

*Inspiring  
African American  
Men of Calvert  
County*

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ISBN: 9781730792748



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# *Inspiring African American Men of Calvert County*

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

**6:30-7:00pm Reception**

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

Acknowledgements

Darlene Harrod

Shirley Knight

Malcolm Funn

Michael Kent

Friends of Calvert Library

**Introduction to Honorees**

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

# Introduction

Calvert Library is pleased to produce this book which could not have been accomplished without the extensive volunteer work of some very fine people. In 2017, Darlene Harrod, a remarkable woman herself, spent many hours compiling biographies for a book published by Calvert Library entitled *Inspiring African American Women of Calvert County*. When she was asked whether she would re-create the feat for African American men of Calvert County, she didn't hesitate. Calvert Library is very grateful for her dedication to helping Calvert County's African American community tell its story and celebrate its successes. While Darlene did much of the compiling of names and chasing down of contact and research information, Shirley Knight provided invaluable assistance with the editing work and offered outstanding input for the project. Calvert Library is extremely grateful for this powerful team.

The library's goal in creating the first book was to provide a resource and inspiration to young people, especially young women. This book is likewise motivated and we asked the celebrants to consider adding a specific statement to young people and to be honest about the hardships and racism they'd overcome.

We could not include every inspiring man in this book. As we did with the women's version, we included blank pages at the end of the book to encourage people to add the stories of others that inspire them. There are many African American men who have contributed to the building and improvement of our county, its people and the world beyond. The recurring theme in these collected stories is perseverance through unfair challenges, a commitment to finding opportunity despite obstacles and a dedication to making the world a better place for the next generation. Many credit brave men (and women!) who have gone before them as having paved the way, inspired them to achieve and to become barrier-breaking leaders themselves.

We encourage you to share your story. Participate, be inspired, go forth and change the world!

# Charles Ball



Charles Ball was a man who was ready to love his country before his country was ready to love him. The best description of Ball's legacy is within the title of his autobiography *Slavery in the United States: A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Charles Ball, a Black Man Who Lived Forty Years in Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia as a Slave under Various Masters and Was One Year in the Navy with Commodore Barney During the War of 1812*. The book contains an account of the manners and usage of planters and slaveholders of the South as well as a description of the conditions and treatment of slaves, with observations upon the morals among the cotton planters, and the perils and suffering of a fugitive slave, also twice escaped from cotton country.

According to Charles' autobiography, his grandfather was brought from Africa to Calvert County, to "Leonardtown" around 1730. Charles was born in Calvert around 1781. When he was four,



his mother, brothers, and sisters were sold, and he never saw them again. He remained in Calvert and married a slave named Judah from a nearby farm. The couple was separated when he was sold to a slave trader from Georgia. Charles and fifty-one other slaves were placed in neck irons, handcuffs, and chains. The slaves were forced to walk for more than a month from Calvert County to Columbia, South Carolina. There, he was sold to a cotton plantation owner. He was transferred to the plantation owner's daughter in Georgia. When the daughter died about 1809, he was turned over to her brothers who were so cruel that Charles ran away. It took him nearly a year to walk from Georgia back to his wife Judah in Calvert County.

During the War of 1812, Charles joined the US Navy. He served on Joshua Barney's Chesapeake Bay Flotilla and fought at the Battle of Bladensburg. You can read what the National Park Service says about Charles Ball at <https://www.nps.gov/people/charles-ball.html>. After the war, he returned to his wife Judah and their children. Judah was still a slave, and although he was a fugitive slave, he took the advice of his wife's owner and hired out for wages. He managed to save enough money to buy a farm near Baltimore. His wife Judah died around 1816, and Charles remarried around 1818. He never had any papers to show he was a free man, and so he was recaptured about 1830 and returned to the Georgia planters. He escaped again by hiding on a ship bound for Philadelphia. By the time he made it back to Baltimore, his wife and children had been sold into slavery, although they were legally free. He returned to Philadelphia. His autobiography was published in Pittsburgh in 1837, and Charles was not heard of again.

Charles' narrative was popular and was often reprinted. It is believed that he directly influenced the manner and substance of future slave narratives.

## Reverend Leroy Berry



Leroy Berry was known for speaking his mind, a sense of humor, a hearty laugh, and the enjoyment he received from laughing with others. For six decades, the Berry family was well-known throughout Calvert County. Zellers, Leroy's father, owned a Shell station and a grocery store on Wilson Road north of All Day Street in Huntingtown. He also founded the Berry Charter Service in the 1930s, which became the Berry School Bus Service. In the late 1940s, Leroy established a funeral parlor in Huntingtown, south of Old Town Road and Route 4.

Early on, Leroy assisted with the family bus businesses. As a school bus driver, he took pride in knowing all the students' names and often knew their parents and grandparents. The students enjoyed riding his bus because of his sense of humor. For many years, Leroy assisted his brother, the late Bishop Lincoln A. Berry (d. 2003), Pastor of Calvary United Church of Jesus Christ in Sunderland, and his wife, the late Genevieve C. Berry (d. 2010), with the business.

As a youngster, Leroy accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. He attended Plum Point United Methodist Church in Huntingtown. In 1933, he began attending Zion Hill Church of God in Christ in Lusby. In 1941, he became a member; in 1946 a deacon; and in 1957 a minister. He was ordained Elder in 1964 and served as Assistant

Pastor. Since 1978, he was Pastor.

Leroy attended Dares Wharf Elementary School in Prince Frederick. In a May 20, 2009, *Calvert Independent* article, he said his father owned 85 acres in Dares Wharf, which went out into the Chesapeake Bay, located on the opposite side of Dares Beach Road. In 1937, Leroy graduated from Central Colored High School in Prince Frederick and then attended Eckels College of Embalming in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated in 1941 and began a two-year apprenticeship. Prior to completion of the program in 1942, he was drafted into the US Army. He was sent to Fort George Mead, Maryland, for infantryman training, where he requested orders for Medic School. After training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, he was transferred to the Medical Detachment in the historic 366<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, one of the few all-Black Regiments in active combat during World War II in Europe. He was honorably discharged in November 1945.

After Leroy returned from military service, he completed his apprenticeship, and in 1948, he established the Berry Funeral Home. He provided professional services to families regardless of the need and their station in life. Leroy also transported people with medical appointments to Baltimore, and Washington, DC. During the 1960s at the height of segregation, when county ambulances were not readily available to African Americans, Leroy used his funeral coach as an “ambulance” to transport those needing medical attention to the hospital. He was a successful funeral director and mortician for over forty years.

Active in the community, Leroy served as President of the Brooks High School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), President of the Calvert County Colored PTA, and was appointed to the advisory board for building schools by the Maryland General Assembly. He was a member of the Maryland School Bus Contractors.

Leroy and his wife, the late Pearline A. Houghton, had four children.

## Simeon Booker



For years before his retirement in 2007 at age 89, Baltimore-born civil rights reporter Simeon Booker spent cherished weekends and vacations fishing in the Chesapeake Bay near his home in Cove Point Beach. It was his only respite from a grueling schedule as DC bureau chief of *EBONY* magazine and its little sister *JET*, the pocket-sized Black weekly described as the “bible” for coverage of every facet of a movement that would change America forever. If it wasn’t in *JET*, its readers would say, “. . . it didn’t happen.” He also managed to do thrice-weekly radio commentaries for Westinghouse Broadcasting and appeared on such illustrious TV programs as “Meet the Press.”

For more than 50 years, Booker’s headlines and popular column “Ticker Tape U.S.A.” reported on ten US presidents and every major event in the civil rights movement from the infamous Mississippi trial following the 1955 murder of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till, to the “Battle of Little Rock in 1957,” the 1961 Freedom Rides (he was on the first), the Birmingham campaign and church bombing in 1963, the Selma-to-Montgomery March in 1965, and on and on just as the struggle raged on. In 1965, as Black soldiers trooped to Vietnam while their brothers and sisters were still marching and sitting-in at

segregated lunch counters back home in the States, Booker became the first Black reporter to follow them to the front lines and report on their heroism and sacrifice.

Booker's career as a reporter began while still a student covering school basketball games and Negro League baseball for local newspapers. After graduation from Virginia Union University, his first full-time job was with the *Baltimore Afro-American*, from which he went on to another Black weekly, the Cleveland *Call and Post*, where he won several journalism awards for coverage of the poor housing and schools available to inner city Blacks. After two unsuccessful tries, Booker's perseverance paid off in 1950 with the award of the coveted Nieman Fellowship in Journalism from Harvard University, becoming only the second Black Nieman Fellow. After a year at Harvard, he applied to some forty daily newspapers, commonly described as the "mainstream" or "White press," and heard back from only one—*The Washington Post*, where he became the paper's first Black staff reporter.

He later wrote that covering the news in a city "where even the pet cemeteries were segregated," police at a crime scene treated him like a suspect instead of a reporter, and most of the newsroom displayed cold resentment toward him, "almost killed" him. He vowed to move on after scoring a five-column banner headline, and when he did, it was to the foremost Black publications in the country, for which he would cover the story that meant the most to him—the smoldering Black struggle for freedom and equality against the violent and desperate death throes of Jim Crow. In the course of that half-century, he would earn the sobriquet "Dean of the Black Press."

In his book, *Shocking the Conscience: a Reporter's Account of the Civil Rights Movement* (University Press of Mississippi, 2013), Booker recalled, "I wanted to fight segregation on the front lines—to dedicate my writing to the cause. It's now up to yet another generation to work toward a truly post-racial society. And if you think it's going to be easy . . . It's never been easy."

# William Sampson Brooks



William Sampson Brooks was born on May 15, 1865, to Robert and Margie Rebecca Brooks in Lower Marlboro of Calvert County. He attended public school in Fredericktown, located in Prince Frederick on Dares Beach Road, and graduated in 1892 from the Theological Department at Centenary Biblical Institute, now known as Morgan State University.

In 1894, William was ordained a deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. The following year, he was ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, beginning his career as a pastor in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at St. James AME Church. He later served at St. Peters Church in the same city. William was pastor at Wayman Chapel and St. Stephens in Chicago, Illinois, St. Paul AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and in various other cities, such as Des Moines, Iowa; St. Louis, Missouri; and Wichita, Kansas.

William gained additional knowledge from his travels and observations. In 1895, he took his first trip across the Atlantic Ocean, where he toured the British Isles, Norway, and Sweden. When preaching in Sweden, he spoke fluent Swedish.

In 1896, William married Susan Williams of Glencoe, Illinois. She accompanied him during his pastorates in Chicago, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Nashville, St. Louis, Kansas, and Baltimore. Despite her illness, she remained with him during his eight-year pastorate in Africa. She died in 1929.

From 1917 to 1920, William was pastor at Bethel AME Church in Baltimore. The church was heavily mortgaged and faced many financial obligations. William raised \$55,000 in three years to successfully liquidate Bethel's debt.

In 1920, William was consecrated as the forty-fourth Bishop of the AME Church. He presided over the Sixteenth Episcopal District in West Africa, during which time he effectively raised \$100,000 for the construction of Monrovia College in Liberia, an enormous concrete and steel structure. Unfortunately, the AME Church was unable to support a school of such magnitude.

On May 12, 1930, William married Elizabeth C. Carter of New Bedford, Massachusetts. She held a doctorate degree from Wilberforce University and was an ardent worker in church and community groups, founding the New Bedford Home for the Aged. When she married William, she resigned her positions and resided in San Antonio, Texas, with her husband. In 1933, he started a campaign to raise \$75,000 for Paul Quinn College in Waco, Texas.

William was persuasive and caring. His sermons were full of tenderness, concern, and instruction for everyday people. He believed that education was of primary importance for any deprived people. He wrote *Footprints of a Black Man*, an account of his travels in the Holy Land; *What a Black Man Saw in a White Man's Country*; and numerous pamphlets.

William died Sunday July 15, 1934, in San Antonio, Texas. Many tributes to Bishop Brooks are adequately summarized in the words of the Reverend E. Adolph Haynes, then secretary of the Washington Conference of the Methodist Church, "Bishop Brooks was a good minister of Jesus Christ. He did not allow his investment with power to override his sympathy for those over whom he had charge. His church loses a pulpiteer of the first magnitude, the City of Baltimore loses a friend, and the race a benefactor."

The second Black high school, built in 1938 on Dares Beach Road, was named for Bishop William Sampson Brooks. The first Black high school, Central Colored, existed from 1929 to 1938 on Armory Road. Former graduates include Leroy Berry and Bessie Jones Moore.

# *Edsel Brown*



“Life is not a straight line, but a ‘Journey’ with many ups and downs,” Edsel Brown said. “The initial advice I would give to our young people is to have a strong sense of self, an inner compass that may be rocked but never redirected, and the realization that you stand on the shoulders of many who paved the way for where you stand today.”

Edsel’s life’s journey began back in the mid-1950s in Montclair, New Jersey. He was fortunate to have very strong family ties. Needless to say, America in the 1950s, and his early years growing up, in New Jersey was much different from today. Unfortunately, many of the fundamental issues faced back then, including racism, have continued to cloud the passing decades.

Racism has raised its ugly head throughout Edsel’s life. On many occasions, he has had racial epithets, including the N-word, hurled his direction. He has experienced police encounters for no apparent reason while driving his car. Edsel has also been physically threatened by the police. He has had interactions with far too many individuals who want to stereotype him by placing him into their “box” of who he should be as an African American man.



While America tends to put individuals and groups into classes and stereotyped “boxes,” Edsel’s Mother Marie and Father Edsel, Sr., kept him anchored, instilled in him an inner confidence, and assured him that the only one who could hold him down, was “him.” His extended family echoed these exact sentiments.

One of the pivotal reflections in Edsel’s life came during the 1967 riot in Plainfield, New Jersey, where they had only been living a couple of years, in which the National Guard was called in with troop carriers, and at night they could hear the sounds of gunfire across town.

Upon graduation from high school, Edsel went on to college and obtained B.A. and M.A. degrees from Ohio University and a J.D. degree from the University of Toledo College of Law. During his college years, he was active in several activities, including a couple of honor societies, and was the President of the Black Law Student Association.

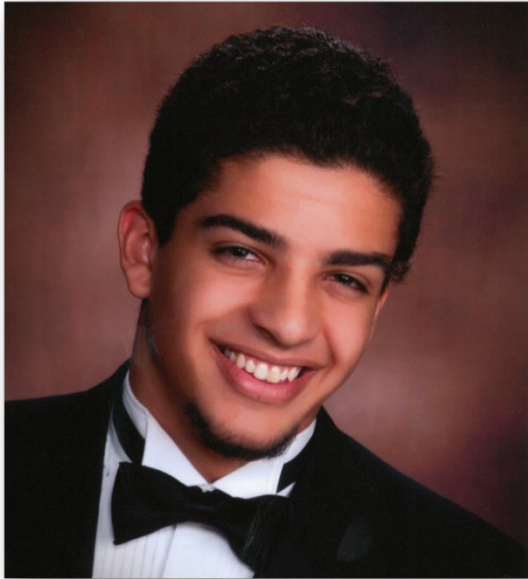
Professionally, Edsel was a Manager of America’s Seed Fund at the US Small Business Administration; owned a Liberty Tax Franchise; and owned and operated a Financial Services Firm, Edsel M. Brown, Jr., Advisors; and the Law Office of Edsel M. Brown, Jr.

In 2003, Edsel and his family moved to Calvert County. He has been active in the Calvert County Branch of the NAACP and a Vice President and Chair of Economic Development. In addition, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Calvert County Minority Business Alliance, Southern Maryland Black (now Minority) Chamber of Commerce, and the Calvert County Economic Development Advisory Commission.

Edsel is a proud member of the Sigma Alpha Lambda, Southern Maryland Chapter, of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

“Many paid heavy dues to pass the baton of advancement on to me. I now want to charge our youth with taking that baton with pride and never letting it fall!” Edsel said.

# Malcolm Brown



Since 2006, Malcolm Brown has lived in Chesapeake Beach in Calvert County, and recently graduated from Huntingtown High School. In fall 2018, he will be a freshman at Morehouse College in Atlanta as part of the dual enrollment program within Georgia Tech's Mechanical Engineering program. Previously, when he was not playing sports or doing school work, he spent time working, building model rockets, or practicing the violin. As a young entrepreneur, four years ago, he launched Roy's Landscaping business which grew to fourteen regular customers.

Malcolm was involved with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Swaliga Foundation, a non-profit organization that exposes young people to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts. He served as Vice President of Operations of the NSBE Jr. Chapter, Creative and Striving Hard (C.A.S.H.), for Calvert County and the Engineering Lead for their Ten80 remote-controlled car team. He volunteered as

a mentor with Swaliga, teaching children ages six to fourteen about STEM topics. This year, he was also the President of his school's chapter of the National Honor Society which conducted outreach efforts and community service projects.

He has been inspired to pursue engineering because of his passion for creating things and solving problems. "The idea of being able to solve any problem with technology is priceless," Malcolm said. "My motivation is challenging myself to think beyond the norm which is a perfect fit for the engineering field." His parents were advocates for his engineering aspirations. As a result, they introduced him to NSBE, which has opened his eyes to the possibilities of engineering and the wide range it covers in the world. A challenge that was present during his high school and NSBE career was his personal time management. He loved spending time with his friends, and he often had practice every day for various sports. This was an immense challenge for him to overcome, because while he was reading books and attending engineering conventions his friends were out having fun. Malcom realized that later on down the road these sacrifices would pay off.

"My advice to my peers and other young adults is to have faith, and know that hard work really does pay off," Malcom said. "And to not worry about what other people are doing. Everyone has a path specific to them so do not try to do what everyone else is doing, but rather focus on yourself and your goals."

Malcolm moved from Clinton, to Chesapeake Beach when he was six years old. At this young age, he was not aware of the differences in life and culture. But when he was thirteen or fourteen he began to notice things around his community. There was a lack of justice in our country that would take a decent amount of work to fix. Considering his experiences in life, he believes justice is fair treatment of all people no matter their race, age, or gender. Our predominantly Caucasian county has a history of racism. "The minorities of the county need to step up and push for change and move towards a more accepting society by forgiving grievances of the past," Malcolm said. "The only way we can move towards justice is with peace and acceptance—to show others that we are a positive force in the community."

## *George W. Carter*



As a young man about to graduate from junior high, George Carter was called into his guidance counselor's office to discuss his classes for the next year. He remembers being in the office not more than five minutes, and his counselor suggested that he take general classes and to think about going to a trade school once he graduated high school. George asked if the classes would be hard, and his counselor said, "No, I think you should have no trouble with them." So that's what he did. His close friends, however, were attending private schools and seemed to know a lot more than he did, so George changed his classes in the eleventh grade to more challenging courses. "I'm HAPPY I did!" George said. "Why do I mention that story? Well, in high school I wanted to take the easy road in life, but I realized that in order to be more successful, I needed to challenge himself," George explained. His mother, being the biggest influence in his life, always encouraged his siblings and him to never settle. While he was working for a Fortune 15 company as a mail messenger, she encouraged him to enroll in the University of

Delaware. He, of course, took her advice. Eventually, George was promoted to an Information Technology Analyst position in a very high-level section of the company with an international presence.

While supporting over 1,500 users across the globe, he received a formal introduction to Corporate America and “an opportunity to see firsthand how important it is to know your craft, and not to let anyone have you second guess yourself.” According to George, “Being a young African American male in an environment dominated by much older men who did not look like him, and directing them in a field that some had been in for most of their adult lives was a challenge.” He had to learn not to alienate them, but to also have them understand that he was not after their jobs because he already had one. “Once we had that understanding, we were able to accomplish great things,” George said. Computers and everything associated with them intrigued him, and it just came naturally. He eventually went on to work for several Fortune 500 companies, implementing leading edge technology, not only for the company, but for customers too.

George uses his theory of never settling to encourage youth throughout the county. He mentors young men through the Concerned Black Men of Calvert County and the Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth.

George has lived in Prince Frederick since 1990 with his wife, Cynthia Thorne-Carter, and their three daughters. The couple own Smart-Ride, Inc., a transportation company.

“I love being an IT professional because it changes ever so quickly—from cell phones that weighed 3 pounds to now just over 3 ounces to computers that filled up entire rooms to ones that fit in your pocket,” George said. “Twenty years ago, who knew about social media, smart homes, autonomous vehicles, streaming videos and music, and oh, let’s not forget smart TV’s? Technological changes and challenges in general are why I do what I do . . . the wonder of the possible, and the miracle of the actual.”

# Albert I. Cassell



It is very likely that only a few residents of Calvert County know the name Albert I. Cassell. Of that number, there are natives who realize the last name is indelibly linked to Cassell Boulevard off east Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick. A handful correctly associate the name with the architect and planner who designed, constructed, and restored several major buildings on the campus of Howard University in Washington, DC. But, the majority of the residents cannot begin to imagine Cassell's in-depth connection to Calvert's history—his vision, Calvert Town, a self-sustaining community for African Americans on approximately 400 acres of farmland on the Chesapeake Bay—or the breadth of the plan he had in mind. Calvert Town would be another Greenbelt, Maryland, a Federal venture in housing. During the depression and for nearly 30 years, Cassell committed to bringing his vision to fruition.

The Calvert County Historical Society chronicles many Calvert Town documents, including a site plan, which shows the streets he named for himself, Cassell Boulevard, and for his wife, Flora; a topographical map; drawings for a farm complex, a boardwalk, a pier, a casino, three house designs, and the floor plan for one house.

The following possible factors contributed to the lack of Federal

funding for Calvert Town: The timing of the application's submission, the vastness of the plan, a shift of the Resettlement Administration's building program's focus, the county's location in proximity to the nearest city, not a good fit for a New Deal community category, and local and national racism.

Cassell was born in 1895 in Towson, to working class parents, Albert T. and Charlotte. He attended Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore. In spite of segregation, he was determined to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He entered Cornell's School of Architecture in 1917. Cassell spent less than 3 years at Cornell before he was inducted into the US Army. He achieved the rank of second lieutenant. He returned home from the service in 1919. According to Cornell's policy for student-veterans, he was automatically awarded his degree.

His accomplishments included developing Howard University's master campus plan and utilities infrastructure and designing 9 of 14 buildings featured in the plan from 1926 to 1931. He is known for designing Founders Library, his signature building, in 1938. He was employed at Howard University from 1919 to 1938. He is credited with conceiving and designing Mayfair Mansions Apartments in Washington, on the National Register of Historic Places, and participating in projects at Washington National (now Ronald Reagan) Airport and the Pentagon in Virginia. His work also included designing buildings for Morgan State University in Baltimore and Virginia Union University in Richmond.

The story of Cassell's plan for Calvert Town is featured in the 2014-2016 issue of *The Calvert Historian*, a publication of The Calvert County Historical Society. The article and this biographical sketch are adaptations of Peter Sefton and Sally Berk's, "The Dream Dies Hard: Albert Cassell's Calvert Town," which first appeared in *Washington History*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (Fall 2015).

# Ronald Clark



Ronald Clark has always been interested in math and its application for solving problems. It helped that he was pretty good at mathematics. After his second year in college, he knew the specific discipline of engineering he wanted to pursue when he worked during the summer as a project engineer on the Thomas Johnson Bridge in Solomons. Ronald liked the work so much that he took a semester off from college to continue working. From that experience, he knew he wanted to be a civil engineer. He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Ronald was employed by the Calvert County Department of Public Works for 35 years. Before he retired, he achieved the position of Engineering Bureau Chief. A Calvert County native, he can trace his family roots for six generations; that's over 150 years.

Being a grandfather of nine, Ronald has a passion for helping children. In particular, he wants to help African American children all he can to succeed. "I've experienced being raised by a struggling single parent—a household with no running water, no car, no indoor bathroom, and bare cupboards," Ronald said. "But, I had a loving mother who sacrificed all she could to lift her family up from its meager surroundings. I recall she invested in a set of encyclopedias called the *Book of Knowledge* that I would read almost every day. I was fascinated with the stories, poetry, and scientific information in them.



I realize that my mother did not have the luxury of spending recreational time with us because she worked so much.”

Ronald was fortunate to have a loving mother and many nurturing teachers. First and foremost, his mother influenced him by making sure he had Christ in his life. Ronald said, “She sent us off walking to church every Sunday but couldn't join us because she worked Sundays also. I distinctly remember her putting us to bed every night, making us kneel down, and repeating the prayers she recited. She laid the groundwork for my love for Christ and others.” He credits his Scout Master as a big influence on his life during a time when the first and only all-Black Boy Scout troop was formed in the 1960s. His elementary school teachers were also instrumental in his life. All were African Americans who taught during the time of segregated schools in Calvert County. “They were stern, but they wanted the best for the students particularly when they prepared us for integration,” Ronald said. His sixth grade elementary class was among the first to integrate Calvert Middle School, formerly Calvert Junior High.

Not unlike others from modest means, one obstacle Ronald faced was coming from a poor family but still being able to attend college through scholarships, grants, and loans. Another obstacle was asserting fair treatment in advancing on the job because of the color of his skin. Ronald said, “I had to know when to stand up for myself and when to let God work it out.”

Ronald serves on the Boards of the Tri County Community Action Committee, Inc., and East-John Youth Center, Inc., is Advisor to the National Society of Black Engineers, Jr., President of the Methodist Men’s Choir, Lay Delegate to the United Methodist Church, UMC Trustee, Adult Sunday School teacher, and docent to the restored Old Wallville (an African American one-room) School relocated as a museum on Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick.

“I advise young people to seek as much knowledge as they can. Be inquisitive, selfless, and humble. If obstacles come your way, seek to get around or remove them, and to seek God. Establish a relationship with Him to determine his will for your life,” Ronald said.

# *Reverend Robert Conway*



Robert Conway is the youngest of eleven children born to John and Grace Conway of Odenton. He grew up on a farm where integrity, honesty, and hard work were modeled by his parents and expected of their children. Involvement in church programs was an integral part of family life.

At a young age Robert, his sister Edith, and niece Elizabeth formed The Conway Trio and sang every Sunday morning on radio station WANN for almost three years. Gospel music performances were rendered at various churches throughout the State of Maryland. At age sixteen, Robert met Mabel Eugenia Reid at Plum Point United Methodist Church in Huntingtown. Their friendship continued to grow.

Also at age sixteen, Robert's father died, and Robert inevitably assumed greater responsibility for his future. He graduated in 1954 from Wiley H. Bates High School in Annapolis. Being the only son to complete high school, his mother was prompt to share these very encouraging words: "I am very proud of you, and your father would also be proud of you." Robert has high regard for his teachers, especially James Whittington, High School Vocational Agriculture,

and Dorothy Smith, College English Grammar.

Paying for college was especially challenging for Robert. He worked every summer. In fall 1954, he enrolled at Princess Anne College. Due to insufficient funds, Robert's attendance there was approximately two and a half months. No financial help was available at the college, so Robert packed his few items and hitchhiked home to Odenton. After working four weeks for a construction company, he earned enough money to attend Bowie State Teachers College the spring semester of 1955. His girlfriend Mabel had already enrolled in the fall of 1953. At the end of the 1958 fall semester, Robert graduated with a Bachelor's Degree. In 1966, he received a Master of Arts Degree in Education from George Washington University in Washington, DC. Robert spent twenty-seven of thirty-one and a half years as an Elementary School Principal in the Calvert County Public School System. After retiring in June 1990, Robert enrolled at Howard University Divinity School in Washington, DC, and graduated June 1993.

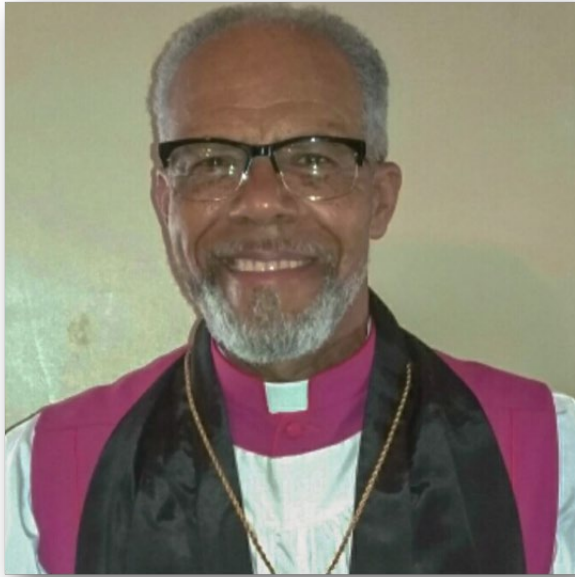
In January 1991, Robert accepted an appointment as Pastor of Mt. Olive and Carroll-Western United Methodist Churches in Prince Frederick. He was ordained Elder in 1995. The membership at both churches grew, and numerous church goals were achieved. At Mt. Olive UMC, 4.67 acres of land were purchased, and a new sanctuary was completed in 2005. An addition and improvements were also made at Carroll-Western UMC. Robert continued as Pastor until he retired June 2009. "My advice to 'All People' is to embrace Christian Values as the most important guide for your life," Robert said.

He has been an active member of Plum Point United Methodist Church for over thirty years. In 1978, Robert was the first Black elected to the Republican Central Committee. He is a life member of the NAACP.

Robert said, "We must not forget those who dedicated their lives fighting for freedom and justice. Fulfilling our duties and responsibilities as citizens is extremely important. It is inexcusable when citizens are eligible to vote, but choose not to do so."

Married 61 years, Robert and Mabel are the parents of two sons: Quintin and Kirk.

# *Bishop Darnell Easton*



“I desire to be a constant blessing to my family, church, and community,” Darnell Easton said. “My life is dedicated to living by Christ’s example and encouraging others to live up to their full potential in Christ.”

Darnell is the youngest child of nine born in Baltimore, to the late Joseph and Viola Gray Easton. He and his wife Margo Brooks Easton, married forty-four years, are blessed with a son and two daughters, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and five lovely grandchildren.

At three years of age, Darnell started his Christian journey at Bethel Way of the Cross Church in Huntingtown, established under the leadership of the late Bishop Jacob A. Green in 1953. He was a baptized believer at the age of ten and filled with the precious gift of the Holy Ghost at thirteen. In April 1975, Darnell was called into the ministry. A few years later, he was ordained a minister by Bishop Green, whose favorite scripture concerning Bishop Darnell’s life was 2 Timothy 3:15 “And that from a child thou hast known the holy

scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” Having served loyally and with integrity in his calling, in January 2003, Darnell was installed as Pastor of Bethel.

Faithfully committed to Bethel and the broader community, Darnell and Margo instituted the New Members Class in 1981, and it is still in existence today. He is the facilitator for Bethel’s monthly Brothers United Fellowship. He visits sick and bereaved families on a regular basis. Darnell started the Men’s Prison Ministry in Jessup, rendering church services to the inmates on a monthly basis. He is also a volunteer Chaplain at Calvert Health Medical Center in Prince Frederick. Darnell is also an avid psalmist who counts it an honor and privilege to minister to others through his gift of singing.

In 1972, Darnell started working for the Local 74 Labor Union and continued for ten years. By the favor of God, his supervisor saw fit to promote him to the Cement Finisher Local, bypassing the four-year apprenticeship program. In 1988, God moved on his heart to start his own concrete construction business M & D Easton Construction. He was blessed to be a successful entrepreneur for eighteen years before retiring to full-time Pastoral Ministry.

Darnell is an anointed, effective, and inspiring Man of God. He gives life to one of his favorite scriptures, which is close to his heart St. Luke 4:18-19 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; . . . To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” He is an evangelist and an intercessor whose gifts equip him for the great works of God.

Continuing the visionary plans of Bethel’s former pastors Bishop Jacob Green and Bishop Allen H. Easton, Darnell has humbly played an integral part in the building project of the new church edifice located across the street from the old church building. Bethel held a Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremony for the new Church November 18, 2017. Attending were Bethel’s members, guest ministers and their members, local residents, and State and local political leaders. The church opened officially for regular services Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018.

# Kevin Easton



Kevin Easton was born January 24, 1969, to Nathaniel and Casaundra Plater Easton of Sunderland. He is the second of four children who include Vonzell, Cordell, and Natalie Easton. Being raised in Calvert County enabled him to be rooted in the community by providing him a home and church life to become the person God has purposed. “Having a heart of a servant has afforded me the opportunity to witness to a vast number of individuals. God has been with me from a child and has directed my path,” Kevin said.

From an early age, Kevin possessed outstanding leadership skills. His first encounter as a leader came when he was selected for the school safety patrol in fourth grade. He was appointed to lead the unit, promoted to Lieutenant, and by the fifth grade, he had advanced to Captain. Kevin said, “I attribute my discipline, dedication, and leadership qualities to my parents who were longtime entrepreneurs in Calvert County. They also demonstrated the meaning of being a follower of Christ.”

Kevin has always enjoyed sports and participated on several youth clubs as a player and coach. He attended Northern High School in Owings, where he was known for his skills on the

basketball court. In his senior year, he was named one of the elite players in the Washington Metropolitan Area. “This was a good time, but it soon turned into a bad experience,” he said.

Upon graduating in 1987, Kevin attended the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for one year and Bowie State University for one year. Being young, he made some negative decisions. Influenced by his surroundings, he found himself in a pit experience—stuck in life—like Joseph in the bible. Kevin recalled, “But, that’s when God came and spoke to me in a dream while I was living with my parents and said, ‘I WANT TO USE YOU!’ This visitation from God changed my life, and it hasn’t been the same ever since.”

Instrumental in the community, Kevin has been coaching basketball for various organizations throughout Calvert County, including Parks and Recreation and Huntingtown High School. From 2012 to 2016, he was Founder and Director of the Maryland Thunder Basketball Team affiliated with the amateur athletic union sports organization. Kevin is overjoyed that nine individuals from his team received scholarships to play basketball on the collegiate level and completed their degrees.

On July 7, 1996, Kevin rededicated his life back to the Lord and soon after became a Deacon under the late Bishops Jacob A. Green and Allen H. Easton at Bethel Way of the Cross Church in Huntingtown. In 2000, he was appointed the Youth Minister for thirteen years. God called Kevin into the ministry at Bethel March 4, 2005, where he diligently serves under the leadership of Bishop Darnell L. Easton. On August 1, 2013, he was ordained Elder. Currently, he is the Church Administrator. For the past twenty-five years, Kevin has been employed at the Prince George’s County Department of Corrections.

“God sent an angel into my life named Raven Freeland Easton,” Kevin said. “Our 24-year marriage has been a blessing to many, young and old. The Lord blessed us with two wonderful sons: Brandon and Bryan, both of whom will be entering their junior year in fall 2018 at Catholic University in Washington, DC.”

Kevin said, “The Lord’s hands have truly been upon my life, and I desire to serve him with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength.”

## Dezmon Estep



Dezmon Estep has achieved some remarkable feats, although he will only be a high school senior in fall 2018. He has already attended three science fairs and has won first place awards in the fields of aerospace, mechanical, and biomedical engineering. He created two great projects—his Obstacle-Avoiding-Car prototype and his Scoliosis Correction Back Brace prototype. He won a State championship title with the Patuxent High School in Lusby, marching band as a member of Drum Line. He was privileged to go to the Future Scientists and Technologists Convention and was featured in the June 6, 2016, article in *The Baynet.com* for his engineering achievements. He has achieved many remarkable feats in his life up until now, but the process of going through school to be at this level has not always been encouraging.

“Do you believe labeling students as mentally slower than other kids just because they are hyper is justified?” This was Dezmon’s label all throughout his earliest years in school. For four consecutive grade levels, he was directed toward special-education classes after



being diagnosed with a small case of ADHD. This label did not cease until he met his second grade teacher Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor knew he was labeled as “slow” and helped him focus by enlightening him with how the world works and what he must do to be successful in life beyond elementary school. He was flexible with Dezmon’s curriculum to help him and the other students being mislabeled. Mr. Taylor showed him he was not what the school system labeled him as and constantly encouraged him to do what he aspired to do and showed him alternative ways he could get it done. Arriving at Middle School, Dezmon knew he wanted to do something technical like working on computers or building stuff, but he was unclear on what specifically he wanted to do. His only problem was his grades were lower compared to other students, and he knew very little about engineering.

Then, Dezmon met his technical education teacher, Mr. Klapper. “He was a bit of a whacko due to his fun and playful demeanor in class, but his personality made doing every tech project enjoyable,” Dezmon said. He learned a great deal in his class through his creative way of teaching while INSPIRING him to create projects for science fairs.

Next came Dezmon’s struggle with learning to play percussions. He was in sixth grade in Mr. Humphrey’s class, and could not play an instrument. He had an additional disadvantage affecting his low skills; he was put in an intermediate class when he should have been in a beginners’ class. It was even worse when Lexi, his fellow percussionist who played better, would take Dezmon’s place when he was unable to perform the musical pieces. Dezmon kept working and practicing, and by eighth grade, he was finally able to keep time and play the parts he wanted. He even got an award for the most improved rookie.

Dezmon’s advice to his peers and others is: “Do not let anybody tell you that you cannot achieve and compare you with others. Do not let them tell you what you can and cannot do. Do not let setbacks deter you from your goals.”

## Ernest Fletcher



Ernest Fletcher was a man of deep convictions, and he approached each situation with a calm assurance and a steady hand. His intelligence, keen sensitivity to excellence in education, dedication, and indefatigable efforts were manifested in his daily quest for improved instructional practices and better education for all children of Calvert County.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado, Ernest attended the public schools of Heurfano County Colorado, and Walsenburg, Colorado. His college education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree from Delaware State College and a Master of Education Degree from Alabama State College. Ernest furthered his studies at Washington State College, Pennsylvania State University, George Washington University, and the University of Maryland College Park. For 2 years, he also served

in the United States Armed Forces.

As an educator, Ernest's career included teacher and principal at the Geneva County Training School in Slocumb, Alabama; teacher and assistant principal at Somerset High School in Princess Anne; teacher, administrative assistant, and acting principal at Mt. Harmony Elementary and Junior High Schools in Owings; teacher and vice principal at William Sampson Brooks High School in Prince Frederick; Administrative Assistant to the principal, vice principal, and principal at Calvert High School in Prince Frederick; and Supervisor of Instruction for the Calvert County Public Schools. Initially, Ernest began his career with the Calvert County Public Schools in 1964 for one year. Then, he worked for Somerset County from July 1955 until 1960. He returned to Calvert in 1960 and continued to work there until his death in 1983.

He was a member of the following organizations: Calvert Education Association; Maryland State Teachers Association; National Education Association; Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals; National Association of Secondary School Principals; National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Kiwanis Club of Calvert County; Calvert County Ethics Committee; and Tri-County Libraries. He was past vice president of the Calvert County Economic Development Commission and past secretary of the Calvert County Industrial Park Authority.

Married to Beatrice "Jane" Reid Fletcher for 28 years, he was an active member of Plum Point United Methodist Church in Huntingtown.

A consummate educator, Ernest, tall, built like a no-nonsense football player, left an indelible mark on the minds of the students whose paths he crossed.

# Horace Greeley Funn



Horace Funn taught at William Sampson Brooks High School in Prince Frederick, from 1938 to 1943, and was named the Principal the school year of 1942 to 1943. After obtaining his Master's degree from Virginia State College, Horace returned as Principal in 1945 until the desegregation of Calvert County schools in 1966. At that time, he became the Principal of Mount Harmony Elementary School until his retirement in 1975, serving a total of 35 years in the public schools of Calvert County. After graduating from Virginia Union University in Richmond in 1935, he taught high school for two years in Gloucester, Virginia, before relocating to Calvert.

H.G., as he was known, dedicated himself to educating, encouraging, impacting students, and being an integral link to the Calvert community. He always advocated the importance of education in one's life. Perhaps, some of his students were not appreciative of this avocation of his during their time in school, but later they came to appreciate his influence and nurturing and the importance of education in their lives.

As an educator and citizen of Calvert, his passion for education can best be described by his message to the last graduating class of Brooks High in the 1966 yearbook.

*"Dear Seniors--Be glad you live in America because America realizes that its most powerful force is education. Our government is giving aid to push this*

*force as a media of escaping the millstone of ignorance and the ravages of hunger. It realizes that to escape the limitations and exploitations of nationalism, militarism, racial hatred or the opiate of misspent religion, we will have to lose this force of education among the masses of the people of our country.*

*You, as Negro citizens, have a greater opportunity, now, than ever before because of what America and its government proposes for you. Doors are open which were previously closed; you have the privilege to attend the school of your choice; you have the greatest opportunity as a participant in the releasing of this dynamic force. This is what it should have been all the time. Your forefathers have suffered in slavery and have bled and died in unjustified acts to lay to the foundation for this force. Remember, you have earned this opportunity; no one is giving it to you.*

*Preparing yourselves for these opportunities as they arise keeps this force moving. Getting more education, more training in trades and participating in local, state and national government increase the pressure behind this force.*

*Seniors, I have faith and confidence in believing that you will add ammunition to this force of education to keep it constantly in progress. Give America more Thurgood Marshalls, Roy Wilkinses, Ralph Bunches, Adam Powells, Martin Luther Kings, Phillip Randolphs, and James Farmers.*

*Remember, you have just begun. To stop now would hinder this powerful force of education.—Your Principal H. G. Funn”*

H. G.’s passion for education and its influence on students did not come without a price. In the early 1960’s, he invited the President of Virginia Union University, Dr. Samuel Proctor, to give the baccalaureate address during commencement. Dr. Proctor’s message focused on encouraging the graduates to exercise their rights as American citizens and not to be denied. The next day H. G. was called to the Board of Education Superintendent’s Office and was admonished for inviting a speaker to Calvert County who encouraged the African American community to stand up for and to exercise their civil rights.

The legacy of H. G. Funn and his advocacy for the importance of education lives on, even after his death in 1976. This can be easily verified and testified to by any of his former students.

# Malcolm Funn



Matthew 25:14-30 relates the parable of the talents. A man entrusts talents to three of his servants; two of them invested their talents, and their value doubled. The third servant hid his talent, earning his master's ire for not increasing its value. This parable is the foundation of Malcolm Funn's community service and activism. "We are endowed with talents and skills

and are to use them or lose them," he said.

Malcolm observed his father, Horace G. Funn, dedicating his life to working with students, encouraging them to strive for excellence and to continue their education in whatever manner they desired. His dedication and commitment inspired Malcolm to do the same.

At six months old, Malcolm arrived in Calvert County when his father returned in 1945 to resume his position as Principal of William Sampson Brooks High School in Prince Frederick after a two-year sabbatical. After graduating from high school, Malcolm attended Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. There, he met his future wife, Annette Jones, marrying her in June 1967. They realized their similar interests in community activism and serving others. He left school to marry but then returned and completed his studies at Bowie State University in 1971. He continued his education at Columbus School of Law at Catholic University in Washington, DC. He began working at the Internal Revenue Service in the District of Columbia in 1972. After receiving his Juris Doctorate Degree in 1974, he began a career as an attorney in IRS's Office of Chief Counsel, retiring in January 2004.

He lived in Prince George's County 29 years. Malcolm was active on the Maryland Commission for Women and the Maryland

Appeals Board of the Selective Service Commission. In 1976, Malcolm and Annette became members of a missionary organization, The Gideons International. He was elected State President, International Trustee on the board of directors for 6 years, and International Chaplain an additional 3 years. Malcolm was Regional Field Officer to India developing the Gideons work there for two years. He made fourteen trips as part of his service.

After moving back to Calvert County in 1998, Malcolm and Annette became involved in the community, hoping to make a difference. They joined Bayside Baptist Church in Chesapeake Beach. He was appointed to the Board of County Commissioners' Citizens Advisory Committee and became its chair. On the CAC, Malcom completed a study and recommendations for commuter Park & Ride lots and an overhaul and rewrite of Calvert's Animal Control Ordinance.

Reflecting on his years at W.S. Brooks High, Malcolm worked with Brooks High's All Classes Reunion Committee. Later, he incorporated the committee and restructured it as the W.S. Brooks High School Alumni Association, Incorporated, a nonprofit organization.

Malcolm has served on Calvert's Planning Commission, Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board, and the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemorative Task Force. Presently, Malcolm's activism includes: the Campus Advisory Council, College of Southern Maryland; NAACP (life member), 1st Vice President; Big Conversations on Dismantling Racism and Privilege; the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture; and State Board of Elections. Residing in the Asbury-Solomons Community, Malcolm serves on its Ethics and Advisory Committees.

Growing up during Jim Crow segregation era, Malcolm experienced various incidents and attitudes that encouraged him to work through the media, social, and civic organizations to remind people that all "are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Liberty, Life, and the Pursuit of Happiness." Malcolm said, "I believe with a passion that I can do this by bridging the gap between races and generations so that all can Excel and become productive citizens."

## Rodney Giles



Rodney Giles is a teacher and coach at heart. For much of his career, he has worked with people who were unemployed, under employed, and or disenfranchised. He has a unique and provoking way of engaging students through his classes facilitating Workforce Development workshops.

Raised in Huntingtown, Rodney attended Northern High School in Owings. As an outstanding athlete, he was known for his track and field ability which earned him a full scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Communication. Continuing his education, he attended the University of Delaware's School of Public Policy and received certification in Community Economic Development. He also holds a Certified Workforce Development Professional credential by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. His career has given him the privilege and honor to work with the State of Maryland Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation, St. Mary's County Economic Development, Southern Maryland Small Business Development Center and various nonprofit organizations as a grants management professional.

He has published a three-book series: *Sin Committed by Simple*



*Confusion* April 2014, *Catastrophic Collision* (April 2014), and *Emotional Struggle* (May 2014). He is also the proud father of two sons: Eyon and Dajoun and three grandchildren. In his spare time, Rodney enjoys reading, sports, good music, and the fall season.

Rodney has dedicated his life, energy, and efforts to working with men and women focused on rebuilding and reshaping their lives during employment transitions. Furthermore, his passion is driven by seeing people realize their full potential and personal destiny. He not only coaches but challenges people to break out of old patterns, destructive cycles, and reckless responses. Rodney's ultimate goal is to bring about change at the deepest level.

Challenged by a personal friend as a young man early in his career, Rodney now also challenges others. "Understand, it's not always about title, privilege, or worldly possessions. At the end of the day, what have you done to help someone else?" That single question put him on a track to pledge his talents and gifts to serve the community.

Rodney currently worships and serves at Dominion International Ministries, Inc., located in Upper Marlboro, under the leadership of Pastor William and Apostle Yolanda Powell. Rodney is an ordained deacon with a teaching anointing. His desire is to teach multicultural generations the importance of self-preservation starting with character, faith, hope, desire, and confidence. This is the type of community connection and spiritual service needed to conquer the many problems of life.

Finally, and most importantly, the following message is for the youth as a profound warning.

"Dear Youth,

There may come a time in life when you will be given a choice. Your decision, whether right or wrong, will have consequences tied to them. The decision you make will be as a leader or follower of your friends and family. When that day comes, make your choice(s) wisely.

Your life and the lives of those after you depend on it!—  
Rodney"

# Makiyah Gorman



In his essay as an incoming freshman to the US Air Force Academy Makiyah Gorman wrote, “Christmas 2003, my parents took us on a surprise trip to Disney World in Florida. It was my first time on an airplane. I was amazed by the flashing lights that surrounded the airport. While peering through the window at the clouds floating past, I knew exactly what I wanted to be when I grew up. This introductory plane ride defined and shaped my future in a variety of ways. The mere thought that man could create a vehicle that could transport anyone across the world, in a matter of hours, filled me with the desire to build and design something equally amazing.”

At age 11, Makiyah began to talk about going to the Academy located near Colorado Springs, Colorado, to major in Aerospace Engineering and Computer Science.

With clarity and vision, Makiyah excelled at Huntingtown High School. In his senior year in 2016, his academic achievements were exemplary: a grade point average of 4.00; a rank of 12 out of 365 students; SAT scores of 680--Math, 680--Verbal, and 630--Writing.

Makiyah participated in various extracurricular activities. He received the Outstanding Athlete Award in both indoor and outdoor

track in ninth to eleventh grades. In the FBLA, he was Fundraiser Director and a national participant for Website Design in eleventh grade. Makiyah was a member of the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps in ninth to eleventh grades and was appointed Chief Petty Officer of Public Affairs in eleventh grade.

As for community service, Makiyah volunteered at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in St. Mary's County. He read to, watched movies, and played games with veterans. He also helped them shop for family members during the holiday season. At Mt. Gethsemane Holiness Church, Makiyah helped with Vacation Bible School and organized food, coat, and school supply drives. He also tutored students under age 12 in math. For the Special Olympics, he organized meets, provided scorekeeping, and offered encouragement to the participants. Summarizing his truths, Makiyah said, "Treat everyone with respect and dignity. Justice is something that I strive for every day. To me justice is the fair and equal treatment of everyone, no matter what their background, gender, race, or beliefs. This is something that I have committed to pursue in my lifetime."

Of course, he was extremely pleased to be accepted to the Air Force Academy in which he not only needed to be accepted but nominated by a congressman. Makiyah's motto in life is "Hard work does pay off. Work hard today so that you can enjoy your life tomorrow. Always go the extra mile, and do what is right even when no one is watching."

Makiyah, a native of Calvert County, is the second oldest child of Travis and Ann Tran Gorman. They have two daughters and another son. The family resides in Huntingtown.

## Raymond Harris



A lifelong resident of Adelina, Raymond Harris felt a strong need to give back to the country and community that he loved. In so doing, he served in the US Army from 1960 to 1962 and was stationed overseas.

After Raymond returned home, he became a manager of local Union 832, responsible for securing jobs for many unemployed people. In June 1978, he served as a member of Calvert County's Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board. Raymond joined American Legion Gray-Ray Post 220. In 1996, he joined Carroll-Victoria Masonic Lodge 71, and he was named the District Deputy Grand Master in 2000. Although his stint was not long in duration, in 1996, he was one of the first African Americans to become a volunteer at the Prince Frederick Fire Department. Raymond became a lifetime member of the NAACP in 1998, and he also was active with the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse.

Raymond worked for Baltimore Gas & Electric at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant for many years, and in his last position, he was in charge of the Safety Department. He left BG&E in 1980 and took a job with Calvert Highway Maintenance, retiring in 1986.

After retirement, Raymond was a school bus contractor for the county for many years and drove his own buses beginning in 1979 until his health prevented him from doing so. In addition, he owned several businesses, including in 1983, Ray's Groceries and gas station at Sixes Road and Sandy Point Road and in 1998, Harris Citgo on Hallowing Point Road. In 2000, Raymond and his wife, Rosalie Brooks Harris, opened Rose's Deli in the Industrial Park in Barstow serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner seven days a week. Also in 2000, Governor Parris W. Glendening appointed Raymond to the State Real Estate Commission.

One of Raymond's greatest strengths was his ability to quietly use his resources to bring about positive change. He devoted his life to encouraging others to be the best they could be. That was especially true of young people. Raymond was instrumental in getting a baseball team—complete with uniforms and transportation—started for young boys who otherwise would not have been able to play. His home and businesses were always open to neighborhood youth who he mentored and encouraged to put their lives to good use.

Although proud of his accomplishments as a veteran, community activist, and business owner, Raymond understood that his most important achievement was the establishment of a loving and devoted family and a network of caring friends. During his illness before his death, he was overwhelmed by the constant care and support he received. While he did not once complain about the cards that he had been dealt, he was always concerned that everyone was doing “too much” for him. He did not seem to understand that the care rendered to him was a testament to how he had lived his life.

Raymond graduated from William Sampson Brooks High School in Prince Frederick. He completed one year of college at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Rosalie, Raymond's wife of 45 years, continues to operate the school bus business today. The family has established the Raymond Harris Memorial Scholarship through LEAP Forward, Inc., to assist students with their college expenses. “I know Raymond would be overjoyed that his family provides financial help to encourage young people to be all they can be,” Rosalie said.

# Kyle Hutzler



Kyle Hutzler, the son of Huntingtown's Karen and Daniel Hutzler, was born and raised in Calvert County. His maternal grandparents were local tobacco farmers, and his paternal grandparents moved to the county in the 1970s.

"I attended Calvert County Public Schools, where my teachers instilled in me a love of learning," Kyle said. "I especially recall the late Mary Casey encouraged my passion for government, and Amy Gibson helped sharpen my writing." While still in high school, Kyle began interning at the US International Trade Commission in Washington, DC, where he confirmed his passion for economics and became interested in China's growing influence.

At Yale, Kyle was an active presence on campus, leading one of the school's debating societies and editing a magazine on US-China relations. In 2012, he studied abroad in Shanghai, where he began to study the Chinese language.

After graduating from Yale in 2014, Kyle joined the Washington, DC, office of McKinsey & Company, a global management

consulting firm. There, he worked primarily on public sector healthcare projects, helping states reform their Medicaid systems to better encourage quality and value.

Still passionate about China, Kyle took a leave from McKinsey when he was selected as part of the inaugural class of Schwarzman Scholars, a yearlong fellowship in Beijing that seeks to be China's "Rhodes Scholarship." While in China, he had the opportunity to travel widely throughout the country and broader regions.

Pursuing his MBA at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, Kyle intends to return to McKinsey after graduation in 2019. He ultimately hopes to enter public service, focused on the United States' economic relationship with Asia.

Kyle's community involvement is shaped by his experience as a first-generation college student. In Calvert, New Haven, and California, Kyle is quick to mentor other students seeking to realize their dreams through higher education. He is regularly invited back by the staff of Huntingtown High School to motivate students and teachers to keep pushing for excellence. He is especially proud to have been a Jackie Robinson Foundation scholar, a scholarship founded by the late baseball player and his wife, Rachel. "All of the support I was given makes me determined to do as much as I can to create educational opportunity for others. Justice is not possible without the equal opportunity educational opportunity provides," Kyle said.

"In addition to my family and teachers, I'm also grateful for the example of another Calvert County native, Charles Kinzer, one of the first African Americans from the county to attend an Ivy League school," Hutzler said. "In giving me the opportunity to work in Argentina and South Africa, Charles has played a special role in shaping my path."

Although Kyle's studies and work often keep him away from Calvert since graduating, his love of family and seafood never keeps him away for long. He especially enjoys showing friends from all over the world the charm of Calvert County.

## MacArthur Jones



MacArthur “Mac” Jones lived in Calvert County all of his life. He loved his county for its scenic beauty, rural flare, laid-back atmosphere, and its people. Mac was a staunch supporter of civil rights and political equity for Black people. At an early age, Mac’s parents encouraged him to continue his education because he always loved to read. Due to segregation, he attended Mt. Hope Elementary School. Mac was personally motivated to

pursue an education degree, because he was not permitted to attend Huntingtown Elementary School within walking distance of his home. Ironically, years later, Mac was both Vice Principal and Principal at Huntingtown. He graduated from William Sampson Brooks High School in 1961 and participated in sit-ins at food establishments and other nonviolent activities during the Jim Crow segregation era. Mac received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Coppin State College and a Master’s Degree from Bowie State University. He completed sixty hours toward his doctorate degree in Education.

In 1965, Mac began his career as an educator in the Calvert County Public School System. He was a classroom teacher for eight years, a Vice Principal for eleven years, Supervisor of Instruction for one year, Supervisor of Title One and Special Programs for one year, and Principal of Huntingtown and Mutual Elementary Schools for a total of nine years. He often participated in special events with his students to make learning fun. Mac kept his promise of wearing pajamas to school for the day when all students met the challenge of reading ten books. During Black History Month, he loved portraying Louis Armstrong and other famous talented Blacks. Mac retired in



1996 with thirty-one years of service.

Clearly, Mac spent much of his time giving back to his community. After retirement, he completed a six-year elected term on Calvert's School Board. He was appointed by Governor Robert Ehrlich to serve on the Board of Directors of the College of Southern Maryland. Mac was a lifelong member of Patuxent United Methodist Church in Huntingtown and a Lay Leader and Lay Speaker for twenty years. He loved his Church and Church family and worked in many different capacities to help carry out its programs and activities. In addition, Mac was active in numerous other community organizations, including the Huntingtown Methodist Men; Master Mason of the Dunkirk Lodge 77, Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Calvert Vo-Tech Foundation, the Executive Board of the Maryland Association of School Curriculum Development, Calvert Hospice; Calvert Planning Commission; Calvert Kiwanis; Board Member, Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum; Concerned Black Men of Calvert; 50-Member Panel—Schools for Success/Goals 2000; Board Member, American Heart Association; Treasurer, Calvert Credit Union; and Chairman, Southern Maryland Investment in Character Campaign for the Boy Scouts of America.

Mac was a Life Member of the Calvert Education Association, Maryland State Teachers Association, and the National Education Association. He was also a Life Member of the NAACP. Mac's outstanding contributions garnered him numerous awards and recognitions. His passion was displaying the love of God by helping better the lives of children and adults alike.

In his earlier years, one of Mac's favorite interests was his great love of cars and car racing. He owned a Classic red 1965 Chevrolet Nova much later in life.

In July 2018, Mac's wife Sandy Jones of fifty-one years, and other family members, established the MacArthur Jones Memorial Scholarship to provide financial assistance to students pursuing college degrees. The scholarship is managed by Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc., also known as LEAP Forward.

# Michael Gayhart Kent



Michael Kent grew up learning about his family history as a result of his parents, and grandparents, repeating their stories. One of six children of Gayhart and Viola Russell Kent, Michael was born in Calvert County, in 1957. The family's ancestral roots in Calvert can be traced to 1780. In 1839, his great-grandfather Benjamin Kent was born to his slave mother Susan and his White slave owner father, James P. King. Ironically, General George Armstrong Custer was also born in 1839. Benjamin and his wife Rachel had sixteen children who are responsible for more than 2,000 descendants. It is believed that these former slaves had a greater impact on US history than many well-known historical figures like Custer. Each successive generation of the Kent family focused on getting their children as much education as possible.

In 1962, Michael's formal education began at the segregated Mt. Hope Elementary School in Sunderland. His principal was Harriet Elizabeth Brown who would later be recognized by the State of Maryland for helping to secure equal pay for Colored teachers in 1937. As a result of the desegregation efforts, he attended multiple schools. The first school with Caucasian classmates was at Mt. Harmony in Owings for the fifth and sixth grades. Grades seventh

and eighth were at the Junior high school, as it was then called, but has been renamed the Prince Frederick Middle School. From there, it was Calvert Senior high school for the ninth grade and Northern High School for grades tenth to twelfth. In 1975, Michael's class was the first to graduate from Northern High.

Michael continued his education for one year at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He left Lincoln to join the Navy Reserves and train as a Signalman. Upon completing training, he transferred to the University of Maryland College Park and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in English in 1979. After graduation, he worked for the Navy as a civilian in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Evenings were spent in classes at the Penn State University Ogontz campus, a class at Temple University in Philadelphia, and starting a Master's program at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. Subsequently, Michael entered Law School at the University of Maryland in Baltimore in 1981. Simultaneously, he was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, and while on a summer break from school, Michael obtained a certificate in computer programming from Catholic University in Washington, DC in 1981.

During the fall and spring, Michael continued to attend law school at night while clerking for both the State's Attorney in Prince George's County (Child Support Division) and the State's Attorney for Baltimore City (Traffic Division). After completing Law School in 1984, he worked as an Assistant State's Attorney for both Baltimore and Prince George's counties. He also did contractual work for the Federal Public Defender's office.

Upon returning to Calvert, Michael's interest in learning family history and local history increased. He used oral histories to find supporting documents at the State Archives, court records, church records, and private family collections. It is his goal to preserve Calvert County's Black history and to ensure future generations know it. Michael continues to disseminate as much information as possible by working with Calvert's Schools, Calvert Library, Historical Society, the NAACP, and the Maryland Commission for African American History and Culture.

# Charles Kinzer



Charles Kinzer has had a long history in Calvert County with his maternal family lineage hailing from *the County* well before Reconstruction. In his preteen years, he would journey from California to spend summers annually with his grandmother on “the farm” in Huntingtown. He lived and studied in Calvert during his adolescence enjoying the innocence that can almost only be experienced growing up in the countryside. Charles graduated from Calvert High in 1989 heading to Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

At Harvard, Charles majored in International Economics with a minor in Japanese. His college years, while challenging as he helped pay his way through school by working mostly full time, were immensely rewarding as his perspective and exposure to different ways of conceptualizing the world expanded exponentially. Inspired by a prestigious scholarship received from the US Senate in high school, Charles continued with his pursuit of the Japanese language, studying at Waseda University in Japan and becoming fluent in Japanese. He was active in various community service organizations and the fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi, where he was the community service director. After witnessing first-hand the “economic miracle” of Japan in the late eighties and experiencing an internship with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Charles became passionate

about finance and the international markets.

Charles started his career in investment banking at Credit Suisse in New York, where he worked first in structured finance, quantitative arbitrage, and portfolio analysis. He then moved on to managing some of the most important clients in the firm, including Freddie Mac, G.E. Capital, J.P. Morgan Arbitrage, T. Rowe Price, and Soros. While at Credit Suisse, Charles generated over \$300 million US dollars in sales driven revenues breaking all existing sales records each year and was the top grossing sales person globally almost every year. Charles was the youngest partner in Credit Suisse's history at twenty-six years old.

After ten years with Credit Suisse, Charles embarked on an extended sabbatical, taking close to four years to live between his homes in San Diego, California, and Tokyo, Japan. At that time, he went to Jochi University perfecting his Japanese. He also began his lifelong passion of tennis, taking intensive coaching daily. While contemplating taking a leadership position in the Credit Suisse Tokyo office, Charles made his first trip to the African continent, visiting Johannesburg on an investment trip. It was this visit to Africa that had both a symbolic significance to him – as he saw the very origin of his family's generational journey as African Americans – and presented itself as a location where he could combine his knowledge of finance and business with his interest in contributing to society.

He partnered with a local investment boutique focused on responsible investing in mainly African companies with an objective of engendering material social impact on the continent. Charles helped to invest in companies that focused on emerging farmer development, building affordable housing, microfinance, credit cards for low income households, public infrastructure, and school feeding programs. In total, his company owned a portfolio of eleven companies employing over 3,000 people and with over \$250 million US dollars of annual turnover.

Currently, Charles resides in Cape Town by the beach and sits on several boards and participates as an active shareholder in several companies. He is active in his local community and sponsors local orphanages, schools, and two local students through the university. Charles continues to invest and develop socially impactful businesses.

# Wallace Leeper



Wallace Lorenzo Leeper lived the motto: “Each one—reach one.” When he, the teacher and later the guidance counselor, had helped one student to succeed, he constantly looked for more students. Nurturing teachers such as Wallace are critically important to society for their contributions to public education—dedicating their careers to preparing students for real-world opportunities and

challenges. These teachers often see abilities in students that the youngsters don’t realize themselves. Importantly, they encourage students to develop their untapped potential so they can lead successful lives. Nurturing teachers make meaningful differences in students’ lives.

In fall 1959, Wallace began his career as an educator in Calvert County teaching History and English at William Sampson Brooks High School in Prince Frederick. He later worked as a basketball coach and guidance counselor at Calvert High School and the Calvert Vocational-Technical Center.

“My husband’s greatest enjoyment in his work was being able to secure employment for students upon graduation and even for those who quit school for various reasons,” Peggy Leeper said of her husband of 14 years. “He was particularly instrumental in helping students obtain entrance into college or other postgraduate schools.”

As a guidance counselor, Wallace was heavily involved in the engineering cooperative program called PAX-TENN sponsored by Naval Air Station Patuxent River near Lexington Park, and Tennessee State University in Knoxville. The program provided minority students college funding and employment at Patuxent Naval Air Station. Due to Wallace’s guidance and diligence, more than 20

Calvert students earned engineering degrees and obtained engineering positions through PAX-TENN.

In 1998, in appreciation of Wallace's dedication and excellence in guidance counseling to her and other students, Rhonda Thomas founded Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc., appropriately named in his memory. The organization focuses on exposing science, technology, engineering and math career options to underserved youths, as well as provides educational opportunities, including college and industry tours, mentoring and tutoring, scholarships, presentations, and exhibits. Over the years, LEAP Forward has presented more than 100 scholarships, including one named for Wallace.

"For some time at Calvert High, I believed I was headed to college to study English and to become a teacher," Thomas said. "If it were not for Mr. Leeper who recognized my mathematical aptitude, I would have never become an electrical engineer. Without the PAX-TENN program, college may not have been an option. I'm so grateful for his intervention in my life." Unfortunately at 43, Mr. Leeper lost his battle with cancer while Thomas was still in college in the late 1970s. Thomas said, "I formed LEAP Forward because I wanted to do for others what he did for me—work with youth to help them recognize their potential and prepare for future opportunities."

Active in the community, Wallace was a member of the United Teaching Profession and had served on various committees, task forces, and leadership training groups at the local and State levels. He was a member and sang in the choir at Christ Episcopal Church in Prince Frederick.

Wallace graduated from Virginia public schools and Virginia Union University of Richmond with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. He later received a Master's Degree in Guidance Counseling from Indiana State University.

"A great number of people owe their successes in life to Wallace Lorenzo Leeper," Peggy said. "He worked tirelessly to support students and provided an extremely personal touch to counseling. He really cared, and it showed through his actions."

# Dorien Isaiah Minor



Dorien Minor, 18, was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in Calvert County, where his family has resided since the late 1800s. He is currently a first-year student at the Georgia Institute of Technology with a major in atmospheric science/meteorology and a minor in environmental physics.

At Calvert High School, Dorien served as a Co-President of the National Technical Honor Society and Parliamentarian of the Future Business Leaders of America. Dorien was also a member of the Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) Scholars, National Society of High School Scholars, National Honor Society, VEX Robotics, MESA, Foreign Language Honorarium, the Academic Team, and the Calvert High Track and Field team. Moreover, he is a featured author in the inaugural *My Voice Matters: Telling Our Stories and Making a Difference* student anthology, sponsored by the Washington, DC, Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In addition, he has served as the President of the National Society of Black Engineers Jr. (CASH) Chapter for two consecutive years. His plans to date are to begin his career with the Weather Channel or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and later start his own STEM-related broadcast network.



From an early age, Dorien was infatuated with whatever was in the sky, whether it was the sun, the moon, clouds, or even airplanes. Like many adults, his mother and biggest supporter, Kimberly Thomas, recognized his unique anointing and interests, and went out of her way to provide the tools necessary. Dorien's knowledge, yearning, and efficacy did not just appear; they came with some obstacles. Growing up, Dorien could have lost faith because there was no father figure in the household. With the strength, resilience, love, and encouragement that his mother provided throughout his life, he prevailed. He has been successful in finding ways to share that adoration within his community in the manner that his family and community have given to him. Most notably, Dorien established the "Back to School Blessings Program" in 2008 in which students from pre-K to college were offered prayers for a successful school year, and provided backpacks filled with school supplies.

Often times when Dorien achieved special recognition, that feeling of joy was not communal. On many occasions, some people would exhibit an envious attitude towards his accomplishments without understanding the hard work or dedication that went into his success. In spite of how people may have viewed him, Dorien continued to focus on the promise that God has for him. Jeremiah 29:11 states, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

In light of his life experiences, Dorien centers his life around Matthew 23:12 which says, "For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." For him, he is here because of God's grace and his steadfast desire to become successful, a positive role model, and the best version of himself he can be.

Dorien's advice to anyone who wants to grow is simple: "seek God." A phrase that is often attributed to Matthew 6:33, he feels as though in every situation and obstacle life may throw at him, having a strong relationship with God has enabled him to use the power of prayer in order to take authority over all obstacles. He closed with a Special "THANK YOU" to his late grandmother, Grace Parker (1941-2018), for her love, support, and always praying on his behalf.

# Wilson Parran



Wilson H. Parran, a Calvert County native, is the youngest of ten children. He grew up on a tenant farm and attended segregated schools until grade 10, at which time he attended Calvert Senior High School where he graduated in 1968. He was the vice president of his senior class and voted the most dependable. During the Vietnam War era, Wilson served four years in the United States Air Force.

Wilson earned three degrees while working full time, raising a family, and attending college in the evenings and on weekends. He received his AA in Computer Science from Prince George's Community College, his BS in Organizational Management from Columbia Union College, and his MS in Information Systems from The George Washington University.

His career began at AT&T Long Lines as a craftsman. After the breakup of AT&T, he joined Bell Atlantic where he progressed to Vice President of Corporate Systems. He then joined Frontier Communications as President and Chief Information Officer of Frontier Information Technologies. He later retired from Frontier Communications.

After his retirement, he worked for KPMG; Calvert County Government; the Maryland Department of Public Safety and

Correctional Services; Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Transportation. He now serves as Calvert County's Deputy County Administrator.

As a public servant, Wilson served six years on the Calvert County Board of Education. Subsequently, he served on the Maryland State Board of Education and served as its President in 1989-1990. In 2000, he served as a Calvert County Trustee on the College of Southern Maryland Board of Trustees. He then served eight years as a Calvert County Commissioner from 2002 – 2010 and as its President from 2006 to 2010. At the national, state, and local levels he served on many Boards and Committees.

He is a graduate of the University of Maryland Academy for Excellence in Local Government, the County Leadership Institute at New York University Roger F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, Leadership Maryland Class of 1999, and Leadership Southern Maryland Class of 2009. He is the Past President of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) (1986) and Past President (2009) of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo).

Wilson is the recipient of the MABE Charles E. Willis Leadership Award (2007), the MACo Marilyn Praisner Public Service Award (2010), the League of Women Voters Public Leadership Award (2010), and the Concerned Black Women of Calvert County Distinguish Leadership Award (2010). In 2012, he received the Leadership Southern Maryland inaugural Heritage Award.

An active member of Mt. Olive UMC, Wilson is a certified Lay Servant, serves on the Finance Committee, and is the chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. He is also a NAACP Life Member.

He and Deborah, his wife of more than forty-five years, reside in Huntingtown. They have two sons, Dr. Damani Parran and Khalil Parran. They are most proud of their six grandchildren – Bria, Fraser, Sanaa, Jasmine, Khalil, Jr., and Emerson.

# *Terry Plater*



Born in Washington, DC, and a long time native of Sunderland, Terry Plater was educated in the Calvert County Public School System. He is a member of the last graduating class from William Sampson Brooks High School in 1966. Terry went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree from the Maryland State College, now The University of Maryland and completed post-graduate studies at Trinity College in Washington, DC.

Terry was a former State of Maryland Math, Engineering and Science Achievement Program Coordinator for Calvert's public schools. He is also a former Technology Education Teacher at Northern High School in Owings. During his tenure with the public school system, Terry was instrumental in implementing the new technology education program for the State of Maryland. As the MESA Coordinator, he led a team of competent students to State and national science and engineering competitions, where they won championships for consecutive years 2000 to 2010.

Among Terry's awards are the African American Teacher of the Year and a commendation from the Maryland State Superintendent for having one of the most exemplary technology education

programs in the State. He also received numerous service and excellence awards for his unprecedented accomplishments. In June 2010 after 40 years of distinguished service, Terry retired from Calvert County Public Schools. He has served as a consultant to the MESA Program for the Johns Hopkins Physics Laboratory in Columbia.

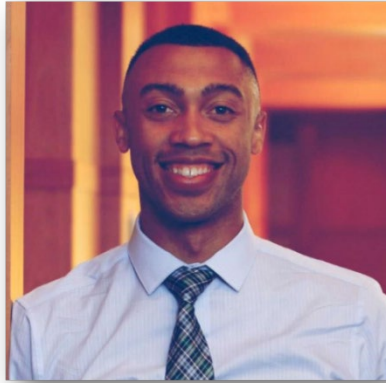
Terry is an ordained Elder and since 2010, under the leadership of Bishop Robert Watts, he has been the Assistant Pastor at Mt. Gethsemane Holiness Church in Huntingtown. In May 2018, he received his Honorary Doctoral Degree of Human Letters from Break Through Bible College in Capitol Heights, MD.

He has been married to the lovely Alice Young Plater for 48 years, and they are the proud parents of seven beautiful children and 11 grandchildren. Terry's hobbies include fishing, hunting, home remodeling, custom furniture making, bowling, golfing, and public speaking.

"When I finished William Sampson Brooks High, I was determined that I was as qualified as any other student graduating from any public school in the State of Maryland. So college was the next step for me in my quest to be a productive citizen in society," Terry said.

"As a consummate educator it is my desire to provide individuals with the opportunity to achieve and discover potentials far beyond their imagination. I am a believer that if we develop the whole man, body, soul, and spirit to see beyond himself, he will make a difference in this world and the world to come," Terry said. "In life we have choices, and I believe that it is our responsibility to provide this generation with the knowledge and skills necessary to better the future for all. So as we endeavor to move forward, let us not forget those who built bridges, paved highways, and opened doors that were once locked to us in order for us to be where we are today."

# Zachary Ray



Zachary “Zack” Ray was born in Prince Frederick, in 1990. His family has lived in Calvert County for over six generations. Zack’s mother, Joyce Holland-Ray, was the first member of his family to graduate with a college degree. His father, Douglas Ray, designed and built the family home.

Zack attended Huntingtown High School. As a freshman, when he failed to make the junior varsity basketball team, he joined the track team. As a hurdler and a long jumper, Zack won 12 Southern Maryland Athletic Conference titles, three State titles, and broke the State record in the 55-meter high hurdles.

He earned a track scholarship to the University of Maryland, College Park. Despite a strong first year at UMD, Zack suffered a season crippling injury early in his sophomore year, which prevented him from competing for almost two years.

Unable to run, Zack channeled his athletic frustration into academics and service. He pursued his passion in the criminal justice field with internships with the Prince George’s County Police and the District Court of Maryland. He worked as an academic tutor to his fellow teammates and other student-athletes at UMD. He also managed to travel to Uganda to build water-harvesting tanks for a small village as a part of an international immersion and leadership program through UMD.

During his senior semester at UMD, Zack returned to the track and again quickly excelled. He medaled in the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships and earned the Olympic B standard in the 110-meter high hurdles and the 400-meter intermediate hurdles, which made him eligible to compete at the 2012 US Olympic Team Trials.

He graduated from UMD with honors and enrolled in Boston University as a graduate student-athlete. At Boston University, Zack's injury returned. Despite the pain, Zack continued to compete. He qualified for the 2013 National Collegiate Athletic Association National Outdoor Track and Field Championships, where he ended his track career with a 14th place finish.

Zack graduated from BU with honors and a Master's Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Then, Zack enrolled in the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was elected President of Black Law Students Association.

As a law student, Zack studied how Black men in America are systematically over-policed, disproportionately criminalized, and punished more severely than any other demographic. Those hard truths continue to motivate Zack to help reform the criminal justice system.

After law school, Zack clerked for the Honorable Gershwin A. Drain, District Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and the Honorable Roger L. Gregory, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. His time with Federal courts taught him that justice is not a result but a process. Zack believes that we can only move toward justice if Black men increase their participation in the process as teachers, police officers, legislators, prosecutors, and judges. Zack is currently a litigation associate at Covington & Burling in Washington, DC, where his practice focuses on anti-corruption and Federal investigations.

"My advice to young people is to appreciate and transition from failure. When I didn't make the basketball team, I started my track career. And, when injury ended my track career, I became a lawyer. My life is proof that when one door closes, another one opens."

## *Jessie “Nick” Reid, Sr.*



In numerous ways, Jessie “Nick” Reid, Sr., demonstrated his dedication to service and civic mindedness to his country, state, and local community. He participated in a wide range of activities during his lifetime.

Starting with a tour of duty in the military, Nick served in the US Army from 1955 to 1957 and was a Korean War veteran. He taught science at William Sampson Brooks High School in Prince Frederick from 1957 to 1960. He became a school bus contractor in 1961. Over the years, Nick was president of the Calvert County School Bus Contractors Association, member of the State Bylaws Committee of the Maryland School Bus Contractors Association for two years, and President of the Maryland School Bus Contractors for two years. He was inducted in the International School Bus Contractors Association’s Hall of Fame.

Since 1974, Nick had been a member of the Huntingtown Fire



and Rescue Department. He served as firefighter, president for five years, treasurer, and member of the board of directors. He was inducted in the Southern Maryland Volunteer Fire Department Hall of Fame and the Calvert County Volunteer Fire Department Hall of Fame.

Also, at the community level, Nick was a member of the American Legion, Gray-Ray Post 220 and a first vice commander for several years. He was chairman of the Calvert County Housing Authority, chairman of the Industrial Park Authority, and vice chairman of the Calvert County Economic Commission. Nick was the first African American to hold the office of County Commissioner after he was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1982. He was recognized as the Republican Club's Man of the Year. The family of the late Nick and Ruth Nutter Reid received their posthumous lifetime achievement and contribution award on June 7, 2018, at the county's annual Republican Party Lincoln-Reagan dinner.

A native, Nick attended the public schools of Calvert County and graduated in 1950. He furthered his education at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture. He did additional studies at Morgan State University in Baltimore.

He was always active at his beloved Plum Point United Methodist Church of Huntingtown. Nick was a past chairman of the Trustee Committee and a former member of the Administrative Council.

Nick and Ruth were married for almost 60 years. They have one son Jessie Reid, Jr.

# Allen Reynolds



In 1993, Allen Reynolds became the first African American in Maryland to serve as a director of a mental health clinic. This was a milestone for him—both the end and the beginning of a personal journey.

Allen was born in Calvert County, in the same house in which he was raised. Their small house was home to his parents, their seven children, and it was where he learned lessons from his father that would shape his life. Two valuable lessons stand out: first, know that as an African American you will have to know more and work twice as hard to compete with your Caucasian counterparts; and second, be willing to share whatever you have, because you cannot hope to receive blessings with a closed fist.

Too poor to pay for college, Allen enlisted in the army after graduating from Calvert High School. It was a necessity—he had no real skills, no vision for his future, and no possibility of continuing his education—but three years in the military proved to be the key to his success. On the GI Bill, he could get the education he always

wanted, earning degrees in Sociology and Counselling Psychology. He routinely held as many as three jobs at once—not for the money, but because of his father’s admonitions. “Work harder, know more, learn more, and give more, because this world requires it of you.”

When Allen became the Director of the Calvert County Mental Health Clinic, he was able to bring real positive changes for Calvert County. He created the first school-based mental health program in Southern Maryland and established jail-based mental health services and a jail diversion program in the District Court. For twenty years, he was the Director of the first and only domestic violence shelter for women in Calvert County. Before retiring in 2015, he established Maryland’s first on-site pharmacy in a mental health clinic.

Since 1991, Allen has been a court-appointed mediator, helping estranged parents reach custody and visitation agreements for their children, calming the storms that can tear families apart. The work is hard and sometimes he sees little progress—but he likes to think that he’s brought something positive to painful situations.

In 1968, Calvert public schools were among the last in Maryland to desegregate, and even after Allen was attending Calvert High with Caucasian students, there were still places that refused to welcome him. There were restaurants he could enter to get food—as long as he didn’t ask for a seat. What he remembers most about that time is that his Caucasian friends would all wave and call him over as he walked through, drawing into stark contrast the old social norms and the changing attitudes of his generation. He believes that each generation will bring fresh acceptance and healing—as long as its members are willing to try. Maybe this sums up his life’s story: he’s been willing to try even when the odds were long, because he’s seen the good that can come from just being open to the possibilities. It takes faith to step forward and trust that something good can follow—and that is in essence what it means to work toward justice.

Allen’s advice to young people is the same advice he’s given his own sons: be courageous. “Learn as much as you can, work as hard as you can, and give as much as you can. This world requires it of you.”

# *Spencer Ellsworth Sewell*



Spencer E. Sewell was born on March 9, 1927, in Calvert County. He began his education at the old Central Elementary School, located on Armory Road, and completed his education at William Sampson Brooks High School, now the Board of Education. While his class started with one hundred ten students, Spencer was one of twenty-three to graduate. He was voted “Most Likely to Succeed” as well as “Most Dependable” of the class.

Upon graduation, Spencer began driving a school bus for the Board of Education. He aspired to have his own bus, and in 1951, he negotiated with the Board to purchase a forty-eight-passenger bus. That was the beginning of his long career as a school bus contractor. As of 2018, Sewell Bus Service continues to operate.

Another long career for Spencer was that of working in the family mortuary business, which was started in the late 1800’s by his grandfather, Wilcis Sewell. Spencer became a licensed Mortician in 1953 and took over the business in 1976 after the death of his father, Pinkney E. Sewell. A fact not known by many is that before ambulance service was readily available, the hearse was used to

transport sick people to other hospitals. As of 2018, Sewell Funeral Home is still in business.

Spencer was a longtime faithful member of Plum Point United Methodist Church in Huntingtown, where he served on the Finance Committee, Administrative Council, Charge Parsonage Committee, and the Senior Choir. He also held memberships in various organizations such as Alfred E. Young Lodge 99, which later merged with Dunkirk Lodge 77 Free and Accepted Masons; Calvert County Kiwanis; Calvert Memorial Hospital Board (where there is a bronze plaque bearing his name at the entrance); NAACP; Calvert County Election Board; Calvert County Ethics Committee; Assessment and Taxation Panel; and Sons of the American Legion.

He was a genuine friend within the community and willingly provided assistance where needed—a caring man. When he saw you, you very likely received a hug, a smile, a hearty laugh, or an encouraging word. He actively engaged in numerous community service organizations, where his leadership qualities surfaced—a man of concern and vision. He was a well-respected and well-loved man—not only by his family—but by many people in the community.

Spencer was married to Gladys G. “Dolly” Reid from 1931 to 1998 for almost 48 years. They were the proud parents of Gerald, Marcellas (1953-2005), Spencer Wade, and Gladys.

## *Guffrie M. Smith, Jr.*



Born 1942 in Scotland, Maryland, Guffrie Smith is the eldest of seventeen children. He says that holding this position carried a lot of responsibility and expectations. Guffrie readily accepted this role and became an even better model for his siblings. While neither of his parents had the opportunity to graduate from high school, they stressed getting a good

education to their children. Guffrie was encouraged to attend college by his parents, teachers, pastors, and community members.

After attending St. Mary's Public Schools, Guffrie earned his BS and MA degrees from Bowie State University—being the first in his family to earn college degrees. He completed post-graduate studies at the University of Maryland and Nova Southeastern University based in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

He and Catherine Smith have been married 54 years and have two daughters. The couple arrived in Calvert County in 1964. Guffrie began his teaching career at Appeal Elementary in Lusby and taught there seven years. Later, he returned as Principal for seven years and held multiple positions in the school system, most notably, Vice Principal and Director of Curriculum/Instruction. Before retirement in 1997, both he and Catherine worked in Calvert's Public Schools. Governor Martin O'Malley appointed Guffrie to the Maryland State Board of Education for the 2013 to 2017 term, and he served as Board President from July 2015 to June 2016.

Although retired, Guffrie still teaches children, mentors adults and youth, organizes events, and serves on boards of educational and nonprofit organizations. He is motivated to actively participate in the community following the examples set by his father. Although his

lack of self-confidence was a major obstacle for Guffrie during his youth, he overcame this in his late twenties as he grew to realize that “he was as good as the next person.”

Guffrie is President of the Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth (3CY). Through 3CY, he advocates for youths, collaborating with the Calvert County Public Schools, as well as local organizations to improve the lives of youths and families. He facilitates workshops at local schools and youth organizations to assist families with understanding the assets needed to succeed. He includes a discussion centered on “justice.” Guffrie said, “Justice is about doing the right thing, fairness, and equity. For us to move towards justice, we must become active in all facets of life, stand up for what we believe, challenge inequities, think before we act, and give everyone a chance.”

He holds key positions at Patuxent United Methodist Church in Huntingtown. Guffrie served on the Church’s prison ministry team for eight years. Other community commitments include Christmas in April and the Historical Society. One of Guffrie’s most recent major projects was working to secure the old SMECO building as a temporary community center and serving on the taskforce that advocated for naming the center after Harriett Elizabeth Brown who successfully sued and won equal pay for Calvert’s Colored teachers in 1937.

In 2003, Guffrie and Catherine were crowned Calvert’s United Way Mardi Gras King and Queen for their outstanding fundraising efforts. The funds were distributed to 39 organizations to help meet the most basic needs—food, clothing, and housing—of people. This work earned the Smiths the Maryland State Teachers Association Martin Luther King Community Award. In 2009, Guffrie received the Louis L. Goldstein Award from the Calvert County Democratic Central Committee and in 2014, the Governor William Donald Schaffer Helping Hand Award for Calvert County.

“My advice to young people is to build on your strengths, stay focused, be persistent, care about others, try to help as many people as possible, and to be open to new and diverse experiences,” Guffrie said.

# Nehemiah Stewart



Nehemiah Stewart, a recipient of a 4-year grant that pays 75 percent of his tuition, entered his sophomore year at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall of 2018. He feels blessed to major in biochemistry with a concentrated math minor. Along with his core curriculum, he balances a job in a neuroscience lab working alongside principal investigator Dr. Mohanish Deshmukh and others on a project he designed towards the end of his freshman year. The project aims to slow and eventually eliminate the Amyloid Plaques that form in the brain due to Alzheimer's disease. He prays that with many hours of research and much experience he will be able to contribute to and advance the cure for this terrible disease.

From a single-family, as a child Nehemiah could only sit and watch his mother's efforts to sustain the family. His older brother and he could see the fatigue on her face after long hours of work. They found solace and strength in each other as a family and did whatever they could to lighten the burden placed on their mom. Things became bleak when his grandfather became sick with pancreatic cancer and passed in 2006. In Nehemiah's life, his



grandfather was the only male figure he had at the time. In his last few weeks, he remembers his grandfather telling him—a seven-year-old boy—to be the man of the house and continue his work in leading the family towards Christ and a better life. At the time, he did not see how this would be possible, but as he reflected over the years, his grandfather's intentions became increasingly clear. Nevertheless, this would prove to be a defining moment in his life, as he took this event as a sign for him to apply himself fully to enter the medical field and try to help all those who suffered like his grandfather. He tries each day to measure up to the standards his grandfather upheld in his life.

Nehemiah advises young people not to wait until the resources are right or they are a certain age to start finding a passion and working towards it. "It's easy to deceive ourselves into believing that 'if some circumstance could have been different' or 'if we could wait until a certain time,' then we would be able to accomplish some goal," Nehemiah said. "But, in all honesty there is no need to wait, because whatever you believe you could accomplish then, you can surely accomplish now. I truly believe the longer you wait to begin, the less likely you are ever to finish."

As a way to relax and have fun, most of Nehemiah's life he has played basketball. Since he was not recruited by "Carolina" to play basketball out of high school, he tried out for the team his freshman year and found favor from God to be placed on the junior varsity team. "Carolina" offers this team to prepare players who they deem capable of higher level varsity play but need a few more years of training.

# Earl Thorne



For Earl S. Thorne, doing his job meant more than just going to work. He spent 36 years in the Calvert County Public School System. His teaching career began in 1959 as a social studies teacher at William Sampson Brooks High. Following school desegregation, he accepted a position at Calvert Middle School and later was offered the position of Vice Principal. Earl also worked as Vice Principal at Northern Middle School. In 1970, he was named the Principal at Southern Middle School and became the first African American middle school Principal in Calvert County. Earl later returned to Northern Middle as Principal and retired in 1995.

Throughout his life, Earl imparted advice and words of wisdom to many people. He lived by the motto: “It’s better to be prepared and not go, than to go and not be prepared.” He empowered students, influenced colleagues, and welcomed and embraced friends and family. Anyone Earl met was immediately drawn to his integrity, character, and smile. The one thing that he encouraged everyone to do is to “be the best you that you can be.” He would tell students, friends, and family members: “If you did your best, that’s all that can be expected, but you need to make sure you did your best.” His

former students still come up to his relatives and tell stories of how “Mr. Thorne stayed on me. . . .” He helped make them who they are by his encouragement, teachings, or creative punishments.

Earl spent his childhood years in both Baltimore and Coatesville, Pennsylvania. He later moved to Howard County, Maryland, and finished his secondary education at Harriet Tubman High School in 1955. He attended Bowie State Teachers College, where he was nicknamed “Doc” and “Professor.” He received his BS in Education from Bowie, where he also met Veronica Irene Mason, the woman who later became his life partner. They were married on August 22, 1959, for fifty-three years, and from this union, two children were born.

He was involved with the Calvert Education Association and even held the office of President for a term. As a Principal, Earl was active with the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals and was a lifetime member of the Maryland PTA.

Earl’s tenacity and enthusiasm for education were also evident in his involvement in social and community activities. He was a member of the Red Cross, St. John Vianney Parish Council, and Calvert Memorial Hospital Board of Directors. He was also appointed to Calvert’s Planning and Zoning Commission and Citizens Advisory Board.

In the late 70s, Earl and Veronica became Independent Shaklee Distributors. They educated many on improving or maintaining their health and creating healthy homes. Shaklee was not the only business he helped grow. In 1996, his daughter and son-in-law started Smart Ride, Inc., a transportation company. He was an integral part of the growth and stability of the company offering advice, labor, office space, and funds to help keep the business going. Through both of these businesses, he formed many strong friendships.

Earl was a devoted member of the Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. One principle of the Knights focuses on patriotism. Earl took that to heart and started a flag program in several of the county public and private schools. He later opened this program up to the community by providing flags to all county schools and community members.

# Bishop Robert D. Watts



Robert Watts excels in his gifts of memorizing Scripture, teaching, and interpreting the Bible. A minister for fifty-four years, he loves teaching the Word of God, especially the Book of Revelation. He is the founding Pastor of Mt. Gethsemane Holiness Church established December 3, 1995, in Huntingtown. The Church's mission is achieved through worship, teaching, witnessing, fellowship, and outreach.

Robert was baptized in May 1957 at Bethel Way of the Cross Church in Huntingtown, under the leadership of his then pastor, the late Bishop Jacob A. Green. He served on the Deacon Board and taught the youth Bible Class and the adult Bible Class for 30 years. Before becoming a minister, Robert thought very seriously about the importance of the position. He recalls making the decision involved some unforgettable events.

In 1958, the then Bishop H.C. Brooks of the Way of the Cross Church, Washington, DC, asked him to consider the ministry to help his pastor. Robert, however, didn't feel he was ready to preach. In 1963, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Told by the doctor that without surgery he would be hospitalized at least three years, Robert responded, "I will wait on the Lord." He was encouraged by Psalm 127:1, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in

vain.” While in the hospital, he taught Bible Classes. After one year, not three, he was healed and discharged. Robert was now ready to preach. He gave his trial sermon in December 1964.

After serving as a minister for 25 years, he took the test to become an Elder and passed it with a score of 92 out of a possible 100. In August 1989, he was ordained Elder. Because of God’s goodness and mercy, he stands today fifty-four years later saying, “Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come” (Acts 26:22).

Outreach ministry is essential to doing God’s work. For several years, Robert taught Bible Study at Calvert Library Fairview Branch in Owings and then at Mt. Hope Community Center in Sunderland. Every third Saturday, he is on call at the Calvert Health Medical Center and does prison ministry at the Detention Center.

A Sunderland native, Robert completed Brooks High School in 1947 then worked for a construction company. He later was employed by the State Roads Commission, now the Maryland State Highway Administration. Robert said he was the first Negro to take and pass the foreman and truck driver test, but was denied both jobs.

On February 11, 1952, Robert was enlisted in the US Army, serving 13 months in Korea, and was sent to Noncommissioned Officers Training School. After serving two years, he was honorably discharged as a Corporal. He received the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Stars.

He returned to the State Roads as a laborer and light equipment operator for 13 years. In 1959, Robert worked as a messenger at the US Census Bureau in Suitland, Maryland, retiring in 1996 from his supervisory position as an Archives Technician in the Records Division.

An avid baseball player from age sixteen to twenty-six, Robert played every position except catcher. He played with the Owings Eagles, Huntingtown, and the Adelina Foxes.

Robert and his late wife, Betty Holland Watts, were married 62 years. They are the parents of three daughters.

## Judge E. Gregory Wells



“My desire to help others was the primary motivator to pursue a career as a judge,” Greg Wells said. “My high school’s motto is ‘Men for Others.’ This has been the guiding principle for most of my adult life. Moreover, I have the legal training and desire to be an effective judge. Patience and a desire to reach a just result are also important.” Greg added, “No one person influenced my life choices. I thank my parents and grandparents for providing diverse examples of good behavior.”

In September 2008, Greg became the first African American district court judge, Fourth District, in Calvert County. He will hear about 20,000 cases a year. He is in court two days each week in both Calvert and St. Mary’s counties and one day a week in Charles County. Prior to being named a judge, he was an assistant attorney general in the criminal appeals division of the state Attorney general’s office since January 2007. He spent ten years in the Calvert County State’s Attorney’s Office, three as deputy state’s attorney. Then, he served seven years as master for domestic relations and juvenile causes. He was selected Calvert’s State’s Attorney when Robert Riddle was appointed associate judge for the District Court in 2005. Greg became the first African American to serve as Calvert’s top prosecutor, but lost the position to State’s Attorney Laura Martin in

the 2006 election. He began his legal career in private practice before becoming an assistant state's attorney in Prince George's County.

Asked what does "justice" mean and how can we move towards it? "Since I am in the business of dispensing justice, I have a keen interest in this topic," Greg said. "In general, justice means being fair to everyone. In a legal sense, the dispensation of justice means treating each person fairly before the law, irrespective of that person's standing in the community, high or low. In a societal sense, justice refers to an equality of opportunity open to all regardless of their background. We strive for justice in this societal sense when we value truth. This demands honesty in ourselves and in our institutions. We do ourselves no favors, and, in fact, become unjust, when we stray from this central tenant. Justice might best be achieved when we strive to help others."

He offered some advice for young people. "Strive to do well in everything," Greg said. "Not everyone can be an actor, professional athlete, or otherwise a famous person. Joy and satisfaction come from being engaged with others and doing satisfying work, regardless what that might be."

Over the years, Greg has been involved in several community-related activities. For ten years, he was a board member and tutor with the Calvert Literacy Council teaching adults reading skills. Greg was involved with the Calvert Marine Museum for several years. He has volunteered with the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calvert County, and the Family Network. Greg is currently a volunteer with the Calvert Arts Council and the Calvert Nature Society.

A Calvert County resident since 1994, he previously lived in Prince George's County. Greg was born in Washington, DC.

"Thankfully, I have had good health all of my life. Fortunately, fate has been kind and not dealt me many blows," Greg said. "Like everyone I have faced my share of disappointments, but I learned long ago that failure is a chance to do better. Therefore, there really are no 'failures,' simply opportunities. I guess I am blessed with an optimistic outlook on life."

-Thanks to *Calvert Recorder* for content from September 10, 2018 article.

# Antoine Sartoria White



On December 22, 1970, Antoine White was born in Prince Frederick to his single mother, Barbara Ann Ellen White. His family has resided in Calvert County for six generations. Growing up, there was little money and luxury in his home. More importantly, Antoine's mother taught values to guide him through life—love God, respect your elders, be colorblind about people, treat others the way they deserve to be treated, do well in school, and always use good grammar.

Antoine obtained most of his education in Calvert's public schools. Ms. Frankie Johnson, one of his many nurturing elementary teachers, told him he would become a leader and not to fear standing alone. He, however, was shy, soft spoken, felt he was too tall, dressed poorly, not attractive, and intentionally blended in.

In middle school when Antoine's mother and teachers found out he was underperforming, he was placed in more challenging classes. One day, a substitute teacher reported some of his buddies for acting up. The following day, they all were called to the principal's office and paddled, although Antoine pleaded he was absent. Later, his teacher admitted adding his name because he was always part of the crew, and she hadn't checked the attendance. From this experience, he better appreciated standing alone. Antoine attended Caesar Rodney High, a model prep school in Delaware, his junior year while he lived with his father. Not many Black students went there, so he



had to adjust and stand alone. Eventually, he truly embraced diversity. Upon returning to Calvert High, Antoine met disapproval from friends, because they said he spoke and acted differently. He graduated in 1988 and developed interests in leadership and electronics. Then, Antoine desired to serve, a character trait he emulated from his mother. He joined the US Air force and became a Squad leader. While there, he received his civil engineering certification from Temple University in 1990.

In 1991, Antoine returned home and competed with 180 male applicants, the only African American selected of 19, for a Journeyman Lineman apprenticeship at SMECO. Antoine faced obstacles, such as obtaining a Class A Commercial Driver's license, working unbelievable hours, and climbing 45-foot poles working with 69K volts. Unfortunately, his earliest years at SMECO were filled with blatant racism. Colleagues said he was selected because of affirmative action, called him a drug dealer, threatened him for dating women of his choosing, and verbally abused him for exposing SMECO's shortcomings. He also was a Chief Lineman and Serviceman. Despite it all, Antoine enjoyed his 25-year career, because it helped prepare him for future endeavors.

Primarily, Antoine has focused on honoring God, building relationships, and giving back to the community. For several years, he served on the Youth Ministry at Emmanuel Church. In 2003, Antoine founded D.A.N.C.E Empowerment designed to **keep** kids in school and away from drugs, alcohol, and violence. He has coached youth sports, including basketball, football, and soccer for the past 20 years. Since 2016, Antoine has operated as a Loan Originator with Movement Mortgage and High Voltage Tech at the US Naval Academy.

Antoine said, "You can't control what life throws at you, but you can choose how you handle it. I've been through many things that could have changed my focus. Justice isn't the same for African Americans as it is for others in the United States. I pray one day the world will focus on people's similarities instead of their differences."

Even though he devotes numerous hours to community service, Antoine's most important priority is his family. Parents of two sons and a daughter, he and his wife, Tamara, have been married 20 years.

# William Wiggins



Will Wiggins hails from rural Suffolk, Virginia, which is across the river from the first permanent English-speaking settlement in America—Jamestown. During his early years, Will acknowledged that a number of historic figures: a King, a Kennedy, a Malcom, and a Mandela had profoundly influenced and flavored his life's journey. None, however, had a greater

impact than Christ, whose life literally interrupted time, the course of history, and continues to be his daily guide.

Known as a big history buff, Will enjoys a full life built on his parents' simple notion: "you can achieve." His North Carolina parents—first-generation, off-the-farm—a mother who worked local farms, strongly emphasized education and a father, a high school graduate, often spoke of being responsible. Both took special interest in caring for their families and the less fortunate among them. These parental influences and proximity to American history would play a defining role in Will's upbringing and ultimately his adult life.

During the 1960s, all across Virginia, fourth graders took the annual field trip to Jamestown. Economically challenged and highly disappointed, Will would not make the trip until 31 years later, proudly crossing over the Jamestown marsh as a civil servant to help plan Jamestown's 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration, 1607-2007.

He recalls how concerted efforts to bring Native Americans and other underrepresented groups to the commemoration made it all worthwhile for him. "After I heard the unfiltered record of their contributions, that was the untold story I wanted to share—how

Native Americans and African Americans helped Jamestown survive—making America a reality. Throughout the commemoration, their sacrifices and contributions were duly recognized, along with all the other national and international dignitaries attending.”

Will’s federal service spanned the Departments of Defense, Navy, Veterans Affairs, and Transportation. At Transportation, he was particularly successful in increasing transit access to the underserved, by helping to lead nine federal agencies into consolidating their transit funding to improve service nationwide.

During a 40-year military career, Will served in both the Air Force and the Army, rising from a basic airman-trainee to a senior Army Colonel. He had two Pentagon tours, a combat theater stint, a direct assignment to the U.S. European Commander, and served as an aide to the former Secretary of Defense, General Colin Powell.

Currently, Will is vice-chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Calvert County Board of Education, volunteers on several community groups, and is an ordained deacon. Annually, his firm, Remnant Center of Excellence, holds the Southern Maryland Aviation & Career Camp—a youth career development activity. And, he is working on the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Scholars Program—a student-to-educator pipeline.

Will holds a bachelor’s degree in Biomedical Photographic Communications from Rochester Institute of Technology in New York and a master’s in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. And, he is a graduate of the Defense Information School, National Defense University and a recipient of the Department of the Army Legion of Merit Award.

Residing in Huntingtown and married to the former Evelyn Sexton for 31 years, the couple has four daughters: Ashley (accountant), Janae (nurse), Dana (engineer), Shannon (future technologist); and one son: Keegan (future race car driver).

“My family and I stand on the shoulders and accomplishments of so many, and we have an undeniable obligation to likewise achieve.”

## *Bishop Amos Young, Jr.*



Amos Ellis Young, Jr., was always a person of great faith who truly loved his Lord and Savior. When he was a child, he would often ask his mother, “When is Jesus coming back?” At the time, he attended Carroll-Western United Methodist Church in Adelina. Then, he and his wife, Bertha Wallace Young, attended Patuxent United Methodist Church in Huntingtown, where he served as superintendent of Sunday School.

In February 1962, Amos was baptized at the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith in Washington, DC. He started his fellowship with the Apostolic Faith Church in Brandywine, and received the Holy Ghost in February 1963.

Just two years later, Amos was called into the ministry and eventually became an Elder and Assistant Pastor. In this capacity, he ministered to the spiritual needs of the members and community by visiting the sick and homebound. As spiritual advisor, he respected confidences and availed himself whenever needed even if it was the middle of the night or he was out of town. If necessary, he brought them to church when they needed transportation and provided food and financial support. His physical contributions included helping to

build the Apostolic Faith Church edifices in Brandywine and Owings, and in Millsboro, Delaware, as well as maintaining the cemetery in Brandywine. On August 9, 1987, he was installed as Pastor and Overseer. His steadfastness and faithfulness were rewarded in December 2000 when he was ordained Bishop. When he retired on August 1, 2012, he accepted the role of Pastor Emeritus.

A man of multiple interests and capabilities, Amos was a supervisor for Gly Construction in Prince George's County over twenty years and a part-time real estate agent for Weems Realty in Prince Frederick for more than five years. On August 13, 1979, Amos began working for the Calvert County government. His first job was a grounds inspector with the Division of Inspections and Permits. He was named the county's first Highway Maintenance division chief in June 1985. Upon retirement from the position on February, 20, 2005, he had 26 years of service.

During his formative years, Amos was an avid sandlot baseball player. He was a skilled pitcher. He and older brother, Leonard, second baseman, played for the Adelina Foxes. They wore their uniforms under their church suits so they could leave church and go straight to the ball field. Later, Amos developed a love for classic cars. He was overjoyed when his wife located and purchased a 1963½ red Ford Galaxie for him.

In 1955, Amos graduated from William Sampson Brooks High School in Prince Frederick, where he excelled in academics and lettered in football, baseball, and basketball. He continued his education at Charles County Community College, now the College of Southern Maryland, where he obtained a Real Estate Certificate subsequently earning a Real Estate License.

Amos and his high school sweetheart, Bertha, were married for almost sixty years. They have two loving children: Lafonso Young and Anita Tolson.

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