

Friend of Hillside Service Awards

Rev. Thelma M. Battle

Rev. Thelma Melvin Battle is a native of Cumberland County. She graduated from Anne Chestnutt High School in 1950 as Valedictorian of her class. She entered NCCU in 1950 to prepare herself for a teaching career. Upon graduation she chose to continue her educational pursuit by entering the Howard University School of Social Work earning the MSW degree in 1956. She later earned Certificates in counseling and School Administration from NCCU. Later in her life, she earned a Master of Divinity degree from Shaw University.

Rev. Battle has enjoyed a variety of work experiences during her work life. She worked as a Social Worker with the Veterans Administration and with Durham Public Schools and taught a third grade class in Lagos, Nigeria. In 1973 she became an Assistant Principal at Hillside High School and enjoyed spending the next twelve years relating to students and faculty there. She was honored to serve as Hillside's Interim Principal for six months in 1986. She later became Principal of WG Pearson Elementary School and retired in 1995. She received the NC Association of Educators' Human Relations Award while at Hillside in 1984. At W.G. Pearson she was named Principal of the Year in 1988.

Rev. Battle entered the Ministry in 1992, and was ordained by White Rock Baptist Church in 1999. She has been involved in preaching, teaching and in Missions at her church.

She is a world Traveler with the continent of Africa being her favorite destination. Her daughters Angela and Kim live in South Africa. Her son Joseph lives in Chapel Hill with his wife, Emma and their two sons. She is married to Dr. Joseph Battle.

