



**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

REV. JOHN SANDERS

OF PENNEY FARMS, FLORIDA

Faith • Service • Outreach • Community

Community Histories Collection

A CALL TO SERVE

“Pastor John’s intent is steadfast. He walks the talk.”

ROOTED IN PENNEY FARMS

Rev. John Sanders, pastor of True Vine Fellowship Church, is a Clay County native who was born and raised in Penney Farms. His zeal for helping others began at an early age as he imagined ways to improve the lives of people in need. Growing up in Penney Farms more than 40 years ago, he was inspired by community leaders and by a culture in which neighbors helped one another, shared meals, and cared for the sick.

INSPIRED BY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Rev. Sanders credits the late Rev. John T. Haymon, a pastor and community leader in Penney Farms, with investing in him at an early age. That example inspired and motivated him to become a leader in his own neighborhood and strengthened his commitment to serving others.

TRUE VINE FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2014, True Vine Fellowship Church expanded its neighborhood outreach through programs such as a clothes closet. Shortly thereafter, The Vineyard Transitional Center (VTC) began in earnest as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its work grew from Rev. Sanders’ passion for helping people facing difficult circumstances, including individuals newly released from jail and people displaced by hardship.

A JOURNEY OF RESTORATION

Rev. Sanders continues his work of restoration, guidance, and support, helping people reestablish their lives and regain stability. His commitment to serving those in need has made him a blessing to many in the community as he continues his quest to address homelessness and strengthen the lives of people throughout Clay County.

SERVICE IN ACTION

Rev. John Sanders’ story reflects a tradition of neighbors helping neighbors—a legacy of faith, compassion, leadership, and service rooted in Penney Farms and carried forward throughout Clay County.

ARCHIVAL NOTE: Grammar, punctuation, and formatting have been edited for readability while preserving the substance of the submitted history.