

In 1971, Governor John West created the Order of the Palmetto to recognize lifetime achievement and service by South Carolina residents and those born in the state.

The Order of the Palmetto is the highest civilian honor awarded by the Governor of South Carolina. It is awarded to South Carolinians who demonstrate extraordinary lifetime achievement, service and contributions of national or statewide significance.

During the Morris College President's Lecture Series the following Morris College Alumni were recognized for receiving the South Carolina Order of The Palmetto.

1. DR. RALPH W. CANTY
2. DR. HENRY DARBY
3. DR. WILLIAM S. RANDOLPH
4. DR. MARION H. NEWTON
5. DR. LEO RICHARDSON
6. THE HONORABLE DR. MACK T. HINES
7. THE HONORABLE DR. SAMUEL R. FOSTER
8. JAMES L. SOLOMON
9. REVEREND OLIVER HILL



DR. SAMUEL RUFUS FOSTER, SR. is a retired public-school administrator, former State Representative, and former South Carolina Employment Security Commissioner. He was born in Chester, S.C. and attended public schools in the town. He graduated from Finley High School in 1949 and holds a B.S. Degree from Morris College and a Master of Education from S. C. State University. He has done additional study at Wayne State University, Winthrop University and the University of South Carolina.

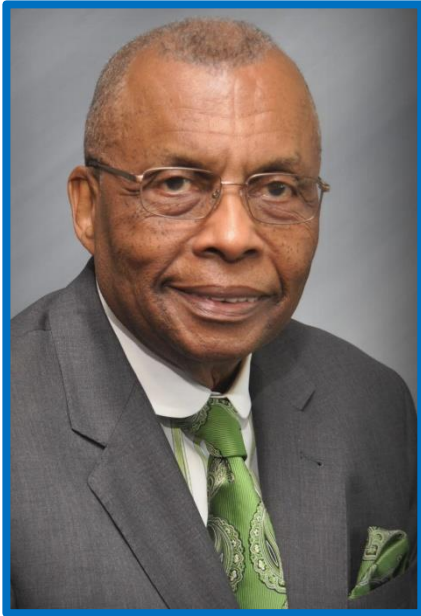
Prior to school integration, Foster served as an elementary school teacher and principal of two schools, one junior high school, and Emmett Scott High School. After public school integration, he served as principal of Sullivan Junior/Senior High School, principal of Northwestern High School and Assistant Superintendent of Rock Hill Public Schools.

As an educator and former York County State Representative, he achieved leadership positions through hard work and dedication. These positions include:

- President of SC Association of School Administrators, 1975-76
- President of SC Association of High School Principals
- President of York County Education Association
- President of 4A High School Athletic Association
- Served on the House Ways and Means Committee (Budget Developing Committee)
- Served as First Vice Chairman of the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee (3M Committee)
- Served as Chairman of the House Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee
- Floor Leader for the passage of the Education Improvement Act of 1984 under Governor Dick Riley

- Appointed to the Task Force on Education Accountability Committee by Governor Carroll Campbell
- 1990 Legislator of the Year by the SC School Boards Association
- 1991 Legislator of the Year by the SC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
- Inducted into the Morris College Athletic Hall of Fame 1994
- Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, Morris College – 2016
- In 1999, regrettably declined an appointment from Governor James Hodges to serve as Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice for the State of South Carolina
- Former member of the Morris College Board of Trustees
- Former member of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees
- Appointed in November of 2009 as the Interim Executive Director of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, a 1500 employee state agency.

Foster was married to the former Jestine Wright (deceased). Samuel and Jestine had two sons, Samuel Rufus II and Allyn Eugene. Samuel II is married to Chandra Jones, and they have two sons, Samuel Rufus III and Landon Avery. Allyn Eugene is married to LaSalle McCollough, and they have four daughters, Jestine Allyson, Jaelyn LaSalle, Madison Noelle, and Winter Denise Smith-McKinney (John) and one son, Ezell Allen Smith III (Chrissy). Foster is blessed to have five great granddaughters. He lives in Rock Hill, SC and is a member of New Mount Olivet AME Zion Church. Finally, Foster is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the NAACP.



MARION H. NEWTON is the Senior Pastor of Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church and has served this pastorate for 35 years. He is a native of Jasper Count, seventh child of the late John and Annie Newton.

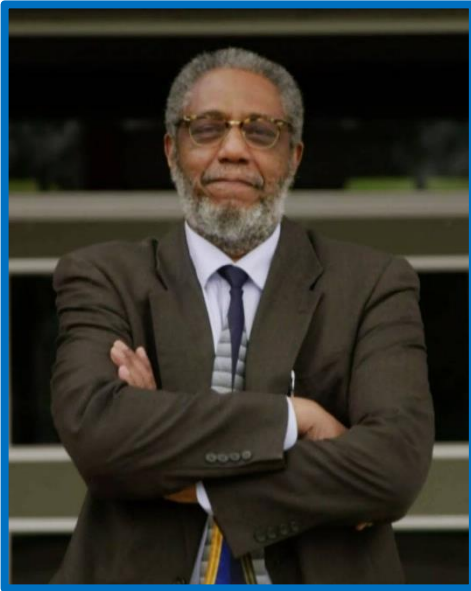
Pastor Newton was license into ministry by Bethel Baptist Church of Roxbury, MA in 1970 and ordained by Rock Spring Baptist Church of Grays, SC in 1971.

He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts and a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Morris College School of Religion. On May 11, 1997, Morris College conferred upon him the Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree in recognition of

Meritorious Christian Service and Inspiring Leadership.

In addition to his church duties, Pastor Newton was employed at Morris College as Coordinator of Student Activities, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Acting Dean of Student Affairs. He served in the capacity of Church Relations and Alumni Affairs Officer from 1987 until June of 1996. At this time, he relinquished his duties at Morris College to provide full time service to his constantly growing congregation at Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church.

Pastor Newton is a man of vision, an inspiring teacher and a revivalist. Under his leadership, the Jehovah family has completed two facilities, the Jehovah Child Development Center and the M.H. Newton Family Life Enrichment Center. After six years of their opening date, the Mortgage Burning for the two facilities of 1.5 million dollars was finalized on July 8, 2005. Currently plans are underway to build a Sanctuary with classrooms and Administrative offices. He preaches extensively throughout the country and is often heard by citizens of local and surrounding areas through sermons, lectures, addresses and newspaper editorials.



HENRY DARBY

Multiplying Good is honored to have Joel Milliken serving in SC as an AmeriCorps VISTA member in 2021. This year's monthly blog series is authored by Joel, a great storyteller who brings a fresh perspective to our work in the Palmetto State. Joel is originally from the Lowcountry but is fulfilling his VISTA term in Greenville, serving in partnership with SC Thrive and Harvest Hope Food Bank.

February is Black History Month, and North Charleston High School serves some of the poorest majority-Black neighborhoods in Charleston County, SC. Mr. Henry Darby is the principal of North Charleston High and a lifelong resident of the city of North Charleston, where roughly 90 percent of families served by the school are living at or below the poverty line. For years, Principal Darby has supported his students and his community, not only by serving on Charleston County Council, but by reaching out to help those who are struggling with housing instability, food insecurity, and utility payments.

This summer, however, the pandemic affected his community especially hard. In the face of a growing crisis, Principal Darby redoubled his efforts. "I was taught, if your hands find something to do, do it," he says. "So I said to myself, perhaps I need to find another part-time job." Since that day, three nights a week, he has stocked shelves during the graveyard shift at his local Walmart. He isn't earning this money for himself, though—every paycheck he receives, he donates to the families of students in need. Mr. Darby's only request of his students is that, in return, they learn to help others.

Because of Principal Darby's remarkable self-sacrifice, he was featured by Multiplying Good's official Media Partner in the Lowcountry, ABC News 4, who honored him with a Jefferson Award in late January for his service to his community. Mr. Darby's decision to forego his personal wellbeing to benefit North Charleston students in crisis led to an outpouring of support, with hundreds of thousands of donations coming in from all over the country to back his efforts. From there, the story made national headlines—on Friday, January 29, the crew of the Today Show traveled to the Lowcountry to tell Mr. Darby's story, which generated an additional \$100,000 in donations and, in recognition of the

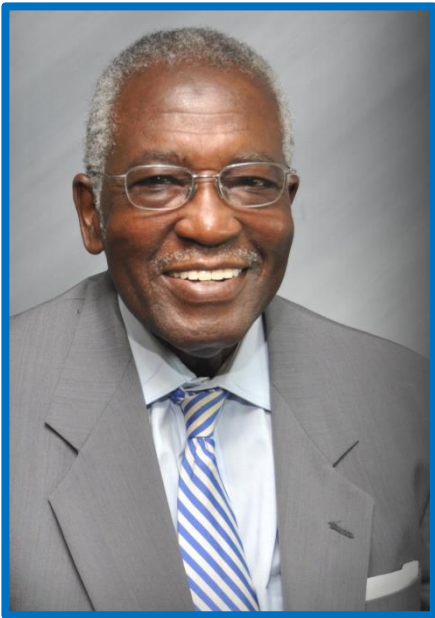
selfless dedication of one of their employees, Walmart also contributed \$50,000 to North Charleston High School.

Principal Darby is humble in the description of his reasoning. “At my age, you know, we don’t ask for money. You just go ahead and do what you need to do.”

But that’s not where our story ends. On Monday, February 8, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster presented Principal Darby with the Order of the Palmetto. The Order of the Palmetto is the state's highest civilian honor, awarded to citizens of South Carolina for extraordinary lifetime service and accomplishments of national or statewide significance. It is a once-in-a-lifetime achievement.

The problems Principal Darby saw in his community, and subsequently chose to tackle head-on, illustrate the challenges facing majority-Black communities like those in North Charleston. It cannot be overstated how this pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black lives. As national lockdowns closed businesses and limited hours, and unemployment rates skyrocketed, majority-Black communities like North Charleston have been hit hardest. In a part of our state that was already struggling with an eviction crisis and poverty before the pandemic, it is the work of community leaders like Principal Darby that has literally saved lives. And it is the goal of Multiplying Good to amplify stories like his, highlighting the narrative of Principal Darby’s selflessness to inspire others to take a stand, get involved, and give back.

This Black History Month, we encourage the readers of this blog to follow in the footsteps of Principal Darby and help people as best they can. Take the time to support local charities, mutual aid funds, and Black-owned businesses. In the words of Mr. Darby himself, “That is one of the greatest things we as human beings can do.”



DR. LEO RICHARDSON

Executive Director South Carolina Institute on Poverty and Deprivation. Currently, serving on the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy, Vice President of Morris College Board of Trustees, Claflin University Board of Visitors and the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame Board of Directors. Served on the Admission Committee for the University of South Carolina, School of Medicine during the fall semester 2014.

Former-Assistant to the Commissioner, South Carolina Department of Social Services.

Head Basketball Coach, Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education and Administrator at the University at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York

Head Football and Basketball Coach and Assistant Professor of Biology at Savannah State University, Savannah, Georgia

Director of Athletics, Head Football and Basketball Coach, Assistant Professor of Biology, Health and Physical Education at Morris College, Sumter, South Carolina

Head Football, Basketball and Baseball Coach, Teacher of Mathematics, Biology, Science, health and Physical Education at A.L. Corbett High School, Wagener, South Carolina

Ph.D. - State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York

Major – Educational Administration, Organizational and Policy

Master's Degree – Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama

Major – Science Education

B.S. Degree – Morris College, Sumter, South Carolina

Major - Biology



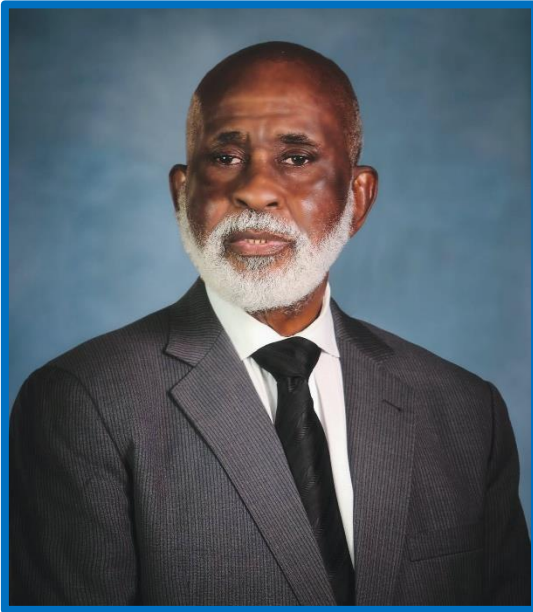
REVEREND DR. MACK T. HINES

The Morris College Board of Trustees named Reverend Dr. Mack T. Hines, Chairman, effective immediately. Reverend Dr. Hines has served on the board for 8 years and is the immediate past Vice-Chairman. He succeeds Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr.

Reverend Dr. Mack T. Hines, a Florence County native, holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Allen University, a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from the former Morris College School of Religion, A Doctor of Ministry Degree from Hood Theological Seminary, and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree for outstanding leadership in the state of South Carolina from Morris College. He is also a member of the Morris College Hall of Fame.

Reverend Dr. Hines works tirelessly to serve his local community. He served as an educator in Florence School District 1 for 12 years. He is Chairman of the Wilsonian Clergy where he organizes ministerial alumni of Wilson High School, to raise funds for academically excellent students facing financial crisis. In 2006, he was presented with the honor of the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Mark Sanford following 12 years of service in the South Carolina House of Representatives, District 59. Reverend Dr. Hines served as the Moderator of the Florence and Affiliated Counties Baptist, Missionary and Educational Union, Moderator of the Pee Dee Baptist Association, and President of Mullins Area Ministerial Alliance. Currently, he actively serves on the executive board of the Pee Dee Baptist Association and as pastor of the historical Saint Paul Baptist Church which has seen tremendous growth under his administration.

Dr. Hines is married to the former Gladys Jackson of Darlington, SC. They have three sons, Mack III, Michael and Gregory and three grandchildren.



DR. RALPH W. CANTY, SR.

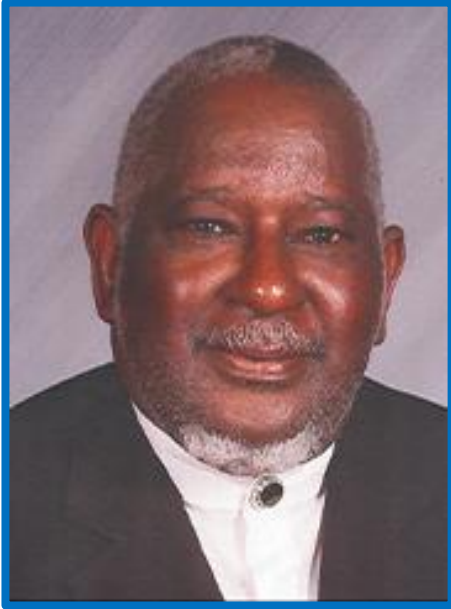
Dr. Canty has emerged as an individual whose voice maintains a calm, professional tone that still has much to say about church and ministry. For more than five decades, he has innovatively explored the relevance and uniqueness of Christian and pastoral ministry. His many years as a highly recognized preacher and pastor have provided inspiring and transformative perspectives as the church strives to “serve the present age.” A church leader keenly aware of contemporary problems confronting the church, he has swam the deep waters of church

leadership away from the shallow depths of conventional church mores and customs. God’s spirit guided him in creating a new dimension of transforming the consciousness of how the church is viewed.

Since he was 23, he has served as pastor of Savannah Grove Baptist Church, Effingham. He also serves the Westend Community Church of Sumter as pastor. He received a Bachelor of Arts and an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Morris College, a bachelor of divinity from the former Morris College School of Religion, and an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Benedict College. Having done post-graduate studies at the Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center, he received a Doctor of Ministry from Hood Theological Seminary.

A former member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and the Morris College Board of Trustees, he has served as president of the Congress of National Black Churches, South Carolina Morticians Association, Black Concerned Clergy Association, South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Incorporated, and past moderator of the Pee Dee Missionary Baptist Association to name a few.

He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, president of Job’s Mortuary, Incorporated, of Sumter, and chairman of the Sumter School District Board of Trustees. Among his many awards and recognitions, he was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by then Governor James H. Hodges. He had a portion of Alligator Road named the “Dr. Ralph W. Canty, Sr. Highway.



REVEREND WILLIAM RANDOLPH

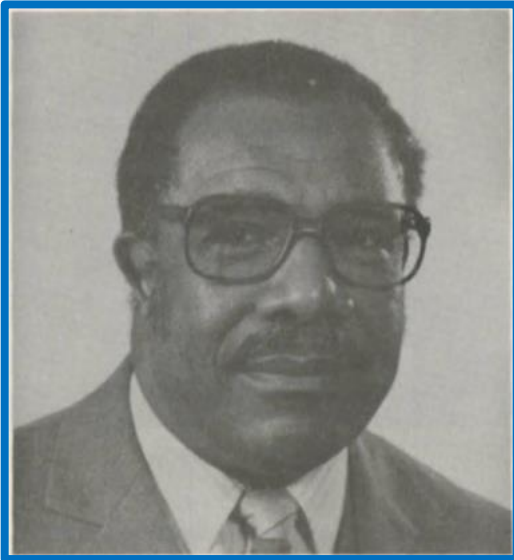
Born into a farming family in 1835, he worked his way through high school driving a bus and picking cotton on the family farm under the mentorship of a local councilman who believed in his potential.

He is a graduate of Morris College, where he personally constructed a residence for the college dean Henry Hardin, an experience which led pastor Randolph to the establishment of his own construction company. Later, he designed the sanctuary for First Missionary Baptist Church (1977), where he delivered his first trial sermon in

1954 and served as pastor from 1960 to 2007. The building was erected by Randolph General Construction Company, as was Shiloh-Randolph Manor, completed in 1981, a 72 unit affordable housing complex for seniors that remains open today.

Pastor Randolph became involved in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s as leader of a local sit in with 25 other people in downtown Sumter. He was arrested a total of 11 times as a leader of the Sumter Movement, efforts that were supported by CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and the NAACP, and he was defended in court by future Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, Ernest A. Finney, Jr. Randolph's initial role was to recruit students to participate in the effort.

William Randolph was elected to Sumter City Council in 1987 and served with distinction until his retirement in 2008, with 19 of those years as Mayor Pro Tempore.



JAMES L. SOLOMON

Professor of Mathematics, Morris College (retired);
South Carolina Public Official (retired)

James Solomon was born in 1930 in McDonough, Georgia. Wanting greater educational opportunities for their son, James' parents moved the family to Atlanta. Solomon graduated high school at 16 and attended Morris Brown College for a year. He left college to serve in the Air Force where he was in one of the first black squadrons to be integrated. He served for the duration of the Korean War and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. After leaving the Air Force, he found himself in Sumter, South Carolina. There he met his wife and completed his college degree at Morris College. Always in the pursuit of further education, he went on to earn his master's degree in mathematics from Atlanta University in 1960. His master's thesis was titled "Lectures in the theory of functions of a complex variable, Part III."

Solomon worked as faculty at Morris College from 1960 to 1973. He was hired as an instructor but was rapidly promoted. By the 1970s, he was the college's Vice-President of Institutional Planning and Research. In addition to his contributions at the collegiate level, Solomon developed and directed an NSF funded program for elementary school teachers which ran for several years.

In 1963, while a professor at Morris College, Solomon was one of three African Americans to desegregate the University of South Carolina. The university had been a white-only institution since 1877, but in 1963, the federal courts ordered it to admit all qualified African Americans. Solomon enrolled in the University of South Carolina's graduate program in mathematics as a way to get involved in the civil rights movement and also gain useful professional development.

Always in pursuit of new challenges, Solomon became involved in state politics while working at Morris College. He was elected to the local school board in 1970. This was a major achievement. Prior to this, no African American had been elected to county public office since Reconstruction.

Solomon left Morris College to work in state government in 1973. He first worked on staff at the South Carolina Higher Education Commission, a state agency responsible for overseeing the state's public universities and colleges. He left the Commission in 1983 to become Director of the Department of Social Services. He remained department Director until his retirement.



REVEREND DOCTOR OLIVER T. HILL

The Reverend Doctor Oliver T. Hill, or "O. T." as he is better known to many of us, is a native of Greenville, South Carolina. He is a son of the late Ottoway T. Hill and Katherine Brown Hill Watson.

Reverend Hill attended and graduated from the public schools in the School District of Greenville County. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in liberal studies at Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina, and a master's degree in divinity from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. In 2011, he completed the requirements for the

Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

From his teenage years to the present day, Reverend Hill has been deeply involved in community improvement activities. As a young adult concerned about his Spartanburg Street Community, he spearheaded a drive to purchase a "community bus" that was used to transport youth to recreational activities.

During those years, Reverend Hill also collaborated with his Spartanburg Street neighbors to clean up a substandard ball field attached to a neighborhood community center. Those efforts resulted in the ball field and the David Hellams Community Center being included as official facilities under the Greenville City Parks & Recreation Department.

Reverend Hill has long been an advocate for youth in the community, as reflected in the fact that he coached Little League and Pony League teams in football, basketball, and baseball. In doing so, he often used his own funds, as well as solicited financial support from other residents, to provide necessary equipment and supplies for the teams to participate in programs sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Department. It should be no surprise, then, that he is widely respected for mentoring adolescents and teenagers.

Reverend Hill has played a meaningful role in several public education activities in and for Greenville County. In 1992, Reverend Hill was appointed by former Lieutenant Governor Nick Theodore to serve on the South Carolina Education, Business, and Civic Partnership, which had the goal of increasing the involvement of businesses in public education.

As Greenville Technical College was experiencing a major growth period from the late 1980s, through the early 2000s, Reverend Hill served for 18 consecutive years as an active and involved member of the Area Commission (Board of Trustees) for the College. Among other assignments for the Commission, he chaired the Education Committee, which assessed various academic programs at the Institution.

Reverend Hill took part in a feasibility study sponsored by the Greenville County School District regarding proposed new schools. This study became the foundation for the School District's decision to build new elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the county. As a result, over a 12-year period, at least a dozen new schools have been constructed at a total cost of nearly one billion dollars.

In closely related service, he was appointed to serve on the School District's task force addressing dropout and retention issues for minorities. This program led to an increase in the number of students who could be enrolled in alternative educational programs.

Recognizing an opportunity to support college graduates as well as public school students, Reverend Hill accepted an appointment to assist the Greenville Chamber of Commerce in starting up a special program to identify unemployed and underemployed minority college graduates and expand opportunities for them to find adequate work in their chosen fields in Greenville County.

Reverend Hill believes strongly in the value of African Americans devoting time and effort to positive civic engagement. Over a period of 25+ years, he has coordinated and otherwise assisted in dozens of successful voter registration drives throughout Greenville County. These efforts have resulted in the addition of hundreds of newly registered voters.

Upon joining the NAACP while still a young adult, Reverend Hill chose to register as a Life Member of that distinguished organization. As part of his service in the Greenville Branch of the NAACP, he was elected Vice President of the Youth Division, which enabled him to continue his passion for trying to influence young people to strive to be productive, well-educated individuals.

When the Greenville Urban League needed to bring on board a new Chief Executive Officer, Reverend Hill was added to the Search Committee to screen candidates and recommend the person to be hired for the CEO position.

While serving as president of the Baptist Ministers' Fellowship of Greenville and Vicinity, Reverend Hill was chosen to preside over the Leadership Breakfast Group of Greenville.

The mission of the LBG is to bring together concerned citizens to make recommendations that can help government officials handle their public work in a more responsible, equitable, and competent manner.

And of course, Reverend Hill is a broadly involved and constant participant in "church work" that supports Christian ministry, education, and spiritual growth. As pastor, Reverend Hill has led two Baptist congregations--Double Springs (Walhalla) and Beaverdam (Enoree)—in successfully building up the churches' physical, spiritual, and financial capacity to serve their current members and attract new ones.

At Beaverdam, where he became the pastor in 1981, Reverend Hill guided the congregation in purchasing the 15 acres of land on which the current church is situated. In the meantime, he guided Beaverdam's efforts to (1) construct a lovely and inspiring new sanctuary, (2) thoroughly upgrade the educational facility, (3) purchase a 24-seat bus, (4) purchase a 15-seat van, and (5) establish a monthly newsletter titled Here's The Scoop.

Reverend Hill recognizes the importance of networking with other pastors and congregations in doing God's work on earth. He became second vice moderator, then first vice moderator, then moderator of the Tumbling Shoals Baptist Association, which serves as an organizing agency for more than three dozen churches in Laurens County. As moderator, he conceived and directed an innovative campaign to establish the financial foundation for a multi-purpose building that Association members had voted to construct. He then steered the initial efforts to purchase a 25-acre tract of land where the Association's multi-purpose facility would be erected. After completing his term as moderator of the Association, he continued in a leadership position, serving as vice moderator and then moderator of the Association's Union #3.

Further demonstrating the value of networking in Christian ministry, Reverend Hill is an engaged participant in (1) the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., (2) the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, and (3) the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina. For 20 years, he served as an instructor in the Young Adult College Workshop of the Congress of Christian Education of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

For more than 10 years, Reverend Hill has managed the Morris College Extension Program that offers supplemental instruction to individuals seeking to expand their

understanding of practice and policies in the Baptist church. At Morris College, he holds Assistant Professor status in the Division of Religion and Humanities.

At Duke University, where he completed a master's degree in the Divinity School, Reverend Hill was elected twice--once as a "middler" and once as a senior--to be the guest revivalist to undergraduate students in the university. At Duke, he was also appointed to the Admissions Committee for the Divinity School, which enabled him to play a substantial role in the number of African American students to be accepted for enrollment in the program.

Reverend Hill has been recognized and honored by numerous organizations for the consistency and quality of his public service. The Phillis Wheatley Association, the Urban League of the Upstate, SHARE, the Baptist Ministers' Fellowship, and the Black Elected Officials of Greenville County have all given him awards for his community-building work in Greenville.

Reverend Hill is married to the former Elaine McBride, recently retired after a 34-year career as a public-school teacher in the Greenville County School District. They are the parents of one son, O.T. Hill II and one daughter, Shanda Hill.