

LUTHER H FOSTER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Fall Edition
September 2012

Officers

Sandra Branch, President
Susan Hawkes, Vice President
Bernice Brito-Mayo, Secretary
Maude Lee, Assistant Secretary
Jessie King, Treasurer
Ralph Branch, Sr., Asst. Treasurer
Lanette Harris, Chair, Sick & Bereavement Committee

2012 Scholarships Recipients



Coby Branch
H.S.: Nottoway Senior
University: James Madison
Major: Kinesiology
GPA: 3.89
C.R.: 8 out of 155
Diploma: Advanced



Malik Crawley
H.S.: Nottoway Senior
College: Virginia Wesleyan
Major: Engineering
GPA: 3.60
C.R.: 23 out of 155
Diploma: Advanced



Da'Quan Johnson
H.S.: Prince Edward
University: Virginia Tech
Major: Undecided
GPA: 3.55
C.R.: 18 out of 163
Diploma: Advanced



Symone Hopkins
H.S.: Cosby
University: Hampton
Major: Nursing
GPA: 4.32
C.R.: 109 out of 475
Diploma: Advanced



Trenzas Whitley
H.S.: Nottoway Senior
College: Hampden-Sydney
Major: Political Science
GPA: 3.71
C.R.: 17 out of 155
Diploma: Advanced



Jalen Shelton-Yates
H.S.: Nottoway Senior
University: Norfolk State
Major: History
GPA: 3.00
C.R.: 63 out of 155
Diploma: Advanced

Alumni Honor Veterans on Fun Day!

The Luther H. Foster High School Alumni Association held its annual "Fun Day" on Saturday, July 21, 2012, at the Nottoway Civic League. Former Bulldogs gathered to renew friendships and enjoy a day of delicious food, games, and congeniality. They traveled from several states, including Texas, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Washington DC and Mississippi.

Mistress of ceremonies was Lanette Robinson Harris, Class of '58. Members who participated in the program were Sallie Ligon Rich, '59, Stanley Marshall, '63, Barbara Dyson Bridgeforth '65, Rev. Dr. Sarah

Ward Coleman '66, Susan Smith Hawkes '66, and James Clarke '67.

A salute to those alumni who are military veterans was the highlight of the event. Thirty-five veterans were honored with plaques inscribed with their names, branch of military, and years of service.

A brief memorial to deceased veterans was given by classmates, and spouses were recognized for their support on the home front. Taps was played by Mark Ellett, who attends Nottoway Senior High School, to

honor the deceased veterans. Thomas Lewis serenaded the veterans with an inspirational rendition of "I Believe".

Sandra Branch, president, thanked the veterans for risking their lives and sacrificing their time away from family and friends to serve our country. Also, she expressed the love the alumni have for veterans who graduated from Luther H. Foster High, the Mighty Bulldogs. In spite of heavy rain, the day was a huge success with the warm glow of camaraderie among friends and guests.

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Front Row from left: CPL George Black, Sr., U.S. Army, SSgt. Benjamin Stith, Jr., U.S. Air force/VA Army National guard; SPC Charles Carter, U.S. Army; MSgt/MSG Tyrone Ligon, U.S. Air Force/U.S. Army; 1SG Samuel Fitzgerald, Sr., U.S. Army; PVT William Irby, U.S. Army; SPC John Pettis, U.S. Army; **Second Row from left:** PFC Garland Lewis, U.S. Army; SFC James Harris, U.S. Army; SPC Gilbert Hurte, U.S. Army; SGT. Richard Coleman, Jr., U.S. Army; Cpl. Clarence Williams, U.S. Marine Corps; SPC Lewis Robertson, U.S. Army; SGT. Charles Daniels, U.S. Army; SFC Lafayette Harris, Sr., U.S. Army; SSgt. James Fitzgerald, U.S. Air Force; SFC Thomas Lewis, U.S. Army; **Back Row from left:** SSgt. Jack Green, U.S. Air Force; 1SG Webster Boose, U.S. Army; SGT. Michael Bagley, U.S. Army; SPC Stanley Marshall, U.S. Army; SPC Richard Booth, U.S. Army; A1C Alvin Thomas, U.S. Air Force; SSgt. Thomas Ward, U.S. Air Force; SGT Mearl Smith, U.S. Army; MGS David Eppes, Jr., U.S. Army; Cpl. Roger Coleman, U.S. Marine Corps; **Not pictured:** SFC John Williams, U.S. Army; Roosevelt Hobbs, U.S. Army; SSgt. Terry Lewis, U.S. Air Force; CPO John Vaughter, U.S. Navy; MSG; SSgt. Johnnie Harris, U.S. Air Force; MSG Richard Rather, U.S. Army; SPC Warren Farrar, Sr., U.S. Army; SFC Henry Hurte, U.S. Army



“Inspirational Treasures”- Sheds Light on Students’ Thoughts



Christine Easterling

Christine Easterling, Class of 1958, who spearheaded the D.C. Rea Book club’s first book, said “*Inspirational Treasures*” focuses on what students think of their teachers and what

they’re learning. A book that demonstrates teachers’ pride and commitment to their craft, also serves as a reminder of the extraordinary impact the profession makes on students and society.

“*Inspirational Treasures*,” a whimsical and thought-provoking compilation of experiences on the joys of learning and teaching, was compiled by veteran educator Christine Easterling, past president of the District of Columbia Retired Educators Association and Frances Green Clarke, a former teacher.

Various members of the association’s Book Writing Club solicited contributions and together penned the 107-page book, which debuted in paperback in April. In addition to praising the art of teaching, it also serves as a scholarship fundraiser.

“There had been so much negativity in the media about educators,” said Easterling, who retired after 30 years as a teacher. “We had rallies, (former District of Columbia Public Schools Chancellor) Michelle Rhee was on TV and everything about D.C. educators was criticized,” she said. “There are some wonderful things that both teachers and students are doing that (never appear in print). As an organization, we decided to counter that with a book that would be inspirational-and one that would echo wisdom from the mouths of babes.”

Easterling explained that most of the book focuses on comments from elementary-age students because no one can argue their points on education. “Their minds are free and open to telling the truth, without regard to what somebody’s going to think,” Easterling said. “Society has not taken its toll on children’s minds yet, so what they say, is exactly what they mean.” For example, some of the students’ sentiments detailed in the book include my teacher is like a rose.” “I want my teacher to be patient with me.” “My teacher does good deeds.”

A passage titled, “A Letter to a Teacher,” written by student Shaira Corona reads, “Dear Teacher, you make me feel like I’m at home. Other times you make me feel like I am in huge trouble. I love you but I think you should be patient with me. You are a pretty teacher, and I like to see you happy.”

Continued page 4

Retired Teachers

Name Florence Oliver “Woman of The Year”

Florence M. Oliver was honored as “Woman of the Year” during the Lunenburg-Nottoway Retired Teachers annual meeting at Southside Virginia Community College in Alberta on April 19, 2012.

“Her service to church, community and the Retired Teachers Association merited her receiving this recognition”, said a group spokeswoman. Florence Oliver serves as chairperson of the Deacon’s Ministry at Eleven Oaks Baptist Church in Crewe as well as president of the Missionary Auxiliary and as Sunday School teacher.

In the community, she transports patients for doctor and hospital visits. In addition she prepares and delivers care baskets and meals to the sick and shut-in. She enjoys decorating and donating t-shirts, tote bags, and aprons.

She has four children-Lessie, Maurice, Morris and Sabrina. All were present at the luncheon meeting. Her services to retired teachers include serving as treasurer of Lunenburg Nottoway Retired Teachers Association, attending executive board meetings and quarterly meetings of District D RTA and serving as a delegate to spring and fall meetings of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association.



Sallie Rich, left, presents Florence Oliver a corsage, certificate and monetary gift for being named Woman of the Year by local retired teachers.

Crewe-Burkeville Journal
(Contributed Photo)

Memories of the Past 1952-60 Years

Clinette Fowlkes of Crewe, class valedictorian at Luther H. Foster High School was awarded a \$100 Scholarship to Virginia State College, Ettrick. She also won two awards of \$5 and \$2 for chemistry class work and lab work and \$5 prize in English.

Gwendolyn Hanks of Crewe won a \$110 scholarship to Shaw University in North Carolina and Bobby Pettis also of Crewe won the \$5 award in Agriculture given by W. L. Carter, Agriculture teacher.

Crewe-Burkeville Journal



Alumnae Retires!



Thelma Foster Gallion, Class of 1959, retires after 45 years of service. She was presented with parting gifts by the school board last Wednesday night (June 6, 2012).

Thelma began her career as an aide at Luther H. Foster High School when Tom Stafford was Division Supt. Later, she accepted a position as school secretary, where she worked with Wally Hurt and several other principals. Hurt, who is now a school board member, left his seat to give Mrs. Gallion a hug. *Courier-Record*

Class of 1961 Donates Scholarship

The Class of 1961 donated a \$250 Scholarship to be awarded to a deserving senior to help further his/her educational goals.

We thank you for your generous donation. The president of the Class is Barbara Jennings McRae and Lauraetta Jones-Yates, secretary.

Alums Back From The Bahamas!

Earlier this month, 15 members of Luther Foster High School's Class of 1967 and 14 spouses and friends set sail from Norfolk on the Carnival Glory for a six-day cruise to the Bahamas.

Stops were made in Nassau and Freeport, Bahamas. Fun was had by all, as graduates and guests walked down memory lane, danced to Motown, went on excursions that were offered at each port, and dined on delicious meals that were provided 24 hours each day.

The local delegation also was able to attend Sunday Church Service and received a powerful message that was delivered by classmate Reverend C.L. Hobbs.

"We were honored to have one of our teachers, Mr. Lewis Griffin and his wife, traveling with us," said graduate James Leroy Clarke. "We think he and his wife had just as much fun as we did. There is talk of traveling to Hawaii in 2014. Those classmates who could not make it this year, will have an opportunity to join us in 2014." *Courier-Record*



Making More Memories

Members and guests of Luther Foster High School's Class of 1967 enjoyed a recent cruise to the Bahamas. Front Row from Left: Theresa Cousins Scott, Esther Rowe Roane, Rachel Tucker Lewis, Hazel Oliver Jefferson. 2nd Row: Mr. Lewis Griffin (teacher/Class Sponsor), Brenda Bower Watson, Doris Bland Farrar. 3rd Row: Marshall Townes, Barbara Oliver Townes, Jean Smith Hobbs, Sarai Foster Yates. Back Row: Johnny Harris, James Leroy Clarke, Colonel Lee Hobbs, Richard Rather.

GET WELL WISHES

We extend heartfelt well wishes to all of our members who are working through health and other issues. May God continue to bless you!



IN MEMORIAM



We extend heartfelt condolences to the families of :

Barbara Robertson Smith, '57

Caesar Love, '60

Avis Hurt Branch, '61

Lawrence Stokes, '62

Ronald Johnson, '67

Velma Rather, '68

Romans 10:9-10, KJV

If you know someone who should be on the sick or deceased list, please contact Lanette Harris, Sick & Bereavement chair, at 434-292-3048 or email lutherhfoster@gmail.com



“Inspirational Treasures” (cont. p.2)

Clarke, a retired teacher from Calvin Coolidge Senior High School in Northwest, weighs in with “Advice to a New Teacher.” Some of Clarke’s words of wisdom to first-time teachers include, “Be kind. Be prepared. Be fair.”

Easterling, who taught in the District of Columbia Public School System for 16 years, also served as a director for the now-defunct Teaching Professional Academy, formerly housed at Calvin Coolidge Senior High School. “I always say that nobody’s asking the students what’s going on in the schools,” she said. They go in and they ask the princi-

pals and they look at charts-but they never ask the children, and they’re the ones who are receiving an education”

Easterling said that while she believes in education reform, it’s not intended to badger teachers-rather it’s intended to improve the public education system.

“Everyone –including parents has to be involved,” Easterling said. “The first five years of a child’s life comes (from what they’ve learned) from their parents. So everybody even the community –is involved. Everything and everyone goes into the picture-and not just the teacher.”

By Dorothy Rowley
WT Staff Writer

Alumnae Earns Doctoral Degree



Reverend Dr. Sarah W. Coleman, Class of 1966, pastor of Union Baptist Church of Crewe received her Doctoral Degree in Divinity from the Spirit of Truth Bible Institute in Richmond on July 8, 2012.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Coleman

Pastor Coleman is a graduate of Longwood University, where she obtained a B.S. Degree in Social Work. She also has a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Counseling from Andersonville School of Theology.

Rev. Dr. Coleman is the daughter of the Late Henry Ward and Sarah Wright Ward of Crewe, Virginia.

Crewe-Burkeville Journal

50TH Reunion Celebration

Some members of the Class of ‘62 enjoyed a fun filled weekend in August hosted by their classmate, Warren Johnson and his wife, Jacqueline at the Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor, Maryland to celebrate their 50th Year. Upon arrival on Friday, we were greeted by Warren with our rooms ready for occupancy and the Hospitality Suite opened. We enjoyed Happy Hour at the Belvedere Lobby Bar and moved on to Reunion Dinner at the Westin Restaurant by the waterfront. Warren was just as excited as we were. Later that night, he escorted us to the Pose Ultra Lounge on the 19th floor of the hotel for an evening of dancing and socializing.

On Saturday morning, we were greeted by a professional trainer for Fun and Fitness for breakfast. She gave us some tips for good eating habits for seniors and simple exercises to perform to stay in shape and lose weight at the same time. When you feel stressed, give

someone a “hug”. That was our motto for the remainder of the weekend. Later during the day we went to the Fort Washington Marina and were entertained by the “Ques” at the Tiki Bar. Saturday night, we went on a Dinner Cruise on the *Spirit of Mount Vernon*. Class of ‘62 had “The Fun Boat” rocking. When we departed the ship, we were presented with a photo of the cruise group, compliments of Warren and his wife. After the cruise, we returned to the Hospitality Suite; everyone went back to elementary days and the tales and jokes were on.

Sunday morning, we had brunch at Pienza Restaurant, which was enjoyed by all. Before we realized it, time had passed and everything was ending and we did not want to depart. The members who attended have expressed their appreciation for Warren and Jackie’s generous hospitality and kindness. We plan to stay in touch and meet again soon.



Pictured from left: Edith Smith; Maude Lee; Joan Bates, Catherine Holt; Warren Johnson; David Eppes; Elizabeth Crawley; Evelyn Crawley, David Dobbins; Ann Putney, Jacqueline Johnson; Christina Crawley; Donald Thomas; and Omar Holt

By Maude Craft Lee '62

Class of 1960 Highlights

The Class of 1960 acknowledges the deaths of several classmates during the past two years, including James Branch, Clifton Evans, Inell Robertson, and as recent as last week (9/7/12) Caesar Love. We continue to extend heartfelt condolences to their families, as well as prayers for classmates Thelma Pitts-Tucker and Willie Banks, during their time of sorrow and illnesses.

Summer Highlights. Audrey King Hawkes is sharing her travel venture with us: "This summer my travels took me to several states for vacation and sightseeing--West Virginia, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Indiana and Illinois. Being a history buff, I was afforded the opportunity to visit museums, churches, national parks and memorials, home sites and see shows in these states. Some highlights included visiting Martin Luther King Memorial, National Memorial for George Washington Carver, St. Louis Arch, Graceland, Beale Street, Churchill Downs, and other places too numerous to mention. This trip was fun and informative."

Jean Hobbs Dobbins is still excited about the success of their 38th Mack & Margaret Hawkes Family Reunion held in Gaithersburg, Maryland in early August. Approximately 200 family members from the Blackstone area, north thru Petersburg, Richmond, Fredericksburg, the States of Maryland, Delaware and New York, and as far west as Houston, Texas, met at the Gaithersburg Marriott Conference Center for three days celebrating their Legacy of Love.

By Jean Hobbs Dobbins '60

MISSION STATEMENT: To preserve the memory and promote the legacy of Luther H. Foster High School.



Cast Your Vote on November 6, 2012

My Dear Friends,

This presidential election is crucial and we have to make our voice heard on Nov. 6th. It is critical that every eligible voter get to the polls with all things in order to ensure that you can cast your ballot. Some voting requirements in Virginia have been changed and for those in other states, I urge you to check with your local registrar to be aware of anything that may have changed where you live.

I already know that Luther H. Foster High School Alumni members will be voting because we will never forget from whence we've come. But don't be quiet about it; remind those around you: your children, your grands, your great grands, friends, neighbors and all that you may come in contact with prior to Nov. 6th.

Your voice is sorely needed to counteract all of the negative attacks against President Obama.

And yes, there is some negativity coming from the black community also, saying "he hasn't done anything for us". Well, for those

saying he hasn't done anything, I certainly hope they are listening to what Romney and Ryan are proposing if they are elected.

Granted there are a few blacks that pocketbooks can vote along with the Republicans. But that is not true for most of us and for those whom the Lord has blessed to be pretty comfortable; there should be concern for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. This is something to ponder on when we want to think we have it made. Consider these statistics according to recent research by the NAACP:

- Majority minority public schools districts receive nearly \$1,000 00 **less** per pupil
- 78% of teachers in majority minority public schools districts do **NOT** teach in their accredited subject area.
- More than 52% of minorities have **NO** health insurance
- More than 25% of African Americans live **BELOW** the poverty level
- Black women make up 69% and Blacks as a

whole **50%** of new HIV/AIDS cases.

- Median net worth: Whites-\$81,700, Blacks-\$10,000, Hispanics-\$3,000
- Once arrested, minorities are **THREE** times as likely to be incarcerated as Whites.

Know that for the past four years, the opposition party in its effort to make President Obama look bad and to make him fail, has refused to support him even when his proposals would have aided the economy. Be aware that the Republicans were intent on destroying him since the day he was inaugurated. I often wonder what more his presidency might have accomplished if they had chosen to work with him for the good of the country,

If you live in Nottoway County and have questions requiring voting requirements, you may call Angela Stewart, County Registrar at 434-645-8148 or I can be reached at 434-645-2185 and will be happy to try and assist you.

With Warmest Regards,
Sallie B. Rich '59

Nottoway Training High School - Celebrates 62nd Class Reunion

On Friday, July 20, 2012, approximately eleven (11) members of the Class of 1950 along with their families, friends and four honored guests giving a total of forty-one (41) attendees assembled at the Nottoway Civic League for their 62nd Class Reunion. The Class of 1950 was the last class to receive graduating Certificates from the county's Nottoway Training High School, which ceased to exist with the September 1950 opening of Luther H. Foster High School.



Seated from left: Ms. Carrie E. Eppes; Mrs. Margaret Hill; Mrs. Grace Neal Jones (Special Guest) Mrs. Ruth Johns Pegram (Teacher) Mrs. Rosebud Manning Hawkes (Teacher) Mrs. Mildred Johnson Townes (Sponsor/Teacher) Ms. Bessie Smith Ransome; Ms. Isabell Oliver Royal; **Standing from left:** Mr. Thomas Ward; Mr. Archer L. Williams; Mr. Walter S. Tucker; Ms. Marion Williams Dyson; Ms. Cloris Jennings Gray; Ms. Hattie Hatchett McDuffie and Ms. Constance Tucker Wynn.

By Marion Williams Dyson '50

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Sandra Branch, Editor
Proofreading assistants noted

Because of YOU,
the memory and legacy live on!

THANK YOU

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

As I prepare this newsletter, I am reminded of the friends and loved ones that have passed on to be with the Lord. They are gone but not forgotten. As we know, God is still in charge. Please remember the families in your prayers.

Well, three (3) years has rolled around so fast; it is time for our 7th School-Wide Reunion, which will be held July 19-21, 2013 at the newly renovated Holiday Day Inn Koger Center, Richmond, Virginia. You can make your room reservation immediately by calling 804-379-3800. More information is forthcoming via newsletter and website! If you are able

and available to participate, please come and fellowship with us.

Thank you for your scholarship donations and membership dues. Your donations to the Civic League are greatly appreciated.

Again, we look forward to seeing classmates, friends and family at the School Wide Reunion July 19-21, 2013.

If you have any concerns, questions/ comments, please feel free to share them with us.

Peace and Blessings, Sandra

3-day School-Wide Reunion !
July 19-21, 2013



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Luther H Foster High Alumni Association
Visit on our Website lutherhfoster.com

Scripture Reading

King James Version - Philippians 4:7
And the peace of God, which passeth
all understanding, shall keep your
hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Luther H. Foster Alumni...Together We Stand and Divided We Fall!

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