



The Trojan Award

W. A. Pattillo High
School Class of 1966

Ms. Bessie Marie Lewis

Bessie Marie Lewis was born in Tarboro, NC on June 8, 1948 to the late William H. Lewis, Sr. and Ethel M. Lewis. Bessie was one of five children, all raised in a loving home.

Bessie graduated from W.A. Pattillo High School in 1966. She would then go on to Elizabeth State University from 1966-1968. She met friends there that she cherishes until this day! After time there, she later decided to move to Philadelphia to find work and help her sister Varnell. Bessie diligently worked nearly 25 years for The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Social Worker.

After retirement in 2004, she returned to Tarboro to take care of her loving parents, brother, and her Aunt Vivian until their deaths. She has always given her time and care to step in when there was a need.

Bessie is a proud member of St. Paul Baptist Church. She serves by cleaning the church on Saturdays to

prepare for Sunday worship. She can often be seen running errands for family, friends, or neighbors at either Dollar General, Walmart, Post Office, or Tarboro Clinic.

As a Pattillo Alumni, she has served in different capacities. A few of those are: Student Library Assistant, Sports Concession Stand Volunteer, Member of the Democracy in Action Group, the 50th Class Reunion, and wherever needed behind the scenes. She has always been up to the task by helping, giving, and serving others with a joyous attitude.

Her greatest joys are her daughter and grandchildren. Her other loves are watching the Philadelphia Eagles and professional tennis. Bessie treasures her time with her family, friends, and being able to serve. Many people have been blessed by her unselfish love and giving spirit.