

# The Comet II

January 31, 2015

Volume 23 No. 1



Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

## \* Board Officers

Henry T. Hopkins, President  
Geraldine S. Parker, Vice President  
Mary Hammond, Secretary  
Wilhelmina Kinard, Asst. Secretary  
M. LaNelle Kohn, Treasurer  
Crissandra Elliott, Asst. Treasurer  
Ida S. English, Parliamentarian  
Rev. Odell Wiggins, Chaplain  
Jean Hopkins, BTW Liaison

## Important Dates:

**Deadline for Scholarship Information** - April 30th

**Heritage Weekend** -  
June 26– 28, 2015

**Banquet, Embassy Suites,**  
7:00 PM -  
June 26, 2015

**Tour BTW Auditorium and/or  
BTW Montieith Cultural Center-**  
June 27, 2015

**John Work Chorus, BTW  
Auditorium, 6:00 PM -**  
June 28, 2015



## President's Voice

To the Booker T. Washington Family

I greet you as your President to let you know that the Booker T. Washington Foundation is in great shape, building an organization that will never let the name and the contribution of graduates as well as the individuals that attended this great school, be forgotten.

The Booker T. Washington Monteith Building at 6808 North Main in Columbia, SC is shaping up to capture our tenure at Booker T. Washington, as well as making sure the spirit of our alma mater will never die.

The foundation thanks Mrs. Ann Kelley for the leadership in obtaining, with your help, window shutters for the building, along with a computer room, a wide screen T.V., and pressure washing of the building. Mrs. Kelley has tendered her resignation

as chairperson of the Program Planning Committee. The Foundation thanks Mrs. Kelley for her dedication and production to keep the spirit of our school alive. Mrs. Geraldine Parker, Class of 1964, has assumed the responsibility of Chairperson of the Program Planning Committee, and Ms. Ida English, Class of 1965, Co-Chairman, which consists of Ms. Gloria Boyd, Class of 1965, Ms. M. Lanelle Kohn, Class of 1968, Mrs. Doris Andrew, Class of 1964 and Mrs. Jean Hopkins, Class of 1950. The Heritage Weekend is June 26-28. The Banquet this year will be at The Embassy Suites as last year; however, our hotel accommodations will be at the Hyatt Place at 319 Gervais Street in The Vista. Hyatt Place will provide free shuttle to and from the banquet at The Embassy Suites. This was a great move by Mrs. Parker to make sure our Heritage weekend continues.

Let us not forget our membership dues of \$10.00. The deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Contributions of \$25.00 or more for the annual operation of the BTW Monteith Cultural Center. Individuals contributing \$25.00 or more will be listed in our program booklet. In 2016 our alma mater will celebrate the 100 year anniversary. Mrs. Doris Glymph Greene is the Chairman of The Centennial Committee.

We need workers and participation in this historical event. You can reach Mrs. Doris Glymph Greene at 803-546-2503 or Deedee [183@hotmail.com](mailto:183@hotmail.com)

God Bless.  
In His Service



Henry T. Hopkins  
President, BTW Foundation

## Scholarship Information



The Booker T. Washington Foundation has several scholarship opportunities available to graduating seniors. All applicants, except for the Susan B. Freeman Scholarship, must be the legal child or grandchild of a Washingtonian. Susan B. Freeman Scholarship is restricted to seniors planning to attend Benedict College. Applications are available on the BTW website: [bookertwashington-foundationsc.org](http://bookertwashington-foundationsc.org). **Be sure to read and follow instructions for com-**

**pleting application.** Applicants are chosen based on a point system.

Questions may be directed to Doris Johnson Andrews, Geraldine Stroman Parker, Ida Spells English or M. LaNelle Kohn. Doris can be reached at (803)754-7736 or email [andy316@netzero.net](mailto:andy316@netzero.net) and Geraldine can be reached at 803) 754-8093 or email [parkergs@bellsouth.net](mailto:parkergs@bellsouth.net).



The BTW Foundation tries to help graduating legacies reaching to new academic heights.

## Class of 1943

Greetings Washingtonians,

This is a New Year and we are here to share a bit of news with you.

We tried to keep warm during the cold days and welcomed the warm days. We hope all are well. Taking a glance back at the 2014 holiday season: Pauline B. Richardson and family had their annual get together at Saluda Shoals and had one of the merriest Christmas celebrations ever.

Nancy J. Bryant also enjoyed just being with family and is grateful to be doing as well as she is, moving slowly but surely.

Johnnie Mae T. Wheeler found lots to do with family. Cooking has always come naturally with her. She retired from the culinary ministry at her church, St. John Baptist, on Beltline, after more than sixty years "Switching

in the Kitchen". Her Ushers Ministry celebrated their ninety-sixth anniversary recently in their beautiful new church. Congratulations Johnnie.

Nathleen M. Jenkins and her caring sons, Lester Jr., and Gregory Jenkins, had a wonderful Christmas with plenty to eat, lots of treats and just being there for each other.

Ruby B. Collins is in a nursing care facility and is doing well. We were informed about her status during the class members' visit, and the residents received gifts and were well entertained with a grand Christmas celebration also. Let us keep her and all others in our prayers.

We hope to have an update on Mattie T. Cooke for the next news report.

Your reporter, Josephine J. Hall, kept busy going to and fro. The Health Ministry at her church, Brown Chapel AME, sponsored a shopping trip to Concord Mills, Charlotte, NC, on the first Saturday in December 2014. The bus



trip was so enjoyable that most participants want to return in 2015. The day after Christmas was spent with her granddaughter and her family, the Edmonds. Christmas day, Walter and Ida Jackson, '55, had a feast for everyone and lots of fun exchanging gifts. There was never a dull moment. The Saturday after Christmas was spent in a very welcome and grand way with the Sumter Family in Rock Hill, SC.

Our sympathy was shared with Nathaleen M. Jenkins on the death of her beloved niece, Bertie Lee Witherspoon, '57, also with the Manigault-Hurley Family on the recent death of the owner and manager of the Manigault-Hurley Funeral Home, Anthony Manigault-Hurley. Their business

## Class of 1954

Salutations, Washingtonians! How fortunate and blessed we were this summer when we celebrated our 60th year from Booker T. Washington with a tri-state bus tour of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. Thirty-four joyous persons were aboard. Eunice Weathers Robinson, Barberel Hendrix and Katie Lites were our contact persons.

Please join us as we send George Gladman and Wilhelmina Robinson Rhoe's husband, Reginald, well wishes.

Katie Lites' granddaughter graduated from Winthrop University in June.

Condolences to the families of classmates Wilhelmina Robinson Rhoe and Janie Edmonds. Classmates who lost a spouse: Antonio Bon-

ner's wife, Willean, and Janie Edmonds Purnell's husband. Katie Lites lost her daughter Karen. We meet monthly.

*- Marian B. Tucker, Reporting*



## Class of 1955

Hello Black & Gold members of this mighty Class of 1955 and the awesome B.T.W. High School. Since the Winter Holiday Season and the new year are behind us and some of us lived to see it, we can give all the Glory to our Heavenly Father, the maker of all things.

The Secret Pal giving was a success and everyone did their part to make it happen.

Our January meeting was held at the home of Dretha Kenly Young, and what a time of togetherness expressing our thoughts and tasting good food! While at the meeting we received a call from classmate, Martha Anderson. Each person present had a chance to speak to her and exchange well wishes. She thanked the class for the monetary gift she

received from the class for her church.

The Reunion Committee is still working on finalizing plans for the festivities that will make this year's reunion one of the most memorable we have ever witnessed.

The class was saddened by the death of Frankie and Henry Wilson's daughter, "Tricie", in Washington, DC. Our sympathy goes out to them in their time of bereavement.

Please pray for all of our sick and shut-in members: Eloise Newton Stocker, Ida Jefferson

Jackson, Carol Hampton Brooks, Carrie Jean Bell Tucker, Bessie Jones Taylor and any other Washingtonians who are experiencing ill health.

Well it is time to close until next issue.

*Your Raving Reporter, Alanzo Phelps*



## Class of 1956

Our next meeting will be held Saturday, March 14, at 11:00 a.m. We hope to see many of you. Thanks to everyone who lifted the family of classmate Frances Hall Smith up in prayer as they waited for positive assurances that she would pull through a debilitat-

ing stroke. Praise God for miracles! She is now recuperating at Health South. Continue the prayers that she may be able to return to her home and not have to be confined to a health facility.

## Class of 1943 Cont'd from page 2 . . .

served many families throughout the years and throughout the state. He will truly be missed.

To all other persons in bereavement, our prayers and thoughts are with you too.

So long Washingtonians. Remember it means so much to keep in touch.

**Reminder:** Time to pay our Foundation dues.

- Josephine J. Hall & Pauline B. Richardson Reporters

**Special Thanks** to the committee for decorating the BTW Cultural Center during the Winter Holidays for the past few years. They are: William & Frazier Davis, Mary Williams, Wilhelmina Kinard from the class of 1957, Martha Ruff, 1949, Albert Norris & James Kelley, 1955, Sarah Griffin, 1956 and Annie Kelley, 1960. Great job!!!

Many Thanks,  
Annie Kelley



## Class of 1965

### BTW CLASS OF 1965 TO CELEBRATE 50<sup>TH</sup> CLASS REUNION

We remember that evening of May 31, 1965 as we sat anxiously on the stage of the Township Auditorium waiting to hear our names called. It was a wonderful and exciting time that we had waited 12 long years to reach and it had finally arrived - our high school graduation!!! Soon it will be 50 years since that night and to commemorate this unforgettable moment in time, the class is planning a special celebration. The celebration will be held in conjunction with the events of the BTW Foundation Heritage Weekend. The 1965 Class Banquet- "Golden Tornadoes

## Class of 1957

Washingtonians, Happy 2015!

We celebrated our Annual Holiday Luncheon on January 6, 2015 at noon at the Brookland Banquet and Conference Center, West Columbia, S.C. We reminisced with class members, family and friends as we strolled down memory lane of past and present photos of our beloved alma mater, Booker T. Washington, and classmates, both near and far. The palatable luncheon was enjoyed by all.

We archived this festive moment in time with photos that will be placed in our Class of 1957 Scrapbook for future generations to share in our class history.

We are looking forward to our Annual Worship Service in March 2015. Please remember all Washingtonians and family members in your prayers.

- Mary Davis Williams, William L. Davis, Jr. & Frazier Davis, Reporters

## Class of 1963

BTW and CAJ Classes '63 merged approximately 15 years ago. Since coming together, we have been taking biennial trips, holding yearly fish fries, having yearly Christmas parties, attending Heritage Weekend, and celebrating class reunions: 40th and 50th. We also had a 60th Birthday Party.

This year we will be having our 70th Birthday Celebration on August 8,

2015, at the Spring Valley Country Club from 7-11 PM. This celebration will be a night to remember where classmates and guests will eat, drink, and be merry.

- Jacob Jones and James E. Parker, Reporting

"Forever Shining" is planned for Saturday, June 27, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at the Woodlands Golf and Country Club. The Class will attend Church Service and Friends and Family Day at Northminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday June 28, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. For more information about the 1965 Class Reunion Celebration, contact Ida Spells English at 803-779-3734, Nadine Jenkins Gadson at 803-479-2836 or Jackie Brown Weedon at 803-750-1966.

Reported By,  
Ida Spells English  
BTW Class of 1965



## Booker T. Washington Foundation

P.O. Box 1641 (Foundation)  
Columbia, SC 29202  
Attn.: M. LaNelle Kohn  
803-865-1547

Comet II  
431 Piney Woods Rd. Columbia, SC 29212  
Phone: 803-798-3177  
E-mail: jcpatterson@netzero.com

### \* DEATHS \*

Captain George Alvin Simmons, U.S. Army, Ret.  
Ora Bell Collins Lorick  
Robert Jack Davis  
Doris White Hildebrand  
Joe Nathan Bynum, Sr., '57  
Josephus Nathaniel Cannon, '37  
Harry Bruce Adams, Jr., '55  
Theodora Blocker Thomas  
Thomas A. "Buck" Rogers  
Ruthine Hopkins, '59  
Rosa Lee Davis Cannon Funney  
Anthony Manigault Hurley  
Patricia Geiger Massie, '69  
Carolyn Corley, '64  
Rev. Theodore Kennedy, '63  
Elutheous Oglesby, '63  
Dorothy McCarthy, '57  
James Cantey, '47  
Samuel Brown  
Beverly Kelly, '66  
Frances Herrin  
Deloris Frazier  
Hariett Harvey, '50  
Juanita Williams  
Billy Jones, '61

## About Our Organization

The Booker T. Washington Foundation began as a way to remembering our school which closed in 1974. It was a way to keep the family together and to give our legacies an idea of why we are so passionate about our Alma Mater. Scholarships are awarded to persons who apply and with stand the rigorous prerequisites and requirements. The dues for membership is \$35.00 per year, payable by April 15 of each year. \$25.00 of the total helps pay for utilities and upkeep.

Our Motto: "Lest we forget."

## Class of 1964



Since our last writing, we had three class meetings and our Annual Christmas Party. After graduating 50 years, we now savor every opportunity to come together for business, fun, food, and fellowship.

Our November meeting, hosted by Emanuel and Shirley Ferguson Irving of Sumter, SC, who were experiencing medical challenges but still opened their home to classmates. Realizing that "Every Day is a Day of Thanksgiving", we always bless one of our classmates with a monetary donation during the month of November to demonstrate our appreciation for our classmates. Our 2014 recipient was Joseph Holston who was pleasantly surprised by classmates' generosity. What an enjoyable afternoon! In December, our class held its annual Christmas party. Festivities were held at the Delta Life Development Center where approximately 50 classmates and guests were in attendance. We had fun reminiscing, dining, and dancing the night away.

Our January meeting was held at the home of Geraldine S. Parker with Gloria Richardson Priester and Geraldine hosting. Business of day included forming a committee to work on plans for upcoming fish fry. Members of committee include Jessie T. Edmonds, Ernie Glymph and Melvin McKie, chair. Jasper Brown, our fish fryer, is always eager to come from Winston-Salem, NC to fry fish for class.

Our March meeting was held at the home of Jessie Thorne Edmonds with Frankie Campbell Point and Jessie hosting. At this meeting, we finalized the plans for our upcoming April 25, Fish Fry.

All of our meetings are full of fun, food and fellowship, followed by a picture taking session. We truly look forward to our meetings because we enjoy being in the presence of our classmates. **Our class has truly gotten better with age.**

**Classmates attending some or all of the above functions:** Willie Adams, Frances Jenkins Addison, Doris Johnson Andrews, Robert Bonnette, Jo Tillman Boyd, Jasper Brown, Moretta Toatley Brown, David Clarkson, Julia Prince Edwards, Ernie Glymph, David Grant, Mary Wilson Guinyard, Joseph Holston, Vivian Hopkins Hernandez, Ann Gardner Jennings; Sandra Krider Johnson, Melvin Mckie, Willie Myers, Geraldine Stroman Parker, Samuel Pelzer, Frankie Campbell Point, Gloria Richardson Priester, James

Prince, Jimmy Ruff, Barbara Seabrook Spry, Jessie Thorne Edmonds, and Catherine McGorder Whatley. Iona Brown Williams, Lorenzo Mills and Bernetha Fanning Wise,

## Kudos

**Lorenzo Mills' grandson Kelvin** is the oldest of his 3 grands and a member of the Class of 2015 at Seminole High School, Sanford, FL which is a Florida class 8A High School. He is a Scholar athlete who plays football and basketball (started at point guard 4 years and the team captain). Kelvin is also an International Baccalaureate Student with a 4.375 GPA. He was recruited by several schools but chose Cornell because this is where he wanted to attend since 10th grade. He will play football at Cornell and study economics pursuing a career in international finance.

**Better Education through Football. What a concept.** Quote from Kelvin Mills

"I must say that I am blessed, for sure," said Mills, who will be moving to Ithaca, N.Y., to study economics at Cornell. "It's an honor and a new era not only for me but for my family, as well, building on a foundation that my grandparents started.

"Now I am able to pursue my education at a higher level after all of these years of being bound to the books and working hard, finding the right balance. I'm pretty excited. I know not many people can say it and soon I'll be able to say I went to an Ivy League school and have an Ivy League education. I'll be grateful for that."

"... I hope I can serve as somewhat of a model, not just as an athlete, but as a person to a lot of other people here in Sanford."

Better education through football, for sure. Better life, through football, as well.

**Annie Gardner Jennings' son,** Richland County Sheriff Deputy Terrance LeMont Acox, was appointed the new Program Director (Columbia, SC) of the R.E.A.D.Y. Program (Richland County, Educating And Deterring Youth). Sheriff Leon Lott implemented the R.E.A.D.Y. Program in 2008 for troubled students to have an overnight stay inside of a jail cell, along with character building exercises, to help give them a reality check on how life will be if they continue down the wrong path. Deputy Acox was previously one of the Resource Officers at Lower Richland High School for the past 8 years.

—Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker, reporting

## B.T.W. Heritage Weekend Celebration Update

*June 26-28, 2015*

The B.T.W. High School Banquet sponsored by the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina, on June 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Greeting and Seating will take place from 6:00 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$50.00 per person for the entire weekend event. This is our Forty-First Reunion and plans are being made to accommodate 500 people at the banquet for this special occasion. **Dr. Lillie Mae Anderton Robinson, PhD., has accepted our invitation as the Keynote Speaker and Mr. Ken Cheeks will be our musician for the event.**

### Hotel Accommodations...

Twenty rooms (20) have been reserved at Hyatt Place, 319 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201, for this event at the cost of \$125.00 plus taxes. As a registered hotel guest of Hyatt Place, you will enjoy a complimentary, full breakfast each morning. Check in time is 3:00 p.m. Check out time is 12:00 noon. Free Shuttle Service will be provided between Hyatt Place and Embassy Suites.

### Reservations...

To make reservations, call (888) 492-8847. All reservations must be made by May 29, 2015, after which rooms not reserved will be returned to general inventory, and the group rate will no longer be available. You should ask for Booker T. Washington Group; Code: G-Book. There are two ((2) Hyatts, so you need to request the one downtown in the Vista.

### Tours...

Saturday, June 27, 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., has been designated as a time for you to tour the renovated Booker T. Washington Auditorium, located on *Booker T. Washington Way* at 1400 Wheat Street. The Booker T. Washington - Monteith Cultural Center, 6808 North Main Street will be open for touring from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

**The John W. Work Chorus** performance will be held Sunday, June 28, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at the Booker T. Washington Auditorium, under the direction of Dr. Carl Wells. Ms. Margaret Tipton is the coordinator and may be contacted at (803) 765-0514. This year a weekend stay at the Embassy Suites Hotel will be given as the grand prize to the lucky winner. ***You must be present to win!***

**Tickets** for the Banquet and the John Work Chorus are now available. You may obtain tickets from any Board Member, Class Presidents or Class Coordinators. If you have any questions about this upcoming event, you may use one of the following contacts: Gloria Graham Boyd @ 803.237.4142 or Ida English @ 803.917.9419

### Membership Dues...

Ten (\$10.00) dollars annually, due by April 15, 2015. The membership dues entitle you to a quarterly copy of *The Comet*.

### Contributions..

Twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars or more annually to offset operating expenses of the Booker T. Washington-Monteith Cultural Center. Contributors of twenty-five (\$25.00) or more paid by April 15, 2015, will be listed in our Program Booklet. ***Deadline for all printed material to be placed in program booklet: May 31, 2015.***

### Centennial Celebration...

2016 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our beloved Alma Mater. Plans are underway to make this a banner celebration with activities throughout the year. Your participation in itself will be historical. If you would like to be a member of the Centennial Committee, please call Doris Glymph Greene, 803-546-2503 or email [deedeel83hotmail.com](mailto:deedeel83hotmail.com). Let us sing a song of glory.

*Geraldine Stroman Parker*, Chairperson

*Ida Spells English*, Co-chairperson

### From the Editor . . .

I may have to relinquish this position. I seem to be slowing down at a rapid pace. I have experienced more sickness and ailments during the first two months of this year than I have encountered in the past ten years. I began doing this newsletter in October 1995 and have enjoyed the experience. I will continue to work with the Foundation and my class and will help with the news if I am needed.

Thank you for your confidence all these years.

- *Johnnie M. Corley Patterson*