

Pauline Bonner
2016 Dinwiddie County Hometown Hero
Bio



- Pauline was born in Ford, VA on September 24, 1935 to Algie and Ethel Harris.
- Her family moved to the West Petersburg area when she reached school age.
- Pauline attended West Petersburg Elementary School and graduated from the Dinwiddie Training School in 1953.
- Following high school, Pauline spent two years at the Smith-Madden School of Business in Richmond, Virginia.
- In 1955, she accepted a secretary's position with the Extension Office in Dinwiddie County under Ms. Elnora Perry – the County's first African American Extension Agent.
- Mrs. Bonner worked with the Extension Office for 25 years before retiring in 1980.
- Pauline married Mr. Ben J. Bonner in 1958 and the couple made their home in the West Petersburg area of Dinwiddie County.
- After 58 years of marriage, they have three children and two grandchildren.
- Mrs. Bonner was instrumental in the establishment of the West Petersburg Vicinity Awareness (WPVA).
- She was the organization's first director and worked diligently to improve the communities of West Petersburg and Piney Beach through lighting, rehabilitation and home building projects.
- Mrs. Bonner worked to secure and implement a Community Development Block Grant for the WPVA, which provided funding for indoor plumbing for several homes in the WPVA community.
- Under the direction of Mrs. Bonner, the WPVA worked to provide education to the community on topics such as homeownership and crime prevention.
- Mrs. Bonner also oversaw the development of after school programs for the youth of the WPVA community.
- Mrs. Bonner was recognized by Governor L. Douglas Wilder in 1992 for her efforts in the West Petersburg community.
- Mrs. Pauline Bonner is a lifelong member of First Baptist Church of West Petersburg, where she served as President of the Usher Board.

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- Mrs. Bonner loves her work and her community and it is an honor to recognize her as one of Dinwiddie County's 2016 Hometown Heros.