

**DEACONESS CYNTHIA KNIGHT DOCKERY**  
*(Class of 1973)*



I was born in Tarboro, North Carolina on November 6, 1954, to the late Fred and Bessie Knight. I am the 10<sup>th</sup> of 11 children. I attended W.A. Pattillo School from the first through the ninth grades. When we first moved to the house that my father built for us, the street had no name. We received our mail at my aunt's house on Panola Street. Later, the street was named Pattillo Street, after the principal of W. A. Pattillo School. We lived right across from the swimming pool, so it was the best location during the summer.

While at Pattillo High School, I participated in the choir under the leadership of Ms. I. S. Foster. Music was something I always enjoyed so I was truly happy to be a member of that choir. I also assisted my teachers in grading papers and conducting classes. Math was my favorite subject and Mr. Earl Miller was my favorite teacher. At age 14, I broke my leg on the P.E. field at Pattillo during recess. The love that was shown to me by the teachers and students during my long recovery is something I have never forgotten and will always appreciate.

I began my Sophomore year at Tarboro Senior High School (TSHS) in the fall of 1970. While at TSHS, I was a member of the Chorus and the Ensemble; had a role in the Senior Class Play; and was chosen by my typing teacher, Mrs. Jones, to participate in the North Carolina State Typing Competition for two consecutive years. I was selected based on accuracy and speed in typing. I always thought that was ironic. I never wanted to take typing because I did not think it was something I could learn.

During my Senior year at TSHS, I was chosen as an Outstanding Senior. I was very proud to receive this honor because out of 210 graduating students only 12 could be chosen as Outstanding Seniors and only 6 could be African-American. I also received the Most Talented Superlative; served as President of the Junior Mental Health Association; and was Co-Editor of the 1973 Class Yearbook. I was the first student to hold two leading positions in a club. I graduated from Tarboro Senior High School in 1973.

Upon graduating from TSHS, I relocated to the Washington, D.C. area. I attended Strayer Business College studying Business Administration. I also received Continuing Education Units from George Washington University and received several CEU certificates in English, vocabulary, speed reading and fast notes.

My first employer, the Bureau of National Affairs (BNA), awarded me \$653 for a suggestion they adopted. That \$653 was 10% of what BNA saved per year for implementing my suggestion (a very substantial amount during that time). I have worked with attorneys in the following areas of law: Antitrust Litigation, Merger & Acquisitions, Corporate Securities, Patents, Trademark, Copyright, Food & Drug, Immigration, Criminal Law, Energy and Natural Resources, Real Estate, and Telecommunications.

My "dream" job is the one I currently hold – Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor of Galilee Baptist Church. I have been a member of this church for 42 years and my Pastor's Executive Assistant for 20 years. This job affords me the opportunity to meet and work with people around the world. I was ordained a Deaconess in 1999. I serve on several other ministries including the Music & Fine Arts Ministry (where I am a Directress of three choirs); a member of the Women's Ministry; Director of the Events Planning Ministry; and a member of the Theater Ministry.

I was married to my husband, the late Wayne Dockery, Sr. for 39 years. We have two sons: Randolph Childress and Wayne Dockery, Jr. We have seven beautiful grandchildren: Brandon, Lauryn & Alijah (twins), Xavier, Devin, Alexia and Londyn. We have one great-granddaughter, Journi. I enjoy reading, writing, singing, and swimming.

Currently, I am serving as the Interim President for the W.A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association, Inc., another exciting chapter in my life. I am honored to participate. The Alumni is an incredible organization that assists students with scholarships and helps those who graduated from W. A. Pattillo High School stay connected. The annual events that the Alumni provide and execute are second to none and are the highlights of the summer.