

# THE COMET II

Volume 15 Edition 4

October 31/November 30, 2009

## From the president

Washingtonians, what is happening to us? Are we for getting our Alma Mater? Have so many who were passionate about BTW fallen by the wayside? I would like to believe that the answer to both questions is a resounding NO! Some of us are working very hard to keep the organization going, and others may be described as lukewarm or cold. We need everyone of you out there who ever attended Booker to come forth and show just a little enthusiasm and interest.

Our newsletter is late by a month because no one saw fit to submit any news from their class in a timely manner. I am not fussing, just a bit confused by this apa-

thetic state that we seem to be in. Rise up, wake up and begin to involve the legacies. Let them know that all we are doing in the name of our Alma Mater is for them and all who will come after. We want to know that they are going to continue to build upon this historic organization.

We had to hire someone to keep our web site upgraded even though we have many technology savvy younger relatives who could have done it as a school project. This could save hundreds of dollars. Again, we must begin to engage our younger relatives in the foundation's activities so that they will want to become an integral part of the organization and

keep the BTW legacy and spirit alive. Who will it be? Who will begin to tell of the great things we have done and are doing if it is not our offspring?

Congratulations, Mrs. Adams You have made us very visible and proud again. Thanks and congratulations to others who continue to speak and acknowledge that they matriculated at BTW and are proud they were able to do so.

Classes will be gathering for the holidays at various venues. Please talk about us at your affairs. Let your guests know that BTW is alive and well through the foundation.

**Al Griffin**

## Adams Featured

It was a thrill to see so many loyal Washingtonians at the unveiling of the Bell South/AT&T 2010 Calendar Event. It was awesome! We knew so many of the honorees, especially Mrs. Fannie Phelps Adams. She has touched the lives of so many children in

the years that she was a student, teacher and assistant principal. She continues to share a strong relationship with the educational and religious communities. Mrs. Adams seems to grow stronger every day. She seems to have overcome the

sudden demise of her sister and closest friend, Celia Phelps Martin. If she, at 91, can do this why can't some of us who are younger do the same? We must keep up the BTW Legacy. We must keep moving, moving, moving and never stop.

### Deaths

Kenneth Davis, Sr.	
Claritha Steedly Hutchison	
Cornelius Jefferson	
Elnore "Bertha Ann" Kelly	
Annie Mae Smith, '34, Los Angeles	

### Special points of interest:

- Lack of involvement
- Bell South Calendar
- BTW/CAJ Classes Join
- Class Reunion
- Condolences

## Class of 1963

The 1963 classes of BTW and CAJ have been very active. Joint officers are as follows: President-James E. Parkere (BTW), vice president-Robert Brown (CAJ), secretary-Charlotte Thom (CAJ), assistant secretary-Julia Meadows (BTW), treasurer-Debra Jones (CAJ) and parliamentarian-Waldo Hargrave (BTW/CAJ?). When the classes originally united, classes continued to meet with respective schools, but on alternating months shared joint meetings. Classes no longer meet separately, but as a unit on the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are held at members' homes.

The two classes have shared several joint ventures: Trips to Biloxi, Mississippi and New Orleans, Louisiana, Niagara Falls and Toronto, Canada, Annual Class Outing at Saluda Shoals, and Annual

Christmas Celebration at Delta House.

**The class is now sponsoring a trip to Miami and Key West, Florida, July 25-July 31, 2010. This will be a package deal to include motor coach transportation, 6 nights lodging, including 4 consecutive nights in the Miami area, 9 meals: 6 breakfasts and 3 dinners, a visit to Bayside Marketplace, a guided tour of Miami, a visit to exciting Key West, free time at South Beach, a visit to fabulous Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and a cruise by celebrities' homes on Biscayne Bay.**

**Departure date is Sunday, July 25, 2010 from Midland Shopping Center, Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC and return on Saturday, July 31, 2010. Cost for the trip range from \$509.00 to \$759.00, depending on hotel occupancy.**

If you are interested in joining the 1963 BTW/CAJ Classes, please contact Jacob Jones (803) 736-2041, jones8949@bellsouth.net, Julia Meadows (803) 736-3944, or James E. Parker (803) 754-8093, parkerje@bellsouth.net.

The time for the first three payments has passed. We began collecting in the month of September. We have set the final payment date for April 30, 2010. If you really want to be a part of this crew of happy wanderers, you must begin paying as soon as possible so that all of your money will be in by the deadline. We certainly do not want anyone to miss this excursion.

Reporters

James E. Parker and Jacob Jones,

## Class of '64 celebrate 45th reunion

In conjunction with the BTW Heritage Weekend, June 26-28, the 1964 Class had a fantastic, fun-filled celebration. On Friday, the class, 68 strong, shared in the festivities at Embassy Suites. Our own Larry L. Nazry was featured speaker at the Heritage Celebration. The class was elated to have Larry share his experiences that entailed how BTW equipped him for the real world. He shared information with which we all could relate.

After the Heritage Celebration, classmates ventured to the class' suite, where a delicious array of refreshments had been arranged by Melvin McKie and Ernie Glymph. When a bridal shower ended downstairs, one of the participants wandered in and said he had been informed that this was the place to be. We welcomed him with open arms,

On Saturday, we attended an outing at Talley Adams Place in Hopkins. Catered by Ruth Williamson. "The Best Kept Secret in Town. Food additions by classmates Jasper Brown, fried fish, James Adams-barbeque, and Frankie Campbell Point-hushpuppies, helped make this a finger-

licking good food fest.

On Sunday 45 of us worshipped with Gloria R. Priestler and Moretta T. Brown at Bible Way of Atlas Road where we were received, recognized and welcomed as special guests. After service we had lunch at Brookland Conference Center. What delicious food in such a wonderful atmosphere! Later the ladies chilled out in Merrill White's hotel room before attending the John Work Chorus at the USC Law Center.

Class participants: James Adams, Willie Adams, Lizzie Blanks-Allen, Samuel Bolton, Robert Bonnette, Jasper Brown, Frankie Campbell-Point, Eugene Carter, NC; Louis Chitty, CA; David Clarkson,, Zack Clarkson, Sandra Crider-Johnson, Paulette Deneal Smith, Wardell Epps, Shirley Ferguson Irving, Ann Gardener-Jennings, Luther Gladden, Herbert Glover, Ernie Glymph, Delores Herbert-Anderson, Joseph Holston, Vivian Hopkins-Reese, Emanuel Irving, Doris Johnson Andrews, Levi Johnson, Ronnie King, Dorothy Kennedy Richardson, Catherine McGorder Whatley, Melvin McKie, Lorenzo Mills, Florida; Willie

Myers, Larry Nazry, CA;; Samuel Pelzer, James Prince, Julia Prince Edwards, Carolyn Reed King, Emma Dell Reese-Ford, NC; John Robinson, Gloria Richardson-Priester, James Ruff, Barbara Seabrook-Spry, Gertrude Sims-Wilson, Murray Smith, Geraldine Stroman Parker, Jessie Thorne Edmonds, Jo Tillman Boyd, NC; Moretta Toatley-Brown, David Tucker, GA; Margaret W. Ervin, Jacqueline Washington, GA; Eunice W. Cornelius, GA; Merrill White, GA; AP Williams, Mary W. Guinyard, and Vivian Wingard.

### Condolences

The Class of '64 was saddened by the death of classmate, **Louise Evans**. We would like to keep the following classmates, who recently lost loved ones, in our thoughts and prayers: Barbara Epps Harling-husband and sister-in-law; Herbert Glover- son; Milton Mosby- son, Samuel Bolton- wife, and Merrill White- aunt.

Geraldine Stroman-Parker reporting.

## Class of 1955

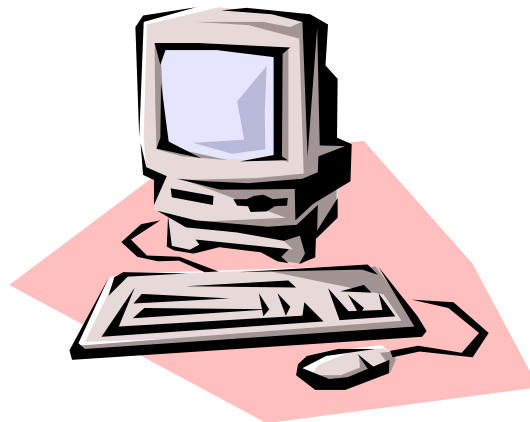
Hello Washingtonians, We are still kicking, but not high. We have had a busy three months of togetherness..We met at Al and Sarah Griffin's home in September and Oretha K. Young's in October. Both meetings provided camaraderie and delicious edibles.

We are preparing for the Christmas Season with a party, revealing of Secret Pals and a Raffle. Prizes are \$100.00, \$50.00, and three \$25.00 's.

We received correspondence from out of town members who wanted to let us know how much they enjoyed our 54th year reunion that was held during the Heritage Weekend.

Please pray for our sick, shut-in and infirm, especially: Vera Murphy, Zack Pri-

oleau, and Frankie Jones Wilson. We all have reached the 70+ age and don't get around as well as we used to.



Technology may soon have us reading the news online.

We are saddened by the grief caused classmates who lost relatives: Zack Prioleau's brother Thomas, Ida Jackson's brother, Cornelius Jefferson. Our prayers go out to them at this time.

Some out-of-town members who keep in touch: Harold Lewis, Bennie Hare, Ruth Williams, Willie Johnson, Althea Watson, Samuel Macon and Janie Gardner.

Well my article is coming to a close.

Until January, this is your roving reporter, **Alonzo Phelps**

## Additional Deaths

Thanks to Alonzo Phelps, I was able to include the names of other Washingtonians whose deaths have caused a void in our family as well as their families who will mourn them for the rest of their lives.

Thomas Prioleau, Sr., Deacon at St. John Baptist Church, Hopkins, SC. Brother of Zack (Gloria) Prioleau, Jr., '55.

Beverly Inell Jones Henry, Central Baptist Church, Columbia, SC.

Michael James Hampton, 1970, at Palmer Memorial Chapel.

Veola "Bea" Wright Chatman, Union Baptist Church.

Willie F. Stocker, St. John Baptist Church. Wife, Eloise Newton Stocker, '55,

Kenneth Davis, Sr. St. John Baptist Church, Hopkins, SC.

Claritha Steedly Hutchison, St. Luke Baptist Church, Columbia, SC. Brothers, Daniel, Jr. and Lorne Steedly.

Annie Mae Smith, '34, 2nd Baptist Church, Los Angeles, CA.

Cornelius Jefferson, '51, Brown Chapel AME Church, Columbia, SC.

Elnore Kelly, Sisters, Frances K. Holman, Maudine K. Squires. Brothers, John, Larry, Anthony and Ralph Kelly.

Ruth Starks, Pine Grove AME Church. Mother of the late Charles Starks, '57 and Gwendolyn S. Raymond, '56.

Thanks, Alonzo, for all of your input and effort.

## Richland One Hall Of Fame Inductees

Three former Washingtonians were recently inducted into the Richland County School District One Hall of Fame. They were: Mrs. Fannie Phelps Adams, 1934. A former teacher and assistant principal who worked in the district for her entire career from 1938 to 1979.;

Dr. Gary Bell, 1974, who went on to distinguish himself in the medical field

as a doctor of internal medicine from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in 1983.

The honorable Judge Willie T. Smith, Sr. , 1936, Judge Smith attended South Carolina State College School of Law and earned a Juris Doctorate in 1954 after he completed his military obligations.

All three honorees are great servants of

their communities, churches and state. They also believe in working to improve the lives of others through their dedicated service and loyalty.

They have served on numerous boards, and committees, worked with those who are more likely to be confronted with obstacles when seeking assistance to social, medical, legal and educational difficulties. Congratulations All!

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*Annual Foundation dues are \$10.00 and are due by January 15 of each year.*

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TORNADOES

## **WARD ONE REUNION**

*The Ward One Reunion was held Friday-Sunday, October 23-25, 2009, at the Clarion Hotel. The Ward One Organization meets in reunion every two years. Vice President, Agnes Harris Perez praised Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Professor of History and African-American Studies at the University of South Carolina. He has helped research and document Ward One's lost history and helped insure that the history is included accurately and positively under the name of Ward One in the University of South Carolina's Caroliniana Library, as well as in the Richland County Public Library.*

*Dr. Donaldson was also instrumental in working with USC's former and current presidents for the dedication of the historic marker for Saxon Elementary School, as well as use of the Thurmond Wellness Center by organization members. Please use the facilities.*

## Spotlight on Joshua W. Martin

SCANA Corporation announced on July 30, 2009 that Joshua W. Martin, III, a partner in the law firm of Potter Anderson and Corroon, LLP, to its Board of Directors.

Joshua W. Martin, III, is a native of Columbia, South Carolina. Joshua grew up in the Wheeler Hill neighborhood. He attended Richland County School District One schools and graduated from Booker T. Washington in 1962. He became a partner at the Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP, based in Delaware, in 2005. His legal specialty is in Mediation and arbitration. He also does business counseling with a focus in the areas of public utilities, governmental relations and telecommunications. He currently chairs Potter Anderson's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Martin has served as president and chief executive officer of Verizon Delaware, Inc. and its predecessor company, Bell Atlantic Delaware, Inc.

Martin, in addition to being a lawyer, is a former Delaware Superior Court Judge, Delaware Public Service Commissioner and a patent attorney. He is also has a degree in physics and worked as a physicist at the DuPont Company in 1966.

In January 2009 Delaware Governor, Jack Markell appointed Martin chair of the state's Economic and Financial Advisory Council. He is also a member of the CPR Panel of Distinguished Neutrals, the AAA Roster of Neutrals and the Board of Arbitrators-Financial Industry Registry Authority.

Martin has also distinguished himself as

a leader in the education community. He is Director of Southwest Power Pool, Inc; Trustee, Winterthur Museum; Trustee and Director, Christiana Care Hospital System, Inc.; Trustee Emeritus, Case Western Reserve University; Life Trustee, Goldey-Beacon College; Fellow, American Bar Foundation; former Director and Vice Chairman of the Nuclear Electric Insurance Ltd. (2000-2009); and former Director, PNC Bank, Delaware (1990-2007).

Is this a Washingtonian who has accomplished a lot in his short lifetime. We may need to consider him for our 2010 Heritage Weekend Banquet speaker. He should be able to tell us how our Alma Mater helped equip him to be successful in today's fast-paced, upwardly mobile world.