

✱ Sandhills Black Voices Newspaper ✱

VOL. 1, NO. 2

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGY SOCIETY AWARDS NAMES RECIPIENT

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO  
NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGY



DESI L. CAMPBELL

CELEBRATE

Pastor Kenneth H. Swann Celebrates 10th year  
Pastor's Anniversary



Sunday, November 3, 2024  
Cameron Grove AME Zion  
Church Broadway, NC



Lee County Youth Nevelon  
Green placed 1st Place in  
the Carolina Best  
Competition sponsored by  
WIDU 1600Am

"You are not and yet you are: your thoughts, your deeds, above all your  
dreams still live." — W.E.B. Du Bois, activist and sociologist



Please scan to join  
our mailing list



910-882-3851

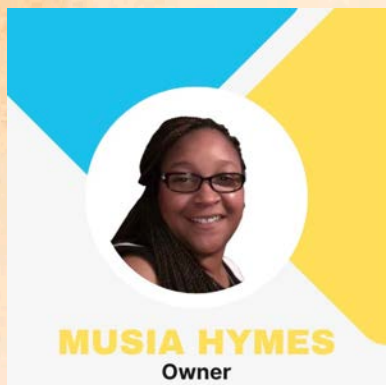
sandhillsblackvoices@gmail.com

www.africanamafricanexperience.org

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By Denise Thurman



On Point Trucking Academy located at 121 N. Willson Ave. Dunn, held their ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 11, 2024. On Point, owned and operated by Musia Hymes, Founder/CEO, is a licensed commercial truck driver training school, fully accredited by the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. This licensing ensures that the Academy meets all state standards, providing students with a certified and credible pathway to obtaining a Commercial Driver License (CDL).

On Point Trucking Academy offers a comprehensive CDL program that runs for 4-6 weeks and includes 160 hours of training. The program is certified by the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, ensuring that students receive top-quality instruction that meets all regulatory standards. Once students complete their certification they are eligible to go to the DMV to test for and obtain a North Carolina CDL, fully prepared to start their careers in the trucking industry. Their goal is to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive and enter the trucking industry confidently.

The team at On Point Trucking Academy is comprised of a dedicated staff of ten professionals. This team includes Ms. Hymes, founder/CEO, Shannon Lockamy, founder/Director of Operations, Recruiting Director, Director of Instructors, and five skilled instructors. Each team member brings unique expertise and a shared commitment to delivering an exceptional training experience. The On Point team works to ensure that every aspect of the program is well-supported and focused on student success.

Ms. Hymes stated that she decided to start On Point Trucking Academy right after attending CDL school. "My experience there was less than ideal, and I quickly realized how much room there was for improvement in the quality of CDL training. It was clear to me that I could make a positive impact by creating an academy that truly supports and equips students for success. I began researching and planning to establish my own CDL school with a mission to provide a more supportive, inclusive experience for future drivers." This student-focused approach sets On Point Trucking Academy apart as they are able to provide personalized instruction. On Point is driven by a mission to make trucking more inclusive, with a team that understands the challenges and unique needs of each student. Unlike many programs, we prioritize support, accessibility, and quality, from our small class sizes to our dedicated staff who offer guidance at every step, ensuring students feel confident and prepared to start their careers. On Point is Black-owned, woman-owned business and Ms. Hymes and Ms. Lockamy faced several challenges as women in a male-dominated industry having to overcome stereotypes/misconceptions about women in the industry. This just inspired them to be resilient and innovative. Ms. Hymes shared:

"Earning respect required proving myself, often more than others, and showing that my skills, knowledge, and work ethic are on par with or better than anyone else in the field. Additionally, I've had to navigate some barriers to networking and mentorship opportunities, that are more easily accessible to men. Having such an experience only strengthened my commitment to make trucking an inclusive space. This mission is a part of the inspiration for establishing On Point Trucking Academy—to help create an environment where everyone feels supported and equipped to succeed, regardless of their background."

The official opening date for On Point Trucking Academy was October 14, 2024. The cohort of classes starts soon and will typically be scheduled on a rolling basis allowing new students to join without a long waiting period to begin instruction.

For the most current information, prospective students should contact On Point by visiting their website: <https://onpointtruckingacademy.com/>

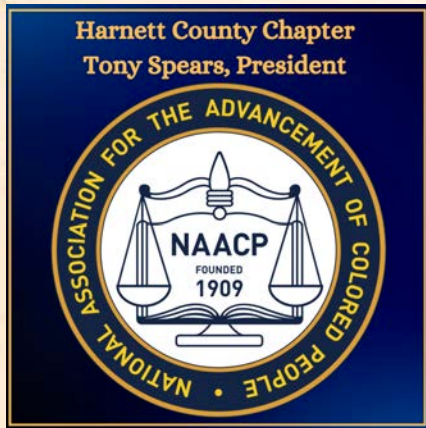
Or visiting in person at:

121 N. Wilson Avenue

Dunn, NC 28334

1-844-463-6235

Email: [recruiters@onpointtruckingacademy.com](mailto:recruiters@onpointtruckingacademy.com)



**Tony Spears  
President**

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. Meetings are held every third Tuesday in each month.

[harnettsecretarynaacp@gmail.com](mailto:harnettsecretarynaacp@gmail.com)

## A Guide to Local Funeral Homes and Services



**302 Spring Branch Rd  
Dunn, NC 28334  
Tel: 910 292 2507**



**163 Irene Roberts Rd , Lillington, NC  
(910) 814-1200  
[walkerfuneralhome@aol.com](mailto:walkerfuneralhome@aol.com)  
[walkermemorialfh.com](http://walkermemorialfh.com)**



**DAFFORD  
FUNERAL HOME**  
**Dafford Funeral Home, Inc.  
707 E. Edgerton St. | Dunn, NC  
28334  
Tel: 1-910-892-6061**



# Sandhills African American Churches



Bishop Reginald S. Hinton  
and Lady Janet Hinton

Mount Pisgah Harnett  
Original  
Freewill Baptist Church

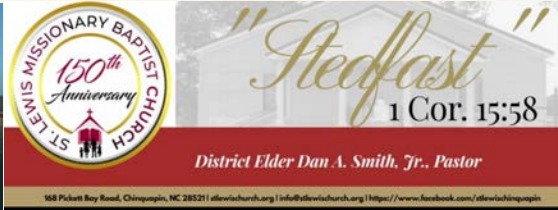
145 Prospect Road Church  
Erwin, NC  
Sunday School 9:45  
Sunday Morning Service 11am



Pastor Coleman and Francine Elliott  
Lillington Grove FWB Church  
106 East Washington Street  
Lillington, NC 27546



183 Bailey Way Road, Lillington,  
NC, (910) 893-5792  
lillingtonstar@gmail.com  
www.lillingtonstar.org



Email Church news/events to: sandhillsblackvoices@gmail.com

## Meet the African American Candidates from Harnett County



Tanya White Anderson

A seasoned educator and postal worker with years of experience in operations development, staff recruitment, project management, and leadership, Ms. White Anderson excels as a T-6 technician city carrier and 204B Customer Service Supervisor. In addition, in the midst of retiring from her work with the U.S. Postal Service, Ms. White Anderson is the precinct chair of the Stewart Creek #20 Hartnett County Democratic Party and a North Carolina State Senate candidate for District 12.

Throughout her military career, she managed administrative operations as a supervisor and worked as a counselor in the U.S. Army. During the early stages of her career, she gained valuable expertise as an Army Reserve recruiter between 1995 and 1997. Ms. White Anderson screened military and civilian personnel for recruitment purposes and advised military commands.

An expert in her field, Ms. White Anderson earned a Master's degree with honors in Human Resources from Webster University 2002; a bachelor's degree with honors in Psychology from Campbell University in 2001, and an Arts Degree from Campbell University in 2000. Subsequently, she expanded her professional knowledge, completing an Associate of Science in paralegal studies through Liberty University in 2022. Driven to remain abreast of changes in the field, Ms. White Anderson aligns herself with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees (NAPFE local 316) as the Vice-President and Labor Representative, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP 5743).



Kevin G. Thurman

I am running for NC House District 53 because I want better schools and better jobs in every corner of North Carolina. I am a proud Harnett County native who comes from a family of educators. Because of them, I understand that a quality public education empowers our children and strengthens our state.

Unfortunately, the Republican-led General Assembly has developed a voucher scheme which defunds our education system and funnels the money into private schools. Rich people can take taxpayer dollars and spend it on their children's private school tuition. These schools can deny enrollment to children for any reason. If a child transfers from a private school to a public school, the private school is allowed to keep the money for that child. Meanwhile, public schools are severely underfunded, facing dire staffing shortages and harming school performance. This scheme is unacceptable.

In many counties, the public school system is one of the largest employers, and county tax bases are largely determined by residents who work in those counties. Increasing teacher pay will increase county tax bases and attract economic development. Furthermore, a school funding increase allows low-performing schools to improve their performance. Educators are doing their best in a grave situation, but the defunding of public education has created more low-performing schools. Residents do not want to stay in areas with low-performing schools, and businesses are not going to expand in areas with low-performing schools.

In the state House I will fight to increase school funding and teacher pay. Residents will then be more likely to stay in rural areas, and businesses will be more likely to expand in rural areas. Vote for me and let's move North Carolina forward!



Harnett County African American Candidates



Kiara Johnson  
NC House District 6



Olaf El  
Harnett County School Board  
District 4



Markita McCrimmon  
Harnett County Commissioner  
District 5



Rose Ferguson

Rose Ferguson, Candidate for Harnett County Board of Education, District 2

I'm a proud product of Harnett County schools and a retired educator/principal with over 35 years of experience. With a deep-rooted commitment to the success of every child, my campaign is focused on advocating for positive change in the county's educational system.

Born and raised on a farm in Harnett County, my journey in education began as an educator in Harnett County. While, I left the county for several years, I have returned and have observed the unacceptable progress. I'm dedicated to ensuring that every student in Harnett County has the opportunity to learn, thrive and succeed.

My campaign is driven by the belief that every child needs a champion to advocate for their success. I am deeply concerned about the current status of some of the county's schools, where over 50% of students are considered non-proficient. I'm committed to tearing down the barriers of historical inequalities and inequities that persist.

"The children of Harnett County deserve better, and we can make it better". Failure is not an option and I am all in for kids."

My platform focuses on supporting students and families in Harnett County, with a vision to create a more equitable and inclusive educational environment. I am dedicated to working collaboratively with educators, parents, and community members to address the challenges facing the county's schools and to ensure that every child has access to a high-quality education.

I'm seeking the support of the community to stand firm in advocating for positive change in Harnett County's educational system.

Make every second count!

Lee County African American Candidates



Clara Hooker  
Lee County Board of Education



Sonda Williams Ray  
Lee County Board of Education



Craig James  
Lee County District 12 Seat 6

Kingdom Voices United Celebrates Annual Concert



Minister LaWanda Leggett  
Visionary



**Kingdom Voices United** was founded in 2023 by Minister Lawanda Leggett, a prominent soloist in the Harnett and Cumberland communities, known for singing at funerals and various events. Inspired by her vision to bring together voices from different churches, she partnered with local music leaders Roy Lee Harris, Tony Smith, Elder Greg Mitchell, Pastor Jason Trusell, and Pastor Stanley Douglas to bring this dream to life.

Word spread, and singers from churches across the region began gathering monthly for rehearsals, held at different venues to accommodate members from Harnett and Lee Counties. Under the direction of La'Tonya Anderson and with the musical expertise of EJ Stewart from BK Productions, the choir held its first concert in September 2023 at Dunn Chapel Church in Dunn, NC.

Throughout the year, Kingdom Voices United continued to perform at community events, maintaining a dedicated membership of at least 25 singers. By September 2024, the choir celebrated its second concert at Dunn Chapel Church, drawing a spirit-filled audience and reinforcing their mission to unite and uplift the community through song.



# Celebrating Four Years of Legacy at the Harnett County African American Heritage Center

The event kicked off at 3:00 PM with an air of excitement as attendees mingled, sharing stories and revisiting memories that link generations across time. The Heritage Center, founded to preserve the histories and cultural legacies of African American families in Harnett County and surrounding areas, has become a pillar for the community and an essential resource for historians and genealogists alike.

### Honoring the Legacy

The ceremony included speeches from notable historians, community leaders, and family descendants, each expressing gratitude for the Heritage Center's work. The center's founder highlighted its accomplishments, including the growth of the African American Experience obituary database, which now contains over 6,000 records, thanks to contributions from dedicated community members. Named in honor of Mrs. Mamie Davis Walker, who personally preserved more than 2,000 obituaries, the database remains a cornerstone for African American genealogical research and remembrance.

### A Community Celebration

In addition to speeches, the afternoon included live performances by local musicians, a showcase of historical artifacts, and an exhibition of artwork by African American artists from the region. Families enjoyed refreshments and activities, with local artisans selling handcrafted items inspired by African American heritage. The sense of community was palpable, as attendees took the time to connect with relatives, friends, and neighbors, sharing their own family histories and learning about others.

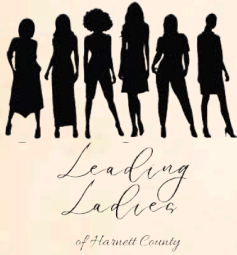
### Looking Ahead

As the celebration concluded, attendees reflected on the journey thus far and the legacy being created for future generations. Plans for expanding the Heritage Center's reach were announced, with initiatives to include more educational programs, workshops, and community archives. The center's dedication to preserving African American history ensures that the stories of the past will continue to inspire and educate for years to come.

This fourth-anniversary event stood as a powerful reminder of the importance of preserving history and celebrating culture—a day that will be remembered as both a tribute to the past and a commitment to the future.



Pamela Williams  
President



## Help Foster Children in Harnett County!

Did you know that as of 2022, there were 369,000 children in the child welfare system, with many spending years in foster care? Unfortunately, many of these children are forced to transport their belongings in plastic or trash bags. the Leading Ladies of Harnett County believe they deserve better!

Join us in our Luggage Drop-Off Event!

We're asking the community to donate gently used luggage to help foster children in Harnett County. From December 1, 2024, to February 2, 2025, you can drop off your luggage at designated locations (to be announced closer to the date).

### How You Can Help:

- Donate: If you have luggage that you no longer use, please consider donating it.
- Spread the Word: Share this message with friends, family, and your networks.
- Become a Drop-Off Location: If your business, agency, or church would like to serve as a drop-off point, please contact us!

Our goal is to collect **50 pieces of luggage** to ensure that foster children can transport their belongings with dignity.

The Leading Ladies of Harnett County, Inc., founded by Pamela Williams with co-founder Frances McNeill and 24 founding members, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to empowering women of color in Harnett County, North Carolina. Their mission is to unite women across backgrounds, enabling them to excel and challenge negative stereotypes. The organization aims to create a supportive environment where women are impactful community leaders.

With a vision of empowering women to lead and support each other, their motto is: "Unity... breaking the myths and setting the stage." Under the current leadership of President Pamela Williams and Vice-President Lakela Bell, the organization is focusing on Financial Literacy/Entrepreneurship, Foster Care, Autism, and Homelessness/Food Insecurities during the 2024-2025 term. They also run a mentoring program in partnership with Simply Girl's Inc., based in Dunn, NC.

For more information or to get involved, you can visit their website at [www.leadingladiesofhc.org](http://www.leadingladiesofhc.org) or contact them via email at [leadingladiesofhc@gmail.com](mailto:leadingladiesofhc@gmail.com).





## Desi L. Campbell, Recipient of the North Carolina Genealogical Society Outstanding Contribution to North Carolina Genealogy Award

Desi L. Campbell, the executive director of the Harnett County African American Heritage Center in Lillington, NC was nominated and the recipient of the North Carolina Genealogical Society's Outstanding Contribution to North Carolina Genealogy. This is the highest award offered by this organization. It recognizes an individual whose longtime genealogical contributions have greatly enhanced the study of family history in North Carolina and the region.

Campbell's contributions include: He serves as the first officer of the Sandhills Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc (AAHGS), which officially received its charter in 2020. Campbell's journey with this organization began in 2010 when it was a group of genealogy enthusiasts. His dedication to the field is evident in his authorship of twenty books on family history as well as a book on "Let's Talk Genealogy for Kids". His passion for preserving and sharing African American heritage is further demonstrated through his role as Executive Director at the Harnett County African American Heritage Center and Museum. Campbell's commitment to preserving and disseminating African-American history is unwavering. He has assisted over 200 families in uncovering their genealogical roots and has organized numerous events to celebrate and preserve African-American heritage. Some notable events include: Presenter for the African American Cultural Celebration annually at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh, NC.

Presenter at the Black History Month AAHGS Yearly Conference: Hosted in various locations such as Winston-Salem, NC, and Raleigh, NC. Currently the Sandhills Chapter will be the 2025 Host in Fayetteville, NC.

Presenter at the AAHGS National Conference: A significant event with themes like "400 years of Black History" and "From 1619 Virginia to present day: Correcting the National Narrative in the midst of Covid-19." Serves as Chapter President of the Sandhills Chapter and Book vendor.

Presenter at Juneteenth Celebrations: These include events in Lillington, Dunn, Duplin County, Fuquay Varina, Zebulon, and the Fayetteville NC Juneteenth yearly.

Co-Sponsor of Heritage Festivals and Family Reunions: Such as the Harnett County African Heritage Festivals, DNA Family Fest, Annual IGBOWorldwide Festival and participation in several family reunions throughout North Carolina and South Carolina providing family history, support and demonstrations.

Historical Dedications: Assisted in funding and erecting two African American heritage monuments to honor the ancestors' families in the Harnett County area. One monument is located at the Coats Museum in Coats, NC, and the other at the Wilkins Center in Dunn, NC.

Desi is currently working to collect North Carolina African American obituaries, digitize them, and upload them to a database for public viewing. Additionally, the project involves identifying and locating churches and cemetery grave markers in Harnett County, to be expanded to all of North Carolina later and compiling this information into another accessible database.

Campbell's influence is evident in his active Social Media (Facebook link) participation and presentations in numerous conferences and heritage celebrations, such as RootsTech in Salt Lake City, Utah, and local events like the Harnett County African American Festivals, Duplin County African American Festivals, Southern Wake County and Zebulon, NC Heritage Associations. Through his dedicated efforts, he ensures that African-American history is celebrated, preserved, and passed down to future generations, cementing his legacy as a passionate advocate for heritage and culture.

Campbell is slated to be a presenter along with his cousin Deena L. Hill from Utah, who both are descendants from an Harnett County (African American) family formerly enslaved, Jenny McLean born 1775 and Deena is a descendant of (White) Wiley Holder family of Barbecue.

This event will take place March 6-9, 2025, their topic "Interracial cousins find shared ancestry, sparking a rewarding journey to Africa" has been accepted. This will be a 60-minute live session that happens in the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, UT.

RootsTech is the world's largest family history conference with thousands joining in person and millions joining online. They will get the chance to share their knowledge, expertise, and passion with people from all over.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR

**Family & Friends Day**

Nov 10th @ 3:00 PM  
St James Church of Christ DOC  
Sr. Pastor, Elder Willie D. James Jr  
2385 Delway Hwy, Rose Hill, NC 28458  
Come out for some good food, fun and fellowship. Prize gifts will be given.

**GENESIS MORTUARY SERVICES, LLC**

**OPEN HOUSE MEET & GREET**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024  
1:00PM - 4:00PM  
ESTABLISHMENT BLESSING CEREMONY 5:00PM

WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE OUR NEWLY UPDATED FACILITY AND CONNECT WITH OUR DEDICATED FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND STAFF.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT 910-292-2683  
101 E. HARNETT STREET | DUNN, NORTH CAROLINA 28334

Leading Ladies of Harnett County

**NETWORKING MIXER**

November 16, 2024  
10AM-3PM  
Harnett County Governmental Complex

**Business Panel**  
Facebook Livestream of each Business

**Business donation \$50**

Door Prizes, light refreshments, music, networking, mingling, and so much more

To reserve your business spot, contact Sandra Abney at sabney2000@gmail.com

**Black History Month Genealogy Conference**

*Save the Date*

Sandhills Chapter

January 31-February 2, 2025  
Fayetteville, NC

Faith, Valor, and Learning: Tracing African American Lineages through Spiritual, Military, and Educational Paths.

For more information contact  
910-882-3851  
www.ncaahgschapters.org

ST. STEPHENS UHC PRESENTS

AN EVENING WITH

**THE PRINCE OF GOSPEL PREACHING THE GOSPEL**

REV. MICHAEL BOYKIN  
SUNDAY NOV. 03 3:00 PM

DISTR. ELDER ANTHONY FLOW, HOST  
1373 WILMINGTON RD. TURKEY, NC 28383

COME AND BE BLESSED!

PASTOR KENNETH L. SWANN'S

**10TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY**

Sunday, Nov. 3rd 9:45 AM

GUEST MESSENGER PASTOR DEBRICK KING  
JESUS IS KING OF BELIEVING MINISTRIES  
GUEST PSALMIST: MINISTER GLENN WORNEY JR.

FREE EVENT

The North Carolina Museum of History presents the 29th annual American Indian Heritage Celebration.

**American Indian Celebration**

29th Annual

Saturday, November 23, 2024  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, go to NC AIIHC.com or call 919-854-7000.

**Every 3RD MONDAY**

**SENIOR BOXES 9:00AM**

**FOOD BANK 10:00-12:00PM**

**LOVE GROVE AME ZION CHURCH**  
796 LOVE GROVE CHURCH RD.  
SANFORD, NC 27332

CONTACT 919-721-8512 FOR MORE INFORMATION

**FOUNDER'S DAY**

Sunday, November 17, 2024  
3:00pm

*Honoring*

Dr. Robert L. Bronson,  
Pastor Emeritus, Founder

Speaker Bishop Kel Pleasant,  
Chosen Generation Christian Church  
Raleigh, NC

Apostle Preston Harris, Pastor  
St. Paul Full Gospel Baptist Church  
602 Mann St., Fayetteville, NC 28301

THE 157TH

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

PRESENTS

THE 88TH SESSION OF THE UAFWB DENOMINATION, INC

**CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE**

10225 FAYETTEVILLE ROAD, RAEFORD, NC 28376

"Preaching Jesus" 2 CONTINUING 4.5

MON. NOV. 04 5:00PM BISHOP'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 7PM EVENING SESSION

WED. NOV. 06 1PM AFTERNOON SESSION 7PM EVENING SESSION

THUR. NOV. 07 1PM AFTERNOON SESSION 7PM EVENING SESSION

FRI. NOV. 08 7PM EVENING SESSION

SAT. NOV. 09 9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30AM ORDINATION SERVICE 11AM CLOSING SESSION/MORNING WORSHIP

SUN. NOV. 10 9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30AM ORDINATION SERVICE 11AM CLOSING SESSION/MORNING WORSHIP

*Women's Day*

Featuring Speaker  
Rev. Dr. Rashia Barbee  
Arise Nations Assembly

November 10th  
9 am

Location:  
White Oak Missionary Baptist Church  
1428 Tim Currin Rd  
Lillington, NC. 27546

Contact: 919-721-2698

Rev. Dr. Keith Owens

SUBMIT

To submit  
community news  
sandhillsblackvoices@gmail.com

by the 20th of each month for the next month's edition



# Mount Pisgah OFWB Church Celebrates 164th Anniversary

Denise Thurman



On October 20, 2024, Mount Pisgah Harnett Original Free Will Baptist Church celebrated its 164th of kingdom building and service. In addition to being the largest African-American Church in Harnett County, Mount Pisgah is one of the oldest as well. The church traces its roots to the late 1850's with slaves who would "steal away" to have their own church meetings to worship more freely. Those meetings led to what would become regular services in 1860, eventually moving three original trustees Jack McKay, Sandy McKay and Thomas Ryals to found Mount Pisgah then known as Old Egypt. Several descendents of the founders still attend the church today.

Homecoming celebrations included tributes to "Living Legends" Mother Lessie Holiday, Mother Diana Lucas, Bro. Paul Robinson and Bro. Robert Johnson. Several families were on hand visiting for homecoming and a highlight of the service was a memorial walk in remembrance of church members who have transitioned to Glory. After services everyone enjoyed an outdoor fish fry with gospel music, games and face painting.

Mount Pisgah is pastored by Bishop Reginald S. Hinton, Sr. and First Lady Janet M. Hinton. Bishop Hinton recently celebrated his 42nd Pastoral Anniversary and with his leadership Mount Pisgah Harnett has celebrated many milestones, most notably the opening of a 700-seat sanctuary, the Sesquicentennial (150 year) celebration in 2010 and plans for future expansion. Mount Pisgah has much to celebrate as God has continually blessed the church with provision to expand its ministries, designed to bless the church and community at large. This includes ministries of Outreach, Marriage, Singles, Grief, Mighty Men, Women of Virtue, Transportation, Nursing Home, Care Teams, Prison, the B-3 Zone children's church and more. The church continues its pursuit of becoming a full-service ministry, serving God's people from birth until they transition to be with the Lord.

With humble beginnings in 1860, The Mount Pisgah story is indeed a dream worthy to be told. With the dreams of the forefathers and a vision, the church continues to press towards the mark ordained by God. Mount Pisgah Harnett is committed to preserving the past while embracing the future, as the church continues on its path of being "A Fellowship of Inspired Saints Loving God and Loving People." The Mount Pisgah Church Family invites you to join them in worship! The theme for 2024 is Delighting in Discipleship and Service. Times are:

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Sunday School                         | 9:45am   |
| Prayer Conditioning                   | 10:45 am |
| Morning Worship                       | 11:00 am |
| B3 Zone Children's Church (ages 5-12) | 10:45 am |
| Bible Study (Wednesday evening)       | 7:00 pm  |
| Wednesday Night Worship (1st Weds)    | 7:00 pm  |

For more information, visit the church website: [www.mpharnett.org](http://www.mpharnett.org)

## Embracing Artificial Intelligence: The Future of the Church and Community



Sheila C. Hill

Artificial intelligence (AI) isn't just for tech companies; it's becoming a transformative tool for communities, and churches are no exception. While "robots" and "churches" may seem worlds apart, the reality is that AI software can revolutionize ministry operations and community engagement, bringing efficiency and innovation to church life.

Sheila C. Hill, an AI consultant with a background as a church administrator. She has experienced firsthand how challenging it can be to manage the administrative and outreach needs of a church. When she discovered AI tools like ChatGPT, she knew it could ease the overwhelming workload while enhancing the way churches serve their congregations.

### How AI Can Benefit the Church

- Streamlined Administrative Tasks: ChatGPT and similar AI tools can handle repetitive tasks like scheduling, data management, and even responding to inquiries. This frees up church leaders to focus on ministry instead of administration.
- Enhanced Sermon Research and Content Development: AI tools can generate ideas and research materials, allowing pastors to build more impactful sermons. These resources can be tailored to address community issues, making messages more relevant and relatable.
- Educational Material Creation: AI helps churches develop Bible study guides, lesson plans, and other educational resources quickly and efficiently.
- Meal Planning for Events: For those organizing community events, AI tools can assist with meal planning, budgeting, and shopping lists, ensuring every event runs smoothly.
- Youth and Outreach Programs: AI supports the development of engaging programs for youth and community outreach, offering ideas and logistical support to better connect with the community.
- Social Media and Fundraising Campaigns: With AI, churches can generate engaging content for social media and even organize fundraising efforts to increase community involvement and support.

### Bringing AI to Your Community

She's here to help churches and community leaders understand and utilize these AI tools effectively. Her goal is to equip churches with the skills to leverage AI for the greater good, enhancing outreach, engagement, and support for their communities. Reach out if you'd like her hire her to introduce your church to AI, providing a hands-on approach to navigating the tools for maximum impact.

By embracing AI, the church can serve not only as a house of worship but as a hub of community innovation and support, using the best tools available to lead and care for others.



# Sandhills Black Business Spotlight



**MUSIA HYMES**  
Owner

919-791-6252  
recruiters@onpointtruckingacademy.com  
onpointtruckingacademy.com  
121 N. Wilson Ave., Dunn, NC 28334

**ON POINT TRUCKING ACADEMY**  
ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER. UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL.

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**910-366-9827 910-514-3401**  
**TOCLANDSCAPINGANDCONSTRUCTION@GMAIL.CO**



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WWW.HOPPERNCLEVEDESIGNS.COM  
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WEDDINGS  
YOUTH CONCERTS  
CORPORATE EVENTS  
RECORDINGS  
FEATURES

NATIONAL RECORDING ARTIST

AVAILABLE FOR BOOKINGS 2024-25

Email Management:  
Adairmusicinfo@gmail.com

Sweet Blessing By  
Lady C  
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Join Us in Blessing those impacted by Hurricane Helene. (Avery/Buncombe County)

How You Can Help:

- Donate**  
-Coats -Sweaters  
-Scarfs -Gloves  
-Hats -Blankets  
(NEW OR NEARLY WORN ONLY)
- Volunteer**  
From distributing supplies to offering a helping hand, your time can make a huge impact.
- Spread the Word**  
Share this message with your friends, family, and neighbors. Together, we can do more!

Let's come together and be the hope our community needs

When disaster strikes, it takes a community to rebuild. We're reaching out to you to support our Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund. Whether it's providing emergency supplies, helping families rebuild their homes, or offering a comforting meal, every contribution makes a difference.

**ALL DONATIONS DUE BY NOVEMBER 11TH, 2024**

For more information or to get involved, Contact District Elder Kerby Haire at 910-797-3295

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Meet the Brandher  
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**Hello!**  
I am excited that you have decided to start a business! I am a creative graphic designer and I want to help you bring your business vision to life! I am a certified business owner and I can help you start, brand or market your business using simple digital concepts!

**My Experience**  
I am very tech savvy! I always had a natural gift of making things look better. I have been designing and creating for several years!

**My Education**  
I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Psychology. I have also attended free business courses/webinars!

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Do-it-yourself credit repair is often a better option than hiring a credit repair company because it allows you to take full control of your financial situation without incurring additional costs. By handling your own credit repair, you can directly monitor your credit reports, dispute inaccuracies, and negotiate with creditors, all of which are steps you can easily manage with the right knowledge. Additionally, DIY credit repair empowers you to understand the factors affecting your credit score, helping you build better financial habits for the future. This approach not only saves money but also ensures that you're fully engaged in improving your credit responsibly.

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