Greenville and Vicinity Interdenominational Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows Alliance

We are proud to compile this history in memory of all those who started this great local organization, those who continue to carry on and those who are yet to come. We dedicate this recorded history to our charter Members. All of the rich history of this local is not recalled in these pages. As our older member left the scene many pages of history went with them. Our hope and prayer is that we can capture the history for future generations of Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows with modern technology as we move toward our promising future.

This local began as so many others throughout the country with the vision of our National Founder and Visionary Dr. Elizabeth Coles Bouey in 1941. We are sure our local Greenville founder heard of this great organization through her National involvement and desired this dream for Greenville. In the fall of 1966 Dr. Margaret Sanders dream became a reality when she organized Greenville County Interdenominational Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows Alliance. Sanders called together Elizabeth Brockman, Elnora Carter, Ethel Cooper, Annie S. Daniels, Lois Dixon, Iva Flack, Loney Gandy, Magdaline Greggs, Nellie Butler, Dazzalee Kay, Wessie Mayes, Rosa Pearson, Hellon Johnson, Carolyn Harris, Helen Brown, Annie J. Fuller, and Zada B. Thomas and this small group of Ministers’ Wives and Widows came together and met in the home of Mrs. Rosa Pearson. The idea was to bring about a closer relationship of Ministers’ Wives for more effective service in Kingdom building. They made a mailing list of all Ministers’ Wives including all denominations for the purpose of organizing the group.

The meeting to organize this Greenville Alliance was held November 1966 at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Bernie Street, Greenville, South Carolina where Reverend Dr. S.C. Sanders is Pastor. The Organization name was Greenville County Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows Alliance Interdenominational. The First officers were:

- Founder and First President - Margaret Sanders, President
- Elnora Carter, Vice President
- Ethel Cooper, Secretary
- Elizabeth Brockman, Assistant Secretary
- Annie Daniels, Treasurer
- Helen Brown Chaplain

Green Forest Recreation Center was chosen as the first meeting place, and was held the second Thursday nights in each month and this was chosen as our regular meeting night. The second meeting place was Tabernacle Baptist Church in the late seventies early eighties. The Greenville Alliance presently meets at the Martin Webb Baptist Learning Center, Fleming Street, Greenville, South Carolina. The dues in those early years were fifty-cents (50cents) per month. The hour for the meeting was 7:00 P.M. Five cents was collected for late dues and that was used to fund the benevolence purposes. Two social events were held each year, one public and one private.
The Presidents
Past To Present

The officers were elected for a two year term.  *Indicate Deceased*
All of the presidents’ that have served the Greenville Alliance were strong and unique leaders and made the necessary changes and were progressive and visionary in their leadership and moved the Alliance Forward.

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<th>FOUNDERS 1966</th>
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<td>Our First President and Founder was</td>
<td>Our Second President was</td>
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Our third president was
Mrs. Lona Gandy* 1971-1973

Our Fourth President was
Mrs. Essie H. Sullivan* 1973-1975
Our first member to serve as State President of South Carolina
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<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>President Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1975 - 1977</td>
<td>Mrs. Zadie B. Thomas*</td>
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<td>1977 - 1979</td>
<td>Mrs. Wessie Mayes*</td>
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<td>1979 - 1981</td>
<td>Reverend Sister Hilda McMahand</td>
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<td>1983 - 1985</td>
<td>Mrs. Johnnie Davis</td>
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<td>1985-1987</td>
<td>Mrs. Margie Mansell</td>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>Mrs. Henrietta Greggs</td>
<td>1987-1989</td>
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<td>Mrs. Colia Sullivan</td>
<td>1991-1993</td>
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<td>Mrs. Jackie Duckett</td>
<td>1993-1995</td>
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<td>Mrs. Melva Bruton</td>
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<td>Mrs. Elizabeth Brockman</td>
<td>1999-2003</td>
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Our Twelfth & Seventeenth President was Mrs. Annette Williams 1989-1991, 2003 - 2005. The Organization’s name was revised under President Williams & she served another two year term to make four years.

Our Thirteenth President was Mrs. Colia Sullivan 1991-1993. First local Member to serve both as state president and go on to serve as South East Regional Vice President - International.

Our Eleventh President was Our Sixteenth President was Mrs. Annette Williams 1987-1989. First President to serve four years, her term started the four year tenure.

Our Fourteenth President was Mrs. Jackie Duckett 1993-1995. Mrs. Elizabeth Brockman 1999-2003 CHARTER MEMBER.

Our Fifteenth President was Mrs. Melva Bruton 1995 - 1999.
Grand Celebrations
Our Anniversaries

- The First Anniversary Celebration was held with the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church family, November 1967. Rev. Dr. C.S. Sanders, Pastor.
- Our second Anniversary Celebration was held with the Tabernacle Baptist Church Family, 1968 Dr. E.D. Dixon, Pastor.
- Our Third Anniversary Celebration was held with the Israel Chapel CME Church Family in 1969, Reverend A. A. Chambers, Pastor.
- Our fourth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Nichol town Baptist church Family in 1970, Dr. C.C. Stewart Pastor.
- Our Fifth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Young Laymen CME Church Family in 1971, Reverend J.D. Mathis, Pastor.
- Our Sixth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Long Branch Baptist Church Family in 1972, Dr. C.M. Daniels, Pastor.
- Our Seventh Anniversary Celebration was held with the Union Baptist Church Family in 1973, Dr. N.J. Brockman, Pastor.
- Our Eighth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Piney Grove Baptist Church Family, 1974 Rev. Randolph Hawkins, Pastor.
- Our Ninth Anniversary Celebration was held with the New Hope Baptist Church Family, 1975 Greenville, South Carolina, Rev. D.L. Terry, Pastor.
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- Our Tenth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Family, 1976, Reverend C.E. Mansell, Pastor.
- Our Eleventh Anniversary Celebration was held with the Flat Rock Baptist Church Family, 1977, Dr. W.B. McMahan, Pastor.
- Our Twelfth Anniversary Celebration was held with the St. Paul Baptist Church Family, 1978, Reverend C.L. Jones, Pastor.
- Our Thirteenth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Macedonia Baptist Church Family, 1979 Reverend Alonzo Gregg was acting pastor.
- Our Fourteenth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Rocky Creek Baptist Church Family, 1980, Reverend W.R. Davis, Pastor.
- Our Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Family, 1981 Reverend Joe Stevens, Pastor.
- Our Sixteenth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Reedy River Baptist Church Family, 1982 Dr. S.C. Cureton, Pastor.
- Our Seventeenth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Piney Grove Baptist Church Family, 1983 Rev. Randolph Hawkins, Pastor.
- Our Eighteenth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Lowndes Hill Baptist Church Family, 1984 Reverend W.T. Radden, Pastor.
- Our Nineteenth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Popular Spring Baptist Church Family, 1985, Reverend Dr. A.B. Brown, Pastor.
- Our twentieth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Mt. View Baptist Church Family, 1986 Reverend Donald R. Smith, Pastor. The charter members were given certificates at this milestone occasion.
- Our Twenty-first Anniversary Celebration was held with the Reedy Fork Baptist Church family, 1987, Reverend Dr. T.E. Simmons, Pastor.
- Our Twenty-Second Anniversary Celebration was held with the Little Zion Baptist Church family, 1988, Reverend Locke, Pastor.
- Our Twenty-Third Anniversary Celebration was held at the Enoree Fork Baptist Church family, 1989, Reverend J.N. Radden Pastor.
- Our Twenty-Fourth Anniversary Celebration was held with the New Hope Baptist Church family, (Greenville) 1990 Reverend James Hallums, Pastor.
- In 1991 The Greenville Alliance Celebrated the Grand Celebration of our Silver Anniversary. The theme was “Visionary Involvement – A Glorious Past – A Promising Future. The Celebration was held with the New Hope Baptist Church Family, Greer, South Carolina, Reverend C.N. Sullivan, Pastor.
- After the Silver Anniversary the Greenville Alliance did not celebrate with a church service consecutive year Anniversary celebrations.
- Our thirtieth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Staunton Community Baptist Church Family, 1996 Reverend Alonzo Greggs, Pastor.
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- Our Thirty-fifth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Family, 2001 Dr. C. S. Sanders, Pastor.
- Our fortieth Anniversary Celebration was held with the Piney Grove Baptist Church family 2006 Reverend Randolph Hawkins, President.
- In the year 2016 we will celebrate “50” years as a local organization and our Golden Anniversary Celebration.

Although we were interdenominational we had only two denominations during the early days of the Alliance. AME came to be a part of the organization later. The Greenville Alliance Sisters’ even in the early years aspired to serve beyond the local level. During the early years we had the state and national and now we have the state, Southeast Region and we are now International. Our Greenville’s patriot member and mentor to many Mrs. Essie Sullivan was the first from the Greenville Alliance to serve as first Vice President of the state and went on to elected as President of the State of South Carolina Association of Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows. Mrs. Lois Dixon also was among the first to serve in the state from the local as financial secretary.

Others from Greenville that went on to serve on the state, regional and international levels were:

1. Jacqueline Duckett served as South Carolina State President and went on to serve on the International level as the Vice President of the Southeast Region.
2. Margie Mansell – Served on various committees throughout the State and on the International level with the Communion Committee.
3. Colia Sullivan - Served as South Carolina State Treasurer
4. Annette Williams – Served as First and second Vice President of the State, State Financial secretary, State Treasurer and served on the Regional level as corresponding secretary
5. Melva Bruton – Served on the Regional level as Southeast Regional financial Secretary, First Vice President of the State of South Carolina, State Dean of education, State Recording Secretary, State Corresponding secretary and on the International level, the Banquet Committee and on the Finance Committee.
6. Minister Shirley Winestock served as Assistant Secretary of the State of South Carolina as well as Minister Gracie Ferrette.

It has been our privilege to entertain the State, Regional and in Columbia South Carolina the State hosted the National Convention as it was at that time.

In 1983 the State of South Carolina Association of Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows hosted the National Association of Ministers’ Wives and Minister’s Widows in Columbia, South Carolina. Our State also hosted the now International Convention in 2004 in Birmingham Alabama due to the growth and membership demands of the organization we were not able to accommodate the International Convention in our state. In both the
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1980’s hosting experience and the 2004 experience Greenville was in charge of the Souvenir Journal and went over the top with both projects for the financial benefit of the state.

The Greenville Alliance has hosted the state on many occasions as well as the Southeast Regional.

In 1998 we hosted the 19th Annual Southeast Regional Conference in Greenville, South Carolina where Mrs. Melva Bruton was local President and Mrs. Jackie Duckett was South Carolina State President. This was held at the Hilton Hotel in Greenville, South Carolina. Dr. Celeste Ashe Johnson was International President.

In 1993 we had our 5th International President Dr. Shirley Alexander Hart speak during our State Convention at the Reedy River Baptist Church, The late Dr. S.C. Cureton, pastor.

In 1998 we worked with the state to host the International President’s Night in California for Dr. Celeste Ashe Johnson.

In 2001 under the leadership of Charter Member and local President Mrs. Elizabeth Brockman we hosted the State Association of MWMW in Greenville.

In 2007 under the leadership of Mrs. Shirley Dixon the Greenville Alliance hosted the State board meeting in March and the State Association of MWMW in April. In 2008 Greenville hosted the 63rd session of the State Association of Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows in Greenville, S.C. at the Hilton Hotel. Mrs. Shirley Dickson was local President.

Our Local Alliance support Meals on Wheels, Share, Brockman Center, Miracle Hill and other community projects.

In 1991 under the leadership of Local President Annette Williams a committee was appointed to revise the Constitution because of a wide residential range of members coming into the Alliance. A draft was presented to the membership to revise the name of our local Alliance. The group agreed and in 1991 the name was changed from Greenville County Ministers’ Wives and Minister’s Widows to Greenville and Vicinity Interdenominational Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows.

Over the years we continue to build a strong alliance built on Faith, Love and Prayer.

Present date our organization has over 40 members of various denominations and continues to grow as we continue to build as we celebrate a glorious past and a promising future.
Our sincere apology is extended for any significant information that may be omitted or left from this historical writing.

FAITH – LOVE – PRAYER
Rock Hill Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Alliance