



# Franklinton Center at Bricks



A Ministry of  
The United Church of Christ



“During the boyhood of one still living, students at Bricks *were told how this farm was once a place where ‘unruly’ slaves were sent to be subdued and ‘broken in’*. A spot was pointed out to us where the ‘whipping post’ stood – just in front of what is now the Guest House. It was impressed upon us that this was still a place where people were sent to be ‘broken’, not as slave for a slave state, but as free men and women for a place of service in a free and democratic society.”

-- Ross W. Sanderson, President  
Board of Trustees,  
Franklinton Center, Inc. at Bricks (1955)

# The Legacy

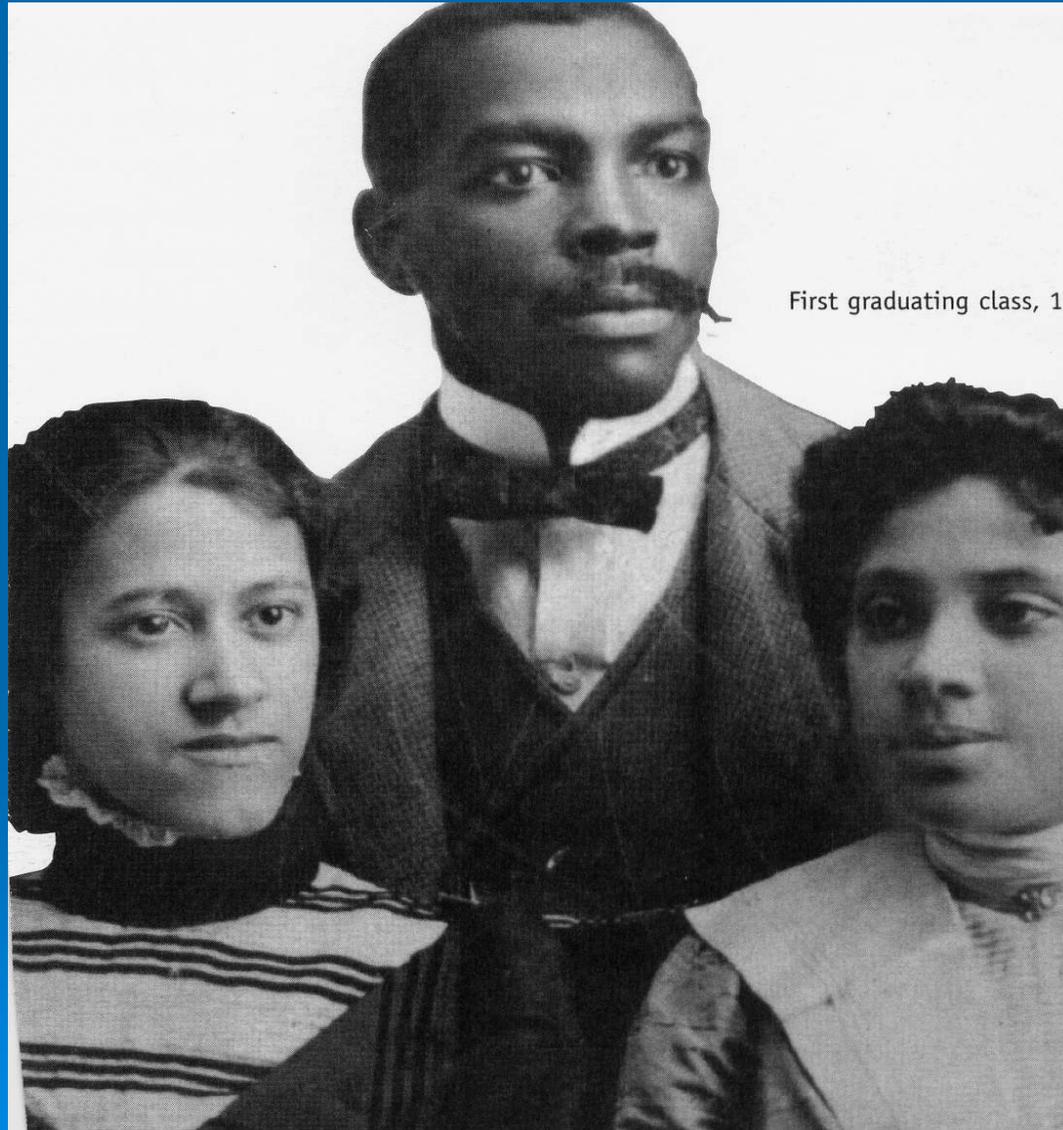


# Previous Director, Franklinton Center Inc. Franklinton, NC



DIRECTOR

## First Graduating Class of the Brick School



First graduating class, 19

# Rev. and Mrs. Judson King



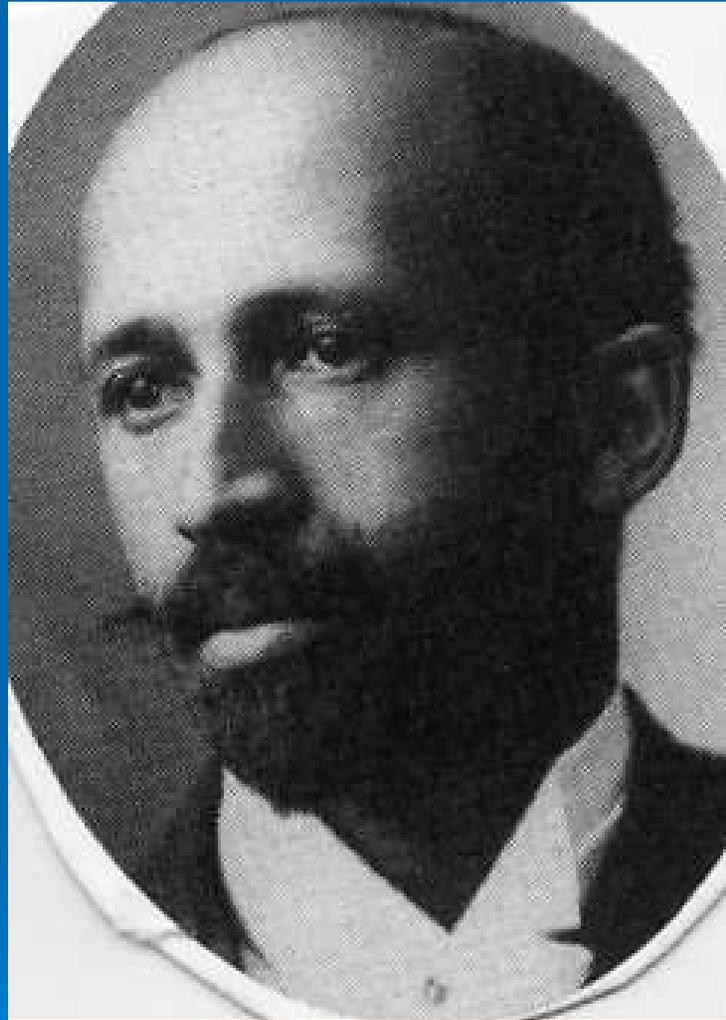
Director, Franklinton Center Inc. at Bricks

Influenced by



Booker T. Washington

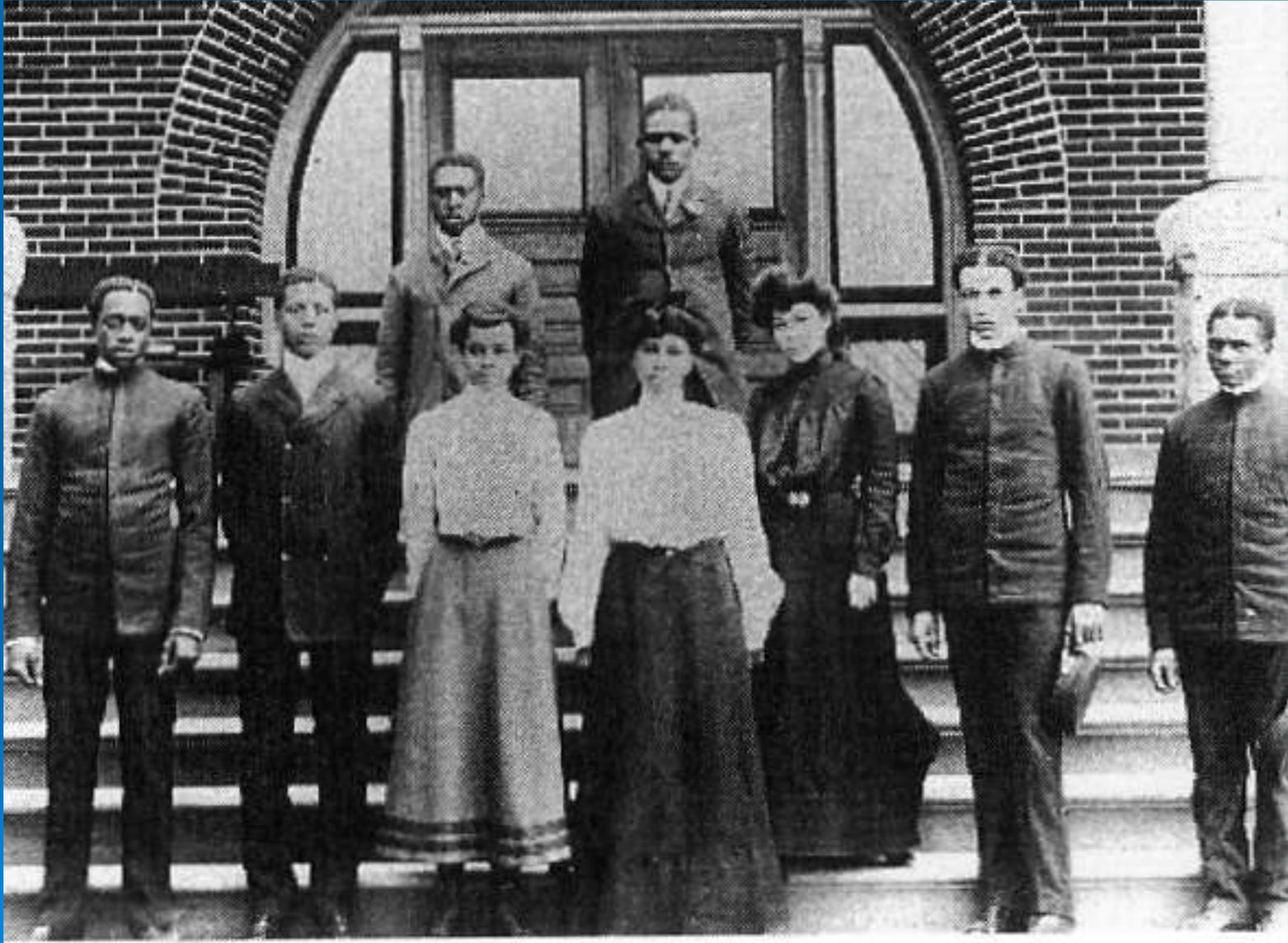
Embraced the Philosophy of



W. E. B. DuBois



# Graduating Class



# Professor Inborden in His Study



# Picking Berries



# Farmers, Mules and Plow



# Student Reading



# The History



**The institution we now call  
“Franklinton Center at Bricks  
has a richly inspiring and moving dual  
history which leads along a continuum  
of tradition.**



**From a massive farm property where slaves were afflicted, to an institution of social and educational reform, the story of Franklinton Center at Bricks continues to evolve from a tradition of progressive and social change.**



# Franklinton Center at Bricks encompasses the history of two institutions



*The Franklinton Literary and  
Theological Christian Institute  
(of the Christian Church)*

*and*

**The Joseph Keasbey Brick  
Agricultural, Industrial And  
Normal School  
(of the Congregational Church)**



# The Franklinton Literary and Theological Christian Institute (of the Christian Church)



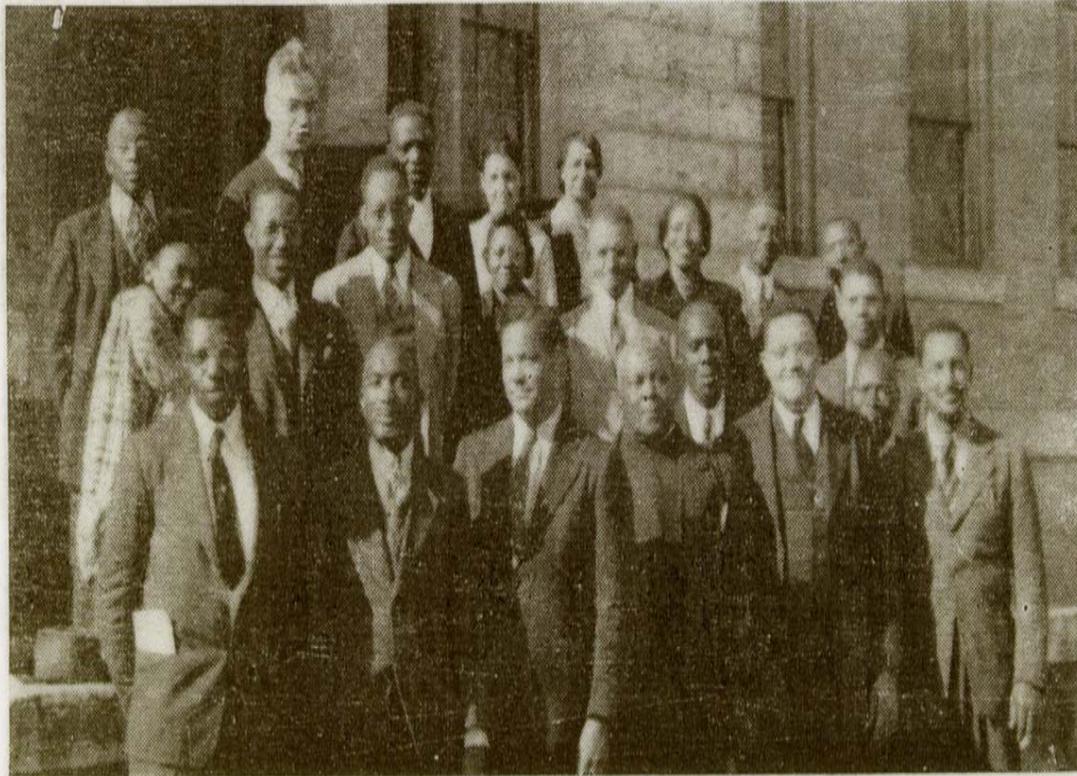
HENDERSON HALL — UNFINISHED

The Franklinton Literary and Theological Christian Institute was started in 1871 as a school for African Americans. It was started in the Black Christian Church of Franklinton, North Carolina. By 1880, the school was formally founded as the Franklinton Literary and Theological Christian Institute. In time, it became known as Franklinton Christian College and was considered by many to have been the Christian Denomination's most significant achievement benefiting its African American constituency.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Franklinton Christian College was a zealous foe of ignorance. “*The School instilled in its students deep religious convictions and motivation and gave an intellectual and spiritual viability to those who became preachers, teachers, and doctors and to those who have excellent guidance in their churches and communities.*” (*A History of Black Congregation Christian Churches of the South.*) J. Taylor Stanley, United Church Press of the American Missionary Association New York, 1978, p. 71.



STUDENTS

**The Brick School started on a former plantation. At one time the plantation had been used to break in slaves. General Llewellyn Estes had purchased the 1000 plus acres in 1867 following the civil war. While he was an admirable soldier, General Estes was not a productive farmer and lost his plantation to Mr. Julia Elma Brick, a wealthy white widow in Brooklyn, New York**

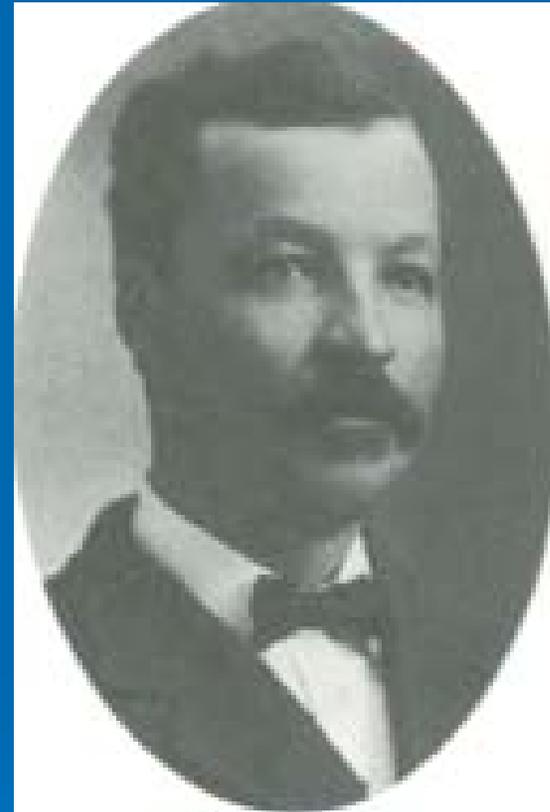




**Mrs. Brick was so moved when she heard of the plight of the newly freed slaves trying to obtain education that she went about trying to do something about it. She was advised to approach the the American Missionary Association, which had established schools throughout the south. (*Many of those schools have become today's historically Black colleges, including Hampton University, Talladega College and Fisk University*).**

**After meeting with representatives of the AMA, Mrs. Bricks gave the land and provided money for the construction of buildings.**

The AMA appointed Thomas Sewell Inborden as the first principal of the brick school. Under Inborden's leadership, the school grew from a common or primary school to a junior college. Brick School graduated hundreds of students, many of whom continued their education at colleges and universities nationwide.



*Mr. Thomas Sewell Inborden*

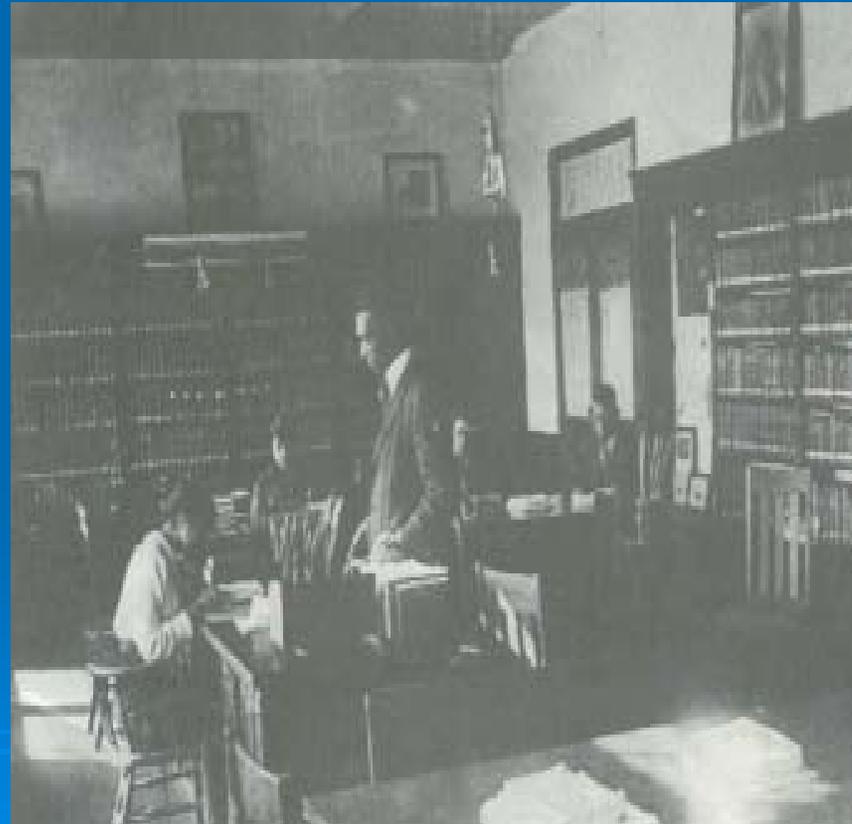
**The Brick school served as the educational, cultural, and spiritual pulse of the community.**



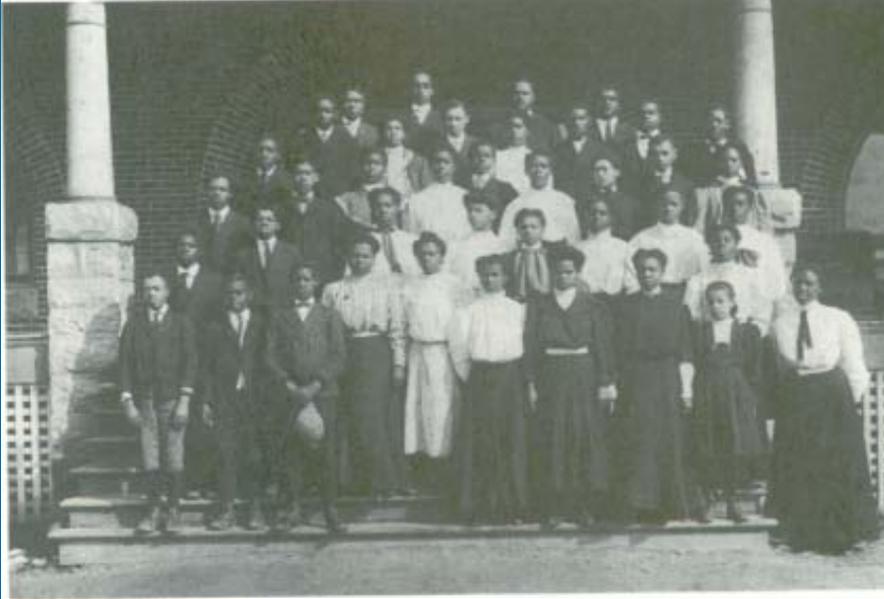
Power Comes from  
Knowledge



Knowledge  
Comes from  
Learning



**From its opening in 1895 until its closing in 1933, provided the vision for “liberty and the larger life” to thousands of Blacks in Eastern NC.**



# Franklinton Center Inc., at Bricks

*"During the early years of the 1950s another institution which had its origin in the Christian Denomination merged with Bricks Rural Life School and the name of the institution was changed to Franklinton Center. The Franklinton Christian College had also been closed during the depression years and had begun a program of training the leadership of many Negro churches in the area of North Carolina and Virginia. This work which was added to what bricks had been doing made a program of three emphases -- the poor, the church leadership and the wider fellowship. Before the merging of the three conferences and Synod which now make up the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Convention of Negro Churches centered much of its activities about Franklinton Center. The new conference encompassed several other camp centers so that the bulk of our camp activities are inter-fellowship, interracial and ecumenical." -- Rev. Judson King, Director,*

Franklinton Center Inc. at Bricks



## *The Story continues...*

*On November 19, 1954, The AMA deeded 150.9 acres of the Brick property to Franklinton Center, Inc. a corporation with the principal office in Franklin County, North Carolina. The Center moved to Bricks with the understanding that it would continue in fellowship with the Congregational and Christian churches and “carry on its activities as a school, institute and conference center.”*



# Dynamic Leadership

- In June 2000, under the newly restructured United Church of Christ, the management of Franklinton Center continued under the auspices of Justice and Witness Ministries, Executive Minister, Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson. This continued a tradition of extraordinary church leaders who lovingly supported this *“sacred space.”*

## A New Leader Comes



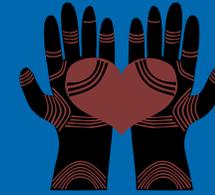
- The Center continues to have a sacred relationship with Justice and Witness Ministries, now headed by Executive Minister, Rev. Linda Jaramillo. Her love for the Center, exemplary leadership and invaluable support help to chart a new and dynamic course for this “**sacred space.**”

Since 1954 Franklinton Center at Bricks has hosted or sponsored hundreds of summer camps, retreats, conferences, training programs and community activities in continued support of the struggles of those who are oppressed and most importantly in obedience to the call of discipleship to Jesus Christ.





# The Mission



*Jesus answered them, “go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the deaf are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me. Matthew 11:4-6*

**The Board of Trustees at Franklinton Center at Bricks affirming our heritage in the Christian Faith, which is lived out in the United Church of Christ through our various traditions are called by God to enable the empowerment of people through training, education and direct action for personal, church and community development and transformation.**

**In fulfilling this sacred mission we will:**

- Focus particularly on the needs of African Americans and other who are oppressed.
  - Preserve the cultural heritage of this institution and the people it has served and assure its long-term viability;
  - Nurture the Spirit of Christ among us so that we will embody His love as we seek to do his well.
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# Franklinton Center at Bricks

- For more information, go to [www.franklintoncenteratbricks.org](http://www.franklintoncenteratbricks.org) or
- call 252.437.1723, ask for Tanisha Jacobs or
- E mail us at [EEM5050@aol.com](mailto:EEM5050@aol.com) or [barksdah@ucc.org](mailto:barksdah@ucc.org) or
- Fax us at 252.437. 1278 or
- Write us at PO Box 220, Whitakers, NC 27891

# The Management Team

- Ervin Milton, Director
- Collins Kornegay, Financial Officer
- Rose Wright-Scott, Minister for Program Development
- Janice Kornegay, Facility Service Coordinator
- Hudson Barksdale, Consultant for Fund Raising and Marketing
- Tanisha Jacobs, Administrative Assistant