

The Comet II

October 31, 2015

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Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

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Important Dates:

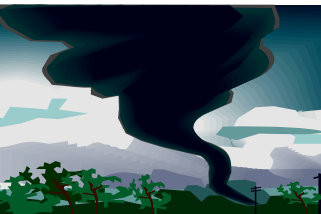
Inaugural Event-Unveiling the Commemorative Tree, BTW Auditorium -
February 28, 2016

Heritage Weekend -
June 24-26, 2016

Banquet, Place TBA -
Fri., June 24, 2016

Tour BTW Auditorium and/or BTW Montieith Cultural Center

John Work Chorus, BTW Auditorium -
Sun., June 26, 2016



President's Voice

Greetings Washingtonians!

And are we yet alive? We thank God for his gracious kindness and how he allowed most of us to weather the recent flooding that almost inundated Columbia. Let us be aware that it could have been much worse. Our center was right in the flood plain. We are thankful the embankment held and the rising waters did not do as much damage to the BTW/Monteith Center as it did to other places in the city. We are still assessing the damage and will keep you informed. Now that Fall is fully upon us and the holiday season is fast approaching,

the Board and I want you to be of good cheer and know that you are never alone. Find a friend to talk to and pray with daily, visit the sick and shut-in, or do something special for someone else. Don't be unproductive during this time. Call someone who has been on your mind for a while. Smile, think good thoughts and dream the dreams of little children. The BTW Family's excitement is beginning to infect all Washingtonians as we prepare for the 100th anniversary celebration of our Alma Mater's existence. We want everyone who can to catch the fire and prepare to be a part of this historic time. Doris Glymph Greene, chairperson of the

Centennial planning committee, has been working diligently to make this a grand, commemorative occasion. Join her so that this can be another exemplary example of our school and her students. I am working at the Cultural Center three days a week. Please call and leave your questions and suggestions.

In His Service,
Henry T. Hopkins '50



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: bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org. **Be sure to read and follow instructions for complet-**

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 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.

Class of 1943

Hi there Washingtonians. What time is it? You guessed it. It is news time again.

First of all we are blessed to be alive after experiencing a flood like we have never seen before. Things in life can be replaced, but not the loss of a human life. We trust all is well with you and yours. Our president and governor saw that South Carolina was declared a state for emergency. The many volunteers, organizations and others throughout the state and outside the state, reached out and were there to assist those citizens who were directly affected by flood waters that broke through and swept away everything in its way. We are all grateful that this event brought us together and hope it will continue to keep us together. Washingtonians, a reminder to also keep Emmanuel AME Church, Charleston, SC, in our prayers while they slowly heal from a terrible tragedy. The outpouring of love Nationally and Internationally will remain in our hearts and let them know they are/were not alone.

Johnnie Mae T. Wheeler grew up as an only child, but she was always surrounded by cousins, friends and associates. Now Johnnie Mae's children, grandchildren, and great grands, along with her church members, organizations and other health care services are helping her. She says she is only slowing down, but not about to

Class of 1955

Hello Classmates.

Not much news to bring to the table thus far, but all is well with the help of God's blessings.

On October 24, 2015, our meeting was held at the BTW/Monteith Cultural Center at noon and we enjoyed every minute of it. It was hosted by Alonzo Phelps and wife with good participation from Alphonso Edmund, Oretha Young, Carol Brooks, Mary White, Mary Louise Brown and Dorothy Coleman, Taylors, SC as well as the Phelps.

The menu was delicious and included fish and potato salad with cake

Class of 1956

We are still attempting to bring other classmates, especially those living in Columbia, to a meeting so that we can make some concrete plans for our 60th reunion in 2016. We attempted to have a small gathering at Meadowlake Park on Saturday, November 7, 2015. We thank those of you who came and offered some input. We thank Marion Harrison and Leon Ruff who have worked diligently to help us succeed at gathering classmates. Thanks to Grover Jenkins (Benedict football) and Hubert Jeter (bad back, cannot travel), who called to let us know they were unable to attend. The courtesy of a response was requested. It is unfair to expect the president to call everyone, especially when you are asked to respond.



quit. Most of us are in that same category but consider ourselves to be able to get around as much as we can. Mattie T. Cooke is back home in Columbia, SC after spending a few months with her daughter in Charlotte, NC while recovering from a fall. Her other daughter is assisting her here. She plans to return to North Carolina when the weather gets warmer. Our get well wishes go out to her.

Nathaleen M. Jenkins visited Ida M. J. Jackson, '55, and Josephine Hall recently even though she was moving along slowly herself. We appreciate the visit from her. Josephine J. Hall dedicated a tribute to her church's usher board during Brown Chapel's 67th anniversary. This original monologue was a surprise. Some of the members are Washingtonians and very faithful ushers.

Pauline B. Richardson was recognized at her church, Pine Grove AME, as one of the senior members of the church during the church's 143rd anniversary. We hope to reach other classmates by the next publication of the Comet II.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year good wishes to all.

- Reporting, Josephine J. Hall and Pauline B. Richardson

and tea. The class got down to business afterward. Mary White passed out all The Secret Pal tickets for the drawing of gifts at the Christmas Party. I hope everyone gets the gift he/she wants for Christmas.

I pray that the recent flooding we experienced did not adversely affect any of you too much. I have not heard of any of you losing your car, home, or belongings. I must say God has been mighty good to us.

Well, if all hearts and minds are clear, we will all meet again soon.

- Your Roving Reporter, Alonzo Phelps

Has anyone checked on Frances Hall Smith lately? We need her sister Edna's address and telephone number so that we can send cards and phone at least once a week to check on her.

We hope all of you are well and were not affected by the recent flood with loss of property.

Booker T. Washington Foundation

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*** DEATHS ***

Adelle Adams Brawley
Dorothy "Sister" Sims
Dawkins, '63
Rudolph Martin

**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

Our September meeting was hosted by Ernie Glymph and Catherine McGorder Whatley. Everyone was so happy to have Thelma Jones Hall and Gertrude Sims Wilson in attendance. We were also elated to see each other after our long summer break. Moretta Toatley Brown and Mary Wilson Guinyard gave testimony of their health challenges and how God had sustained them through their ordeals. What great revelations! Both of them spent time at Duke.

Then we held our business session. Our major topics for discussion included the upcoming BTW Centennial, the unveiling of the Commemorative Tree, our Christmas Party, and our upcoming 70th Birthday Celebration. As always, our hosts had a delicious meal prepared for the class to be served at the close of our meeting.

Classmates attending meeting: Geraldine Stroman Parker, Barbara Seabrook Spry, Bernetha Fanning Wise, Julia Prince Edwards, Vivian Hopkins Hernandez, Thelma Jones Hall, James Prince, Ernie Glymph and friend, Melvin McKie, Willie Myers, Catherine McGorder Whatley, Jessie Thorne Edmonds, Samuel Pelzer and wife, Joseph Holston, Jimmy Ruff, Gertrude Sims Wilson, Moretta Toatley Brown, David Clarkson, Emanuel Irving, James Adams, Robert Bonnette, and Mary Wilson Guinyard.

KUDDOS

- David Clarkson was voted Man of the Year at Zion Benevolent Baptist Church
- Angie Stone, Grammy winner and Iona Brown Williams' daughter, just released her new CD.

Let's go cruising!

- Jo Tillman Boyd and husband Doug will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary by taking a bus cruise to Niagara Falls and Canada.
- Melvin McKie and his wife Jerri celebrated their 10th Anniversary and his birthday on a cruise.
- Vivian Hopkins Hernandez went on a cruise celebrating 20 years of Million Man March

Vivian Hopkins teaches in the gram home-Carver-Lyon School. She interviewed by



Hernandez afterschool pro-work center at Elementary was recently the publication of

SCANA, "Insights", because the Homework Centers program celebrated a quarter century of helping students. Vivian was described as an energetic, veteran teacher with a welcoming smile.

Under Vivian's leadership, the homework center at Carver-Lyon has flourished. It is one of 16 such programs at elementary schools across South Carolina. She stated she strives to develop well-rounded students by including cultural experiences, healthy habits and exposure to future career ideas. "I want them to them be teachers and scientists and lawyers. I want them to have dreams and aspirations. And I want to be a part of that," Vivian said. "I want to encourage them to be college bound, because they have so much to give and so much to receive. I want to prepare them to be lifelong learners and productive citizens, not only in our community, but also in Columbia and South Carolina. And most of all, in the United States."

Such encouraging, inspirational words coming from Vivian. The students are blessed to have her as their teacher. The students, parents and administrators spoke very highly of her. She truly loves what she does!

John Brown Edmonds is the grandson of Jessie Thorne Edmonds. He graduated from Dreher High School in May 2015 with A/B honors, several awards and was sworn into the Marine Corps on May 21, 2015 as Private First Class. He worked an internship with a local company for two months during the summer prior to leaving for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC, where he graduated October 23, 2015 with honors. John is presently stationed at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base in Jacksonville, NC with an assignment as "Troop Marksman."

- Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker, Reporting

Fall Concert

Washingtonians, we have been asked by Dr. Carl Wells, to participate with the USC Gospel Choir in its Fall Music Workshop and Concert November 20 and 21, 2015. The rehearsals and concert will be held at Second Calvary Baptist Church on Mason Road, just off North Main Street. If you are interested, call Margaret Tipton or just come to the rehearsal on Friday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Second Calvary. Churches may register their choir(s). Musicians are encouraged to participate also.

Preventing Holiday Blues

“Holiday blues” range from mild sadness during the holidays to severe depression. This sadness or depression can be prevented, and if it’s already present, it can be eased.

To help prevent holiday blues, follow these tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Psychological Association, the National Mental Health Association, and the Mental Health Association of Colorado:

If you are experiencing holiday blues:

- Establish realistic goals and expectations for the holiday season, and do not label the holiday season as a time to cure all past problems. The holidays do not prevent sadness or loneliness.
- Limit your drinking.
- Do not feel obliged to feel festive. Accept your inner experience and do not force yourself to express specific feelings. If you have recently experienced a tragedy, death, or romantic breakup, tell people about your needs.
- To relieve holiday stress, know your spending limit and stick to it. Enjoy holiday activities that are free, such as driving around to look at holiday decorations. Go window shopping without buying anything.
- Express your feelings to those around you in a constructive, honest, and open way. If you need to confront someone with a problem, begin your sentence with “I feel.”

If someone you know is experiencing holiday blues:

- Try to involve that person in holiday activities, but don’t be forceful.
- Be a good listener. If people express suicidal thoughts or feel depressed, hopeless, or worthless, be supportive. Let

them know you are there for them and are willing to help them seek professional help. Never issue challenges or dares.



- Familiarize yourself with resources such as mental health centers, counseling centers, and hotlines.
- If the depressed person is chronically ill, express that you understand that the holidays do not cure the illness.
- Be aware that holidays can be difficult for people, especially when reality doesn’t measure up to their expectations. Help them establish what is realistic and what is not.

Holiday blues can affect both men and women, young and old. Factors contributing to holiday blues include increased stress and fatigue, unrealistic expectations, too much commercialization, and the inability to be with one’s family. The increased demands of shopping, parties, family reunions, and house guests may also contribute to tension and sadness during the holidays. Common stress reactions include headaches, excessive drinking, overeating, or not eating enough, and difficulty sleeping.



A post-holiday let down, resulting from emotional disappointments during the holiday months, as well as the physical reactions caused by excess fatigue and stress, may cause holiday blues to continue into the new year. For some people—particularly those who live in the northern, darker regions—holiday blues may be caused by seasonal affective disorder (SAD). SAD results from fewer hours of sunlight as the days grow shorter during the winter months.

<http://www.cdcgov/safeusa/blues.htm>