



Mount Pisgah Baptist Church  
801 W. Market Street  
Bloomington, IL. 61701

*Application for*  
**Henry L. Brown and Eva M. Jones Memorial Scholarship**



**Knowledge is Power**

**II Timothy 2:15 – Study to show thyself approved unto God...**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Sunday, April 26, 2026 by 11:59 p.m.**

Upload completed application packet to:  
**Janine.peacher@gmail.com**

**Dr. Timothy Mark Harris, Pastor**

This original document was authored by Dr. Julia Visor  
Last updated: March 11, 2026

**Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church**  
**HENRY L. BROWN and EVA M. JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

These scholarships have been established as tributes to Deacon Henry L. Brown and Mrs. Eva M. Jones for their dedication and service to Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. These scholarships are a result of their work, and they stand in recognition of their love for Christian scholarship. These awards will be given each year to those applicants who best exemplify the ideals for which these two outstanding individuals stood. The awards will benefit the young people of Mt. Pisgah and enable the recipients to continue their quest for knowledge in the names of these two who are honored here.

**Eligibility Criteria**

- An applicant must have graduated in the current year from high school or hold a high school equivalency and must be a member in good standing with Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church.
- Any senior student pursuing a post-high school education is eligible to apply. Included are students entering (a) a four-year college, (b) a junior college or community college, (c) a school of nursing, (d) a trade or a technical school.
- The applicant must provide evidence of acceptance in the post-high school program of his or her choice.
- The applicant must have achieved a cumulative GPA of **2.5/4.0** or **3.5/5.0** upon graduation.
- The applicant must have demonstrated acceptable citizenship qualities while in high school (as deemed appropriate by the scholarship committee). If a student were suspended early in the high school years, for example, and subsequently demonstrated growth in maturity or attitude, he or she “would be eligible.”
- The applicant may be the recipient of other scholarships or financial assistance.
- As part of the selection process, students who submit a completed scholarship application may be required to participate in a **brief interview** (virtual or in-person options available) with the Mt. Pisgah Scholarship Committee.

## Application Process & Procedures

The applicant must complete the enclosed application form as indicated below:

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Phone (        )**

**Date of Birth:**        /        /

**High School(s) attended (list all you have attended):**

Name of School	City/State	Years Attended	Graduation Date

**I. Citizenship qualities (character):**

The scholarship committee will obtain this information from your response to the essay, reference letters, church activities, and community/school involvement.

**II. Evidence of acceptance in the post-high school program:**

The applicant must provide evidence of acceptance in the post-high school program of his or her choice. Please complete the information below regarding the Educational Institution you are planning to attend.

- Name of Institution:
  
- City, State:
  
- Major/type of training:
  
- Degree Sought/Technical Training Pursued:
  
- Expected completion date:
  
- Date fall academic term begins:
  
- Have you been accepted:    Yes \_\_\_\_\_                      No \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Please enclose a copy of your acceptance letter with the application.*

**III. Essay:**

The applicant must read the attached biographies of HENRY L. BROWN and EVA M. JONES then write an essay that elaborates on the concepts as described in this section of the application. *Please complete the essay as described below:*

Deacon Henry L. Brown and Mrs. Eva M. Jones were faithful servants of God, dedicated family members, community leaders and servants at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. Included in your application packet are biographies about these two outstanding individuals. After reading the biographies, write an essay of approximately 500 words and elaborate on the following concepts:

- a. how the contributions of these two **dedicated** servants will help shape your life;
- b. what you will take from their dedication and leadership to help you make positive contributions to society;
- c. how you will model your life to mirror the lives of Deacon Brown and Mrs. Jones.

Please attach your **typewritten** essay to the application. **Please don't forget to put your name, date, and school on your essay!**

**IV. Evidence of academic achievement:**

The applicant must submit evidence of academic achievement (high school transcript or GED).

Please fill in the information below (GPA, and Advanced Placement (AP or Dual Credit Courses):

- GPA:
- AP/Dual Credit Courses (the scholarship committee will get this information from your high school transcript)
- Standard Curriculum (the scholarship committee will get this information from your high school transcript)
- Please include a copy of your high school transcript

**V. Reference Letters:**

The applicant must submit **two reference letters**, which may be written by your teachers, employers, counselor, community leader, or other responsible individuals who can attest to your character. NOTE: Letters from relatives and/or personal family friends WILL NOT be accepted. Please include **two reference letters** then check below to indicate this portion of the application is completed.

I have included two reference letters that were written by my teacher(s), employer, counselor, community leader, or other responsible individual who can attest to my character. \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials**

**VI. Church activities, participation, commitment and spiritual growth:**

Please answer the three questions in the space provided below:

- What church activities have you participated in during **the last two years?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What positions of leadership or offices have you held in the church during **the last two years?**



**Submission Instructions:**

Please review your application to ensure you have completed it according to the guidelines. Please submit a recent photo with the application. The completed application packet must be submitted by **Sunday, April 26, 2026 by 11:59 p.m.** to:

**Upload completed application packet to: [janine.peacher@gmail.com](mailto:janine.peacher@gmail.com)**

If you have any questions or experience issues uploading your packet, please contact

- **Dr. Janine Peacher**, Scholarship Committee Chair (817-819-5862), or
- **Sis. Rachel Rusk**, Church Secretary.

**Please note:**

- As part of the selection process, students who submit a completed scholarship application may be required to participate in a **brief interview** (virtual or in-person options available) with the Mt. Pisgah Scholarship Committee.

**I hereby attest that the information I have included on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please print)*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please sign)*



## Application Checklist

Please complete the checklist below to ensure your application for the Henry L. Brown & Eva M. Jones MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP is completed according to guidelines:

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Did I sign the scholarship application?**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Did I attach the essay?**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Did I enclose my two character reference letters?**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Did I enclose my high school transcript?**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Did I attach a photo?**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Did I enclose a copy of my acceptance letter?**

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## Henry L. Brown

*“Determined, hardworking, dedicated family man, faithful servant of God and excellent bible teacher” are just a few words to describe the late Henry L. Brown.*

Henry Brown was born on April 1, 1913 in Russom, Mississippi. He was a son of Whitney and Laura-Johnson Brown. When Henry was four years old, he and his family moved to Helena Arkansas. After his parents divorced, he and his brother spent the school year with his mother in Memphis, Tennessee and summer vacation with his father.

Henry worked hard to make Bloomington-Normal a better place and was very active in the community. In the 1950s, African Americans could attend Illinois State Normal University but could not live in the dorms or eat in the cafeterias. The students ate at the Chat and Chew on the edge of campus and lived with African American families in the community. Each year ISNU’s Dean of Women would call the Browns and other African American families in the community to find rooms for African-American students. They and others in their neighborhood would do their part to help and took student boarders in for many years.

Henry was a devoted Christian and member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church (then located at 701 S. Lee Street). For many years he was a deacon at Mt. Pisgah and served as chairman of the board of deacons. He served as treasurer and building and fund drive chairman during the four-year drive to refurbish the church from 1961 until 1965. He also taught adult Sunday school classes up until shortly before his death.

In 1973 Henry co-founded the Bloomington-Normal Minority Voters Coalition, Inc. Other founders and the first Board of Directors included Marguerite Jackson, Eva Jones, Charles E. Morris, and Robert Gaston. The organization’s purpose was “to foster and cultivate a social, educational and citizenship relationship of its members and to broaden their interests in pursuit of good citizenship and to improve relationships among and between members of various political, social, cultural, religious, ethnic, and professional groups in the community.” He served as the organization’s president for many years.

He was a member of the Bloomington Police and Fire Commission for six years and director of the weatherization program for McLean County Economic Opportunity Corp. He served on the McLean County Regional Planning Commission for 13 years and it was at his suggestion the old McLean County Courthouse became a museum and was turned over to the McLean County Historical Society. Henry also served on the advisory council for Bloomington Schools in 1977 and was a member of AMVETS (American Veterans).

In 1978, Henry received the Bloomington Illinois Mayors Commission on Human Relations award and in 1985 the Culture Fest Service to the Community Award. On April 12, 1987, Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church honored his years of dedication and services to the church and community with a special service. At the service Jesse Smart, mayor of Bloomington, presented him with a key to the city and read a proclamation declaring the day officially as “Henry L. Brown Day.” With the passing of Deacon Brown on June 20, 1987, the Bloomington/Normal community lost one of its “stalwart and energetic” leaders.

*\*Information about Henry L. Brown was obtained from interviews with children Donise Brown, John Brown, and Carolyn Ware as well as McLean County Museum of History Archives.*

## **Mrs. Eva M. Jones**

*“A faithful servant of God, dedicated family member, and community leader” are a few details that describe McLean County’s first African American to serve on the Bloomington District #87 School Board: the late, yet unforgettable, Eva M. Jones.*

Have you ever dreamed of becoming a noticeable leader in your community or another community you may reside once you complete your career goals? Eva Jones fulfilled that dream. In 1979, she became the first black elected to the Bloomington City Council. This wasn’t the only time however, that Jones reached for the stars and realized her dreams.

Jones was born on March 15, 1930, in Frenchmans Bayou, Arkansas. She professed hope in Christ at an early age and was baptized at the First Baptist Church, by Rev. Frank Neal in Arkansas. She served as the Church Clerk for 15 years. After moving to Bloomington, Jones joined Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in 1961. She served as a choir member and the church clerk. She remained a member of Mt. Pisgah until her death.

She graduated from Bloomington High School and later Cortez Business College in Chicago, Illinois. During Jones’s era, there weren’t many well-known African-American female role models, but she didn’t let that stop her from achieving her goals. She was especially interested in educational issues in the community. That drove her to run for a seat on the District #87 School Board. She was the first African-American elected to the District #87 School board where she served from 1971-1977. Additionally, she served as President of the School Board for one year. During her tenure on the School Board no challenge was too great for Jones to take on.

Jones’s accomplishments did not stop there. She was also a Board Member of the McLean County United Way, McLean County Family Services, affiliated with Bloomington Transportation, Minority Voters Coalition, Y.W.C.A, and League of Women Voters. In addition to the aforementioned contributions to her community, she was president of the Normal-Champaign Chapter of Links Inc., original member of the Human Relations Commission, and a member of Delta Nu Alpha.

Today, Jones’s legacy lives on due to her work in the community and through the proud words spoken by her mother, who we all know as Mother Tommie Gaiter. Jones departed this life on Sunday, July 19, 1987, at 12:10 p.m., at the Bloomington’s Mennonite Hospital. Her life and legacy teaches us the importance of following our dreams, no matter how great the dream may be.

*\*Information about Eva Jones was obtained from an interview with Mother Tommie Gaiter, Rachel Rusk, and from Eva Jones’ Obituary that was provided by her Mother, Tommie Gaiter.*