

NAME: Harrilene Beane Simmons Shackelford

BIRTHPLACE: Historic Burrell Memorial Hospital, Roanoke, VA

FAMILY: Born to Harry G. and Florence Mary Elizabeth Beane Simmons, February 18, 1941; one son, Juan A. Shackelford who is married to Anna Knoske, he is now in ministry and received his Master of Divinity from Virginia Union School of Theology in May 2019 and is a candidate for ordination in November 2021; two grandchildren who consume a large portion of my heart, Imani, who is seventeen, will graduate from high school in June and attend JMU in the fall, and Jaiden sixteen who will be a senior in the fall; one brother, Robert M. Simmons (Patsy); a host of other loving and supportive family members.

EDUCATION: Attended public school system of Roanoke County; graduated George Washington Carver High School, Salem, VA, 1958; graduated Hampton Institute now University, Hampton, VA, 1962, B.S. in Accounting

LIFE PATH: Joined Bethel A.M.E. Church, Roanoke, VA at an early age; pianist for Bethel A.M.E., Roanoke and First Baptist, Cloverdale, VA from a very young age (about 7) until leaving for college; played for High School Choir and other organizations in the community; was active in several organizations in High School, played on the girls basketball team, captain of the cheering squad. After completing college was employed at Crown Savings Bank (black owned), Newport News, VA; Peninsula Co-op, Inc. Hampton, VA; Hampton University Federal Credit Union; Hampton University; W.M. Grace, Inc., Hampton, VA; Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, VA; SaniVac, Inc., Suffolk, VA; Hampton Dept. of Social Services until retiring in June 2011, as an Employment Services Worker. I also was a member of the United Order of Tents, serving my term as Grand Matron. I joined Bethel A.M.E., Hampton, VA in 1962; served as organist and pianist for Senior Choir, Chancel Choir, Men's Chorus, Youth Choir, and Angel Choir; member of J. Alton Butts Gospel Choir and served as President for many years; member of Steward Board, W.M.S., Sunday School, Lay Organization, Secretary of Official Board, Financial Secretary of Church. In September 1986 received call into the Ministry; preached Initial Sermon in December 1986 and licensed to preach in the next Quarterly Conference early 1987; ordained an Itinerant Deacon in 1990 and joined New Union A.M.E., Norfolk, VA., under Pastor Clifton Roscoe Wilson; After my ordination, I was assigned to St. Luke AME, Chesapeake for my first year of internship under the watchful eye of Pastor Norman J. Fuller; second year of internship was at Brown's AME, Smithfield under Pastor Queen E. Snell. In 1992 I was ordained an Itinerant Elder in the Virginia Annual Conference. At that Conference I was appointed Pastor of New Hope AME, Chatham, VA and served until May 1994 when I was appointed to St. John A.M.E., Roanoke, VA and served until May 2002 and began the work of a new edifice; then appointed to St. Luke AME, Chesapeake, VA where I served as a servant of the Lord and the fine people of St. Luke, for fourteen years and retired on Friday, May 13, 2016 from the active role of pastoring and returned to Bethel A.M.E. Hampton on Sunday, May 15, 2016 and now serve as an Associate Minister with Pastor Andre' P. Jefferson, Sr. My aim as a pastor was to remain humble, love the people and follow the Lord's lead, for if "He led me, I could not stray". After 24 years in pastoring, God has blessed me with five daughters in the ministry (one deceased) and two sons (one deceased). As a member of the Virginia Annual Conference I served as the Assistant Secretary for a number of years; first female elected to serve as President of the Tidewater AME Ministers Alliance; first elected

Coordinator of Virginia Conference Women in Ministry; first female in Virginia Conference elected as Alternate Delegate to the General Conference in 2000; first female in Virginia Conference elected as Delegate to the General Conference in 2004. Also served on several committees in the Virginia Annual Conference and on the secretarial and musician staff of the Norfolk-Eastern Shore District Conference. Served as a Telephone Counselor for the Christian Broadcasting Network, Virginia Beach, VA. "To God Be The Glory For The Things He Has Done", for He kept me during the ten years I traveled to the Western part of the state to pastor and He continues to order my steps on this ministerial pathway of life. I am in process of redirecting my path after retiring from pastoring, although I do miss the interaction with God's people in that capacity. I was employed as a driver for Uber and Lyft, loved doing it and it actually became a ministry for me as I came in contact with many people from varied walks of life. My prayer is that the Lord will use me for His glory, and "Guide my heart, mind, tongue, feet, all of me, while I run this race, cause I don't want to run this race in vain".