

The Gospel Oak

We Celebrate Excellence

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Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church

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THEN. . . .1876



NOW. . . .2016



Established 1876
140 Years of Progress



Indian Woods Missionary
Baptist Church
2330 Indian Woods Road
Windsor, NC 27983
(252) 794-9173

Rev. David E. Moore, Pastor
indianwoodsmbc@gmail.com

READ OUR HISTORY AT
www.indianwoodsmbc.com



Clara Ruth Smallwood Cooper

(Interview done by Asia Cooper)

Mrs. Clara Cooper (nicknamed Sister Burke or Clara Burke) was born on May 12, 1923. She is a resident of Indian Woods, located in Windsor NC in the County Seat of Bertie. She is now 92 years old. Her parents were Georgia White Smallwood and Burke Smallwood. She was married to Henry Lawrence Cooper. From that union came seven children: Sandra, Sharon, Anita, Kevin, Kenneth, Grover, and John Lee. She has 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren.

She worked as a teacher assistant at W.S. Etheridge for a number of years. She was a sales clerk at the Super Dollar Store and worked at Hamilton Beach. She worked in the fields picking cotton, digging peanuts, picked cucumbers and primed tobacco a job that most said women could not do. She was a pioneer.

Her favorite things to do she said are word search puzzles, watch Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, Price is Right, and Family Feud. She loves to go to the Senior Citizen Center and play bingo. She also enjoys the exercise class.

Mrs. Clara Cooper has one thing that she really loves doing and that is making cakes from scratch. She could really cook a delicious chocolate and pineapple cake every Sunday for dinner.

She joined IWMBC at the age of 13. She was baptized in an Old Mill down at the end of Conniott Road. She was an Usher and a Missionary at the church. She talked about the old days, when they used to have church under the Gospel Oak. During those days people had to walk to church.

She ended the interview with these words: The children of today need to know Psalm 23, obey their parents, get a good education, and always keep God in their lives.

Good advice. Mrs. Clara.

Soaring for Greatness...and Settling for Nothing Less



From the desk of the
Pastor



I want to take this opportunity to first say thank you. Since my tenure here at Indian Woods I have seen the zeal and desire of our young children. You have made my heart glad, and also gave me hope that there are some young people who love God and their church.

I want to encourage you to keep doing what you are doing. Keeping looking for ways to stretch your wings and be the best you can be in the church, school and at home. I want you to know that you can do "All things through Christ that strengthens me" Philippians 4:13.

I have made a vow to continue to support and encourage you. I want to sow into your life as you have mine. Keep soaring high and don't let anyone bring you down. Don't allow yourselves to be talked into coming down from where you are. There are many friends you hang with and know that there is greatness in you, and if they can't be where you are, they will try to bring you where they are. So continue to soar for greatness. I love you and that is from the heart

Pastor David E. Moore, Jr

The Christian Education Training Union was a great success: Dr. Leonzo Lynch, GBSC Vice President at Large headed the Adult Workshop on "Building the Ministry Team: Pastors, Deacons and Church Leaders." Dr. Lee Cooley-State Board of Election explained "It's Our Time, It's Our Vote." The Youth Workshop was taught by Ministers Darren and Candance Whitehurst. Indian Woods was well represented with 35 people.

Who was spotted helping one of our Senior Deacons on the 5th Sunday in January 2016? Brother La'Marion Daniels was seen helping Deacon Fred Cooper by pushing him to the back door of the Sanctuary in the wheel chair. Deacon Cooper enjoyed his ride and La'Marion now knows how to assist someone that needs help with the wheel chair. Kudos to La'Marion.

On February 6, 2016, Shakira Moore and Latisha Smallwood started our Liturgical Dance Ministry. It continues to grow and promises to be a great ministry.

*Ego-kill it, Love-value it, Smile-keep it, Gossip-ignore it,
Success-achieve it, Jealousy-distance it, Knowledge-
acquire it, Confidence-trust it.*

Black History Month

February is the shortest month of the year, but in that month you will see how much was done and how we helped to mold and make this country what it is today. We are a proud people we come from Kings and Queens. We have put our feet in the sands of time and moved this country forward in its' future. Black History should be special for students all across the country. So 2016 is a leap year. We will get 29 days to get it right this time around. Without the superior ability and the imagination of the black race and the dreams of our four fathers we would not have most of the luxuries we have today. So to our inventors and leaders of the future we say to you, no dream is too small, no idea is lost. As Paul said, "I press toward the mark of the high calling in Jesus Christ." So as you continue to walk with Christ remember to follow where He leads and your dreams and ideas will become a reality.

JUST TO NAME A FEW

"We recognized these champions of justice and the sacrifices they made to bring us to this point, we honor the contribution of African-Americans since our country's beginning and we recommit to reaching for a day when no person is judged by anything but the content of their character." Statement by 1st Black President Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States 2008-2016 and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Leader.

- Rev. C. Melvin Creecy, former IW Pastor, was the first black elected to represent the 5th Congressional Distict in the House of Representatives.
- Mrs. Sarah Bond was the first black teacher to integrate the public schools in Bertie County.
- Mr. David G. Bond was the first inventor of the flashing turn signal, a patent for which he received no credit.
- Mrs. Alice Smallwood was the first black as well as the first female Deputy Sheriff in Bertie County.
- John Holley is the first black Sheriff in Bertie County—elected, not appointed
- Cathy Hyman was the first black Veteran's Affairs Officer in Bertie County.
- Michael Bond invented and patented an ergonomically efficient paint brush in 1965.
- Phachita Bond was the first black "Miss Windsor" crowned in 1972.
- Loretta E. Lynch was sworn in as the 83rd and the first black Attorney General of the US on April 27, 2015. She is a native of Durham, NC.

There is a store house of knowledge on Black History and the people that have fought with endless pride. We ask that you take the time to research our HISTORY.