

Hello Bethel family and readers!

"It's All About Family! Making Moments that turn into Memories!!"

Our wonderful Pastor Jefferson, Sr. has and is preaching and providing spiritual opportunities for us to proclaim our restoration & healing in Jesus Christ! His recent sermon entitled "Lord, Help My Family!" January 5, 2025 is a testament to his commitment to the Bethel Family! Take advantage of all that is available so that we can be restored and healed together!! We have several members on the sick & shut in list. Please reach out to them! A prayer, text, visit (with mask please), card or e-mail will brighten the hardest day!

Read on and enjoy this newsletter which highlights Bethel Families making Moments into Memories!! There is something in here for everyone!!

With Love,
Raquel Cox
A Bethelite



My mom and I thoroughly enjoy traveling together and with family! Here are two pictures of us together! Our smiles say it all! We love each other and we're Blessed to be able to spend this time together! Enjoy reading the article about her and my family in this newsletter. You'll read about other Bethel families as well. These are real life stories. Fix a cup of coffee or tea and enjoy!!

Love you all my Bethel Family!



**Be Blessed My Bethel Family!
Enjoy your Blessings Every Day!!**

**"It's All About Family! Making Moments that Turn
into Memories!!"**

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025 PRAYER

BY: Sister Reinette Brown (My Big Sister!)



Happy New Year's Eve 2025!

Here's to new adventures and endless possibilities. Let's leave 2024 hurts, discouragement, disappointments, and traumas in the past and embrace what 2025 has for us.

I speak an abundance of prayer, peace, love, laughter, joy, strength, wisdom, healing, and victories in every circumstance we face! This New Year will be a year full of overflowing blessings!

So cheers to staying positive and hopeful as we bring in the New Year filled with optimism and gratitude. We're blessed to see another year!

365 new days / 365 new chances - let's make them count for our good and God's glory!

I declare 2025 is bringing unexpected treasures, and moments of joy and happiness! In Jesus' name, Amen!!



THE BROWN LEGACY

MATRIARCH MRS. ESTELLA W. BROWN



Wow! The honor of sharing this moment with my church family is huge. This is my mother, Estella W. Brown! She is now 92 years old and still as vibrant as ever! My siblings (Reggie, Richard and Reinette) celebrated her 90th birthday



together by zoom with extended family and friends. Even though our father, Rufus L. Brown, passed away November 3, 2017, he was certainly present as well! I was excited to commemorate my mom's 90th birthday by lovingly drafting a proclamation of her impressive life thus far. This proclamation was notarized by Reverend Kesha Wilson, member of Bethel A.M.E. Church Hampton. Mom was also presented with personal letters from the previous Newport News Mayor McKinley Price and Dr. George Price, III, previous superintendent of Newport News Public Schools. Mom taught in Newport News Public Schools for over two decades and worked with Mayor McKinley Price for years to celebrate nonagenarians ~ over 90 year old people

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Celebrating nonagenarians was heart work that mom enjoyed and was committed to doing with respect and pride. Newport News Active Lifestyles Program has celebrated ninety plus year olds for 17 years through the Lifelong Citizenship Awards Ceremony Program. This program honors Newport News Citizens "for their years of dedicated service and support to the citizens of Newport News. Each honoree has a strong commitment and an unwavering spirit to give freely, willingly and cheerfully of their time and talents to educational, charitable, social, civic and religious organizations. Their contributions improved the quality of life for citizen of all ages, and the City of Newport News and its citizens have benefited from their generosity and dedication." *Taken from the 2024 Lifelong Citizenship Awards Program .



Mr. Rufus L. Brown & Mrs. Estella W.

Here is a snippet of Estella W. Brown’s contribution to the city and citizens of Newport News :



Left to right ~ Reggie, Richard, Reinette and Raquel! We are all behind our mother ~ Estella Brown! Daddy is always with us ~ Rufus Brown!

- ◇ Military spouse for over 6 decades,
- ◇ Mother of four children for over 6 decades and counting,
- ◇ Member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.,
- ◇ Dedicated educator for over 2 decades in Newport News and a teaching career of over 4 decades,
- ◇ Recipient of several recognitions for her leadership and presentations at the school level and beyond (prior to & after retirement),
- ◇ Recipient of continuous “Thank You” from her former students and colleagues
- ◇ Chair & member of the Active Lifestyles Advisory Committee (2008),
- ◇ Active participant of Bible Study Fellowship (BSF),
- ◇ Worldwide Traveler for Education & Enjoyment!



Committee Chair, Estella Brown, observes Mayor Price's presentation to Ruby Gilbert.

Since my mom was the Lifelong Citizenship Awards Ceremony committee chair from its inception, I felt that it was only appropriate that she receives the same honor now that she has reached this milestone of being a nonagenarian. Due to cruising, mom missed the 2023 awards ceremony. However, with a completed application and encouragement 2024 was set to be Estella W. Brown’s year to receive this honor! On September 17, 2024, Estella Brown received her Lifelong Citizenship Award at the **Brittingham-Midtown Community Center!**

Here are a few words from my mom to you all:

“Enjoy what you have! We all have Blessings so enjoy them! Be Blessed every day!”



2024 LIFELONG CITIZENSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY VIDEO “For 17 years the Lifelong Citizenship Awards Ceremony presented by The Newport News Active Lifestyles Program has been one of the most heartwarming of annual city events. This video, produced by the city’s Communications Department, recognizes the honorees for 2024. Fifteen of the city’s nonagenarians (those over 90 years old) representing over 1000 combined years of dedicated service and support to the citizens of Newport News.”



Enjoy this 2024 Lifelong Citizenship Award Ceremony video of the presentation to the 15 honorees. My favorite is to my mom, **Mrs. Estella W. Brown!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwlVAslX5OA>



Kenneth is always ready to usher!
Thank you for ushering mom to her seat! You honored the honoree!



ANCESTRY & NATIVE TRIBAL CONNECTION

By Patricia “Two Doves” Redwood

THE TRIBE: The Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe has an intricate history. Excerpts from an article published by the *Virginia Department of Education* dated December 15, 2009, which was compiled by Chief Walter “Red Hawk” Brown, Tribal Historian, “the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe made first ethno-historic contact with the English in 1607-1608 in Nottoway County, Virginia. The English were looking for information connected to Roanoke Island the Lost Colony.” “In the 17th Century, Virginia Indians (Natives) were divided into three language groups: Algonquian speakers, Siouan speakers, and Iroquoian speakers.” The Iroquoian Tribes: Cheroenhaka (Nottoway), Meherrin, and Tuscarora occupied land east of the Fall Line on the inner Coastal Plains of Southeastern Virginia. According to diary entries of James Edward Bland (expeditioner), the Nottoway Indians were called by Algonquian speakers as NA-DA-WA, which the Colonials reverted to



Nottoway. The true name of the tribe is Cheroenhaka, meaning “People at the Fork of the Stream.” The lodging area was where the Nottoway River fork with the Blackwater River to form the Chowan River.

BROWN/THOMAS SISTERS’ LEGACY: With the passing of Marie Brown in 2022, the last matriarch of the Brown siblings, only a handful of cousins remain that can corroborate the tales of Grandpa Willie and Grandma Emma Jane. Aunt Marie was once asked if her father ever talked with her about his Native background. Her response was “No” and that her father would never speak on the topic. When asked why, she said that she did not know. In the 1800s, Native American cultures were primarily threatened and they feared the White settlers. The forced removal from their ancestral lands through government policies like the Indian Removal Act, resulted in the loss of their traditional way of life, sacred sites, and cultural identity due to displacement and assimilation efforts, often accompanied by violence and broken treaties. So, self-identifying as Native was not a safe thing to do.

ANCESTRY & TRIBAL CONNECION CONTINUED

NATIVE TRIBAL CONNECTION: For years, my siblings and I questioned our mother's ancestral lineage. However, it was a challenge finding anyone who knew enough about the Brown family's Native origin. As children we could see facial features in our grandpa that we considered Native (red undertone skin and wavy hair). Two of our uncles and three aunts also showed similar features. We had learned that one of our cousins, Walter Brown was a Tribal Chief. After attending a Brown Family Reunion in 1996, a few cousins and I decided to look into what it would take to become a member of the **Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe**. It was said that there were other Brown cousins also considering joining the Tribe. So, after doing a little research, three of my siblings (Annie, Jean Kelly, Ruby Taylor) and I decided to join the Tribe as a memorial to our mother, Eunice Brown Thomas who died at age 47. We submitted the Tribal Membership Application, a Genealogy Lineage Sheet, and paid the administrative fee, and our applications were accepted. The membership was contingent upon providing a genealogy trail (Native American ancestry) back to the 1800s that could be verified by the US Census and/or 1808 Special Nottoway Indian Census in any of the Virginia counties: Southampton, Isle of Wight, Sussex, Greenville, Brunswick, Surry, Nottoway, to include Northampton and Gates County North Carolina. We were told that **Beadie Artis Brown** was considered the connecting source of our family. We were able to trace our Native lineage through our mother, **Eunice** Brown Thomas, her father, **Willie H.** Brown, his father, **Junious Brown**, then to his mother, **Beadie Brown Artis**.

The women are holding shawls that display the tribe's colors!



TRIBAL COMMITMENT: Being part of our Tribe requires commitment to maintaining our village/land and raising funds to accomplish tribal goals. As tribal members, we support both the Chief and the tribe when we host annual Powwows in the months of July and November; take part in Native American Presentations (schools, military installations, and libraries); offer tours to our Native Palisade Fort; School Days presentations; Native American Revival Crusades; sell of calendars, T-shirts, and Journals. While wearing Native regalia, examples of some of our duties: dancing into the opening of powwows and School Day presentations; demonstrating Native living skills in the Palisade 17th Century replica Iroquoian village; serving various Native food items from our kitchen during powwows; cleaning the village; and attending meetings. Tribal members participate during the year and on other special occasions: Juneteenth Celebrations; Indigenous People Month (October), Heritage Days hosted by local cities (Suffolk, Franklin, Hampton); Cultural Honors and Recognition to the Indigenous People (Richmond, Virginia); and Fort Monroe: Old Point Comfort Virginia Commemorations and the 1619 Commemoration First African Landing Celebrations.



ADDITIONAL FACTS
Tribe ~ The Hawk Clan
Colors ~ Red & Blue

*I thoroughly enjoyed attending this commemoration and sharing this historical family moment with the NA-DA-WA ~ Nottaway Tribe. Being with our Bethelites, *Sister Annie Thomas and Sister Patricia Redwood*, allowed me to engage with them on a very personal level. Jessica Larché, a regional Emmy® award-winning Channel 3 evening news anchor, and investigative reporter as well as Congressman Bobby Scott, representative of Virginia's third congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives, actively attended. Their presence and interaction reveals that history is important to them as well.

Currently, one long-standing goal of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe is to become federally recognized. To be federally recognized will mean that tribal members would receive educational funds and other funding too. These funds will be used in the building of a cultural center and other projects.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY*HONORING THE HERITAGE: My sister Annie “Songbird” Thomas and I have been members since 2010. Our oldest Sister Ruby, age 84 and the late Jean Kelly were also members. As with any organization, it requires commitment. We are also attempting to learn the Iroquoian language, customs, and Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe history. We are committed to keeping our mother’s memory alive as well as to represent our grandfather Willie Brown who was cheated out of his heritage.



**Here I am with Sisters Annie &*



Pat!



Thank you for sharing this moment that has turned into a memory!!

BETHELITES KNOW BLACK HISTORY!



Featuring an article BY:

**Winston Favor, Curatorial Assistant
The Mariners' Museum and Park**

The Lost Story of the Marcus Garvey Movement in Newport News

Published February 22, 2023 By: Winston Favor



Black History Cultural Heritage Hampton Roads History

The Lost Story of the Marcus Garvey Movement in Newport News

February 22, 2023

Who was Marcus Garvey? Learn more about his significance not only to Black history and the world, but specifically to Newport News.

During one of our wonderful Sunday School lessons, Brother Favor shared his research regarding Marcus Garvey. Upon hearing about his research, I wanted to share this with the Bethel Family. Brother Favor did not hesitate to send me the article which reflected his extensive research of the Marcus Garvey Movement. After reading the article, I immediately knew that others needed to read and acknowledge this movement in Black History ~ Newport News Black History!

Before you click on the QR Code below, which takes you to the article, please review the article vocabulary on the next page.

Brother Winston Favor has written several articles of historical significance. Please click on this link to read more of his work ~~

<https://www.marinersmuseum.org/author/winston-favor/>



ARTICLE VOCABULARY ~ Please read prior to reading the article to assist in understanding the article. Examples of each word's use are taken from the article written by Winston Favor. The words are introduced in the order in which they appear in the article.

~~~ **Diasporas** ~ people who have spread or been dispersed from their homeland

As Garvey's message spread, he created the physical manifestation of his message: The Black Star Line, a steamship company operated by Garvey and the UNIA to promote worldwide commerce among the African **diasporas**.

~~~ **Subjugated** ~ bring under domination or control, especially by conquest

However, the racial attitudes of the time **subjugated** African Americans to the lowest-paying, least stable jobs.

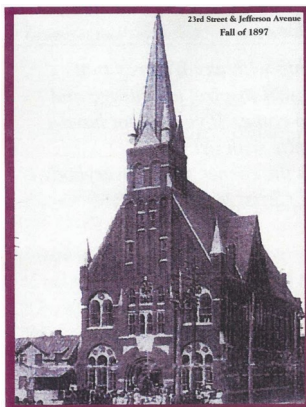
~~~ **Demagogues** ~ a political leader who seeks support by appealing to the desires and prejudices of ordinary people rather than by using rational argument:

~~~ **Blatherskites** ~ a person who talks at great length without making much sense. foolish talk; nonsense

In an editorial, the *Newport News Star* newspaper criticized the Garvey movement by saying, "When people get to the point where they cannot tolerate honest difference, they ought to be suppressed. A great deal of the trouble the Negro is having in this country is brought on by such irresponsible **demagogues** and **blatherskites** as Marcus Garvey has gathered together in his schemes to filch money from the pockets of his unsophisticated followers and sympathizers, and anyone who dares differ or oppose their schemes is roundly cursed and marked."⁹

~~~ **Repatriation** ~ the return of someone to their own country

Because of the failure of the **repatriation** bills, the start of the New Deal, Garvey's deportation, and subsequent death in London in 1940, and the onset of World War II, membership dropped in Newport News and the UNIA overall. Soon the widespread appeal of the UNIA ceased to exist.<sup>18</sup>



# Project Nana founder is an 'Everyday Hero' on WTKR

October 2, 2024



Vanessa Hill is the promotor and creator of Project Nana. Project Nana educates post-menopausal women of cancer risks and brings awareness to gynecological cancer in seasoned women! Vanessa Hill decided to bring awareness to the cancer risks of seasoned women when her grandmother of 87 years of life passed away from stage 4 endometrial cancer in 2010. More than two decades later Vanessa Hill with her mother ~ Reverend Dr. Gail Henderson ~ by her side, she has raised the awareness and advocated for the health of seasoned women everywhere continuously!



Please go to [projectnana.org](http://projectnana.org) to find out more about supporting, participating and encouraging this wonderful work! Right now, go to the next page to celebrate with Vanessa Hill!!





Vanessa Hill creator of Project Nana held the Project Nana **“Seasoned Women’s Health Summit”** September 7, 2024. During this event, Jessica Larché, a regional Emmy® award-winning Channel 3 evening news anchor, presented Vanessa Hill with the **“Everyday Hero Award”** given on behalf of WTKR 3! This was certainly a surprise because Vanessa introduced the **“Gwen Ifill Seasoned Women's Champion Award”** during the breakfast. Ifill was a legendary journalist who passed away from endometrial cancer in 2016. Her brother, Dr. Robert Ifill, was at the event to present the award to AARP’s CEO Jo Ann Jenkins and to honor his sister’s legacy.

Vanessa Hill is always supported by her mother, Reverend Dr. Gail Henderson, Minister at Bethel A.M.E. Church Hampton. In 2022, Vanessa Hill and Reverend Dr. Henderson met with Jessica Larché for an interview about Project Nana. Please view the event by clicking the link below. As Pastor Jefferson would say ~ You will not be bored!

<https://www.wtkr.com/positivelyhr/project-nana-founder-is-an-everyday-hero>



“I’m just very, very grateful that With God's grace, that we're able to continue to go forth,” said Hill. “Everyone that's here really understands the importance of this advocacy.” 9-7-2024



BETHEL MINISTRIES AT WORK



# CLASS LEADERS



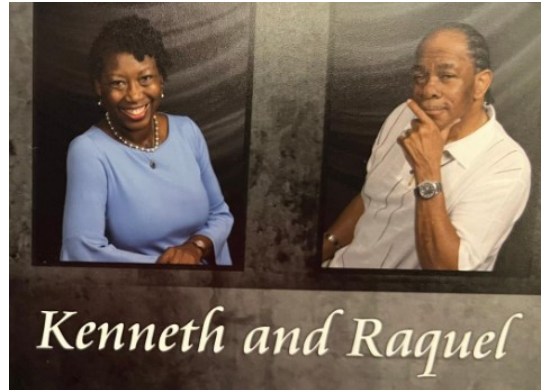
## CLASS LEADERS

Mon, after 5th Sun. 7pm,  
Administer to the spiritual and physical needs of the church membership. Also serve as a link between membership and the Pastor. **Shirley Carter** | 757 334-8013

### CLASS LEADER'S 2025 MEETING CALENDAR

|            |                                           |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY     | JANUARY 19, 2025 – CLASS LEADERS SUNDAY   |
| MONDAY     | JANUARY 27, 2025                          |
| MONDAY     | MARH 24, 2025                             |
| MONDAY     | MAY 26, 2025                              |
| NO MEETING | JUNE, JULY, AUGUST                        |
| MONDAY     | SEPTEMBER 22, 2025                        |
| MONDAY     | NOVEMBER 24, 2025                         |
| MONDAY     | DECEMBER 15, 2025 – CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION |

WE'RE  
HERE  
FOR YOU



*Kenneth and Raquel*

## Class #6

Class Leaders are here for you! We are appointed by Pastor Jefferson and provide spiritual, physical and other various supportive needs of our church members. We are a link between the members and Pastor Jefferson. Sister Shirley Carter is leading the Bethel A.M.E. Church Hampton Class Leaders as President. We are here for you!

**BETHEL BUSINESSES BLESS ALL**

**CALLING ALL BETHEL BUSINESSES** ~~ *If you have a business, please send me your information to post in the Bethelite. My goal is to share & support Bethel Businesses with our church family & community!*

**Include:**

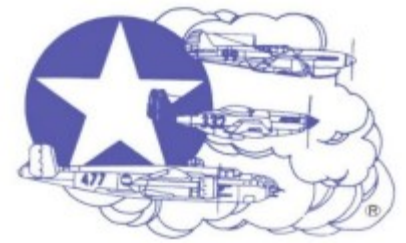
- ⇒ **Business Name**
- ⇒ **Owner's Name** \*you may add a picture of yourself
- ⇒ **Social Media locations** ~  

Social profiles  

- ⇒ **Graphic with a short write up and/or catchy phrase**
- ⇒ **Recommendation(s) from customers**
- ⇒ **Send it to me at [raqcox@cox.net](mailto:raqcox@cox.net)**



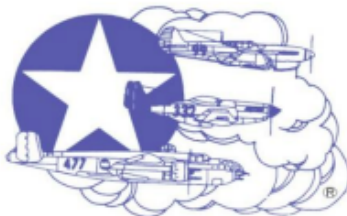




It is January 2025, and our graduates are looking forward to after high school. Here are two scholarship opportunities!

Read and use!

Please read the e-mail dated January 9, 2025 regarding the Tuskegee Scholarship Foundation Scholarship for information and the link to the form. *This is a scholarship opportunity for graduating senior who plan to pursue STEM fields in college. Note that the application must be postmarked by January 27, 2025, or can be given to Sister Yolanda Hinton by that date (taken from the e-mail). You will have to go to the e-mail for the form link.*



**2025 APPLICATION FOR TUSKEGEE AIRMEN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

Return Completed Application **NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 27, 2025** to:

**CHAPTER:** Tidewater Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen Inc

**ADDRESS:** PO Box 65605, LAFB VA 23665

**ATTN:** Scholarship Committee



Bayport Credit Union is offering a myriad of scholarship opportunities.

Go to <https://www.bayportcu.org/foundation/> and scroll to the bottom of the page for all of your scholarship options! I wish you all the best as you prepare for your future. Scholarships for seniors, college students and adults! Check it out!!

**Invested in your continued education.**

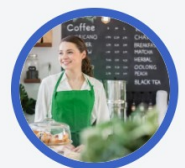
Everyone deserves to be happy, healthy, and financially wise.



**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**  
Senior scholarships



**COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
College scholarships



**WORKING ADULTS**  
Adult scholarships

**BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH**

Reverend André P. Jefferson, Sr. | Senior Pastor

2521 N. Armistead Ave | Hampton, VA  
23666

Church Office: 757-723-4065

Church: 757-723-7716

Fax: 757-723-1940

Email: [church@bethelamehamptonva.com](mailto:church@bethelamehamptonva.com)

Pastor's email: [revandre1@aol.com](mailto:revandre1@aol.com)



**We Will Never Forget Their Presence**

Take a look at all of the smiles in this video! A great look back at Bethel ~ *The Church with a Smile!!*

<https://youtu.be/4ueWUAXm9m8?si=EP88XQiJ-htejho>

**SUNDAYS**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
 10 AM  
 In-Person: 2521 N. Armistead Ave.  
 Hampton, VA  
 Virtually: Sermons

**TUESDAYS**  
**INSPIRATION**  
 7 PM  
 Zoom ID: 424 839 5768  
 Call-In Numbers:  
 1-312-626-6799  
 1-646-558-8656  
 1-301-715-8592

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**BIBLE STUDY**  
 11:45 AM & 6:45 PM  
 Zoom ID: 424 839 5768  
 Call-In Numbers:  
 1-312-626-6799  
 1-646-558-8656  
 1-301-715-8592

**SATURDAYS**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**YOUTH: 6:00 PM** | **ADULTS: 6:45 PM**  
 Zoom ID: 235 910 2608 | Zoom ID: 820 4315 4298  
 Call-In Number:  
 1-301-715-8592

*Bethel*  
UPCOMING  
**EVENTS**

WOMEN'S SEASON  
PRESENTS

Bethel  
A.M.E. CHURCH

**\$10** **MOVIE MATINEE**

**SIX. TRIPLE. EIGHT.**

THEY DID WHAT BLACK WOMEN DO... THEY PREVAILED

**JANUARY 25, 2025**

DOORS OPEN @ 12PM  
MOVIE STARTS @ 1PM







# BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH UPCOMING

## EVENTS 2025

### ROAD TRIP

TRUE VINE BAPTIST CHURCH  
REV. DR. IRVIN D. MELVIN, PASTOR  
3:00PM  
695 J Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News, VA.

**19** **JAN.**

**JAN. 20**

MLK DAY CELEBRATION  
12PM  
NEW GRAFTON BAPTIST CHURCH  
4401 Chestnut Ave., Newport News, VA 23607

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

*Dranbreb Alston  
Initial Sermon  
2pm*

**26** **JAN.**

**FEB. 23**

BETHEL HOSTS  
TRUE VINE BAPTIST CHURCH  
REV. DR. IRVIN D. MELVIN, PASTOR  
3:00PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US @ [WWW.BETHELHAME.COM](http://WWW.BETHELHAME.COM)

