

2014

## Distinguished Pattillo Alumni



**Vivian Christine Pettaway Askew** was born October 23, 1913 in Pitt County. She is the oldest of three children born to Alice and Albert Pettaway, with sisters Ethel Pettaway Lewis and Eva Green Pettaway. At the age of seven she moved with her family to Princeville to attend school. She completed the Princeville Grade School and in 1932 graduated from the Tarboro Colored High School with Mr. W. A. Pattillo as Principal.

Mrs. Askew is a 1950 graduate of Storer College, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia with a degree in Elementary Education. She retired in 1978 after having taught 28 years in two counties of the West Virginia Public School System.

She was married for 48 years to the late Eddie Askew, having made their home in Fairmont, West Virginia. A 50 year member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Fairmont, WV she served on the Hostess and Fundraising Committees at Trinity. She was honored as the oldest member of Trinity United Methodist in 2009 during their 137th Anniversary.

Mrs. Askew proudly holds affiliations in the Golden Membership of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, the National Council of Negro Women, Storer College (now Virginia Union University) Alumni Association and the W.A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association. Inc.

She has been honored as "Outstanding Educator" by Dunbar High School Alumni Association of Fairmont, was a 2005 Honoree at the "The Gay Nineties Ladies" Tea Sponsored by the Phoenix Society for African American Research and saluted in The Daily Southerner July 23, 2012 article written by the late C. Rudolph Knight entitled: "Oldest Living Graduate of the W.A. Pattillo School".

Mrs. Askew holds a milestone of being a Centennial. She celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on October 26, 2013 at Gateway to Heaven Church with family and friends from near and far. There were special acknowledgements from President Obama; Governor of West Virginia; Mayor of Fairmont, WV; Mayor of Tarboro, NC; W.A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association; AKA Sorority; and NBC TV correspondent Willard Scott.

A family oriented person, she is the aunt of Varnell Lewis Bridgers, Vivian C. Lewis Bazemore, Bessie M. Lewis, Alice F. Lewis Grant, and the late William (Mutt) H. Lewis, Jr, James Bridgers, Chester Bazemore and James Grant.; the great aunt of Cheneta Lewis Jones, Colette Bazemore, Nyisha Wooten, Kimberly Grant, Temeka G. Nichols, Latoya G. Whitehead, Darryl Bridgers, and Erik Bridgers, David Jones, Brody Whitehead, and Cody Nichols.

She has a daily quote that she reads: "Good Morning, I am God; I will handle all your affairs today; I do not need your help!"