Jane M. Howard Turner
Distinguished Alumna

Jane M. Howard Turner is a 1964 graduate of Herculaneum High School. Jane graduated from HHS with honors. She received the school's Journalism & Library awards, was the first Black co-editor of the Blackcat Newspaper & yearbook, and was president of the Library Committee.

Jane attended Jefferson College during its first year of operation. She worked in the campus bookstore and was one of only a few black students.

Jane established the Taylor-Howard Scholarship for graduates of Herculaneum High School, which is still being given out today.

In 1980, Jane became a licensed minister. In 1995, she became the pastor of Mt. Pilgrim Free Will Baptist Church, then in 1998, she became the pastor & cofounder of the Rock Free Will Baptist Church, where she remained until 2012.

Jane later moved to Arizona and began volunteering in the Foster Grandparent Program in the public school district in her area. She is a member of the Arizona Elder Council, which advocates for other seniors in the area. Jane received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for community service in the school and the children's charity she created, Granny Cares.

This charity collects and donates new and used items to several schools in her area, where they are given to needy children. After receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, Jane received a personal letter from President Joe Biden.

On top of being a pastor and all of her volunteer work, Jane has found the time to write many books. Jane has written ten children's books, including The Raymond Redbird Series and The Friends of Raymond Red Bird Series, which she co-wrote with her mom, Thelma Taylor. Jane also wrote a book detailing the history of the Taylor-Howard family. Letters of congratulations for her books were received from Queen Elizabeth and Laura Bush. Jane has also written ten pieces of gospel music.