

A Profile of

THE REV. SIMEON F. CUMMINGS

The Rev. Simeon F. Cummings has dedicated his life to improving the Indian community through his Christian ministry and willingness to help all peoples. His good work has touched the lives of thousands of people.

The Rev. Cummings was born June 24, 1920 in the Sandy Plains Community. He was the son of the late Mr. N.P. Cummings and Ms. Corilla Johnson Cummings, natives of Robeson County. His father was one of the forefathers of Methodism in Robeson County among the Indian people.

The Rev. Cummings graduated from Pembroke State College in 1948. He served five (5) years in Military Service with one term in England. After Military Service, he taught in the public schools of Robeson County for eight (8) years.

The Rev. Cummings married the former Ms. Maude Locklear from the Union Chapel area and they have nine (9) children and twelve (12) grand-children.

The Rev. Cummings later went into the ministry and his first pastoral assignment was in 1953. Since then he has helped open many doors for Indian people by being the first as follows:

- 1953 - First Indian to become a full time pastor of a United Methodist Church appointed by a bishop.
(He served Prospect United Methodist Church for 20 years. Membership grew into the largest Native American Church in the United States.)
- 1960's - Helped establish the Wesley Pines Retirement Home.
- 1960's - First Chairman of Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc.,
(Rev. Cummings assisted in founding Lumbee Regional Development Association to provide an invaluable service to the Indian Community.)
- 1969 - One of the organizers of the Robeson County Church and Community Center.
(Rev. Cummings used his leadership and influence well to help poor people.)
- 1973 - First Indian Chairman of Department of Social Services Board of Robeson County.
- 1973 - First Indian to serve on staff of the North Carolina Annual Conference Council on Ministries of The United Methodist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina
- 1976 - First Indian elected delegate to The General Conference of The United Methodist Church.
- 1978 - First Director of Robeson County Co-operative Parrish.
- 1980 - First Indian to be appointed to Greensboro College Board of Trustees.
(From this appointment, Rev. Simeon F. Cummings was able to nominate the first Methodist Lumbee lay person to receive an honorary degree, Dr. Adolph L. Dial.)
- 1985 - First Indian Assistant to the Cabinet of The North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.
- 1985 - First Chairperson and first Director, per January, 1986, of The Southeastern Jurisdiction Association for Native American Ministries (comprising nine (9) states)
- 1990 (After dreaming and working for an Association for Native American Ministries, Rev. Cummings will be devoting much of his time helping other Indian people throughout the southeast.)
- 1985 - After 32 years of service, Rev. Cummings has retired from full-time pastoral ministry.

Rev. Simeon F. Cummings is a shining example of Indian brotherhood and fellowship in the Lumbee Community and with all people, everywhere.

JESUS SAID, "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your servant (Mt. 20:26)."

1985 - Recipient of Henry Berry Lowry Award

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PEMBROKE STATE UNIVERSITY Views from the Campus



Angela McLean Crowned Miss PSU 1994

Angela McLean was crowned "Miss PSU 1994" in the annual Miss Pembroke State University Scholarship Pageant held before a crowd of more than 1,200 cheering students, family members and friends of the ten contestants.

The title and crown of Miss Pembroke State University were passed from Dana Lowery, Miss PSU 1993, to McLean in the three hour pageant held in the Givens Performing Arts Center.

McLean is a senior majoring in public relations with a minor in music. She is the daughter of Barden and Carolyn McLean from

Special Tribute to Rev. Simeon F. Cummings

Special Thanksgiving Gift

The Rev. Simeon F. Cummings family, which always gets together over the Thanksgiving Holidays made this Thanksgiving gathering one that will never be forgotten. They presented to the United Methodist Foundation, Inc. of the North Carolina Conference on The United Methodist Church, a gift of \$10,000 to be deposited to the account of the "SIMEON F. CUMMINGS NATIVE AMERICAN ENDOWMENT FUND." The net income from this fund is distributed annually to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency for Native American Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Simeon F. Cummings has a distinguished record of 32 years of ministry with the United Methodist Church. He and his wife Maude also have a distinguished family. They have nine very active children. Ms. Gayle Cummings is Vice-President of Symbol Computer Corp., McDuffie Cummings is the Town Manager for the Town of Pembroke, Dr. Robin

Cummings is the Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Pinhurst Surgical Clinic, Rev. S. Dufrine Cummings is pastor at Union Chapel Holiness Methodist Church, Ms. Nell Cummings is a RN at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Michael Cummings is President and CEO of Symbol Computer Corp., Larry Cummings is of the home, Kelly Cummings is owner and operator of CarQuest Auto Parts in Pembroke.

These nine children chose to give this gift at this time and in this manner, as a way of saying thank to you both their parents and to the Church and to God, and as a way to "Challenge" other families in their giving. They ask the question: Have you as a family, considered saying "Thank You" to someone who has helped make your life special while they can hear and appreciate it? If not, why not consider making your gift now! Make it a special gift, a gift that will be appreciated by those you are honoring and a gift that will help the Church meet the challenge of

Bladenboro.

Although McLean has been competing in pageants since she was eight years old, this was her first competition in the PSU pageant.

"I was Miss Bladenboro my senior year in high school," explained McLean, "but I'm at home on stage. I enjoy being with people, and pageants allow me to be with and relate to people."

Along with the Miss PSU title goes the responsibility to represent the University in a variety of on and off-campus activities.

Last year's Miss PSU, Dana Lowery,

appeared more than 25 times in campus and regional events. Lowery, a senior from Charlotte, always earned pride and respect for Pembroke State University.

Selected by the six judges as first runner up was Mary Mason, a junior from Fayetteville. Bronna Mills, a sophomore from Fayetteville, was picked as the second runner up, and Christie Teague, a senior from Hickory, was voted Miss Congeniality.

The scholarship pageant awards \$700 to Miss PSU, \$300 to the first runner up, and \$200 to the second runner up.

April Hammonds, a sophomore from Lumberton; Michelle Vanaman, a senior from Hope Mills; Valerie Rowe, a senior from Lumberton; Kelly Byler, a sophomore from Lumberton; Heather Currie, a freshman from Lumberton, and Bobby Dial, a senior from Pembroke, also participated in the pageant.

The pageant was directed by Florence Ransom from Pembroke and choreographed by Karen Gibson Jenkins from Laurinburg.

Mistress of ceremonies was Desiree McCormick, Miss Fayetteville 1993.

The pageant was comprised of a swimsuit, talent and evening gown competition.

Special entertainment was presented by Teresa Oxendine Williams, Miss PSU 1974; Dana Lowery, Miss PSU 1993, and Tammy Lamb, 1994 PSU Talent Showcase Winner.



touching the lives of future generations in a way that will help change the world for the better.

There presentation ended with the children saying to their parents: "We are proud to make this gift in your honor. It is our way of saying to both of you, Thank You. Thank you for the Christian values you have instilled in our lives, they have helped us become who we are today."

take a good look

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We need your prayers always.
God bless each and every one of you.