them at Dayspring.

"I love my customers," Johnson said. "They still come by to see me in here."

Wallace Variety closed several years ago, and Johnson said she is selling Johnson Furniture, but it will remain open and keep its name.

"I've worked for 64 years," she said. "It's time to stop."

When asked how they have remained friends for so many years, Turner said, "We enjoy each other."

"We weren't always as close as we are now," Johnson added, "but I always loved her. She's five days older so I tell her she's the boss."

After Wallace Variety closed, Turner actually did craft shows in



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(Top) Best friends since first grade, Daisy Turner, left, and Laura Johnson now share a room at Dayspring of Wallace. They are also both former owners and operators of successful businesses in Wallace. (Left) Daisy Turner shows off one of the purses she has painted. Turner said she's always loved painting, and decorating purses is now a great way for her to express her creativity.

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malls up and down the East Coast, she said.

"I decided I wanted to learn to paint so I taught myself," Turner said.

She painted on wood back then, but recently, her daughter bought her some acrylic paint that could be used on leather. That gave Turner the idea to paint intricate designs on leather purses.

"I love painting," she said.

In addition to owning and operating businesses, the ladies also share a passion for their churches.

Johnson said she's happy she can sometimes visit her former church, Wells Chapel Baptist, where she was formerly very active.

"I think I miss that more than any other thing," she said.

Turner was active in her church as well — Watha Pentecostal Free Will Baptist. Although, these days she sometimes attends church with her daughter in Raleigh.

"The Lord has been good to us," Johnson said.

Turner has three children who are now grown, and she said, "grandbabies and great-grandbabies."

Johnson's daughter passed away in October, which she said was the worst thing that ever happened to her. She also has a son, Chuck, who helps run the furniture store.

Johnson and Turner are both widows, so they lean on each other more than ever.

"I love that thing over there," Johnson said jokingly, pointing to her roommate.

"I do love her, too," Turner said after a laugh. "I thank God I've got her for a roommate."