

The Comet II

March 31, 2017

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Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

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* DEATHS *

Emmanuel Irving, '64
Shirley Ferguson Irving '64
Ruth Scott Williams Brown '41
Beatrice "Bea" Grooms Hoefler '59
Hattie Mary Wade Rakes '41
George J. Wright
Carolyn Benzena Epps '62
Dorothy Weston Fogg
Ernestine Alonzo
Ella Craft Green '66
Myrtis Irene Bracy '70
Hattie Brown Suber '64
Julius Hampton '64
John Lewis Goodwin
Rickey Xavier Phelps '67
Alphonso James Stone '71
Annie Mae Peterson
Wiley Frank Waldo
Carolyn Reese Weston '39
Clarence Roberts
Durham M. Carter '46
Edward Jenkins, Sr. '51
Ella Smith Redd



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President's Voice

Greetings Washingtonians!!

One hundred years ago, Booker T. Washington High School opened its doors as the second high school for black students in the state of South Carolina. Our 2016 yearlong Centennial Celebration with the theme: "Celebrating 100 Historic Years...Lest We Forget", brought this historic moment to the forefront in our minds and through the scheduled celebrations.

I am indeed thankful for the opportunity to serve as President of the Booker T. Washington Foundation and look forward to what we will accomplish, what we will celebrate, and keeping the heritage and history of Booker T. Washington in the forefront.

The Board of Director has adopted a mission statement, value statements, goals and objectives as a part of its strategic plan for 2017- 2018. This information is being included here. In order for the Foundation to thrive and keep the

history and heritage alive, we need the support of classes, alumni, scholars, the millennium society and the community.

Take the opportunity to reflect upon the impact of Booker T. Washington in your life. Where would we be without the rich education received during our years there? Where would the descendants of BTW graduates be without the impact of BTW on the lives of graduates and alumni? Where would we be without the vision of Doris Glymph Greene to organize the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation? Where would we be without the classes that meet on a regular basis to keep the heritage alive and make contributions to support the Foundation? Where would we be without the support of graduates, alumni, Richland School District One, USC and the community? Where would we be without the BTW graduates and others who worked with the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation for years to keep the history and heritage before us? The main question is

where would we be without Booker T. Washington High School? The questions will continue and the answers are before us!

As we prepare to forge ahead, we are asking that you spread the word, become involved by finding an opportunity to participate, contact us, share ideas and most importantly, keep Booker T. Washington in the forefront.

I look forward to what we will do to keep the history and heritage of Booker T. Washington High School in the forefront during 2017 and 2018!

Lest We Forget...

Gloria Graham Boyd '65
President



Class of 1943 (October—December 2016 News)



Greetings Washingtonian!

Hope you are enjoying the balmy, colorful days of Fall, since the passing of hurricane Matthew.

Our class is delighted to inform you of some of the events that have occurred since the last issue of The Comet II. Nathaleen Martin Jenkins' sons, Lester, Jr. and Gregory, honored her with a well planned celebration on Sunday, August 21, 2016, at the M.L. Smith Community Development Center on Farrow Road. Her Pastor, church family, family, friends, classmates, and associate were in attendance.

During the 139th Session of the Columbia Annual Conference our new prelate for the Seventh Episcopal District of the AME Church, Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., was introduced. Many Washingtonians attended the conference. Delegates for the Missionary Day were Iris Jackson, '74, and Josephine J. Hall, '43.

National Night Out was observed at the Perrin Thomas Community Center, located in Taylors Community. The late Celia Phelps Martin was the former principal when it was a school. The event was sponsored by ACT Work, Leroy Bolton, Annie Green and others. Back to School supplies were distributed to students. Plenty food, entertainment, and activities were available for all

Class of 1955

Hello Classmates,

We are in a new year, so let us try to keep our resolutions up to par and maybe we will live longer. Do not worry about who the new president is and what is said. Try to be positive and show love, even when it hurts to do so.

We had a call meeting at the BTW Cultural Center Saturday, February 4, 2017, to discuss our plans for the coming year, nothing materialized because of the weather. Attendance was very low so we just fellowshiped and enjoyed the food that our president, Albert Griffin and his wife Sarah provided. Thanks for the tasty dishes, Albert.

present. The BTW presence was noted.

Brown Chapel's Senior Usher Board celebrated its 68th anniversary on Sunday, September 25. Most of the members are Washingtonians.

We hope to receive reports from several other class members before the next issue of Comet II is due.

Several weeks ago I took a "great" fall, and all praise and honor goes to God. He did not let anything break, just badly bruised, especially my ribs. I am still taking it easy and using my cane more whenever I walk through my house and anywhere. I hope to be bruise-free by Thanksgiving. Thanks for your concerns and kind prayers. I pray that you will remember to be as careful as you can be in order to avoid bumps, bruises, and even breaks.

Sadly we inform you of the recent passing of our beloved sister-in-law, Maggie Jo Harper Jefferson, whose Celebration of Life services were held at Reid Chapel AME Church. She was a faithful member of Brown Chapel AME Church. Join the Jefferson family in thanking everyone who supported the family during its time of grief.

- Josephine J. Hall & Pauline B. Richardson reporters

The members who attended were Albert Griffin, Roland Harris, Alfonzo Edmond, Ida Jackson & son, Carol Brooks, Carrie J. Bell Tucker, Charles Tucker, and Alonzo Phelps. We are all at an advanced age now, the magic "80". We must begin to eat healthier, get plenty of rest, and drink water because we need to be here for each other.

So long for now.

Your Roving Reporter, Alonzo Phelps.



Class of 1955 (October—December 2016 News)

Hello Classmates,

Well classmates, another year is almost gone and some of us are still hanging on with the help of the Good Lord Almighty. Isn't that great news? Yes, it is. Not too much news to report this time. Everything seems to be going pretty well.

Our October meeting was held at the BTW Cultural Center. It was hosted by Alonzo Phelps and his wife. The menu included fried fish, potato salad, and cake, along with other tasty items. Persons in attendance were president, Albert Griffin, Mary White, Gloria Prioleau, Carrie J. Bell Tucker, and Roland Harris. Several local events in and around the city reduced our numbers, namely, Benedict's homecoming, SC State's football game, as well as the SC State Fair.

Harold Lewis' daughter, Kaponial L. Prince, was down for Benedict's homecoming. She was the guest of Benedict's president, David Swinton. As many of you know, the family donated \$100,000.00 to the scholarship fund. She also came to give the Class of 1955 her love.

Class of 1956

Hello Everyone!

We hope you Washingtonians are maintaining good health regimens. We have lost quite a few since the October newsletter was printed. During this quarter our very helpful classmate, Frances Elizabeth Hall Smith, quietly left this clime. Even more shocking is our awareness that faithful member, Marion Harrison is in hospice care. We're hoping to get some additional information soon. Please pray for the family as well as for Marion's return to a reasonable portion of good health.

Due to the many members who are sick, shut-in, and out-of-town, we have been unable to meet during this quarter. We will have to try to schedule a conference call as soon as possible, probably around mid-February.

Three classmates, Curtis Abney, Franklin Bonner, and Otis Goodwin had brothers to die: Ernest Abney, Rev. Antonio Maceo Bonner, and Fate Roosevelt Goodwin, respectively. Please keep the families in your thoughts and prayers.

While awaiting news from several other classes, we learned that Marion Harrison transitioned from this

We discussed plans for our Christmas Party which will be held on Friday, December 9, 2016, at the Ramada Hotel off Two-Notch Road, from 6 p.m.—9 p.m. We pulled names for our Secret Pal. We also distributed raffle tickets. Each member is required to purchase/sell at least 20. The funds are used to defray the cost of our party. Every member will receive tickets and all other information by November 1, 2016.

The Palmetto Cemetery Association celebrated its "Melodies of Celebration" Sunday, October 23, 2016, at 6 p.m. at Palmer Memorial Chapel. Founders, Fannie Phelps Adams and Celia Phelps Martin, who served as president and secretary respectively for many years, were honored along with many others who have worked and work tirelessly to maintain the site. Please keep this cemetery in our hearts and donate to its annual fund for upkeep, especially if you have loved ones interred there.

Well, everybody, my time is up.

- Your Roving Reporter, Alonzo Phelps

earthly life. The services will be held in Savannah, Georgia. Burial will follow in the National Cemetery, Beaufort, South Carolina. You may go to Adams Funeral Services inc.com or type in Adams Funeral Home Savanna, Georgia, scroll down and sign the guest book which will be available for several months.

Our medically challenged members include Sarah Watson Griffin, Marietta Boulware Wilder, John Lee Patterson, Otis Goodwin, Elaine Lakin Hampton, Dorothy Joyner Bracken and her spouse. There may be others, so just keep each other in your prayers. Give me a call and let me know who is sick.

- Johnnie Patterson, President, reporting.



*DEATHS—Cont'd from pg. 1

Ernest Abney
 Fate Roosevelt Goodwin '52
 Frances Elizabeth Hall Smith '56
 Ida Mae Bentley Johnson '40
 James E. "Jimmy" Vant '62
 Janie Mae Bolton Tucker '41
 Lutherine Vance Smith '40
 Marion Harrison, Jr. '56
 Mary Virginia Sims Bates
 Ola Mae Jones Reeder
 Rev. Antonio Maceo Bonner '54
 Sadie Mae Green Hall



Please keep the families of all our dearly departed Washingtonian family members in your prayers. Send a card, make a call or short visit just to let them know that they

Class of 1956 (October–December 2016 News)

Hello Everyone!

We have been trying to support each other as we went through some rough life-storms. We have not met for several months due to members' illnesses and infirmities.

Keep all of us in your thoughts and prayers. Pray especially for Marion Harrison and Albert Norris who have encountered health problems that have required multiple hospitalizations. During this going through experience, Marion lost his brother, Leon Howard Harrison, and this stress, I am sure, did not help his healing progress. Place Marion and his sister, Mary, and other fami-

ly members in your prayers. Finally, continue to pray for Elaine Lakin Hampton, Julia Weeks Cleveland, Frances Hall Smith and her sister, Edna, who is her care giver, William Brice and his daughter, Stella Myers Coaxum, Dorothy Joyner Bracken, and Daisy Loman Lackridge.

We will meet November 18, 2016, at the McDonald's on North Main Street, at 11 a.m. We will discuss our Holiday celebration plans at that time and make plans to visit some of our classmates.

- Johnnie Patterson, President, Reporting

Class of 1957

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS TO ALL WASHINGTONIANS,

We begin this year historically with prayerful praise and thanksgiving to God for blessing us with the opportunity to begin the spiritual journey and celebration of our 60th year as graduates of our "sacred shrine" Booker T. Washington High School.

We are still hearing echoes about our memorable black and golden Centennial Events and Festivities that were a treasured testament to the strength and bond of all "Ole Tornadoes" during 2016.

Our Annual Holiday Fellowship Luncheon was held at noon, Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at the Brookland Baptist Banquet and Conference Center with a very nice group in attendance. What joy filled our hearts as we enjoyed a delightful lunch; brief business session; strolled down memory lane while looking through the beautifully crafted scrapbook; the joyful photo opportunities, and witnessed

an inspirational memorial service. Worthy of honorable mention is our classmate Benbernetta Hentz Charles, who for many years, divinely prepares and mails hand-made black and gold Christmas Cards and Birthday Cards for every classmate, former teachers, and special schoolmates from our BTW.

Following the luncheon, the Executive Planning Committee, with Class President Jestine Brown Coaxum, began charting a course to fulfill our mission to plan the 60th Class Reunion during the Annual Heritage Weekend, June 23-25, 2017.

Let us trust in God for healing, love and power. We passionately lift up all of our Washingtonians in prayer who have health challenges and those who have had to say goodbye to their loved ones.

Mary D. Williams, William L. Davis, Jr. and Frazier Davis, Reporters

Palmetto Cemetary Honorees

Former Washingtonians, the late Fannie Phelps Adams, founder and president for more than 30 years and her sister, the late Celia Phelps Martin, who served as secretary for more than 15 years, of the Palmetto Cemetery Association, were remembered and honored for their service at its annual celebration service, October 23, 2016, at Palmer Memorial Chapel.

The purpose of the program is to raise awareness as well as to raise funds for the upkeep of the cemetery. It requires more than \$5,000.00 a year to maintain the gravesites and grounds. If you have a family member who is interred there, please try to donate to the fund annually so that you will be assured that their place of final rest is being kept free of grass, weeds, and debris on a regular basis.

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 Columbia, South Carolina Booker T. Washington graduate. Susan B. Freeman Scholarship is restricted to seniors planning to attend Benedict College. Applications are available on the BTW website: bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org. Applications are scored independently by each committee member using a rubric. Scholarships are then awarded to the applicants with the four highest combined average scores. The Scholarship committee reviews applications submitted. Scholarship recipients are recognized at the Heritage Weekend Banquet and are acknowledged at the John Work Chorus on Sunday.

Geraldine Stroman Parker, Ida Spells English or M. LaNelle Kohn. Doris can be reached at (803)754-7736 or email andy316@netzero.net and Geraldine can be reached at (803)754-8093 or email parkergrs@bellsouth.net.



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

Questions may be directed to Doris Johnson Andrews,

SAVE THE DATES . . .

2017 Heritage Weekend: Friday, June 23 and Sunday, June 25. Banquet will be held at Brookland Banquet and Conference Center and John Work Chorus will be held at the BTW Auditorium. Cost for weekend fundraiser is \$85.00. Proceeds benefit the Building and Scholarship Funds.

Booker T. Washington Foundation

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Comet II

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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 withstand 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 of BTW/Montieth Cultural Center.

Our Motto:
"Lest we forget."

**Class of 1964**

The Class of '64 had three gatherings since our last publication: 2 Celebrations of Life –Shirley Ferguson Irving and Emanuel Irving. The other was our regular bi-monthly class meeting.

Many classmates attend Shirley's homegoing celebration. One month later, classmates attended her husband Emanuel's homegoing celebration. They both will be sorely missed. Emanuel was our class comedian and photographer. Matter of fact, he was everybody's photographer. One would always see him at BTW functions taking pictures. He gave freely of his time, treasure, and talent. Shirley was always "Most Dependable" and sometimes had to keep Emanuel in check. What a lovely and dependable couple. There was representation for these celebrations from five states: California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, perfect examples of the love this class shared for Shirley Ferguson Irving and Emanuel Irving.

Sandwiched between the 2 funerals was our September class meeting hosted by Samuel "Tank" and Rosa Pelzer. What a wonderful meeting we had eating, drinking and being merry. Emanuel went to dialysis and then came to the meeting. He brought pictures from our Centennial Celebration of which he had classmates pick out their pictures to keep at no charge.

As always, our gathering were 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.

Classmates attending at least one of the above function are as follows: Willie (Lucille) Adams,

Frances Jenkins (Matthew) Addison, Dolores Herbert Anderson, Eddie "Bulky" Benjamin, Vivian Corbin Benson, Robert Bonnette, Jasper Brown, Louis Chitty, David Clarkson, Francena Johnson Davis, Jessie Thorne Edmonds, Julia Prince Edwards, Wardell Epps, Emma Dell Reese Ford, Ernie Glymph, Daniel "Pete" Green, Mary Wilson Guinyard, Barbara Epps Harling, Vivian Hopkins Hernandez, Emanuel Irving, Ann Gardner Jennings, Sandra Krider Johnson, Carolyn Reed King, Ronald King, Melvin (Jerald) Mckie, Lorenzo Mills, Jerry Montgomery, Willie Myers, Geraldine Stroman Parker, Samuel "Tank" (Rosa) Pelzer, Frankie Campbell Point, Gloria Richardson Priester, James Prince, John Robinson, James (Gardenia) Ruff, Paulette Deneal Smith, Barbara Seabrook (Thomas) Spry, David Tucker, Jacqueline Washington, Catherine McGorder Whatley and Bernetha Fanning Wise.

Kudos – Congratulations to Jessie Thorne Edmonds and Frances Jenkins Addison, recently appointees to the Booker T. Washington Foundation Board of Directors. **Frances** also represented BTW Foundation by participating in Benedict College's Homecoming parade, one of our year-long Centennial Celebration's activities. **Geraldine Stroman Parker** received a Benefactor Award for her financial support to Benedict.

- Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker, Reporters



Booker T. Washington High School Foundation

Mission Statement

The Booker T. Washington High School Foundation is an organization whose purpose is to perpetuate the heritage and history of BTW, maintain relationships with alumni, develop and build partnerships with community supporters, and keep the traditions of BTW in the forefront.

Vision...

We will strive to maintain the heritage and history of Booker T. Washington High School.

Value Statements...

We value the history of Booker T. Washington High School.

We value the teachers, staff and alumni of Booker T. Washington High School.

We value the descendants of Booker T. Washington High School alumni.

We value community and corporate supporters.

We value our relationship with Richland School District One.

We value our relationship with the University of South Carolina.

We value the opportunity to educate the Midlands community about the history of Booker T. Washington High School and its impact globally, nationally, regionally and locally.

2017 Goals

Goal 1

To perpetuate the heritage of Booker T. Washington High School

Objective 1: *To reestablish the BTW Alumni Association*

Objective 2: *To organize the Millennium Society*

Goal 2

To seek community partners and supporters for the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation

Goal 3

To establish ongoing financial stability for the Booker T. Washington Foundation

Objective 1: *To reinstate/acquire 501C3 status*

Strategy: Review BTW Foundation information submitted to the Secretary of State

Strategy: Begin gathering information needed for application process

Objective 2: To determine the annual financial contribution of Foundation Board members

Objective 3: To identify financial contributions to the Foundation by individuals, Classes, Alumni, Scholars and members of the Millennium Society

Objective 4: To seek matching fund opportunities