



The Gospel Oak

Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church
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1876 ~2017

141 Years of Progress

Theme: Transitional Shift in 2017

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We Celebrate Excellence



Mrs. Ethel O'Neal Godard is a retired educator, a resident of Bertie County, specifically the Indian Woods Community. She is a recognized face around in the school system and in the Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church. She is the daughter of David George Bond and Priscilla Rascoe Bond. She was born September 12, 1935 and reared as the only girl of 10 children born to that union.

She is the wife of Deacon Dallis Godard and the proud mother of 2 daughters, and grandmother of one precious granddaughter. Momma and Grammy are the titles that bring her the most joy in life.

Her education started at St. Francis Elementary School, then Indian Woods Elementary where she graduated completed 8th grade. She graduated from W. S. Etheridge High School and continued her education at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC where she graduated with a B.S. in Mathematics and Science. She continued her studies at East Carolina where she earned A Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction and an Advanced Degree in School Administration. She received a National Science Foundation Academic Year Scholarship to attend San

Diego University to study Modern Mathematics. This open doors for employment opportunities. She lived in Los Angeles, CA and through contact with the Urban League, she was blessed to land her first job working as a mathematician for the National Art Education Association. She was employed with the Engineering Division at the North American Aviation Plant located in Downey, CA.

Eventually her total work experience provided her the opportunity to work with NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) for a number of years as a Mathematician. Her job was to calculate the abort phases on the trajectories for the Apollo Space Mission. Her job was to figure out how far the space ship could travel in outer space and be able to return back to the earth safely if there was a problem. Working as a mathematician for NASA provided her an opportunity to use her higher math skills and to be introduced to using computers. These mainframe computers were so large, they filled a room. The engineers worked on the designing of the space ship and the mathematicians focused on safety concerns. She was the only lady working in her department.

The book and movie “Hidden Figures” is a work long overdue. Just knowing that she was a part of this history making event through her work with NASA is rewarding. Mrs. Godard returned to Windsor in 1971 and started her 30 year journey to retirement. She worked in school administration as General Supervisor of Mathematics K-12, Science and Technology Staff Development Coordinator, Title 1 Mathematics Supervisor, Personal Administrator and Assistant Superintendent.

Mrs. Godard retired from Bertie County Schools on July 1, 2003 with 42.5 years of work experience in education Ms. Godard believes that young people should consider education to be a lifelong journey making sure the Word of God is a part of it.

(Prepared by Ashley Bell)

Black Achievements from the Indian Woods Community -2

Daria Janeen Outlaw



Daria is a 1987 graduate of Bertie High School. She attended and graduated with honors from North Carolina Central University in 1991 with a degree in Business and Computer Information Systems. She continued her education, attending and graduating from Johns Hopkins University with an MBA in 2010.

She is the daughter of James and Gloria Outlaw and the mother of Ebonee. For the past 20 years she has been employed as a Systems Network Administrator at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

She works with a team that provides IT leadership, consultation, analysis, and planning services to the NASA customer in support of desktops, servers, networking & administration, and day-to-day operations. The NASA projects that they support are the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and its replacement telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope was launched April 24, 1990, on the space shuttle Discovery from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It was the most significant advance in astronomy since Galileo's telescope. Hubble, the observatory, is the first major optical telescope to be placed in space, the ultimate mountaintop. Above the distortion of the atmosphere, far above rain clouds and light pollution, it had an unobstructed view of the universe. Scientists have used Hubble to observe the most distant stars and galaxies as well as the planets in our solar system. The Hubble's final servicing mission was in 2009.

The James Webb Space Telescope (referred to as JWST) has long been seen as the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope. It is an orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope. They are looking forward to the launch of the JWST off the coast of South Africa in October of 2018. She says the work is challenging, but always interesting and the travel is exciting.

She looks back with gratitude for the foundation and the system of support she received from her family while growing up in the Indian Woods community and especially grateful for the love and concern she felt as a member of the Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church family.

Dr. Arwin D. Smallwood, Ph.D

Dr. Smallwood is the Chairman of the Department of History at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, NC. He is a graduate of Bertie High School and North Carolina Central University in 1988 with a B.A. in Political Science. He graduated Cum Laude with a M.A. in History, also from North Carolina Central University. He then attended the Ohio State University and received his Ph.D. in 1997.



Dr. Smallwood is the son of the late Bart F. & Lois Marie Smallwood. He is a researcher, lecturer, and author with many accolades to his name. Most notably are his works in the Eastern North Carolina areas.

Indian Woods Project

The principal activity of this project includes designing an interactive GIS map and website for the Indian Woods community of Bertie County, North Carolina. The project requires designing, arranging and describing maps (both historic and newly designed), and archival and manuscript collections that can be used to study the history of this area of North Carolina. It will involve cataloging collections of printed works, photographs, maps, oral interviews, moving images, art, and material culture; and creating databases and electronic archives that correspond with and provide electronic and web-based access to the physical documents and historical artifacts. At the conclusion of this project a detailed network of collections that consolidates access to existing primary sources and the GIS map will allow students of all grades (k-12) and university students both graduate and undergraduate) to learn from the over 400 years of rich history involving African Americans, Native Americans and Europeans found in Indian Woods, North Carolina.



It took 300 years, but the Tuscarora Native American tribe finally came home to Indian Woods in a return to Bertie County. And what a grand homecoming it was. Mr. Leo Henry (left), Chief of the NY Tuscarora Indian Turtle Clan, greets Dr. Arwin Smallwood (center) and Thelma Adamson (right) at Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Smallwood and the church sponsored a worship service and luncheon in honor of the visiting Native Americans.

Black Achievements from the Indian Woods Community -3

Oliver Melton-Christian Thomas

Oliver M. Thomas, a native of Bertie County, North Carolina, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and a Master of Divinity from Wake Forest University School of Divinity.



As an ordained Baptist minister, Oliver often preaches and offers care to those in need. His passion for humanitarianism has led him to serve in many roles in the local and global community, including: St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, as a Pastoral intern; Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC, as a Youth Ministry intern; Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in the Clinical Pastoral Education Program as a Chaplain intern; Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, Hampton, VA, as a Missionary to Kampala, Uganda and Nairobi, Kenya; Myers Park Baptist Church and Temple Beth El, Charlotte, NC, as a Minister with the Interfaith Pilgrimage; and Logan Presbyterian Church, Scotts, NC, as an interim Preacher and Worship Leader.

From 2010 to 2014, Oliver served as the Assistant Director of Admissions and Recruitment at Wake Forest University School of Divinity. He served on the Admissions and Scholarship Committee and he was the advisor to the Pastoral Care Committee. As the recruiter, he traveled throughout the Eastern region of the United States meeting with men and women discerning their call to ministry.

Currently, Oliver is completing a Ph.D. in Educational Studies with a Concentration in Cultural Studies at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. As a Ph.D. student, Oliver teaches undergraduate education majors.

Oliver has taught Introduction to Ethics as an adjunct faculty member at Carolina Christian College, Winston-Salem, NC. His research interests include Educational Studies, Christian Ethics, Leadership Development, Homiletics and Preaching, and Spiritual Direction and Formation.

In April of 2014, he was inducted into the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers, Board of Sponsors and Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. It is an honor bestowed on men and women, Christians and non-Christians, who give their lives in service to humanity. He was the 2010 recipient of The John Thomas and Dorothy Porter Award in Vocational Formation and Community Ministry, given by Wake Forest University School of Divinity in honor of John Thomas Porter, who was one of the first African Americans elected to the Alabama legislature in the civil rights era, and his wife.

Grover & Sharon Cooper African American Missionaries Making History



Grover and Sharon Cooper have been on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ since 1983 and 1978, respectively. They moved to Dallas, TX in August 1991 where Grover attended Dallas Theological Seminary and earned his Th.M. in New Testament Studies in 1995. They moved to Houston to raise support after his graduation for what was supposed to be one year; however their plans were changed. Their youngest child was born on March 16, 1996 and ten days later, Sharon suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. She had emergency neurosurgery and was hospitalized for 43 days in 3 different hospitals. After her release, she finished the prescribed 6 months of outpatient rehabilitation in three months, graduating as the TIRR Challenge Program Client of The Year.

In 2000 they finally moved to Johannesburg, South Africa where Grover served as Campus Director at The University of Witwatersrand until May 1, 2006. During the 2006-2007 year of transition back to the US, the family served on the Campus Crusade for Christ Lake Hart Stint, a one year development program; they also worked with The Impact Movement. After completing their time on the CCC Lake Hart Stint they continued their service with The Impact Movement; serving with Staff Development and Staff Care. Currently, Grover serves as Director of Fund Development for The Impact Movement and oversees Impact Campus Chapters in the South and Southeast U.

Grover is a graduate of Bertie High School and East Carolina University. He is the son of Mrs. Clara Cooper and the late Mr. Henry Lawrence Cooper.

Pictured below with his children, Misa (graduate) Lia Ruth, and Caleb



Black Achievements from the Indian Woods Community -4

Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown, MD Family Medicine



THE TRUSTED ONE

OPHELIA **10**
Garmon-Brown
COCHAIR, CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY TASK FORCE

Charlotte likes task forces. But given the community's false starts on addressing economic inequality and the mistrust of leaders who've established panel after panel, the one Garmon-Brown co-leads with banker Dee O'Dell needs to be better than all the rest. Garmon-Brown's longevity here and the deep respect she's earned over the years is an asset for the group. —A.R.

Note: *Of the 50 most powerful people in the city of Charlotte, NC, Dr. Garmon-Brown comes in at #10. What an honor and a testament to a tremendous body of work. It is worth noting that in 2010, she was selected Charlotte's Woman of the Year. Congratulations Dr. Garmon-Brown. Indian Woods salute you and we celebrate your excellence.*

Novant Health Is Pleased To Be The Lead Sponsor of Pride's Health and Education Issue



PRIDE, one of Charlotte, NC's African American Magazines, featured in its Fall 2016 publication Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown. She has been a practicing physician for over 30 years and is now the Senior Vice President of Community Wellness and Education at Novant Health.

Dr. Garmon-Brown says that good health is the foundation of a person's overall well-being. She continues in her own words:

At Novant Health, we are omitted to creating healthy communities and keeping people healthy so they can enjoy

living life fully. While much of the world class care we provide takes place within our hospitals and physician offices, our mission to improve the health of our communities extends far beyond our walls.

There are shared health issues in our communities—prediabetes, obesity and high blood pressure. While each health condition is dangerous, together they are a deadly combination for a downward spiral of ill health.

Our organization has pledge to tackle these comorbidities through an unprecedented, multiyear, system-wide initiative called Remarkable You. Through Remarkable You, we offer free health screenings, wellness services and community symposiums featuring Novant Health providers and public health experts.

The American Diabetes Association estimates that in the Charlotte metro area alone, roughly 170,000 people have diabetes. Many individuals in our community are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes and don't even know it.

The obesity epidemic in the US continues to worsen, according to the latest research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Seventeen percent of US kids are obese. People who are obese have higher rates of heart disease, diabetes, some types of cancer and other illnesses.

The risk of heart disease and stroke are alarmingly high for African Americans. In fact, nearly 44% of African-American men and 48% of African-American women have some form of cardiovascular disease.

As a woman of faith, I offer to you these keys for a healthier life—

*Love yourself,
Nurture yourself,
Love others,
Care for others,
Keep your mind and body moving and
Become still within.*

--Ophelia Garmon-Brown

Celebrating More Black Achievers In Coming Editions

Deacon Linda Speller

Carol Rascoe

Deborah Rascoe

Vickie Rascoe McGhee

Lisa Smallwood Howell

Dyron Liverman

Trish Hardy Wray

Gregory Liverman

LaShay Cherry

Ashley Smallwood

Quanesha Cooper

Indian Woods Retired Teachers

Know an Indian Woods alum who has excelled through hard work and determination? We want to recognize them. Please give us the name and we will try to make contact.