

THE AGGIE SPIRIT

2018 Spring Newsletter

WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.

April 2018



The National Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 4th of this year marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was shot at 7:01 PM Eastern Time while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN. He was in Memphis in support of the sanitation workers strike.

As was the case with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, many of us remember where we were or what we were doing when we heard the news. I was in my junior year of college at Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC. I was working a part time job as night janitor for the Stanback Company (headache powder) there in Salisbury. Since Stanback office personnel worked 8 to 5, I was the only one in the office area at the time. Therefore, I could have my transistor radio blaring as I performed my clean-up duties.

I remember I was cleaning the men's restroom when the radio station I was listening to interrupted its regular programming with the news. "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has been shot while in Memphis, TN", reported the announcer. As you can imagine I was shocked. Although I was aware of the tension, conflict, and passion generated by the racial related events of the time, I could not wrap my mind around the idea of someone taking the life of this larger-than-life, God-fearing man.

I had just cleaned the commodes in the men's restroom. When the news broke, I put the lid down on the commode in one of the stalls and sat down. I must have sat in that stall, with my head in my hands, for 30 to 40 minutes, listening to the radio, as more and more news poured in. I had never felt so drained of energy and maybe even hope. I had never felt so insignificant and so vulnerable. I had never felt so devastated and so angry.

I remember there was a big calendar hanging on the wall. It was used by office staff to track the appointment for the various salespersons. There were also calendars on just about every office desk. After I

See PRESIDENT'S Message, page 2

President's Message—continued from page 1

recovered from the initial shock, I took a black marker and went from calendar to calendar. I circled, in bold black, April 4th on every calendar in the office. (The thing that surprised me the most, was that the next evening when I got to work, none of the calendars had been removed, I had not been fired, and my supervisor never said anything to me about it.)

In the fifty years since April 4, 1968, much has occurred in the area of race relations within this country – some of it positive and some of it not so positive. On the positive side, Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States; Oprah Winfrey has become a media celebrity and one of the wealthiest people in America; and graduates of the once segregated WCTS-NWHS in Wise, NC purchased the former school campus and are in the process of making significant renovations to the historic site.

Thanks to all of you and many who have gone home to rest, the alumni and friends of Warren County Training School – North Warren High School, are doing some remarkable things in the north western corner of Warren County. We are making a difference in the lives of the individuals within our community as we preserve the heritage and legacy of our school. Thank you for all that you do. Please continue to support our efforts.

Yours in unity

Ben H. Stewart, Jr.
National President

BISHOP BERTHA CLANTON GREENE

Bishop Bertha Clanton Greene, Class of '56, finished her earthly journey on Saturday, March 10, 2018. She was a truly remarkable, God-fearing woman. Here is information from PreachingWoman.com that gives you a glimpse of her achievements.

Bishop Bertha Greene was the Senior Pastor and Organizer of Sacred Zion Full Gospel Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Believing in the vision and leadership of Bishop Paul S. Morton, Presiding Prelate of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International, Sacred Zion was the first church to be organized and set apart (1996) under the Fellowship in the State of Maryland.

As a member of the Maryland State Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship for nearly 15 years, Bishop Greene held several offices within the Fellowship: Director of Ministerial Alliance, District

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ELIZABETH!

The New International Version of Psalm 90:10 reads thusly, "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away." Based upon this Bible verse, Elizabeth Dunston Baskerville has been well blessed. She celebrated her 100th birthday on April 23rd.

Elizabeth is one of the charter members of the WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. When Dr. Arthur E. Teele, Class of '28, made plans to hold a reunion for the classes that graduated in 1925 – 1940, she was there as a member of the Reunion Committee. This reunion took place on July 30, 1977 at 3:00 PM on the campus of North Warren Middle School.

In 1982, when Cora Teele Watson decided it was time to look at having an annual school reunion,

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. BISHOP GREENE- CONTINUED

Overseer for Baltimore City (September 2007), and State Overseer for the State of Maryland (November 2008). In November 2010, State Overseer Bertha Greene was elevated to Bishop Candidate. Upon completing the Full Gospel School of Episcopal Studies, she became the Bishop Designate for the State of Maryland on March 28, 2011. She always gave praises to God, knowing that it is He who chose her to receive a Bishop's Confirmation on June 28, 2011.

An active member in the community for 11 years, Bishop Greene served as Board Chair of Project ARISE, a CDC-funded Faith-Based HIV/AIDS Prevention initiative. She was a member of the Baltimore City Commission on AIDS; Advisory Board Member of the Johns Hopkins Adolescent & Child Psychiatry Department; an organizing member of Maryland National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS; a member of the West Baltimore Clergy United; a former member of the Ryan White Planning Council of Greater Baltimore; and a former columnist for a local magazine, "A Sister's Dialogue;" writing health-related articles on HIV/ AIDS. Her passion for people to be spiritually healed resulted in her authoring her book, "From the Cradle to the Pulpit" released November 4, 2008.

Under Bishop Greene's counseling, training, and guidance, twenty-six sons and daughters were licensed to fulfill their call to Ministry. In August 2009, husband and wife pastors of Faith Walk Assembly Church in Harford County, Maryland, were ordained, and the church set apart by Bishop Greene. God afforded her the opportunity to minister as she traveled throughout the U.S. and Africa.

Bishop Greene holds a Bachelor of Science in Theology, a Master of Divinity, and a Doctorate of Ministry from Family Bible College and Seminary in Baltimore, MD.

She is the daughter of the late Rev. Samuel and Alma Clanton, and the eleventh child of twelve

siblings. Three of her sisters, well known to members of Aggie Nation, are Elna Clanton Brooks, Class of '45; Vergie Clanton Pope, Class of '50; and Izora Clanton Rideout, Class of '57. For a number of years, Bishop Greene served side by side in Gospel Ministry with her husband, Chairman Deacon Emeritus Ronald W. Greene, Sr. She loved being a wife, mother, foster mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She has seven children: Carlee, Ronald, Phillip (deceased), Maria, Donna, Anthony, and John; and foster son, Sidney Woods.

ELIZABETH! -CONTINUED

the organizing meeting was held in the home of Elizabeth. This led to the first organized school reunion meeting that was held on July 16, 1983 at 12:00 noon. During this meeting, officers were elected and goals and objectives of the organization were established.

In 1993, under the leadership of Martina Goode Williams, the Alumni Association was presented the opportunity to purchase the high school campus from the Warren County School System. The asking price was \$10,000.00. A short-term loan in that amount was secured from Elizabeth to acquire the 6.5 acres of land housing the cafeteria, agricultural building, principal's house, and high school building.

On behalf of the Aggie Nation;
Happy 100th Birthday, Elizabeth. We love you!



Fish Fry Class Reunions Gala Dinner
Business Meeting Fellowship
FUN

CENTURY CLUB 2018

Support the "Blue and Gold" by becoming a member of the 2018 Century Club. The cost for doing this is \$100.00. The funds are used for general operating expenses and the contribution is tax deductible. In recognition for your support, your name will be listed on the Alumni Association's website, in the fall newsletter, and in the program produced for the Gala Dinner. In addition, members receive a personal Christmas card from the president.

To become a member, please make your check payable to: WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association and mail to: P. O. Box 122, Wise, NC 27594. Below is a list of 2018 members as of 4/9/2018.

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Charles Alexander – Class of '52 2. Joyce Alexander – Class of '57 3. Charles Anderson – Class of '68 4. Jesse M. Banks – Class of '53 5. Jerry Bell – Class of '65 6. Emma Lea Dunston Beshir—Class of '52 7. Juanita H. Russell Brown – Class of '49 8. Evelyn Alexander Bullock – Class of '65 9. Sallie Durham Clalbourn – Class of '65 10. Carolyn Mayfield Davls – Class of '66 11. Robert Dortch – Class of '63 12. Phillip Downey – Class of '67 13. Henry Durham, Jr. – Class of '67 14. Frank J. Hargrove – Class of '67 15. Thomas Harris—Class of '56 16. Clara Boyd Henderson – Class of '54 17. Rev. Richard "Melvin" Henderson – Class of '54 18. John H. Henderson – Class of '67 19. Bobby A. Howard – Class of '57 20. Jamesanna ShearIn Johnson – Class of '46 21. Faulkner P. Jones – Class of '52 22. Ann Long Kersey—Class of '67 23. James A. Kersey – Class of '67 24. Laura Plummer Marshall – Class of '57 25. Esther Mayfield – Class of '63 26. Barbara Harrison Palmer—Class of '66 27. John C. Palmer – Class of '66 28. Lindell Palmer – Class of '67 29. Mattie Bell Palmer—Class of '62 30. Murrell Palmer—Class of '62 31. Vera J. Palmer – Class of '69 32. Maxline Boyd Patillo—Class of '65 33. Hattie Plummer Perry -Class of '62 34. Mildred Juanita Person -Class of '59 35. Paul Plummer, Jr. – Norlina HS 36. Willie T. Ramey, III – Class of '63 37. Willie G. Russell – Class of '56 38. John U. Seward – Class of '57 39. Wandra Seward – Friend 40. Eva Hall Shaw – Class of '50 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 41. Jeanette Hawkins Somerville—Class of '68 42. Larry Somerville—Class of '69 43. Inez Harrison Sprull—Class of '50 44. Juanita Turner Sprulll – Class of '66 45. Zandra Goode Sprulll – John Graham HS 46. Alice Jordan Stewart – Class of '67 47. Ben Stewart, Jr. – Class of '65 48. Norval Stewart – Class of '54 49. Rev. Mary Stinnett – Norlina HS 50. Mary L. Talley – Class of '50 51. Melvin Talley – Class of '60 52. Eva Johnson Taylor – Class of '65 53. Joseph Taylor – Class of '63 54. Esther Alexander Terry – Class of '57 55. Emmitt Thomas—Class of '63 56. Walter Turner —Class of '65 57. Onia Mae Talley Vaughan – Class of '63 58. Mildred Johnson Wiggins – Class of '68 59. Martina Goode Williams – John Graham HS 60. Alice Holloway Young – Class of '40 |
| | <p>EDUCATION IS THE KEY</p> <p>There are 100 counties in the state of North Carolina. According to 2018 data published by the NC Department of Commerce, Warren County is the second most economically depressed county in the state. The average annual wage is \$26,997. More than 26% of Warren County residents earn an income below the poverty level.</p> <p>It has long been recognized that the best way to improve one's economic status is through education. This is one reason charter members of our Alumni Association made provisions to offer scholarships to deserving graduates of the county school system. Since the founding of the WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc., the</p> |

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EDUCATION CONTINUED

organization had given more than \$70,000 in scholarships.

This year we will be awarding two (2) \$1,000 Washington-Cheek awards and two (2) \$500 General awards. We thank all of you who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund for your support. We want to especially thank Larry and Jeanette Somerville and Philip and Marie Downey for their generous contributions.

Larry and Jeanette are staunch supporters of our scholarship program. Philip and Marie established the Rodney M. Downey Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund which epitomizes excellence and commitment. We can never forget where we came from and those who helped us have the opportunity to achieve. Let us now “pay it forward”.

then the youths showed off their talents. This is a very good stage for training our future leaders. Thank you Warren County Chapter.



Friday	1:00 PM	Business Session
Friday	5:00 PM	Fish Fry
Saturday	6:00 PM	Gala Dinner

YOUTH EXPLOSION

According to recent US Census data, persons 18 years old and younger make up one quarter (1/4) of the US population. This is very significant when we consider the future of our nation.

Young people have always been passionate when it comes to social justice. During our younger years, it was the Civil Rights Movement. Today it is the growing movement for gun reform. These young people represent a powerful voice for justice, equality, and change. This is why it is important to prepare our youths to be God centered individuals as well as being able to read, write, do arithmetic, and communicate effectively.

Each year Paul Plummer, President of the Warren County Chapter and Vice President of the National Chapter, sponsors our “Youth Explosion” program. This year’s program was held on March 11th in the school cafeteria. Paul, along with Dr. Linda Mason, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum of the Warren County School System, provided a forum for church youth groups to get together for fellowship and fun. Clara Boyd Henderson and the kitchen crew provided food and

**WANTED!!!
CLASSES OF 1970 AND BEYOND
ALUMNI**

Even though we did not graduate from WCTS-NWHS, being students during this part of the history of the school, we are still “Alumni” of WCTS-NWHS and bare some responsibility in seeing that the legacy of WCTS-NWHS is not forgotten. The Alumni Association has maintained this legacy through providing scholarships to area high school graduates, providing educational opportunities to youths and adults, and providing a location where the community can gather for social functions.

Last fall the Warren County Chapter of the WCTS – NWHS Alumni Association sponsored a cook out for “Alumni” from this era. Attendance was not what we hoped for partially because an alumnae from the class of 1973 was being funeralize on the same day. It should not be just at funerals that we get together. The Reunion Weekend activities is a good time to get together with old friends and classmates we haven't seen in years. I would love to see Pam, Wonnie, Larry, Robert, Marilyn, and Alvin and Melvin.

We will be emailing this newsletter to our members as well as providing a paper copy. Please forward this newsletter to your siblings and friends in this group. **WANTED!!**

Reginald Hinton, Executive Secretary

THE RODNEY M. DOWNEY MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Rodney, the late son of Phil and Marie Downey, departed this life on January 29, 1993, at the tender age of 15. In addition to being a loving son, he was an adored brother and friend; a GQ dresser; and loved to dance, pull practical jokes on his friends, go to the movies, and talk on the phone. He was actively involved in his church, Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond, VA, and possessed a zest for life.

As a student at Highland Springs High School, in Highland Springs, VA, he was a student leader, a scholar, a member of the marching band, and a sergeant in the Springer JROTC. His athletic abilities enabled him to play basketball, baseball, and football. In addition he was an avid baseball card collector with a serious interest in each player's history.

For being so young, Rodney had a sincere appreciation for education and community. This has led to the formation of the Rodney M. Downey Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund. Not only is this a way of keeping alive the memories of Rodney, it is also a way of offering financial assistance to deserving high school graduates who are continuing their education. For the last four years, this scholarship fund has been instrumental in funding Washington/Cheek scholars.

The WCTS-NWHS Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. is most appreciative of Phil and Marie for their commitment to the education of youth from Warren County. Their give-back to those who will shape the future of this world is outstanding. May God continue to bless their efforts.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3

* A recently published article by the Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church was used in gathering some of the information printed in this article.



COMING SOON

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 25-26

CLASS OF 1968 NEWS

The graduating Class of 1968 will be hosts and hostesses for this year's Gala Dinner. They will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Congratulations, Class of '68!

Calling All Class of '68 Members

When was the last time you saw Brenda Goode Brothers? Other than being wiser, she has not changed one bit. Do you suppose she has discovered the Fountain of Youth? Ask her when you see her during Reunion Weekend.

When was the last time you spoke with Walter Powell? He has always had strong opinions about issues. Now he is a Warren County Commissioner. Here is your opportunity to "bend his ear" over dinner.

When was the last time you were in the presence of Ruby Downey? She has always been an ambitious person. She is a former Warren County Commissioner and now the President of the Class of '68 Alumni Association. Could she have bigger things in mind? Pry into her future plan during Reunion Weekend.

When was the last time you chatted with Leonard Terry? He has always been a deep thinker and thought leader. How can you not afford to be here during Reunion Weekend to absorb some of the sage knowledge he will be dispensing?

These are but a few of the Class of '68 stars you will be able to rub elbows with during Reunion Weekend. Reserve your tickets for this once in a lifetime event today.

Class of '68 Raffle

There will be a drawing for a \$300.00 gift card at the Gala Dinner. This is a Class of '68 activity and only Class of '68 members are eligible. Class of '68 members must attend the Gala Dinner to be eligible. Now you have even more reasons (300 more reasons) to attend Reunion Weekend.

New School Banner

A very reliable source has informed me that the Class of '68 intends to unfurl a new school banner during Reunion Weekend. I am not calling any names, but the initials of the lead perpetrator of this wonderful idea is Charles Anderson. Charles has been a very staunch supporter of his alma mater and we appreciate all that he has done.

Rumor has it that **Mary Alston Porter**, sister of Milton Alston, Class of '65, Al Alston, and Francis Alston will be in attendance with the Class of '68 during Reunion Weekend. Mary was the first black student to attend Norlina High School. She entered the all white school in September 1964 and graduated in 1968. Before attending Norlina High, she had matriculated at Northside and North Warren elementary.

ADMINISTRATION

If we still do not have your email address to receive our (email bulk mailing) please forward us your Email Address. Also if your email address has changed, please email the correction to: wctsnwhsalumni@embarqmail.com.

Don't forget to check-out the Calendar on our website: www.wcts-nwhs.org to see what is scheduled locally.

THE AGGIE SPIRIT

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WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.
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Wise, North Carolina 27594

Permit #1



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*Memories
are timeless treasures
of the heart*