

*Inspiring
African American
Women of
Calvert County*

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Introduction

The movie (released January 2017) and book (released September 2016) *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly highlighted the story of a group of African American women who made significant contributions to science without receiving proper recognition during their lifetimes. One of those engineers, Mary Winston Jackson, began her career as a math teacher in Calvert County. She touched a number of young lives here. With the book and movie, these women are finally getting recognition for their role in National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

There are many other *Inspiring African American Women* who have touched Calvert County. This book is a continuation of a collection begun by the artist Delphine Siggers-Williams. She painted “Forty Blossoms from the Bouquet” in 2006, featuring 40 extraordinary African American women whose leadership has benefited Calvert County and society at large. These women persevered through such challenges as racial prejudice, gender bias, economic hardship, competing commitments and finding their courage. Through their sacrifices and hard work, the world has become a better place. They are role models for those that know them and for future generations. Those of us who have been influenced by amazing women are invited to add stories to this collection. Please share this book with the young people who cross your paths.

Calvert Library is pleased to produce this book which could not have been accomplished without the extensive volunteer work of Darlene Harrod assisted by Shirley Knight. The initial inspiration for this project came from Dr. Marsha Plater who suggested and helped coordinate a Women’s History month event in March 2017 at Calvert Library Prince Frederick featuring some of the unsung heroines of Calvert’s African American community. The event featured Mrs. Siggers-Williams’s “Forty Blossoms” Exhibit, a musical performance by brother and sister duo Roland and Joan Plater, and living history presentations by Kaitlyn Plater (eighth grade, future businesswoman), Hannah Sunshine (sixth grade, future photographer), and Ayanna Mackall (eighth grade, future teacher). Pamela Wilkerson, Glossie Leake, and Joyce Freeland also shared their stories. We encourage you to share yours. Participate, be inspired, go forth and change the world!

Inspiring African American Women of Calvert County

March 28, 2017

6:30-7:00pm Social and Entertainment

Reception

Delphine Siggers-William's "Forty Blossoms" Exhibit

Musical selections by Joan and Roland Plater

7:00pm Welcome to the Event (Robyn Truslow, Calvert Library)

Acknowledgements

Darlene Harrod

Shirley Knight

Delphine Siggers-Williams

Michael Kent & Calvert County NAACP

Calvert County Historical Society

Calvert County Commission for Women

Concerned Black Women of Calvert County

Friends of Calvert Library

Introduction of Host, Dr. Marsha M. Plater

Re-Enactments of Women from the Past

Ailene Stamper performed by Ayanna Mackall, Plum Point Middle

Myrtle Patten performed by Hannah Sunshine, Northern Middle

Malinda Plater performed by Kaitlyn Plater, Plum Point Middle

Musical Selection

Current Role Models

Pamela Wilkerson

Joyce Freeland

Glossie Leake

Musical Selection

8:25pm In Closing...How You Can Document Your Heroine

Andrea Christine Parran Banks



Over the course of 41 years in public education, Andrea Christine “Chris” Banks worked to enhance the learning experiences of her students through writing grants, serving as a supervising teacher for student teachers, participating in writing curriculum, and presenting at workshops. Her passion for advocacy continued as she found herself elected to the boards of directors of education organizations, including the National Education Association. While director of these organizations, she lobbied at the State Capitol in Annapolis and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. She was St. Mary’s Teacher of the Year in 1992 and winner of several awards for community service.

Born in Washington, D.C., to the late Robert and Zara Parran of Calvert County, her family moved to D.C. to seek better employment opportunities. From an early age, Chris was encouraged by her mother to get a “good education” so she could enjoy a successful life. After high school, where she and her classmates often were relegated to using books that had been condemned by schools on the other side of town, she pursued her dream of attending college. In Boston,

Massachusetts, she received the following education: a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Emmanuel College, a Master's Degree in Education from Antioch College, and a Certificate in Elementary Administration from McDaniel College.

Before graduating from undergrad college, Chris was recruited by the Boston public schools to join others in increasing the number of minority teachers in the school system. Although often stressed by the violence produced by bussing and school integration, she nonetheless started her teaching career in Boston and remaining in the system for eight years teaching Title I Reading and grade 1. She thoroughly enjoyed teaching. Enabling students to grow and learn inspired her.

Returning to Washington, D.C., Chris accepted a teaching position in St. Mary's County, where she not only taught grades 1, 2, and 5, she also served as President of the St. Mary's Education Association. This experience encouraged her to be an ardent advocate for staff and students. Because she lived in Calvert, Chris applied to and was hired by Calvert County Public Schools in 1996. She taught third grade at Mt. Harmony in Huntingtown and served as a Learning Specialist at Patuxent Elementary in Lusby. She held two positions as Vice Principal—at Calvert Elementary in Prince Frederick and at Beach Elementary in Chesapeake Beach—from which she retired in 2013. She also served as President of the Calvert County Education Association.

In retirement, Chris continues to be involved in the community. She is President of the Calvert County Historical Society, a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters, as well as active in her church as an usher and Children's Church Leader. She serves on the boards of the NAACP and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland. She is also a realtor.

Chris enjoys spending time with her extensive family, which includes a son, a daughter-in-law, a granddaughter, nine siblings, and 46 nieces and nephews.

Y. Renee Bright



Dr. Yvonne Renee (Lee) Bright hails from Norfolk, Virginia. She is the younger of two children of deceased parents Reginald N. Lee, Jr. and Katherine V. Lee. Her brother Reginald N. Lee, III resides in Portsmouth, Virginia, in a group home. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Science at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, and her Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1989 from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. She served 12 years in the U.S. Navy. During her tour of duty, Dr. Bright was stationed and trained at the Naval Hospital in Oakland, California, and the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, California. In 1996, she completed her gastroenterology (GI) fellowship in San Diego. She reached the rank of Commander before completing her military duty in October 2001. Throughout her military career, Dr. Bright received several awards for "Outstanding Teaching" in training facilities. Briefly, she was the department head of Medicine at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego.

In 2001, Dr. Bright moved to Calvert County to be near her family. She is currently an owner with the Calvert Internal Medicine Group and a partner of the Calvert Digestive Disease Associates (CDDA). In 2007, she was recognized by Calvert Memorial Hospital for her community involvement at the Physicians' Awards Recognition Dinner. She helped organize Calvert Memorial Hospital's Colon Cancer Symposium in 2009.

She quickly embraced the community's needs and joined local organizations. She was president of the Optimist Club of Saint Leonard from 2004 to 2006. She sponsored the first "Katherine V. Lee Memorial Scholarship" for the club in 2005 for graduating high school seniors in Calvert County. She is very active in the Brooks United Methodist Church (UMC) as a former Trustee and Administrative Council Chairperson and currently is the chairperson for Christian Education.

Throughout her career, Dr. Bright was often the first African American female in a role—from the GI training program in San Diego, department head of Medicine, President of the local Optimist club—to upcoming medical director of the newly formed CDDA with Dr. Dolores Rhodes-Height. Dr. Bright said, "I believe that one of the reasons I've been successful is that I have always just seen myself as a professional or member of an organization, not 'the only black person,' and acted as deserving as the next person. So, I encourage women to present themselves as worthy and as capable as anyone else. I refused to be treated any less."

In 2008, Dr. Bright was joined in marriage to Mark T. Bright of Island Creek. Her passions are her faith in God, ministry at Brooks UMC, her family, including four cats, teaching, and reading. She has been blessed with a very successful career with Calvert Internal Medicine and in Calvert County.

Ernestine Brooks



Ernestine Smith was born at Freedman's Hospital (now Howard University Hospital) in Washington, D.C., in 1952 to Rudolph and Margaret Smith of Calvert County, Maryland. She grew up in Calvert with her mother, two brothers, and sister for whom she is very grateful and values the community that nurtured her for many years.

Until she entered the ninth grade, Ernestine attended the segregated public schools until integration was mandated. James M. Robinson, Calvert Middle School's guidance counselor, deserves credit for Ernestine's getting hired under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act program for low income families. He also assisted her in enrolling in 1970 at Bowie State College (now University). Ernestine majored in Elementary Education, which she abandoned in her senior year, and later added French to her major. While at Bowie, she also had the opportunity to travel to India in 1973.

After graduating from Bowie State in 1974 with honors, Ernestine's work experiences included a tutor, the first Adult Basic Education and General Education Development Instructor at Brooks United Methodist Church in St. Leonard, Maryland, a substitute

instructor for Charles County Community College, and an Even Start Family Literacy Program instructor in Calvert County in which several students became authors. She also worked as an assistant to the Acquisitions Department director at Bowie State's Thomas G. Pullen, Jr. Library, an in-service assistant and a unit secretary at Calvert Memorial Hospital, a licensed Maryland home improvements contractor, a worker for the Calvert County Government, a personal care provider, a program analyst in Washington, D.C., and a typist for small businesses.

From her marriage in 1984 to Arthur Brooks, Sr., a dry wall mechanic, two daughters and one son were born. Ernestine volunteered by typing for several nonprofit organizations, including the Calvert County Community Mediation Center, the Calvert County Interfaith Council, and the Middle Atlantic Regional Gospel Ministries, Inc., in Washington, D.C.

She attends Mt. Olive United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick, Maryland where Reverend Dana Jones is pastor and All Saints Episcopal Church in Sunderland, Maryland where Father Kenneth O. Phelps, Jr. is rector.

Ernestine self-published *Earnest Expressions*, her first book of poetry and prose from which she read during the 1994 American Association of University Women, Patuxent River Branch, Women of the World Luncheon in Calvert County to recognize local authors. Other books include *Earnest Reflections*, *The Way I Feel*, *Subtle Changes*, and a chapbook *Lest We Forget*.

On July 10, 2007, Ernestine conducted the "Our Children, Our Jewels" workshop at Calvert Library Prince Frederick. Funded by the "Dare To Dream Grant" inspired by Anne Harrison of the AAUW, Patuxent River Branch, the workshop engaged adults and children in discussing ways in which parents can destroy healthy relationships and how they can help to mend those broken relationships. Ernestine's daughter Jessica assisted as a moderator.

Ernestine calls out prejudice when it occurs and expects others to do the same. She values those who undergird her in the midst of her spiritual warfare.

Alexya Brown



Alexya Brown's passions are providing equitable educational and health services for all, teaching cultural competence and building peace. She promotes her passions as the Assistant Director of Outreach for Maryland Leadership Workshops, a nonprofit developing curriculum and training staffers to meet the needs of diverse student populations across Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Born and raised in Calvert County, Alexya graduated from Patuxent High School in 2016 where her studies focused on biomedical health. She actively participated in student government organizations. She served two terms as the Student Member on the Calvert County Board of Education. She founded the first countywide Student Advisory Council to develop multiple avenues for communication and youth advocacy. Alexya also served as a student page for the Maryland State Senate in 2016 and as an officer of the National Honor Society and the Class Council. As an actor and eventually Student Director with the Patuxent Harlequins, she was involved in more than 10 shows over the four years she was in high school.

Alexya is a freshman at the University of Maryland College Park. She is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral and Community Health with a focus on health policy and communication. She plans to work in health policy to affect positive change and eliminate disparities in Maryland's communities.

In 2016, the Calvert County Commission for Women awarded Alexya the Woman of Tomorrow Award for her contributions to youth empowerment.

Dia Brown



When Dia Brown was just 14, she founded Crochet for the Bay to help the environment and to raise student interest in a more unique way. Students crochet, sew, knit, and sell items to help finance bay restoration. She said, “When I was in seventh grade, I went to the Baltimore City Aquarium and bought a book on the environment. I already knew that the bay’s health was in jeopardy. I used the book for inspiration. I wrote Crochet for the Bay in a journal. A few years later, I created the organization.”

Now 18 and a senior at Huntingtown High School, Dia focuses her studies on Environmental Science. She said, “It is important to study the environment because it truly encompasses all fields. Our environmental health directly correlates with our own health. Careers in the environment are definitely up and rising for the next generation.” While she is still weighing her options on which college to attend, Dia knows she will be studying Environmental Engineering. She has worked at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons, Maryland, for the past two summers. She did water quality research, input data, revised reports, and acid

washed equipment. She has prospective jobs lined up for this summer.

Dia also helped in creating the social media site, #OurCommonCalvert, which works to build youth leadership and common ground within the county regardless of who you are and where you come from. Through interfaith meetings, the students work to help refugees and immigrants.

She is President of Huntingtown High's Tri-M Music Honor Society who volunteer as musicians at venues such as senior centers, Vice President of the Spanish Club, and a member of the National Honor Society. At school, she volunteers with "Future Think." Seniors and college students come back to help underclass students by providing opportunities for them to practice public speaking and to ask questions concerning classes, math help, the appropriate tutor, the best classes, and the right college. She helps with these organizations and does much more because she loves to volunteer. She said, "It makes my soul feel good to help out." She hopes to inspire children with her passion, motivation, and initiative. Dia has a gift for writing, producing, directing, and acting. At community events, she performs her reenactment of Harriet Elizabeth Brown, the teacher who challenged the Calvert County Board of Education over the inequity of separate salary scales for public teachers based on race. In a recent dinner theater mystery for the Community Mediation Center of Calvert, Dia was Lila Laird, the young makeup artist who had motive, means, and opportunity to murder the starlet.

The immediate Brown family consists of her grandmother Mary, father Derrick, and an older sister Des'ree. Dia was born and raised in Calvert County and has lived in the same house in Huntingtown all her life.

Harriet Elizabeth Brown



Photo courtesy of Glossie Leake

Harriet Elizabeth (“Libby”) Brown often is referred to as Calvert County’s civil rights pioneer for her role in bringing about equal salary for teachers regardless of race.

Calvert County paid its teachers according to Maryland law, which set forth two minimum salary schedules – one for white teachers and one for “colored” teachers. In 1937, as a black elementary school teacher with eight years’ experience and a first grade certificate, Libby received a monthly salary of \$75 for eight months (\$600), while white elementary teachers with the same credentials received an annual salary of \$1,100.

With a young Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP as her attorney, Libby petitioned the Calvert County Board of Education in September 1937, stating that its payment practices violated the Fourteenth Amendment and seeking equal pay for all teachers with the same qualifications regardless of race. After the board denied her petition, Marshall filed a lawsuit on her behalf in November. The board settled the case before it went to trial, and at a special meeting

on December 27, adopted a plan to fully equalize salaries by the 1939-1940 school year. Shortly after Libby's case, the Maryland governor pledged to take steps to equalize teacher salaries, and in 1941, Maryland eliminated the separate salary schedules.

Libby mounted her challenge in an era when such an action by a black individual meant putting her job and even her life at risk. But family members describe Libby as fearless and quick to try to fix something she thought unfair. She rarely spoke of the case unless asked and always said, "Somebody had to do it."

Born in Baltimore in 1907, Libby moved to Philadelphia when she was quite young. She attended the Philadelphia High School for Girls and graduated from Philadelphia Normal School in 1926. Teaching jobs were scarce, and after a few years of substituting, Libby accepted a position at Island Creek Elementary School and moved to Calvert County in 1930. After four years at Island Creek, she began teaching at Mt. Hope Elementary and in 1953 became principal of Mt. Hope, the position she would hold until she retired in 1970.

She and her sister Regina, also a teacher and principal in Calvert County, were active members of state and national education organizations throughout their careers and participated in numerous civic organizations. In 1994, Libby was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Samirah Brown



Samirah Brown is an eleventh grader who attends Northern High School. When she was 10 years old she suffered the unexpected death of her father. Despite this loss, Samirah is an extraordinary scholar athlete who has excelled as a track and field star and musician. She has the incredible ability through her intellect and enthusiastic personality to embrace and galvanize people of all walks of life. She recognized in the seventh grade that she could expand her circle through the power of language. With this desire, Samirah is now an advanced Spanish world language student. These attributes, when combined with her natural leadership ability, have earned her the respect of her peers and adults alike.

Samirah's high school accolades are many. She was inducted into the National Honor Society and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She is in her third year of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). In the ninth grade, she received the Outstanding FBLA Freshman Award. She was elected Vice President of Business Development and Member Relations for the 2016-2017 school year. The Guidance Department recognized and nominated Samirah to become a Peer Mentor in the tenth grade. She was selected as a

returning mentor in the eleventh grade based upon the wisdom and experience she offers in helping to guide some younger mentors who joined the group. She qualified for Maryland State Track and Field Outdoor Championships in the ninth and tenth grades in the Girls Shot Put. In 2015, Samirah was nominated and awarded the Maryland Women of Tomorrow Award, ninth - tenth Grade Honorable Mention.

Samirah participates in several significant civic projects. She is a founding youth leader of the social media site #OurCommonCalvert, which is an emerging multigenerational and multiracial community group. She serves as the elected Vice President of Calvert's National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr., Creative And Striving Hard to Succeed Chapter. NSBE Jr. is designed to stimulate an interest in the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Samirah's Try-Math-a-Lon ninth-tenth Grade Division team competed and placed sixth in the nation at the 2016 NSBE National Conference. She has also been elected second Vice President of Calvert County's Inaugural Youth Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Samirah's willingness to help others extends to both grade school and college students where she regularly tutors math during evening hours. She is a founding youth leader of OurCommonCalvert, an emerging multigenerational and multiracial community group. Currently, Samirah's intent is to pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Inez N. Claggett



Inez N. Claggett enjoys working with people to make the community a better place. Engaging, empowering, and mobilizing people are her passion. She has plenty of opportunities to pursue her passion, as she is actively engaged in numerous community activities.

Since July 2016, Inez has been Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women. She also is Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Calvert County and of the Calvert County Minority Business Alliance. Inez is Vice Chair of the Board of Parks and Recreation and a member of the Concerned Black Women of Calvert County and the Board of Education Citizens Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the Boards of Directors for the Owings Outlaws, a local youth football club, and for Cannons Select Lacrosse, a local travel lacrosse club for boy's ages 4 to 17.

Born at the old Calvert Memorial Hospital in Prince Frederick, she was raised in the small southern Anne Arundel County town of Friendship, Maryland.

Inez holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Delaware and a Master's Degree in Accounting and Financial Management from the University of Maryland. She is a Certified Government Auditing Professional, a Certified Internal

Control Auditor, and holds a Certificate in Risk Management Assurance.

She has worked in public accounting and in the construction industry. Currently, she is a Legislative Auditor for a local government.

When Inez is not balancing a checkbook or attending a meeting, she enjoys spending time with her family and watching her son participate in various sports activities.

Inez lives with her husband and son in Owings. She has an abundance of relatives, including her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws, most of whom live within the local area.

She attends Calvert County Baptist Church in Prince Frederick where Pastor Darryl Godlock presides.

Inez's message is: "I believe the secret to change is not in focusing your energy on the old, but on building the new. You must overcome your obstacles and focus on your future."

Nicole S. Cooksey



Nicole S. Cooksey's passion for community service has led her to participate in some exceptional organizations. With the belief that "service is the rent we pay for living," she currently serves as the President of Concerned Black Women of Calvert County, as a member of the Calvert County Citizen Advisory Committee for the Board of Education, as a Maryland Governor-appointed board member of Calvert County's Citizens Review Board for Children, and as Editor of the Southern Maryland Chapter of Jack and Jill of America. She also serves as an Alumni Recruiter for her beloved alma mater Morgan State University.

She is the Senior Industrial Security Analyst for a technology company located in Bethesda, Maryland. As the Security Coordinator, Nicole is responsible for managing the company's security program and clearance certifications as a liaison with the Defense Security Service.

Nicole holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland and Master's Degrees in Information Technology Management and in Business

Administration from Webster University's George Hubert Walker School of Business in St. Louis Missouri.

She is a member of the Ebenezer AME Church located in Fort Washington, Maryland, where the Senior Pastor, the Reverend Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr., and the Co-Pastor, the Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning, preside. Nicole lives by faith, hard work, and perseverance. In the future, she aspires to own her own consulting business to help others within her church and in the community realize their entrepreneurial dreams.

Nicole, her husband Ricky of 15 years, and their two children, Sydney, 11, and Bryce, 9, reside in Owings, Maryland.

Pamela Cousins



Pamela Cousins was elected in November 2014 to a 4-year term on the Calvert County Board of Education. At the beginning of her term on the Board in January 2015, she was elected Vice President by her colleagues. In January 2016, she was elected President of the Board and was reelected to the position in January 2017. She endeavors to provide all learners with access to challenging learning opportunities.

Pamela's passion for community and child advocacy spans nearly 35 years and she leads by example. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland. She is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Community Service Chair, Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc., Clinton Tri-County Chapter. She is the Corresponding Secretary for the Concerned Black Women of Calvert County. Pamela is enthusiastically involved in her child's National Society of Black Engineers Jr. CASH Chapter, Northern High School's Parent Teacher Student Organization, and the Professional Division of Future Business Leaders of America at Northern.

She was presented the 2016 Outstanding Achievement Award for Advocacy by the Calvert County Commission for Women at the 14th Annual Women of the World Awards. She was named the 2015 Citizen of the Year for Calvert County from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Tau Lambda Lambda Chapter.

Pamela began her adult career serving in the U.S. Air Force. Her mission to help mitigate national security cyber challenges in support of the National Intelligence Community was recognized for exemplary service. With combined military and private industry responsibilities, she has over 25 years of cyber security, project management, and leadership experience in building teams and managing secure Information Technology (IT) systems. Pamela currently works for the Federal Government implementing common policies and best practices that are risk-based and able to effectively respond to the pace of ever-changing cyber threats to Federal networks. She has attained various professional Cyber and IT Certifications.

She is a mom, child advocate, community leader, and a champion for change, an avid traveler, and a dog owner. Pamela has lived in Calvert County for the last 10 years with her brilliant and lovable daughter who attends Northern High School.

Margo Easton



Margo Brooks Easton is the third of five children born to the late Hezekiah and Volley Brooks. She was raised in Calvert County and attended public schools there. Later in life, she studied at Fleet Business School in Annapolis, Maryland. She was the first in her family to accept God as her personal Lord and Savior in 1972 at the age of 17. She later received the Holy Ghost. This began a great hunger and thirst for the Word of God and a passion to fulfill His will for her life. The hunger and thirst have grown tremendously over the years. A few of Margo's favorite scriptures are Psalms 91, Ephesians 6, and Matthew 6:33.

She is married to Pastor Darnell Easton. They are blessed with three wonderful children, a wonderful daughter-in-law and son-in-law, and five lovely grandchildren.

Early in Margo's walk with Christ, she learned the importance of prayer. Since that time, she has been a dedicated prayer warrior. She said, "God has answered so many of my prayers for others and for me personally. He transformed me from a quiet, shy person to a bold soldier for Christ. I have a zeal to continue to walk with God so

that He may use me wherever I may go. My desire is to faithfully serve God, my husband, and God's people!"

Margo faithfully serves in many capacities at Bethel Way of the Cross Church in Huntingtown, Maryland. She assisted her husband in starting the New Members Class in 1981, which has been flourishing ever since. Another milestone was starting the Men's Prison Ministry in Jessup, Maryland, rendering services to the inmates twice a month.

In 2003, Margo became First Lady of Bethel. She believes her primary ministry is to inspire, encourage, and support the well-being of her husband and pastor, Darnell Easton. She currently is President of the Missionary Board and Chairperson of the Sisterhood Ministry.

She visits the sick, shut in, and bereaved families on a regular basis. Margo has a special place in her heart for the poor, homeless, and hungry. She is also the Overseer of Safe Nights, a Calvert County program for homeless participants. Bethel's members volunteer their time to help make this occasion a great success. Margo is Chairperson of Bethel's Annual Community Day. This event focuses on providing clothing, shoes, household items, meals, and fun activities for children. Everything is free of charge. This opportunity allows Bethel to give back to the people within the community. She is the advisor for Bethel's Annual Sisters Retreat, and she is graciously blessed to work with an awesome Sisters Retreat Committee. The retreat continues to be a great blessing to the women of Bethel and women in the community at large.

Margo believes that to be a good leader you have to have great followers. She stands on many shoulders today which in turn, help her shine brighter. Margo says she is blessed to work with and minister to such a great congregation of members.

Glenda Fields



A native of Calvert County, Glenda Fields attended Calvert County public schools. She is a Children's Librarian Supervisor and a Professional Storyteller for children. Glenda graduated from Bowie State University with a Degree in Business Administration. Even though business was her field of study in college, she has spent the majority of her professional life impacting children.

She believes that early exposure to books and creating a love for literature is the key to a child's success. She took her skills as a Children's Librarian and became an entrepreneur, doing business as The Story Lady. Her view is to take your skills beyond the workplace and to make a difference on a larger scale. And that is exactly what she has done. In addition to impacting hundreds of children with books and stories through her job, Glenda impacts thousands of children in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia as The Story Lady.

Fear of taking risks has always been the biggest obstacle in her life. But she has learned that fear exists only in the mind. Her life experiences have taught her that fear is a vicious enemy that prevents one from being who he or she was created to be. It can take you to an unwanted detour and cause you to waste many years of your life.

Glenda's advice to us all: Develop a positive attitude and see the good in people no matter how bad they may seem. We see only the surface. No one knows the full extent of someone else's journey in life. No one is perfect, and we can all do something, no matter how small, to make someone else's life better. Stay in tune with yourself, and listen to that still small voice that lets you know when something isn't right or when you need to stay away from certain circumstances. Admire the talents and gifts of others. Be awed at the magnificent things God enables people to do. Mentor a child! It's very rewarding, and sometimes parents need the extra help. No matter where you are in life, always do your best, and know that you can rise to the occasion for whatever life demands of you. When opportunities come your way, you should take them even if you do not feel qualified.

Glenda's advice continues: Seek your purpose (not someone else's), and go for it. Don't let anyone pull you away from who you truly are. Learn to love the way God does because that kind of love is unconditional. Value life and take good care of your body while you are young because when you get older, you'll be so glad that you did. It's never too late to start all over. Live a balanced life, and stay away from toxic people.

Evelyn Rané Franklin



Evelyn Rané Franklin was born in Durham, North Carolina. Her father was a Baptist minister, and the family eventually settled in Hempstead, New York. She started piano lessons at 5 years old so she could accompany her father when he sang at church. This led to a lifelong love of music. Rané graduated from C.W. Post Center, Long Island University with a Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Music. Her first job after college was working for a small recording company, Roadshow Records, where she met her mentor in the recording industry.

Being involved in the church also meant being engaged in the community. Rané served as Special Assistant to the Mayor of Hempstead, an ombudsman position where she could help with constituent concerns. She volunteered with the local Fire Department and was very active in the community, until her mentor called her back to the Recording industry. She moved to Atlanta, Georgia, started working for InterSound Entertainment, and worked with over 40 recording artists on the roster. While travelling to Washington,

D.C., with some of the artists, she met Eric Franklin. They were married soon after, and she moved to Maryland.

In the Washington metropolitan area, Rané embarked on a new career, working with a media company placing content in local newspapers. She worked there for over 15 years. During that time, three children were added to the family. Her involvement in the community continued when she mounted a bid for a seat on the Board of Education in Calvert County in 2008. That effort did not succeed but became a positive influence because she had the opportunity to meet and share the concerns of a diverse cross-section of Calvert residents. She learned how to be an effective advocate for students, parents, and other community members on a variety of issues.

Since June 2015, Rané has served as President of the Arts Council of Calvert County, as well as Chairperson of the College of Southern Maryland Board of Foundation Directors. She is an active member of the Southern Maryland chapter of Jack and Jill of America and the Southern Maryland Chain Chapter, The Links, Inc. She remains passionate about music, the arts, and education issues.

Joyce Freeland



In keeping with her commitment to working for economic and social justice for the people of Calvert County, Joyce Freeland served as President of the County's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for almost 28 years, serving from 1988 to 2016. The NAACP was formed in 1909 and continues to fight for social justice for all Americans.

As President, Joyce continued to work on cases of alleged discrimination and unfair treatment of African Americans. She said, "I am hopeful that we can increase both the adult and youth membership in the NAACP to mobilize freedom fighters to help address the issues facing citizens in today's society."

She has a history of active participation in a wide variety of activities. Most recently, Joyce served on the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemorative Task Force convened on May 12, 2015, by Governor Larry Hogan. The Task Force Bill was drafted in response to Calvert County Commission for Women's (CCCW) request to find a way to recognize Brown's historical role in getting equal pay for African American teachers. Joyce is a former Treasurer for both the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee,

(SMTCCAC) Inc., where she advocated for the clientele of the agency, and the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce.

Over the years, Joyce has received numerous awards for her outstanding contributions to the community. CCCW recognized her work with the Project Echo Homeless Shelter in Prince Frederick. Previously on Sundays, she provided food items and talked with the residents. Now, every three months she and a friend purchase enough food to feed all 40 residents. She earned the Election Board's 15-Year Service Award for serving as an election judge. Joyce was honored with the Democratic Central Committee Community Service Award for her dedication to the Democratic Party in 2006. She was honored as one of the longest serving members of SMTCCAC's Board of Directors in September 2015. Calvert's Concerned Black Women presented her with the Community Award of Excellence in October 2016.

Joyce is a member of the Plum Point United Methodist Church in Huntingtown, Maryland, and has served on several church committees. She has gathered food and assembled baskets for needy families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. For the United Methodist Church Board of Child Care, she collected memberships from her church, gathered gently used items so the school-age children could buy gifts at a reasonable price from the Christmas Store, and got baskets and gifts for the Christmas party for the children.

A native of Calvert County, Joyce received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Morgan State College, now University, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Annette Cynthia Jones Funn



Originally from Reedville, Virginia, Annette Cynthia Jones Funn moved to Calvert County from Prince George's County in 1998 with her husband, Malcolm. Her impact on the world started well before that. Born May 30, 1942, Annette was an early shining light serving through her church even as a child. When she attended Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, she became active in the civil rights movement and was selected by Dr. Martin Luther King to be a "platoon leader." After arriving in Calvert County Annette continued to serve the Lord by joining and becoming an active member of Bayside Baptist Church. During this time she served as Ladies Sunday School teacher, Chairman of the Trustee Board and Church Clerk.

In her career choice, Annette served as a role model for young women. For 35 years, she was a scientist with the US Food and Drug

Administration at a time when women, and African American women in particular, had to fight for the respect they were due. Even today, the number of women in the field of science is low, particularly in positions of leadership. Annette excelled and led in her field. Her intelligence and no-nonsense personality quietly demanded respect. She served as Senior Science Public Health Policy Advisor, National Manager of FDA's fifty plus Advisory Committees for consumer members, and Consumer Safety Officer and Supervisor. Her work was recognized through various performance and achievement awards.

Annette was not all work and no play though it happens that her version of "play" looks like a lot of work. She strongly believed that "To make a living, you earn. To make a life, you give." Annette gave unstintingly of her time and talents. She was a strong organizer, motivator, strategist, visionary, teacher, writer, and negotiator. She knew when to push a point and when to facilitate a compromise. By her example, she inspired those who worked with her to go the extra mile.

Her passion for people and for making a difference in the world put her in leadership positions with many organizations such as the Maryland Federation of Business and Professional Women, League of Women Voters, Calvert County Commission for Women, Concerned Black Women of Calvert County, Gideons International Delmarvic States Auxiliary, and National Council of Negro Women's Section in Prince George's County. She was also active in the Closing the Gap Coalition, Patient & Family Advisory Council of Calvert Memorial Hospital, Women's Network Action Coalition, Healthy Lifestyle Impact Council, Ruth's Miracle Group Home Foundation, and others.

Calvert County lost a leading light when Annette Funn died on July 30, 2016, but the organizations she helped found and the energy and knowledge she imparted before she left will continue to inspire and signify positive change in Calvert County and the world beyond.

Margo Plater Goggins



Margo Plater Goggins was anointed with the ministry of singing. Her ministry encouraged the broken hearted, gave hope to the hopeless, and spoke life into faint situations. She was never hesitant in sharing her ministry. She was called upon to sing at numerous events. Margo would deliver an entire sermon through a song. She never wavered from wearing a radiant smile, singing with a powerful voice, and delivering with an angelic spirit.

The eldest of seven siblings, Margo was born to Alice and Terry Plater, Sr. of Sunderland, Maryland. As a child at Bethel Way of the Cross Church in Huntingtown, she sang in several choirs and ensembles, such as the Junior Church Choir, the Youth for Christ Choir, Redeemed, and the Young Adult Choir. She served faithfully on the youth usher board, participated in Sunday school, and directed several choirs.

Margo was an honor student with many accomplishments in the Calvert County public schools. She represented the student body as the President of the Student Government Association. Among her many awards were the Outstanding French Award, where she traveled to Quebec, Canada, the Distinguished Scholar Scholarship and the Presidential Academic Fitness Awards. Also, during her high

school term, Margo was a member of the Northern High School (NHS) Honor's Chorus, NHS Gospel Choir, and NHS Chamber Choir. Margo will be fondly remembered by teachers and students for her powerful rendition of Whitney Houston's "One Moment in Time," which she sang at her high school graduation in 1989.

Margo attended her first choice college, Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. She exhibited her magnificent vocal ability while singing in the Concert Choir, the University Choir, and the Gospel Choir, which was only surpassed by her truly genuine and loving spirit. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. She continued her studies, working toward a Master's Degree in International Studies at the University of Maryland College Park.

Her faith and dedication to service were also reflected in her career choices. After working as a teacher for a short time at Holy Temple Christian Academy in Washington, D.C., Margo dedicated herself to public service. She held key positions at the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Small Business Administration, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). She was a committed Acting Director of Workforce Planning and Analysis for the VA and faithfully held her post in spite of her health condition. At the age of 45 on February 9, 2017, Margo lost a four-year battle with breast cancer.

Margo is survived by her husband James "Jade" Goggins, II and children Mariah and James, III.

Kaliyah Gorman



Kaliyah Gorman was born in Washington, D.C., at Georgetown University Hospital. She was a fighter from the very beginning. She was born with Gastroschisis, a birth defect of the abdominal (belly) wall. The baby's intestines stick outside of the baby's body, through a hole beside the belly button. Doctors expected her to remain in the hospital for at least 3 months; she came home in 3 weeks.

Her precarious beginning lead to her desire to work hard and conquer all. At an early age, Kaliyah recognized that grit and hard work were both essential to success. She had a strong belief that everyone needed to do their part to help make the world a better place, and she knew that working hard was the key.

She focused on her education, striving to be at the top of her class. Doing so paid off. Today, she is completing her sophomore year at the U.S. Air Force Academy (a school with an acceptance rate that is lower than Cornell University) near Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is a starting member of their track team.

A 2015 graduate of Huntingtown High School, she worked diligently to accomplish academic, honors, athletic, and community achievements. At her young age, she has accumulated multiple pages

of achievements. At school, her academic and honors achievements included a 4.00 grade point average, a Scholastic Aptitude Test score of 1950, the Superintendent's Scholastic Award in the ninth through eleventh grade, induction into the National Honors Society for the eleventh and twelfth grades, Class President in the eleventh and twelfth grades, and participation in the National Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps in the ninth through eleventh grade.

In athletics, Kaliyah participated on the Varsity Indoor Track Team every year while in high school. She set the record for the 500M, 800M, and the 4x800 relay. She also participated on the Varsity Outdoor Track Team her high school years, again setting records for the 400M, 800M, 300H, 400H, 4x400 and the 4x800 relays. She received the Outstanding Athlete Award for Varsity Indoor Track and Varsity Outdoor Track from her freshman through her junior years.

Kaliyah's community service involved volunteering at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in St. Mary's County. She spent time with veterans reading, watching movies, playing games, and helping them shop for family members during the holiday seasons. While volunteering at the Help Association in Chesapeake Beach, she organized and sorted through clothing and donations. She priced and displayed items. For Farming for Hunger, she planted, harvested and delivered fruits and vegetables for people in the community.

She attended Mt. Gethsemane Holiness Church located in Huntingtown, Maryland. While there, she helped with Vacation Bible School, food drives, school supply drives, and the youth ministry.

Kaliyah, a native of Calvert County, is the eldest daughter of Travis and Ann Tran Gorman. They have two sons and another daughter. The family resides in Huntingtown.

Lauretta Grier



Making a difference in the lives of women and children has always been Lauretta Grier's passion. She has counseled and mentored many in the community and the workplace. After retirement in 2004, she worked for the Calvert County Health Department's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program where she taught "Guiding Good Choices" targeting parents and teens. This passion is also reflected in all of her volunteer work on the Citizens Review Board for Children in Prince George's and Calvert counties for 19 years and with the Calvert County Family Network Board of Directors for two terms. She also has been a member, Education Chair, Health Chair, and Vice President of Concerned Black Women of Calvert County for 12 years, a member and an officer of the Southern Maryland Community Network Board of Directors for several terms, and a member of the Closing the Gap Coalition and numerous other volunteer activities.

Lauretta retired from the Federal Government after 36 years of Federal service. She worked at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD) for 26 years in several management and professional positions in training and employee development,

employee assistance and health, and organizational development. Her first 10 years were spent at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration as a Biological Laboratory Technician in Histopathology. While working at NIH and raising two young daughters with her husband, she attended college and received an Associate's Degree in Mental Health and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Welfare-Counseling from the University of the District of Columbia and a Master's Degree in Counseling from the Trinity Washington University. The latter led to a 2-year highly competitive internship position at DHUD.

Lauretta's most noteworthy accomplishment at DHUD was becoming the Department's first Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Director. In this position, she wrote the first policy and program procedures for the Department's 10,000 employees and 51 Field Offices. The EAP provided counseling and referral services through a network of counseling professionals to all employees nationwide. Most memorable for her while working as the EAP Director was providing counseling services to survivors and family members who survived the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. She worked tirelessly in the immediate aftermath, and it took nine years to restore surviving employees back to health and full service. A year after the bombing at a (DHUD) tribute, Lauretta told her colleagues, "I am forever changed." For her work, she received many awards and was given the American flag that was flown over the new Federal building in Oklahoma City on May 3, 2004.

She was born and raised in Washington D.C. Lauretta and her husband Barry moved to Calvert County in September 2000. In addition to her two daughters, she has a son-in-law, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Lauretta is a charter member of the Tri-County Maryland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In her spare time, she loves floral crafts and collecting dolls—350 at last count. She attends Mt. Olive United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick, where she is a member of the United Methodist Women's group and the Communication's Committee.

Diane D. Holloway



Over the years, Diane D. Holloway has collaborated and supported organizations locally and abroad, such as the Judy Center, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Relay for Life, and the Calvert Animal Welfare League, to bring awareness to the community. She believes strongly in equal rights for women, minorities, and seniors; higher education for all American citizens; and in animal welfare rights.

Diane was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She attended Northern High School in Owings, Maryland. Her studies focused on Physical Education and Psychology at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne. She is an All-State track runner who had the opportunity to compete in the 1982 Olympia trials in the 100-yard sprint at Madison Square Gardens in New York.

For 30 years, she has been employed with the Calvert County Government in the Recreation Department.

Diane is one of the founding members of the Concerned Black Women of Calvert County. Her leisure time is spent enjoying her family, going to movies, exercising, and traveling to the Caribbean.

Frances King Hutchins



Frances King, 91, was born in Calvert County where she still resides today. She attended the Central Industrial School in Prince Frederick, Maryland. The building currently houses the Safe Harbor Shelter for abused women. She is the daughter of the late John and Frances King.

Affectionately known as “Ms. Frances,” she was married to the late George Washington Hutchins. She is the mother of eight children, 42 grandchildren, and at last count, 60 great-grandchildren.

Ms. Frances worked at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland, and was named as the “Un-Official Ambassador” of the Museum, because of the knowledge she was able to provide the visitors about the area. She could tell them about the local seafood establishments, the exhibits in the Museum, as well as give a friendly greeting to make them feel welcome. Her father-in-law, Captain Alexander Butler, can be seen in a photo on display at the museum as captain of a skipjack (sailboat) that he operated in the early 1900s as a commercial waterman.

From the late 1980s to early 1990s, Ms. Frances served as the first African American female Bailiff in the Circuit Court of Calvert County under Judge Thomas A. Rymer. Another of her many notable achievements was organizing the first African American Girl Scout and Brownie troop in Calvert County in 1963. Segregation was still the norm in the county. When the leader of the White-only Girl Scout troop agreed to help Ms. Frances organize the African American troop, she was totally shocked when about 70 girls showed up to join Ms. Frances's troop. During the Civil Rights Movement, she and her husband participated in sit-ins at local restaurants in an effort to desegregate those establishments.

For over 70 years, Ms. Frances has been a member of St. John United Methodist Church in Lusby, Maryland. She served her church in many capacities, including Chairperson of the Board of Child Care, President of the United Methodist Women's group, President of the Inter-senior Choir, President of the Communion Stewards, and Chairperson of the Food Pantry.

She is retired and spends many a day with her companions at the Southern Community Center in Lusby where she is very well known and liked.

Ms. Frances enjoys traveling with her church family and choir to engagements to other churches to sing and worship.

When Ms. Frances was asked what advice she would offer young people during an interview by her church's Psalm 90:10 Club, she offered that in their personal walk with God that they be true to themselves, and everything else will follow behind it.

God has blessed Ms. Frances in her lifetime with good health and a very supportive family that continues to gather together at her home for holiday celebrations. She may move a little slower, but she constantly asks if she can help out. She wouldn't have it any other way!

Laveeta Maria Hutchins



Laveeta Marie Hutchins was born in Prince Frederick, Maryland, to Jeremiah Hutchins and the late North Victoria Hutchins. She was raised in Calvert County and graduated from Calvert High School. Laveeta has two grown children, Kyrstin, a teacher for Calvert County Public Schools, and Jereme, a police officer for Prince George's County, Maryland. She attends Mt. Olive United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick, Maryland, where she is actively involved working with the youth.

She received a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Coppin State College in Baltimore, Maryland, and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. For 12 years, Laveeta taught first, second, fourth, and fifth graders at Mutual Elementary School in Port Republic, Maryland. While teaching and raising her two young children, Laveeta decided to go back to graduate school to earn her certification in School Administration and Supervision. Upon completion of the coursework, she was promoted to Vice Principal at Mutual Elementary School. After two years as a Vice Principal at Mutual Elementary, she was transferred to Huntingtown Elementary

School where she worked as a Vice Principal for an additional five years.

In January 1996, Laveeta became the first Principal of the newly opened Windy Hill Elementary School. With this appointment came the opportunity to hire staff, prepare budgets, order start-up supplies, purchase furniture, create and prepare documents specific to the school, plan and host meetings for parents, students, and staff. With the knowledge and desire to help many more in her profession, she decided to pursue a different path in her career. She left Windy Hill Elementary School in July 2005 to become an Instructional Supervisor at the Board of Education. In October 2013, she became the Supervisor of Human Resources and in June 2016, she was promoted to the position of Director of Human Resources.

She is a member of several professional organizations including: the Maryland Association of School Personnel Administrators, the Society for Human Resources Management, and the Association of School Business Officials. Laveeta was named the Maryland Association of Boards of Education Workers' Compensation trustee for Calvert County Public Schools in July 2016. She was a member of the Negotiation Team for Calvert County Public Schools from 1997 to 2013 and was reappointed in July 2016.

Laveeta attributes her success with Calvert County Public Schools to her profound belief in these quotes:

“Step out of the history that is holding you back. Step into the new story you are willing to create.”

Oprah Winfrey

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”

B.B. King

Hayley Jackson



At her young age, Hayley Jackson, 17, has already learned that it is smart to pursue opportunities to grow. She said, “Take chances, because you will never know where they will take you. I took a chance and jumped into cross country my freshman year without any background experience with running. I am finishing my senior year as an All American in cross country.” A student at Patuxent High School in Lusby, she was 8 at the Cross Country National meet in San Diego, California, December 10, 2016. She captured the 500 and 3,200-meter events at the Southern Maryland Athletic Conference indoor track and field championships at the Prince George’s Sports and Learning Center in Landover, Maryland, in January 2017. She won the 800 and 1,600-meter events at the Class 2A State indoor track and field championships at the Sports and Learning Center February 20, 2017. Hayley set a new U.S. record for girls in high school in the 1,600-meter event, finishing in 4 minutes 45.55 seconds.

For her athletic achievements, including three State cross country championships over the school year, in January 2017, Hayley was honored by the Calvert County School Board.

Currently, Hayley is very interested in continuing running the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 cross country. She has been visiting several universities to determine where to pursue the sport and her education. She plans to become a Sign Language Interpreter. Hayley said, “Patuxent High has a sign language course, and my teacher got me really interested in the deaf culture and how it works. More professionals are needed in this field. Besides, I love helping people out.”

Last year at Patuxent High, Hayley was active in a Place at the Table. The participants discuss minority issues, careers, and mentor other minorities in elementary school.

Hayley has worked at the Back Creek Inn Bed and Breakfast in Solomons, Maryland, since her freshman school year. She enjoys photography, editing videos, making people laugh, and doing makeup.

A native of Calvert County, she was born at Calvert Memorial Hospital and raised in Lusby. She attended Calvert County public schools. Hayley’s family consists of her mother, sister, grandmother, two aunts, and her private academic and athletic coach.

Gladys Jones



Gladys Jones takes great pride in her nearly 25-year career in higher education and passionately believes that education is one the most powerful tools that anyone, especially women, can possess. She is a true advocate for women seeking to further their education and encourages them to step out on faith to pursue their dreams. She has helped to navigate the way for many women to become entrepreneurs, nurses, teachers, law enforcement officers, and other professionals.

She is the Director of Special Projects at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) at the La Plata Campus. Since joining CSM in 1992, her duties and responsibilities have included managing campus operations, financial management, budget administration, personnel administration, faculty, and advisor. She also served as a liaison with community and professional organizations to promote the college and build relationships with members of the community.

Gladys has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, both from Sojourner-Douglass College in Baltimore, Maryland.

Currently, she serves as the Finance Chair for Brooks United Methodist Church in St. Leonard and is a member of the Church's United Methodist Women's group. Gladys is Secretary for the Calvert County Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women and is a member of Calvert's Drug Court Citizen's Advisory Committee and the County's United Way Finance Committee. Gladys has chaired numerous committees for Calvert's United Way, Chamber of Commerce, and Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Gladys resides in Port Republic, her hometown, with her husband Francis. They are the proud parents of four adult children and the grandparents of three beautiful grandchildren.

Joan Jones



Reverend Joan Jones, the oldest of nine children was born to Walter and Catherine Johnson. She has been a lifelong resident of Calvert County. Upon Graduation from Calvert Senior High School, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Bowie State College. Her teaching experience of 30 years was spent in Calvert County, where she taught 26 years at Huntingtown Elementary School and four years at Windy Hill Middle School in Sunderland in Reading and Language Arts.

Upon retiring from education, she attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., earning a Master's degree in Divinity. Reverend Jones is appointed Pastor of St. Edmonds United Methodist Church, where she has served for 18 years. She is the first female pastor in the life of the church. Reverend Jones believes that "if you have a goal or a dream, there is nothing that can keep you from achieving it if it is for you."

Reverend Jones has always striven for exemplary service in all she does. As the oldest of her siblings, she was expected to achieve the highest performance she could. She was the first in her family to attend a higher learning institution. Her goal has always been to be the best she could while staying true to who she is. Early in life,

moral values such as respect, love of neighbor and self, love of God, service to the greater community, and family bonds were instilled in her very fabric of life. She has continued to fulfill those character traits through her educational experience and pastoral ministry.

Reverend Jones respects diversity as everyone matters, and every person has something to contribute to life. She has always felt that her purpose in life is to help everyone with an emphasis on women and children regardless of class, ethnicity, or age. To this end, she is involved in many community organizations. She was the founding member of The Calvert County Community Ministry. She is serving currently as a member of Safe Nights of Calvert County, where she is the Secretary. Reverend Jones has been recognized as a Leading Woman of Southern Maryland by the Southern Maryland Links, for work in Domestic Violence, and for assisting people with substance abuse addictions.

Glossie Malline Crawley Leake



Glossie Leake is a native of Person County, North Carolina. She is known for her long-term commitment to the education of children, her dedication to civic causes and activities, her energy, and her smile. She received her formal education in the Person County public schools. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education at Winston Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland. She taught in the Calvert County Public School system for 31 years.

Her honors include the Commission for Women Outstanding Work Award as a Girl Scout Leader, Teacher of the Year for Mutual (Port Republic, Maryland) Elementary School, Outstanding Achievement in Community Service from the Maryland State Teachers Association, and the Goldstein Service Award.

Over the years, Glossie has been a volunteer at the Calvert Nursing Center and the Calvert Pines Senior Center both located in

Prince Frederick, Maryland, Founder of Brownie Girl Scout Troop #1691, member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Inc., volunteer for Project Echo Homeless Shelter in Prince Frederick, a literacy tutor, Founder of a “Red Hat Society,” and a docent for the Old Wallville School in Prince Frederick (the last African American one-room school in Calvert County).

She is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a charter member of the Calvert County Congress of Black Women. Glossie is also a member of the Southern Maryland Chain Chapter of the Links, Inc., the Democratic Women’s Club of Calvert County, and the Variety Players of the Calvert Pines Senior Center. She is a former Election Board member and worked on the 1998-1999 Capital Campaign for Calvert Memorial Hospital Foundation, Inc.

Glossie has been a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Port Republic since 1966. She serves on the Altar Guild, is a crucifier, a greeter, and is the Coordinator of the Parish Prayer Chain. She served two terms on the Vestry and on the Faith Alive Weekend. She is a member of the Cursillo Movement, serving as crucifer at the National Washington Cathedral in Washington, D.C., in 1996. She is a former two-term President of the Order of Daughters of the King—The Margaret J. Franklin Chapter—and is a life member.

Pamela Reid Lucas



Pamela Reid Lucas was born in Annapolis, Maryland, to the late Russell Reid, Jr., and Phyllis Greene Reid. She was raised in Calvert County and graduated from Northern High School. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland College Park. For seven years, Pamela worked as a Social Worker, with a focus on the needs of the mentally ill and substance abuse populations in Montgomery County, Maryland, and in Washington, D.C. While assisting a client maneuver through the arduous Social Security Administration appeal process, she decided to pursue a law degree. She attended classes at night and continued to work full time. A rewarding, although exhausting experience, she received a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Currently, Pamela is the Associate County Attorney for the Calvert County Attorney's Office. She is a member of the Calvert County Bar Association and the Maryland Bar Association. Formerly, she was a member of the Appellate and Trial Courts Judicial Nomination Commission.

She served on Calvert's Hospice Board of Directors.

Pamela is married to Jules M. Lucas, Jr. They have a son and a daughter: Jules, III, a senior at Towson State University, and Reid, a sophomore at Huntingtown High School. Pamela is a member of the Plum Point United Methodist Church in Huntingtown and has served on a number of church committees. She is Co-Chair of the Finance Committee.

Kimberly Mackall



Kimberly Mackall believes that all voices are required “at the table” in local government representative of a diverse constituency. She threw her hat in the ring as the first African American woman to run for the office of Calvert County Commissioner in 2010. Her campaign opened the door for a number of women to run for office the first time in their lives “without permission, but with passion.”

As Kimberly campaigned in 2010 and engaged in conversations with numerous women and girls, she saw a need to give back. She currently spends time coaching and mentoring young women professionals. Her passion evolved into the Kimberly Mackall Empowerment Scholarship in 2014. This is the third year she will offer two scholarships to graduating high school students in Southern Maryland who will utilize higher education to empower women and girls. For the first time, in 2017, she will offer a scholarship to a deserving woman who desires to continue her education and/or start a business.

Her passion for advocating for and helping women and girls connected with the Concerned Black Women (CBW) of Calvert.

Elected President of CBW in 2006, Kimberly initiated the Women in Transition Program that assists African American women in pursuing educational goals or in participating in retraining programs.

Kimberly has served as Vice President of Calvert's Housing Authority and the Southern Maryland College Access Network.

She has received the Community Mediation Center of Calvert County Peace Builder Award and the Women of the World-Woman of the Year Award. She also received Calvert's Unsung Hero Award for her leadership efforts in raising money for the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund in 2010. Kimberly's fundraising efforts sparked her desire to visit Haiti and to assist with rebuilding the country.

In 2015 and in 2016, Kimberly took two mission trips to Haiti with People's Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in partnership with Mission of Hope Haiti. She also took one trip to Trinidad with the Greater Mount Zion Church in Prince Frederick, Maryland, in 2013. In addition, she sponsors the education of Loise, a 15-year-old girl. This is Kimberly's way of fostering life transformation through education in Haiti.

She is the National Catastrophe Manager for CSAA Insurance Group, an AAA Insurer in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. As an expert and certified disaster professional, she manages the organizational response for natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Kimberly takes great pride in being there to assist policyholders when they need her most.

A Calvert County native, Kimberly graduated from Calvert County public schools. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. In May 2017, she will complete a Master's Degree in Divinity from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Cassandra Dean Okwumabua



Cassandra Okwumabua is passionate about giving back to others and the community in which she lives. Though retired, after 30-plus years as a civil servant with the Department of Treasury as a Management Official, she is actively involved with putting her passion into action. She volunteers on numerous nonprofits and 501(c)3 organizations within Calvert County. As a result of her efforts, she has been instrumental in partnering with various organizations to bring meaningful programs to our children and families in the county. Cassandra has collaborated with the Farming 4 Hunger to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to the children and their families at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland, as well as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs that have been provided by LEAP Forward and The Pearls of Calvert County. As a member of the Concerned Black Women (CBW) of Calvert County, she identified the Boys and Girls Club to receive education on smoking prevention sessions, as well as to be the recipients of CBW's first Christmas Toy Drive.

Cassandra's current career is that of a full-time volunteer and fundraiser for the numerous organizations and boards that she is actively involved with. She currently works with the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maryland as Vice Chair, League of Women Voters of Calvert County (LWVCC) as a Board Member and an observer at the Board of Education meetings, Calvert Nature Society as a Board Member, Calvert Mentoring Partnership, Brem Foundation, Adult Guardianship Board as Vice Chair, Closing the Gap Coalition, and The Pearls of Calvert County. She has been actively involved in the implementation of many of these organizations' program initiatives.

She has organized and co-chaired the Annual Legislative Evening sponsored by the LWVCC for the past two years, which has provided our citizens an opportunity to express their concerns with their elected representatives in Annapolis. She also chaired the 2016 Heritage Day at Biscoe Gray Farm sponsored by the Calvert Nature Society, as well as working with the Brem Foundation to implement its annual event to educate Calvert residents on breast cancer. In addition she volunteers as a mentor as part of the Calvert Mentoring Partnership.

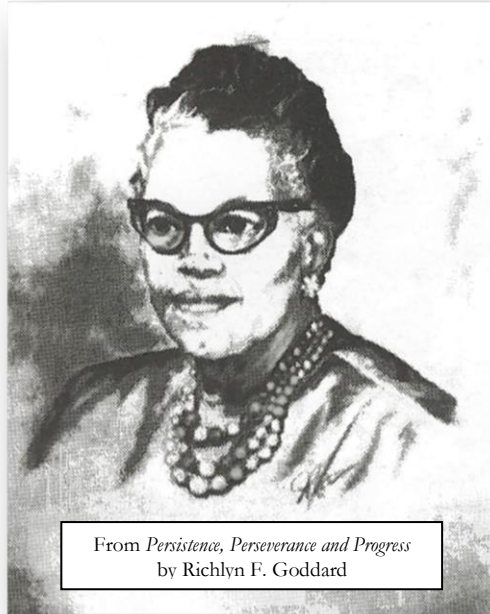
Cassandra is also a member of The Pearls of Calvert County, an Interest Group of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., that performs numerous service projects within the county that benefits our Calvert County residents.

Cassandra inspires others by example and rolls up her sleeves to get the job done. She is a member of Patuxent United Methodist Church, and resides in Huntingtown, Maryland. She is an avid traveler that has visited many countries and cultures around the world.

Cassandra received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Education from LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis Tennessee, as well as numerous certifications from the US Department of Agriculture Graduate School in Washington, D.C.

She is the mother of two daughters and is excitedly anticipating the arrival of her first grandchild this year. Cassandra loves the motto "Teamwork makes the Dream work."

Myrtle Patten



Myrtle Patten was born in 1895 in the State of Georgia. She obtained her basic nurse training in Boston, Massachusetts, and her Public Health training in New York City.

Nurse Patten arrived in Calvert County in 1927. It is virtually impossible to measure the impact she made on the lives of African Americans in the county. She could be described as a nurse, midwife, dental assistant, Emergency Management Technician worker, and counselor. One mother told her daughter, “Nurse Patten told me to go to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, to have the twins, because it would be a difficult delivery.” She said, “If you have any more children, you’ll put your life in danger.”

Two years after arriving in Calvert, Nurse Patten gave a speech at the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses in New York. Three hundred delegates attended the convention at the

YMCA. Her speech was entitled, “The Scholarship Nurse Tells Her Story.”

Nurse Patten’s duties as a Public Health nurse included visits to the homes of the African American families. Each newborn received a well-baby check right in their own home. She spent countless hours talking to the mothers. She gave the 6-year olds their vaccinations at home, and compiled the list of new students preparing to come to the schools. It became her duty to assist the visiting dentist from Glen Bernie, Maryland, to provide care for the children. She also took the census at the schools. Pupil enrollment increased markedly due to the contributions of Nurse Patten. She told the parents, “Your children must have a better life than the way you live. Education is the only way out.” Tenant farmers and African American laborers received their inoculations for smallpox and tuberculosis from Nurse Patten. She had the responsibility of accompanying some patients to the Freedman’s Hospital (now Howard University) in Washington, D.C.

Once she retired, her position ended. No one ever took her place.

Nurse Patten died at age 88 in a nursing home in Baltimore, Maryland.

Malinda Irene Brooks Plater



A native of Calvert County, Malinda Brooks Plater made an indelible impression on the people and the community she loved. She was born the tenth of 14 children in 1927 in Prince Frederick, Maryland. She attended the Central Industrial School where Safe Harbor is located today. Her mother died when she was 11, so she began working at age 14 to help provide for the younger children. Malinda's jobs included a driver for the post office, domestic worker for Judge Prettyman, midwife, nanny to many children, a laundry worker at Calvert Memorial Hospital, and a nursing assistant in the hospital's colored ward. She was a school bus owner and driver for 31 years.

Malinda married Roland Plater of Dunkirk in 1952. They had six children of their own and gave foster care to two brothers from Junior Village in Washington, D.C. She started a 4-H chapter for the black children of Prince Frederick.

She and Roland became Seventh-Day Adventists but were not allowed to attend the local white church. Consequently, they drove to Washington to attend services. Eventually, they found a church closer to home in Annapolis, Maryland. While collecting money to help the poor, Malinda met a builder. She asked if he would build a formal church building for the small congregation. He built Beacon Light Seventh-Day Adventist Church, which stands on Drew Street today.

Malinda then asked the Pastor Alfred Jones, the Beacon Light pastor, if he would pastor a church in Calvert County. He said yes. Roland and Malinda started the church using their school bus. They went from neighborhood to neighborhood, extending an electric cord out of the window into homes and giving Bible studies. Their children worked the slide projector night after night. The knowledge of the books of Daniel and Revelation grew the church.

The Platers asked the Superintendent of the Negro Schools, J.P. Layne, if they could rent the Baptist Church located beside the Board of Education on Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick. He said yes. It was the first and only Black Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Calvert County. Still in existence, it is named Emmanuel Seventh-Day Adventist Church. A new church was built in St. Leonard, Maryland, in the 1990s.

Malinda felt the youth of Calvert—black and white—needed some recreational activities. They had none. She used the school bus to transport students out of the county to church basketball games, skating rinks, and Marshall Hall Amusement Park, to name a few places.

She completed her education after her children finished school. At age 63, Malinda attended Montgomery Community College in Rockville, Maryland, and obtained a Business Degree. The college hired her as a proctor for the Assessment Center.

She was active in campaigning for various politicians, providing help for the homeless, and supplying food for the hungry. Malinda died at age 66 in 1993.

Gayle Reid



Gayle Reid strives to use God's words from the Scripture and prayer as a foundation for all that she does. She attends Plum Point United Methodist Church in Huntingtown. Her church-related activities include lay leader, lay speaker, a member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, the Worship Committee, and the Finance and Administrative Council. She also Chairs the Ushers and Acolytes and the Scholarship Committees. In addition, Gayle Chairs the Huntingtown Charge—which includes the Patuxent United Methodist Church—United Methodist Women's group. She enjoys her family at home and her family at church.

Born in Calvert County to Viola and Gayhart Kent, Gayle was raised in Huntingtown, and as she grew up, attended Mt. Olive United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick. She received her education from the County's public schools, where she graduated from Calvert Senior High. Then, she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Bowie State College and Master's Degrees in Elementary Education from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and in Educational Administration from Western Maryland College in Westminster, Maryland.

Gayle was a teacher in Calvert for 30 years and taught first grade through fifth grade. In 2009, she retired to take care of her elderly parents. Over the years, she has dealt with serious health issues of her own.

She is co-owner of Reid & Reid, Inc., a school bus company, which currently owns and operates 25 buses. The company provides transportation for the County's public school students, as well as for churches, daycares, and other community organizations. An extension of the company, CLT Transportation, also provides a party bus for customers interested in attending social activities. As part of her business activities, Gayle currently Chairs the Board of Directors of the Calvert County Minority Business Association.

She and her husband Vaughn, Sr., along with her mother-in-law Phyllis, reside in Huntingtown. Gayle has helped to raise six children, and from them, a total of 19 children call her Grandma.

Paula A. Reid



Paula A. Reid knows firsthand the challenges of working in a male-dominated environment. For 25 years, she was employed with the U.S. Secret Service. In September 2016, she retired from the Secret Service as the Assistant Director, Office of Professional Responsibility, a Senior Executive Service (SES) appointment. She said, “Always plan to obtain vocational accomplishments and achievements on hard work, determination, and personal merit.

Never be indebted to anyone for your successes. Never compromise your integrity for anything. It is the easiest personal attribute to lose, and the hardest to regain. In all things, do the right thing, the first time.”

Since October 2016, Paula has been a Senior Director for Comcast Corporate Security.

She was born in Annapolis, Maryland, to the late Russell Reid, Jr., and Phyllis Greene Reid. A native of Calvert County, she graduated from Northern High School. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland in College Park and a Master’s Degree in Science Management from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Paula's career with the Secret Service began in December, 1990 in the Washington, D.C. Field Office. In 1997, she transferred to the Presidential Protective Division where she served for 4-1/2 years. Following this assignment, she was selected to serve as a legislative fellow in the office of Congressman Steny Hoyer.

In January 2003, Paula was promoted to the position of Assistant Inspector in the Secret Service Inspection Division. Selected for the agency's SES development program, Paula transferred to the Miami Field Office in July 2004 to serve as the Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge. She returned to Washington, D.C., in April 2006 and was promoted to a series of supervisory positions within the Intelligence Division.

Paula was appointed to her first SES position in August 2008 as the Special Agent in Charge of the Protective Intelligence and Assessment Division. In this capacity, she provided oversight to a staff of special agents and analysts engaged in a multifaceted approach to supporting the Secret Service's protective operations through analysis of information, investigation of threats, assessment of risks, and dissemination of protective intelligence products.

From July 2010 to May 2015, Paula held senior positions as Deputy Special Agent in Charge, which included responsibility for the daily protective operations for the White House Complex and supervisory responsibility for approximately 700 employees; as Special Agent in Charge of the Miami Field Office; and as the Assistant Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility.

She received numerous awards and commendations throughout her career with the Secret Service, including the 2012 National Congress of Black Women Sojourner "Truth Award" in recognition of her initial actions to proactively manage the Secret Service misconduct in Cartagena, Columbia, which garnered her international media attention.

In 2014, Paula was selected by President Barack Obama as a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, the highest annual award given to selected career Senior Executive members.

Ailene Lois Stamper



Ailene Stamper was born in Henderson, North Carolina, to Moses P. and Cora Hart Stamper. She graduated from parochial schools in Henderson, North Carolina, Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, Virginia, and Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. Her quest for higher education was fired by her father who sincerely believed that education was paramount to success in any field. With a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics, she was confident and brave and changed the world.

Ailene, 21, brought a ray of sunshine when she arrived in Calvert County in 1940 to teach at William Sampson Brooks High School in Prince Frederick, Maryland. She said that in her classroom there was no blackboard and no desks, only a sink, chairs, a window, and children. "We were at the bottom of everything," Ailene said. But, determined, proud, and young she was not discouraged. Full of "spitfire" and a self-made mandate to make a difference and keep the children of Brooks High in school, she sold candy, used her own

earnings, and sought help from other teachers to equip her classroom. She even brought her portable sewing machine from home and a secondhand oil stove, which cost \$15. Ailene said, “There’s a difference between struggling and getting ahead and getting ahead without struggle.”

For the 1943-1944 school year while the former principal was pursuing his Master’s Degree, Ailene was appointed principal of Brooks High. Over the next 30 years, she became famous for her bold and unheard of demands for equal education and services for African American students. She was not hesitant to say things that others thought but would not say. In those days, teachers were not to “rock the boat.” Ailene “rocked the boat.” She bridged the gap between nothing and something. Under her instruction and leadership, a new Homemakers of America Chapter was formed. Through fundraisers, enough money was raised to purchase suitable furnishings for rooms designated for African American patients at Calvert Memorial Hospital in Prince Frederick. Ailene later became an advocate for all children after her transfer to Calvert High School. She played an important role in the implementation of desegregation in the secondary schools working side-by-side with the superintendent, supervisors, and other administrators.

Ailene considered her greatest accomplishment all the students who finished school because of her influence. Her face beamed with pride when she talked about specific students who earned degrees at her insistence. She said, “I didn’t only teach them; I pushed them. Pushed them.” She retired from the Calvert County public school system in June 1978 after 38 years. Ailene died April 18, 2004.

In Calvert, Ailene is survived by her adopted son Paige W. Jones and wife Barbara and granddaughter Jacqueline Ailene Miles, a host of beloved families, special neighbors and friends, and former coworkers and students.

Rhonda Thomas



For some time at Calvert Senior High School, Rhonda Thomas believed she was headed to college to pursue an English degree and to become a teacher. If it were not for the diligence of her guidance counselor, the late Wallace Leeper, who recognized her mathematical aptitude, the engineering world would never have been able to reap the rewards of her career as a project engineer and project manager. Leeper encouraged her to apply for the engineering cooperative program, PAX-TENN, at the Patuxent Naval Air Test Center.

Rhonda got accepted into the program her senior year. Without the program, she said college may not have been an option. It is believed she is the first African American female engineer employed at that facility.

Rhonda, a community-conscious citizen, leads many efforts to encourage youths to become their best. In 2001, she became founder and President of LEAP Forward, Inc., a nonprofit organization, in memory of her late guidance counselor. The organization focuses on exposing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career options to underserved youths, as well as provides educational opportunities, such as college and industry tours, mentoring and tutoring, scholarships, presentations, and exhibits. Over the years, the organization has awarded over 100 scholarships and has

successfully exposed hundreds of youths to STEM careers and opportunities.

Rhonda earned a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Tennessee State University (TSU) and Master's Degrees in Systems Management from the University of Southern California and in Systems Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.

Rhonda is the recipient of the 2016 Leading Edge Award for Business of the Year presented by the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce (SMMCC) and the first recipient of the 2016 Annette Funn Community Service Award from the Concerned Black Women of Calvert County (CBW). She also received the Calvert You Are Beautiful Award from the Calvert County government in 2016.

She holds life memberships with the TSU Alumni Association, the National Society of Black Engineers, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is also the Vice President of STEM for the SMMCC and is a member of the CBW.

In January 2017 after 41 years of Federal service, she retired, having worked for the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, D.C.

A native of Calvert, Rhonda attends the Carroll-Western United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick. She gives all the glory to God for all He has done in her life!

Veronica Mason Thorne



Veronica Mason Thorne was always teaching. She taught at White Marsh Elementary School in St. Mary's County for 11 years. She also taught at Mt. Harmony (Owings), Island Creek, Mutual (Port Republic), and Calvert Elementary (Prince Frederick) Schools in Calvert County. During a four-year sabbatical from public school, she taught at the Christ Church Preschool Program in St. Leonard, Maryland. For more than 10 years, she taught religious education at St. John Vianney Church in Prince Frederick.

In the late 1970s, Veronica started a Shaklee Distributorship Business. Through her business, she touched many lives and taught many people about the importance of good health and all-natural products.

Veronica was raised on a farm in Leonardtown, Maryland, and is the twelfth of 15 children. Her parents are the late Mary Alberta and Harrison Mason. She still owns the farm on which she was raised. She graduated from Banneker School in Leonardtown, Maryland. She received her bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Bowie State (Teacher's College) now University. At Bowie, she met the love of her life, the late Earl S. Thorne. Their marriage resulted

in two daughters, Christine and Cynthia. They also have two sons-in-law, Kerry Sims and George Carter, and three granddaughters, Tobi, Triana, and Tara Carter.

Prior to having children, Veronica was an active 4-H Leader and mentor in Leonardtown. After starting their family, many of her activities were centered on her girls. She was active with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and spent many years as President and held other offices at Central, Brooks Elementary (Prince Frederick), and Calvert Middle School (Prince Frederick) PTAs. She was also an active parent and booster with the Calvert Sandettes and Calvert Strutters majorette groups.

Her husband was very active with the Knights of Columbus, so once her children left home, they traveled and participated in activities from the local to national levels. She was also the President of the local chapter of The Ladies—wives of the Knights of Columbus.

Throughout Veronica's life, she broke many color and economic barriers by caring for all people regardless of race or the amount of money they had.

Cynthia Thorne-Carter



Cynthia Thorne-Carter is currently the President and owner of Smart Ride, Inc., a transportation company in Prince Frederick, Maryland. While she has had her transportation company for 20 years, it is not exactly what she started off to do.

Upon graduation from Calvert High School in Prince Frederick, Cynthia went to Hampton Institute (now University) in Hampton, Virginia, to pursue training in the communications field so that she would eventually become the “black Barbara Walters.” Unfortunately, Oprah Winfrey beat her to it; however, she still received her Bachelor’s Degree in Communications with Highest Honors from Hampton.

Cynthia spent the summers between her junior and senior years working at a magazine in New York City. She decided that she would eventually own a magazine. So instead of looking for a job her senior year, she looked for a graduate school to get her master’s in business and combine her communications knowledge with business to have a successful publication. She received a fellowship to attend

the University of Wisconsin in Madison and earned her Master's Degree in Marketing.

Because magazines are quite expensive to run, Cynthia needed money and experience. She worked for the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Delaware where she worked in the marketing, communications, and public relations departments.

While living in Wilmington, she married George Carter and eventually had three girls—Tobi, Triana, and Tarah. The Carters moved to Prince Frederick in 1990 and still reside there.

Cynthia worked for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development as the Marketing Manager in Crownsville, Maryland. She was the Business Retention Specialist for the Calvert County Department of Economic Development. She got her first taste of how a small company runs at Batching Systems, Inc., a manufacturer in Prince Frederick. They, however, sell products worldwide. Cynthia really enjoyed the small company atmosphere and decided that she too could have a company. Since both of her older girls were dancers, her parents helped with the transportation to lessons. She realized that she was blessed to have parents to do that and thought about the 55 percent of county residents who commuted outside the county to work. They certainly must need help getting their children where they needed to be. That was the idea that started Smart Ride.

Smart initially stood for "Saving Moms A lot of Road Time." The company started with one minivan in 1996. Today, they have 10 vehicles including minivans, sedans, handicapped accessible vehicles, and 15-passenger vans. Not only do they help moms, but they also transport people to work, medical appointments, airports, and more.

Cynthia is a member of the Calvert County Minority Business Alliance and a charter member of the Tri-County Maryland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She is the proud recipient of the Calvert County Concerned Black Women 2010 Madame CJ Walker Business Award.

She attends St. John Vianney Church in Prince Frederick. Cynthia lives by the motto: "God is not going to give me more than I can handle."

Dawn L. Greene Tucker



Dawn L. Greene Tucker is a tireless advocate for small, minority, women, and veterans-owned businesses and firmly believes that entrepreneurship should be a viable option for all.

Since 2004, Dawn has been President and CEO of Lord and Tucker Management Consultants (LTMC), LLC, an 8(a) and Maryland Minority Business Enterprise certified consulting firm that specializes in Federal Government contracting, entrepreneurship, and management training. She started her business as a “momprenneur,” because she wanted to stay home and raise her twin daughters. In the first year of its 8(a) status, Dawn estimates that LTMC will manage seven staff to support three prime and one subcontract. As preparation for starting her business, and because she and her siblings were encouraged by their parents to get a good education, and then get a good job, Dawn participated in two management development programs. She completed the private sector’s Westinghouse Financial Management Development Program in 1990 and the public sector’s Federal Government prestigious Presidential Management Intern Program in 1996. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting in 1989 from Loyola University and completed the

Certified Public Accounting Exam in 1992. She completed her Master's Degree in Public Management with a concentration in public- and private-sector financial management at the University of Maryland College Park in 1994.

She is a charter member of the following organizations: the Calvert County Minority Business Alliance (founding President), the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce (founding Vice President), the Concerned Black Women of Calvert County, the Southern Maryland Chapter of Jack and Jill, Inc., the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland's Minority Business Opportunities Task Force, and a former Advisor to the Morgan State University Entrepreneurial Development and Assistance Center.

Dawn was born in Baltimore, Maryland and was raised in Calvert County, as were her parents Leonard and Earlene Adams Greene, her late grandparents Leroy, Sr. and Bertina Parker Greene, and Joseph and Gladys Rawlings Adams. She was honored to be named the Safety Patrol Captain at Beach Elementary in Chesapeake Beach and graduated as Class President and Salutatorian at Northern High School in Owings in 1985.

Dawn, her husband Lee, and two children, Hayli and Hannah, live in Huntingtown. They attend Grace Brethren Church in Owings.

Dawn believes that the Lord has a plan for everyone and lives her life by this scripture: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Catherine Tyler-King



Catherine Tyler-King was born in Prince Frederick. She grew up in a musical family with her parents and nine siblings, all gifted singers or guitar players. She received her General Education Degree from Brooks High School in Prince Frederick. For four semesters, she studied child psychology at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, she was parent-teacher coordinator at Island Creek Elementary where Harriet Elizabeth Brown was principal. Eventually, she and her professor agreed that she was too sensitive for the sordid issues, such as the mistreatment of children. Catherine decided to obtain a Business Degree from Suitland Barr Business School. Later, she attended the Culinary School of Washington, D.C., and received a Chef's Degree. She worked for two restaurants in the District. In 1987, she was medically retired.

In 1991, her health hit another snag. Catherine was diagnosed with breast cancer. She did research and learned all she could about the disease and treatment at Calvert Library Prince Frederick with the help of a librarian. After surgery, Catherine chose a holistic approach

to therapy—fasting and praying and eating mostly a vegetarian diet—rather than taking chemotherapy or radiation treatment. Her doctor believed this approach was a mistake. Having limited funds, she asked Catholic Charities for aid in purchasing a prosthetic breast. They wrote a check to Fran’s New Image for the amount needed. About nine months later, she “went back” to Catholic Charities “to give back.” They liked her work and hired her full time. She worked in the office, at yard sales, and in the food pantry. She continued at Catholic Charities for some time, but believed she was being called to do a special work.

In 2006, Catherine became the founder and President of the Hands of God Mobile Street Ministry (HGMSM) which is a member of the Southern Maryland Food Bank. Through this membership and their own food pantry, HGMSM is able to channel food donated by area retailers to organizations serving those in need. She is known for her boundless energy in delivering food to seniors, assisting with bills, organizing fundraisers, and bringing hope and cheer to others. The Hands of God Mobile Street Ministry delivers food weekly to churches, neighborhoods, and community organizations.

Catherine said, “When I think of what God has done for me and His heart for others, His heart becomes my heart. When I asked Him how He wanted to use me to do His will, He told me: ‘Actions speak louder than words.’ In those who seek Him through fasting and praying and believing, burdens change shoulders, and needed changes come from trusting in God.”

In 2016, Catherine was a recipient of the Calvert You Are Beautiful Award from the Calvert County Government.

Catherine and her late husband George King have five daughters, three granddaughters, five grandsons, and nine great-grandchildren, all living fulfilling lives outside of Calvert. An accomplished vocalist, Catherine enjoys singing at churches in the Washington metropolitan area. She is a member of the Emmanuel Seventh-Day Adventist Church in St. Leonard where she has served as a long-time usher and licensed deaconess. For approximately six years she was also Vice President of Alleghany East Community Services Division.

Jalaysia Weems



You may have seen photos in *The Calvert Recorder* of Jalaysia Weems taking a 3-point shot on the basketball court. If you have not, the 16-year-old junior is an outstanding player at Calvert High School in Prince Frederick, Maryland. She has played varsity basketball all three years at the school. When she was in the seventh grade at Calvert Middle School, her team won the basketball championship. Now, she is looking forward to trying out for lacrosse. Jalaysia also is an outstanding student.

Since the sixth grade, Jalaysia has maintained honor roll status and had perfect attendance in the seventh and eighth grades. Also in the seventh grade, she received the highest achievement in Science. In the eighth grade, she earned Superior Achievement in Algebra and Physical Education. The academic achievements earned Jalaysia induction into the National Technical Honor Society in the ninth grade. She also received Outstanding Achievement in Intro to Engineering and Design and the Minds in Motion Student Athlete

Award. Last year, she was inducted into the National Honor Society and earned Outstanding Achievement in Principles of Biomedical Sciences and Outstanding Achievement in honors pre-calculus.

Jalaysia said, “I plan to pursue a degree in biomedical sciences in college because I really love learning about human anatomy. One day I would love to be able to help others with my knowledge.”

She and her parents William and Beatrice Weems attend Mt. Gethsemane Holiness Church in Huntingtown, Maryland. She ushers at her church. During the summers, she participates in Mt. Gethsemane’s Vacation Bible School. Last summer she worked at a basketball camp with her coach. Through the National Honor Society, she and other students volunteer to help people in the community.

Jalaysia and her family live in Prince Frederick, Maryland. Her older sister Jasmine is currently a senior at St. Vincent College in Pennsylvania.

Harleigh White



Harleigh White, 17, comes from a family of educators. Education is always a top priority after God, family, and friends. A senior at Huntingtown High School, she signed a commitment letter to attend Clemson University of South Carolina in the fall, where she will continue her track career.

She has encountered many experiences that have placed her where she is today. Dedicated and true to her studies, Harleigh has been an exemplary student. Until her sophomore year of high school, she had 9 consecutive years of perfect attendance, which shows her devotion to her school work. She worked hard for the grades she continued to earn—in and out of school. She is a second-year member of the National Honors Society. She has maintained a grade point average of over 3.5 her entire time in high school.

Harleigh strives for success, whether it be for herself or for others. She enjoys seeing others succeed. She is a Woman of Tomorrow with many noble traits, a leader in her community and at school. She serves as the captain of her track team. This year, Harleigh was a captain of the school and travel soccer teams. Among her athletic honors include a six-time Track and Field All-American, a

two-time Maryland State Champion in the Triple Jump, and a Maryland State Soccer Champion.

She holds the office of Vice President of the Patuxent United Methodist Church (Huntingtown) Youth Group and constantly strives to display attributes of a leader. People give her much respect. She is a role model to many people in the community.

Additionally, Harleigh's aspiration in life is to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. To help her achieve her goal, her studies focus on the biomedical science pathway at Huntingtown High School. Currently, she is shadowing nurses at Anne Arundel Medical Center. Along with her studies at school, her classes at the College of Southern Maryland, and track, she continuously shows the characteristics of an ambitious Calvert County young women.

Pamela Wilkerson



Since April 2010 Pamela Wilkerson has been the Workforce Operations Manager at the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland/Southern Maryland Job Source. She assists in developing unified strategic planning processes to coordinate various education, training, and employment programs into integrated workforce development systems that support economic development on local, State, and Federal levels. In conjunction with the Workforce Investment Act, she participates in the development, oversight, and the continuous improvement of the Southern Maryland Tri-County Region workforce investment system. She is a Certified Master Training facilitator and a resource among the various partners coordinating workforce development systems.

From January 2004 to July 2009, Pamela served as CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland, a youth development nonprofit organization.

An avid networker, Pamela has promoted and shared innovative strategies with State and local Youth Councils and Program Administrators. She has identified potential needs for improvement

of information and program deficiencies affecting economic trends in the local labor market.

A native of Calvert County, Pamela attended Calvert's public schools. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management with an emphasis on Strategic Planning and Organizational Development from the University of the Potomac (Potomac College) in 2009. She is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., a very involved community activist, and serves on numerous Boards of Directors.

In addition, she is an ordained minister with Dominion International Ministries. Since May 2012, Pamela has served with a delegation of Christian leaders, whose voices are being heard at the Commission on the Status of Women Global Conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The Commission is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The 2017 priority theme is Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

Pamela is a survivor of life's many setbacks. Through her Consulting Company, Emerge Global Enterprises, she shares and promotes simple strategies to leverage life's experiences with women to develop a platform for achieving success. She has the uncanny ability to intertwine her own compelling testimony, which allows women from all walks of life to relate on a personal level, as she speaks to the human element we all deal with at some point in life: *Who am I? . . . I need more!* When asked what she has found out most about herself through all of the adversities in her life, she responded, "I bounce back....I am resilient! I never give up on God, and I never give up on me."

She is the mother of two fantastic children: Briana and Jimmie.

Tonya Parran Wilkerson



A native of Calvert County, Maryland, Tonya Parran Wilkerson is the daughter of Ralph and Eleanora Parran. She graduated from Calvert High School in Prince Frederick, Maryland. Her advanced education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, and a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Tonya has worked in the engineering field for the Federal Government for 29 years and currently is an Executive Manager. A strong advocate for engaging and educating youth on career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, she served as a volunteer for multiple years for an elementary school's Maryland Math Engineering Science Achievement team, and for the past four years, as an advisor for the Creative And Striving Hard to Succeed National Society of Black Engineers Jr. chapter. She is also a professional member of the National Society of Black Engineers and the Society of Women Engineers and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Tonya attends Plum Point United Methodist Church in Huntingtown, Maryland, where she serves as a Sunday school teacher. She resides locally with her husband Kevin and children, Kenadi and Kevin, Jr.

Delphine Siggers-Williams



Delphine Siggers-Williams created “Forty Blossoms from the Bouquet,” an African American Tribute Exhibition. She said, “The Forty Blossoms’ are extraordinary and remarkable women. Through their benevolence, leadership, and sacrifices made, the Calvert County community and society at large have benefited by their contributions. My continuing desire is that this Tribute Exhibition will uplift our community and inspire future generations. It is educationally as well as historically significant.”

On January 19, 2004, the portrait project, including six portraits, was introduced at the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, where it was well received by the attendees. Two more portraits--the Brown sisters, Harriet Elizabeth and Regina--were introduced at Calvert’s Democratic State Central Committee’s Annual Louis L. Goldstein Dinner March 16, 2004.

On June 19, 2004, the entire African American exhibition was unveiled in the new Exhibit Gallery at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) during the African American Family

Community Day in Lusby, Maryland. Once again, the exhibit was displayed at Calvert's 350th Birthday Celebration July 3, 2004. Since then, the portraits were displayed at the beautiful Annmarie Garden in Lusby October 2-10, 2004, and at the Maryland State House in Annapolis in February 2006. Expo II, African American men, was unveiled at JPPM at Community Day June 18, 2005. Delphine is in the process of adding to this collection of portraits of male Calvert County subjects for which she is seeking grants and contributions.

Delphine has had a lifelong interest in portraiture and largely is self-taught. She prefers to call her work impressions and continues to strive for perfection. In her desire to produce her "Forty Blossoms" Exhibition, she was motivated and influenced by Scripture, prayer, the need for such a project, her mother, and her husband Howard, who provided the initial funds for the project. There were many women to paint but, regrettably, she could only do 40.

One of 15 children, Delphine is a native of Severn, Maryland. She graduated from the Wiley H. Bates High School in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in 1962. She continued her education at Morgan State University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Art in 1973.

Delphine and her husband moved to Calvert County in 1975. She has been an Art Enrichment Special Projects Tutor, a Home Hospice Teacher, and a substitute teacher for Calvert County Public Schools. She also was employed by the ARC of Southern Maryland. She has received awards and certificates in the arts and certificates for training in developmental disabilities and computers.

Today, Delphine is primarily focused on the care of her husband who is in a nursing home in Edgewater, Maryland. She attends the Mt. Olive United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick.

Contributors and Sponsors

Calvert Library sincerely thanks Darlene Harrod for her extensive work on the written project and Dr. Marsha Plater for the idea and work planning the March 2017 event. We are grateful to the many others who had a hand in bringing it to completion. Some of those people and organizations are listed below.

Calvert County Commission for Women

Calvert County NAACP

Concerned Black Women of Calvert County

Friends of Calvert Library

Martha Lee Benz

Linda Buckley

Darlene Harrod

Gladys Jones

Paige Jones

Michael Kent

Shirley Knight

Dr. Marsha Plater

Delphine Siggers-Williams

*Add your inspiring women in the
following pages...*

