

A JOURNEY
OF FAITH...

PRAISING GOD

FOR THE FAITHFUL MINISTRY OF OUR CO-PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning

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Co-Pastor, Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Fort Washington, MD

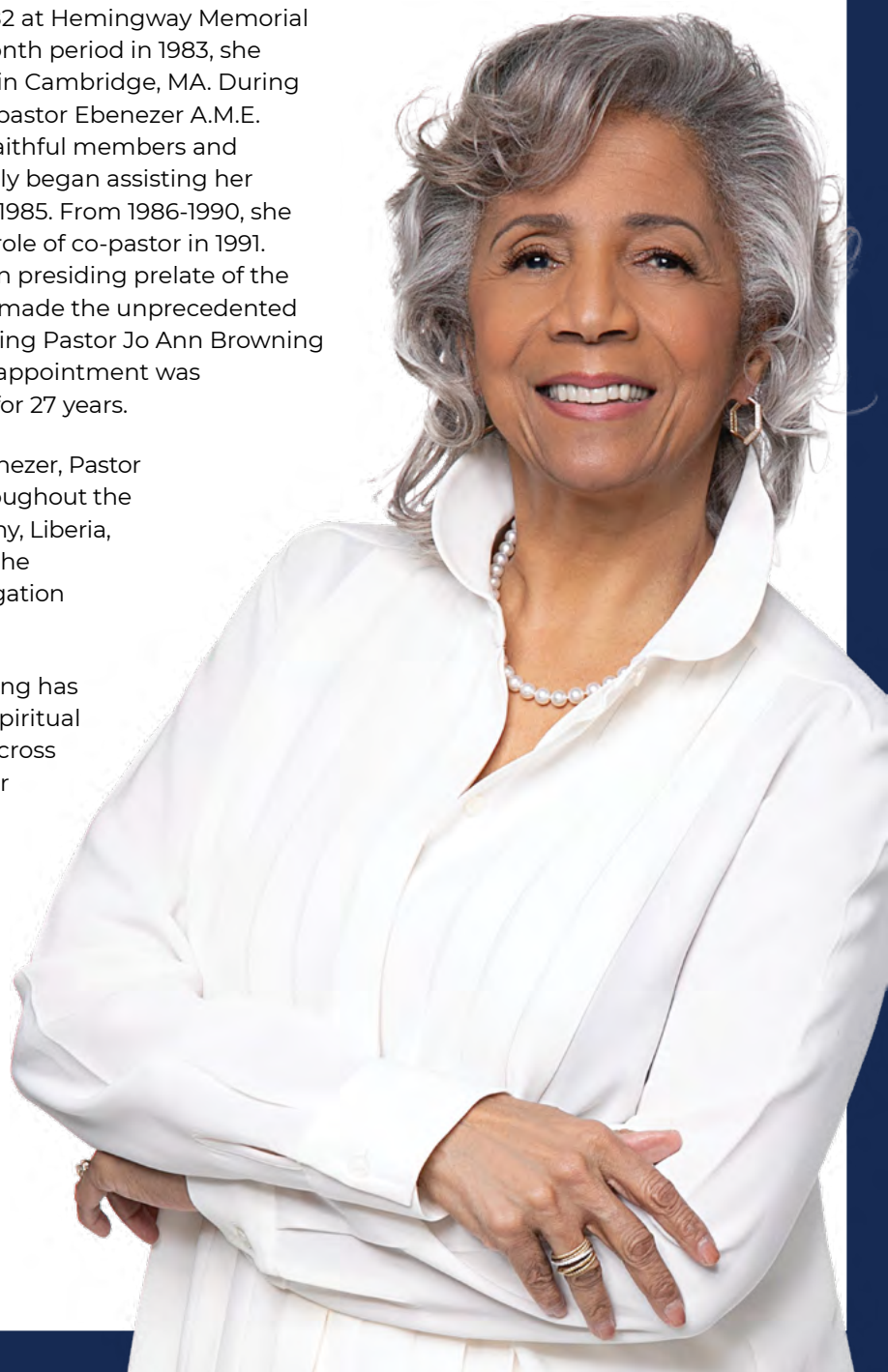
Pastor, preacher, teacher, author, mentor, wife, mother and grandmother are just some of the words to describe Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning. She has dedicated her life's work to serving God and God's people.

Rev. Dr. Browning is the Co-Pastor of Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Fort Washington, Maryland where she has served in ministry for 43 years with her husband, Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr., Senior Pastor. Under their leadership, lives have been changed, families strengthened, and the community transformed.

Pastor Jo Ann accepted the call to preach in 1982 at Hemingway Memorial AME Church in Chapel Oaks, MD. For a nine-month period in 1983, she served on the ministerial staff at St. Paul A.M.E. in Cambridge, MA. During that same year, her husband was appointed to pastor Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, MD, which had 17 faithful members and a \$12,000 budget. Rev. Dr. Browning immediately began assisting her husband and was hired as assistant minister in 1985. From 1986-1990, she was assistant pastor and started serving in the role of co-pastor in 1991. In 1998, the late Bishop Vinton R. Anderson, then presiding prelate of the Second Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church, made the unprecedented and history making appointment officially naming Pastor Jo Ann Browning as co-pastor of Ebenezer. This groundbreaking appointment was subsequently continued by additional bishops for 27 years.

In addition to her pastoral responsibilities at Ebenezer, Pastor Jo Ann has preached, taught, and facilitated throughout the United States, Haiti, Bermuda, Barbados, Germany, Liberia, and throughout the southern regions of Africa. She traveled to Israel as part of an interreligious delegation for a theological and educational tour.

Her ministry does not stop there. Pastor Browning has envisioned and convened 40 annual women's spiritual retreats attracting thousands of women from across the nation and the globe. She self-published her first book, *Our Savior, Our Sisters, Ourselves: Biblical Teachings & Reflections on Women's Relationships* in 2006. Her second book, *Faithful, Focused and Fearless: Lessons to Fortify Your Future* was released June 2009. In 2018, she self-published a third edition of this book.



Committed to service, Pastor Jo Ann Browning serves on several boards and has received numerous religious and community awards. She was awarded the One Thousand Churches Connected Award from Rainbow PUSH, the Cafe Mocha Religion Award, the Governor's Award of Distinction from the Gov. of Massachusetts, and she has been listed in Who's Who in Cambridge, Mass., among numerous other honors. In 2006, she received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from A.M.E. University in Monrovia, Liberia. In 2007, she was honored to preach Spelman College's Baccalaureate Ceremony where she also served on the Spelman College's Sister's Chapel Wisdom Center Executive Board for 10 years. In July 2002, Pastor Jo Ann was inducted as an honorary member into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In 2016, she became a member of the Board of Governors at Wesley Theological Seminary and in 2017, she accepted the request to serve on the Board of RISE TOGETHER: The National Mentorship Network for Women of Color in Ministry (WOCIM). After being invited by Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, Pastor Jo Ann Browning was honored to serve as a member of the Prince George's Forward Task Force to help develop a multi-pronged approach to address the impact of COVID-19 on all Prince Georgians.

Recognizing the power of education, Pastor Browning is a graduate of Boston University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications. She also obtained a Master of Divinity Degree in 1986 and a Doctor of Ministry Degree in 1991 from Howard University's School of Divinity. While at Howard, she was a recipient of the Benjamin E. Mays, Pew Fellowships and the Rev. Vernon Johns Preaching Award. She also participated in the Princeton Center Graduate Theological Inquiry in 2004.

Pastor Jo Ann has been blessed to be one of the trailblazers for women in ministry and a humble servant to God's people.





Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning

MINISTRY

HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Pastor & Preacher

- Unprecedented historical appointment as Co-Pastor of Ebenezer AME in 1998
- First ordained female minister to preach the 11 o'clock hour and revivals at several churches in DC and MD throughout the 1990s
- Preached globally in Germany, Bermuda and other places, domestically and internationally
- Preached at Woman Thou Art Loosed Conference's Sunday morning Master Class at The Potter's House, Dallas, TX, 2018
- Preached sermons at the annual conference of the 2nd Episcopal District of the AME Church
- Preached at the Potomac District Conclave
- Delivered invocation for Howard University graduation
- Preached in Jessup Prison for Women on three occasions
- Preached at Spelman College Baccalaureate
- Panelist for Women in Ministry on BET Special Broadcast
- Preached at the National Cathedral for Potomac High School MLK Day Program
- First female minister to preach in several male-dominated pulpits and places

Innovator & Leader

- Architect in the planning, organization and development of existing and new ministries at Ebenezer, including F.O.R.C.E Outreach, Blessings and Love Marriage (BALM) Ministry, Call to Ministry Institute, Women's Resource & Restoration Center, Go Get Our Daughters and many more
- Visionary of 41 Annual Women's Seasons
- Convener of 40 Women's Spiritual Retreats
- Chairman of the Board, Ebenezer AME Bible Institute
- Chairman of the Board of Directors, Barack Counseling Center of Ebenezer (Later negotiated and sold the Center at a profit to Ebenezer)
- Advisor and key decision-maker in the planning and building of the new sanctuary
- President of Alice Marie Chapman Women's Missionary Society, grew from 3 members to hundreds
- Author of two self-published two books, including "Our Savior Our Sisters Ourselves: Biblical Teachings & Reflections on Women's Relationships" & "Faithful, Fearless and Focused: Lessons to Fortify Your Future." "Our Savior Our Sisters Ourselves" was listed in top 10 books to read in Essence magazine.



Community Leader

- Honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
- Governor Board member, Wesley Seminary for over 4 years
- Board Member, Wisdom Center at Spelman College for 10 years
- Advisory Board, Rise Together Mentorship Network for Women of Color in Ministry - 2018
- Donated funds to people impacted by Hurricane Katrina and delivered diapers from diaper drive and donated to two daycares and one aftercare
- Organized and led women on mission trip to Haiti and collected school supplies
- Organized satellite broadcast of the Women's Spiritual retreat closing service into the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women in Jessup, MD (first time by any church)
- Established Journey of Faith, LLC a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women
- Organized ecumenical summit of women from various faiths

Award Winner

- Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient from President Joe Biden
- Morehouse College Preaching Honor
- Honorable Mention Top Women Preachers, Ebony Magazine
- One Thousand Churches Connected Award from Rainbow PUSH
- Several awards from fraternities and sororities, including Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta and Alpha Kappa Alpha sororities
- Café Mocha Religion Award
- Boston Governor's Award of Distinction – 2019
- Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities & Who's Who Marquis 2021 Millennial Issue Cover
- Governor's Award of Distinction from the Gov. of Massachusetts
- Featured in the Howard University Magazine as an up-and-coming spiritual leader
- Religious Award, WHUR MAGAZINE
- Lamplighter Award, Black Leadership Forum
- Who's Who in Cambridge, Massachusetts
- AND MORE!

Scholar

- Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry from Howard University School of Divinity - 1991 (Only woman who graduated with a D. Min from HUSD that year)
- Honorary doctorate, AME University in Liberia, West Africa
- Fellowship, Fund for Theological Education for M.Div. at Boston University and also at Howard University School of Divinity – 1982-1986
- Mary McCloud Bethune Scholarship, Boston University School of Theology
- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship, Boston University School of Theology
- Pew Fellowship for Doctoral Studies, Howard University School of Divinity – 1991
- Princeton Center for Graduate Theological Inquiry – 2004

“A Journey of Faith...Co-Pastor Jo Ann’s Walk”

Forty-three years of ministry, a road well-traveled and worn,

Not by time, but by the countless lives reborn.
From whispered prayers to shouted praise,
You’ve walked with God through all your days.

A journey of faith, not always clear,

Yet you pressed on, year after year.
Through valleys low and mountains steep,
Your promise to the Lord you continue to keep.

At Ebenezer, you have been a continual flame,

For 27 years, we’ve called your name
As Co-pastor, shepherd, teacher, guide—
With strength and grace, you walked beside.

You preached the Word, both firm and kind,

With wisdom born of heart, spirit and mind.
A spiritual mother (and co-pastor) to the multitudes,
You shaped souls and you shaped spiritual attitudes.

You marched with purpose, led by Holy Ghost power and fire,

You challenged hearts, and yes, you called us higher.
When storms would come and doubts assail,
Your steadfast faith would never fail.

You wiped tears and sowed pure joy,

You nurtured every man, woman, girl and boy.
The “yes” you gave so long ago,
Still waters thousands with abundance and overflow.

From altar steps to hospital beds,

Your prayers have lingered long after they’ve been said.
And though some stories go unsung,
Heaven records each song you’ve sung.

Now we pause, not at the end,

But to give thanks for where you’ve been.
A journey still in sacred motion,
Fueled by unending love and God’s devotion.

So, we honor God in the trailblazing ministry of Co-Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning and the incredible cost!

Your legacy will never be forgotten or lost
The journey of faith still continues and blazes bright—
A guiding force providing us all God’s light.