

THE WORLD COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



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January 2026



Whittemore High School Alumnus, Thomas Latimer, and Wife, Dorothy, Make Historic Donation to HBCU School

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How Preventive Dentistry Can Curb the Rise of Oral Health Issues

By: *Christian Newman*



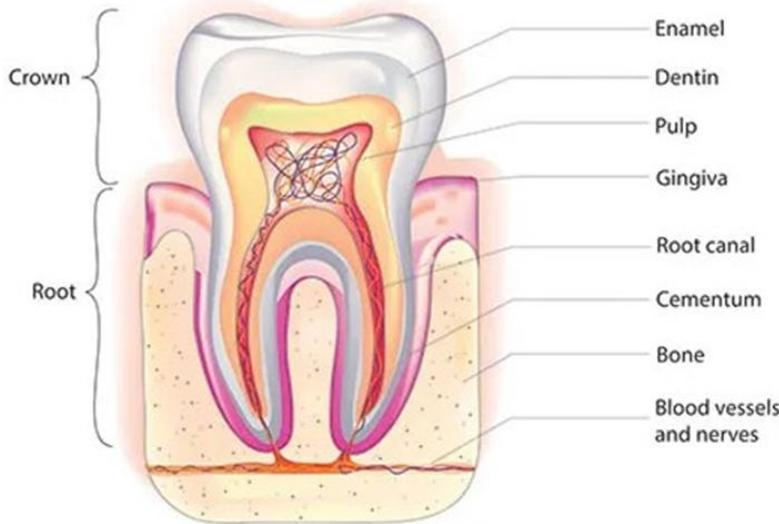
Christian Newman
WC Magazine
Health Editor

Oral health rarely makes headlines, yet its impact is far-reaching. Across the United States, tooth decay and gum disease continue to affect millions of people, often quietly and gradually. While these conditions are highly preventable, they remain some of the most widespread chronic health issues today. For

many African American communities, the burden is even heavier due to social, economic, and historical factors that limit access to high-quality dental care. As we begin 2026, addressing this growing health challenge is paramount. Oral disease affects how people eat, speak, work, and interact with others. Our children who deal with gum disease may find it difficult to concentrate in school. Over time, untreated dental issues can contribute to serious health conditions. Researchers have found strong connections between oral infections and heart disease, stroke, diabetes complications, and even pregnancy outcomes. The mouth is a major gateway to overall health. Understanding the structure of the mouth helps explain why prevention matters so much. Each tooth has several



Above Info courtesy of Mayo Family Dentistry



Above Info courtesy of Mayo Family Dentistry

layers that protect it. The enamel, which is the hard outer shell, acts as the body's first line of defense. Underneath the enamel lies the dentin, which is a more sensitive layer that can easily become irritated if exposed. At the center of the tooth is the pulp, where nerves and blood vessels are located. Surrounding each tooth is the gingiva, commonly referred to as the gums. Healthy gums fit snugly around the teeth and protect the roots from bacteria. If plaque or tartar is not removed, the gums become inflamed, leading to periodontal disease. This inflammation can eventually

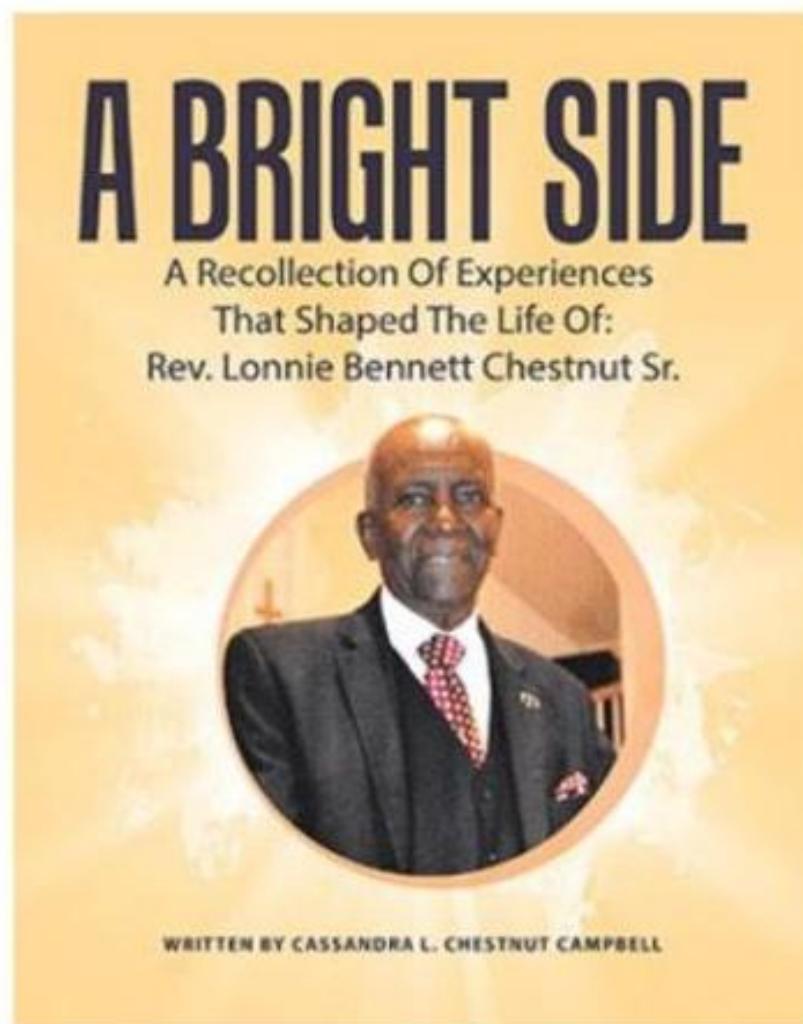
destroy bone and tissue that support the teeth. The tongue, cheeks, salivary glands, and jawbone all work together to maintain balance in the mouth. When one part of the tooth becomes unhealthy, the entire system suffers. Furthermore, basic hygiene practices help protect these structures. Brushing your teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste freshens breath, removes plaque, and strengthens the enamel. Many people also benefit from using soft-bristled toothbrushes, which clean effectively without damaging the gums. Electric toothbrushes are especially helpful for people who struggle to brush thoroughly. Toothpaste options can often seem overwhelming, but most people do well with fluoride-based products that help prevent cavities.

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Cassandra L. Chestnut Campbell



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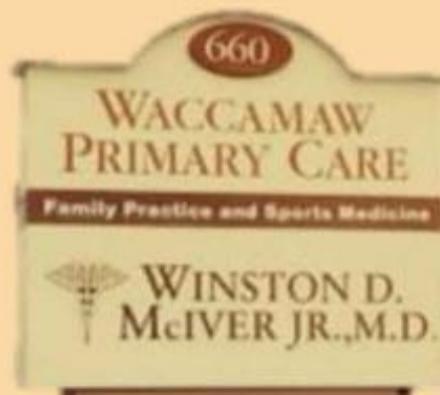
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The Academy of Hope Charter School (AOHCS) in Conway, SC is a Free Public Charter School with a mission to “Maximize the Potential Inherent in every Student.” It offers Public Education for Pre-K Through 8th Grade.

AOHCS had a successful Shoe Drive Fundraiser on December 6 - 13. They were asking the community to support their effort to collect shoes for a great cause! Clean out your closets and pull out all of your gently worn, new, or slightly used shoes of all kinds and sizes for their latest fundraiser. The shoes will be delivered to needy countries. Their goal is to collect 2500 pairs of shoes. Some of the supporters are shown below:



How Preventive Dentistry Can Curb the Rise of Oral Health Issues

By: *Christian Newman*

Cont'd from Page 2



Christian Newman
WC Magazine
Health Editor

If you have issues with gum inflammation, toothpaste formulated with gum health ingredients may be beneficial. What matters most in dental health is consistency. A reliable toothbrush and toothpaste used every day offer more protection than any expensive product used irregularly. Despite the importance of dental care, many people avoid the dentist until the pain becomes unbearable. Others lack dental insurance or live in areas where dental clinics are scarce. Some people may even feel deep mistrust toward healthcare providers based on past experiences. Did you know African

American adults and children experience higher rates of untreated cavities and are more likely to lose teeth earlier in life compared to other racial groups? These patterns reflect broader issues related to access, education, and socioeconomic status. Thankfully, preventative dentistry can prevent this cycle. Regular checkups allow dental teams to identify early-stage problems before they become severe. Dental cleanings remove tartar buildup, which can't be removed with brushing alone. Fluoride treatments strengthen enamel, especially for children and adults at high risk for cavities. These small interventions, usually twice a year, save families time, money, and stress in the long run. Additionally, education remains essential, especially for families with young children. Orthodontic care and tooth replacement options also play a major role in long-term oral health. Braces and clear aligners are often viewed as cosmetic, but they also correct issues such as crowding and spacing that make it difficult to clean the teeth properly. When teeth are better aligned, it becomes easier to prevent cavities, and chewing becomes



more comfortable. For people who have already lost teeth, dentures help restore function, improve nutrition, and support facial structure. Modern dentures are more natural-looking, lighter, and more comfortable than older designs. These treatment options support better oral health by making the mouth easier to clean, strengthening confidence, and improving overall quality of life. Oral care begins before the first tooth appears. Wiping a baby's gums after feeding reduces bacteria and sets the stage for early hygiene habits. Once teeth emerge, brushing becomes a daily routine and inevitably prevents future dental problems. Flossing can also be implemented to remove plaque and food from between the teeth where a toothbrush can't reach. Flossing helps prevent gum disease by keeping these tight spaces clean and healthy. Diet also plays a major role in prevention. Foods and drinks high in sugar create an environment in the mouth that weakens enamel.

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The Black Preacher - Same Bible-Different Message

By Steve Williams, Formerly of The Georgetown Times



January 2026

The following article is from my book, **'Two Things Can Be True at the Same Time.'**

If any preacher tries to convince you that Black people first learned about Christianity while enslaved in America, you should run from them as fast as you'd run from seven devils. Just as black history did not begin in America, and similarly, the relationship of Black people with Christ also did not start during their enslavement in America.

Thousands of years before the existence of America or even a historical figure named Jesus, Black individuals were already worshiping Christ. Of course, the term "Christ" is not an African term, neither are other biblical names, such as Emanuel, El-Shaddai, or Jehovah-Jireh, which also refer to the "Anointed One."

Arguably, blacks were among the first inhabitants of the Earth, and it's absurd to suggest that Africans of antiquity would not have known the presence of the true and living God. This notion is as illogical as believing children enter this world with greater knowledge than their parents. Long before the Americas existed, before the era of slavery, and even before the rise of Christianity itself, Black people practiced their own forms of faith and connection to the "Anointed One."

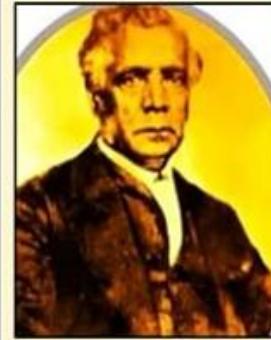
Today, we stand on the threshold of another MLK Day, commemorating a visionary who gave his life in the fight to end racism and segregation. Yet, in today's political climate, there are those determined to undermine his enduring efforts to make America "a more perfect union." By vilifying the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, they disparage not only Dr. King's legacy but also the work of other Civil Rights leaders.

This is precisely where the Black Church and its preachers distinguish themselves from others. While many churches—regardless of race—have historically sidestepped political, social, and economic issues, the Black Church and its leaders have consistently confronted them head-on. They recognized that to be Christ-like meant to engage in the struggles of the oppressed, fully living out Jesus's teaching: "When you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me."

Historians often gloss over this aspect of Reverend King's ministry: his bold, action-oriented, take-it-to-the-streets approach. It drew sharp criticism from both white and Black clergy. King eloquently addressed this criticism in his renowned "Letter from Birmingham Jail," writing, "Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection, and shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will." He continued with, "Human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability; rather, it comes from the tireless work of men and women who are willing to be coworkers with God." And further stated this - "If a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

TWO THINGS CAN BE TRUE AT THE SAME TIME

HOW AUGUSTUS T. CARR AND BETHEL
A.M.E SAVED GEORGETOWN IN 1865



Steve Williams

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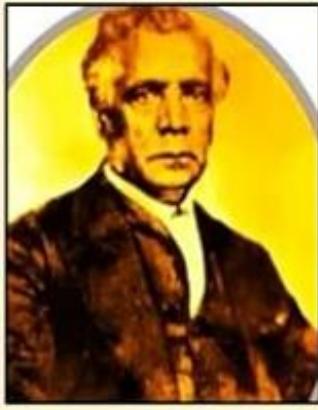
By Steve Williams, Formerly of The Georgetown Times



Cont'd from Page 10

TWO THINGS CAN BE TRUE AT THE SAME TIME

HOW AUGUSTUS T. CARR AND BETHEL A.M.E SAVED GEORGETOWN IN 1865



Steve Williams

King may not have explicitly aligned with the teachings of renowned theologian and writer James Cone, who articulated Liberation Theology. Still, he deeply understood the message of Matthew 25:35-40, and took it to heart: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

While many other churches merely tolerate social and economic ministry at best, black preachers have always celebrated it and championed it. Figures like Denmark Vesey and Harriet Tubman, much like Reverend King, were profoundly religious leaders who boldly carried their ministry far beyond the confines of the church walls.

Blacks have long worshiped Christ—even before Christianity was formally established as a religion.

Notably, Jesus himself never claimed the label of Christian. Yet, when enslavers in America began forcing their own interpretation of Christianity onto the enslaved, the Methodist Church was the first denomination to address the spiritual needs of enslaved people.

While John Wesley, the founder of Methodism in Europe, vehemently opposed slavery, the American branch of the church eventually compromised and accepted it. Although their intentions were sincere, their motivation was less about truly welcoming enslaved people into the Body of Christ and more about saving "heathens" from the supposed "curse of blackness."

For the most part, in Georgetown, enslaved people and their enslavers were not segregated on Sundays. Enslavers often worshiped alongside their enslaved laborers. Although church leaders didn't segregate their flock, they did attempt to "train" their subjects "how" to worship. Even when enslaved worshipers were evangelized, some preachers tried to convince them that when they died, they were going to a "colored heaven." It must have been excruciatingly painful for the enslaved individuals sitting in their enslavers' house of worship, where they were expected to sit quietly for hours. They yearned for a church they could call their own.

After the Civil War and the end of slavery, Black churches flourished throughout the South. The swift move away from worshiping alongside their former enslavers was rooted not in personal grievances, but in a profound spiritual conviction.

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WESTSIDE DEMS LAUNCHED CLOTHING DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS

By Priscilla Wyman Fuller, WCM Contributing Editor



Homeliness knows no boundaries. In recent years, one can find homeless people of all political parties, races, and genders living in the streets or woods. Sometimes they become faceless when we walk by or drive in and do not see them. In this current climate, with rents and home prices constantly rising, it may only be a paycheck away that a lot of people could also be experiencing the same thing.

Two weeks ago, with the beginning of the cold spell, the group Westside Dems, decided to start a clothing drive aimed at people who were homeless. Oftentimes, warm clothing is a constant need in the cold weather.

After doing some advertising on social media, etc., the group collected the goods on December 14th from 12-2 pm. It was Unbelievable the outpouring by the public, bringing many items to the Democratic office downtown Conway, SC. It literally took three car trips to move all of these items so they could be distributed. The group worked with Professor Stephanie Southworth from Coastal Carolina who heads up a nonprofit called Community Initiative where they have focused on assisting the homeless population in our area.

Although I felt this was a successful drive, it reminded me that we not only must be grateful for our blessings, but it is also important to lend a hand to help someone in need.





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Christian Newman
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Health Editor*

Representation in dentistry also influences how comfortable people feel seeking care. A growing number of African American dentists and hygienists are working to reshape the dental experience in ways that reflect empathy, cultural awareness, and understanding. When patients feel respected, they are more likely to return for follow-up visits and commit to regular preventative care.

Oral health must be viewed as a shared responsibility between individuals, families, and the community as a whole. Public health efforts that expand dental coverage and promote dental education can significantly reduce oral health disparities. Preventive dentistry is most powerful when combined with a community-wide commitment to health equity. As we begin a new year, you can choose meaningful habits that build a healthier future by focusing on simple habits that support strong oral health. Brushing twice daily, flossing, choosing water more often, reducing sugary drinks, and keeping regular dental appointments all make a difference. Addressing orthodontic needs using dentures supports comfort and cleaner teeth. With good daily habits and better access to care, oral health can improve within our growing community. For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/oral-health/index.html>.

The Silent Epidemic:

How Preventive Dentistry Can Curb the Rise of Oral Health Issues

*By: Christian Newman
Cont'd from Page 7*

Many popular beverages, such as fruit punch, sport drinks, sweet tea, and soda, bathe the teeth in acid for longer periods of time. Drinking water more often helps wash away food particles and restore oral balance. Choosing snacks like cheese, nuts, vegetables, and yogurt can also protect the teeth by neutralizing the acids and supplying minerals that strengthen enamel.





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The Black Preacher - Same Bible-Different Message

By Steve Williams, Formerly of The Georgetown Times
Cont'd from Page 11



January 2026

Enslaved people had grown weary of their masters' gospel, which stressed docility, conformity, and "slaves obey thy master" type of worship.

In contrast, Black preachers—using the same Bible as their white counterparts—delivered messages infused with hope and the promise of a better life for their communities. Their sermons were God-centered in content, but Afro-centric in context.

People of African descent have always practiced a lively style of worship that includes both voice and movement. After freed, Black worshipers felt free to clap their hands, stomp their feet, and cry out "Hallelujah!" The preachers also felt free to deliver their sermons with enthusiasm and energy to their congregations.

One of the hallmarks of the Black Church is the call-and-response style of preaching. For those who have never experienced this type of worship, let me explain. The call-and-response style refers to the interactive, participatory, and often emotionally charged nature of preaching that is prevalent in many Black churches. This approach is fundamental to the black church experience, where the preacher makes statements or asks questions, and the congregation responds verbally with expressions such as "Amen" or "Preach!" Another example is when the preacher says, "God is good!" and the congregation responds, "All the time!"

Black preaching aims to create a deeply felt and transformative experience for the congregation by linking biblical messages to their struggles and aspirations. Preachers often use storytelling and personal testimonies to make their messages relatable and impactful, drawing on the community's collective experiences and history. Black preachers encourage their congregation to participate in a meaningful but spiritual way.

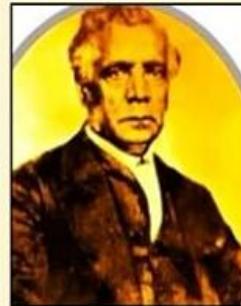
During my time as an educator and administrator, I watched young Black girls dancing joyfully in their elementary schoolyard during recess one day. That day, I overheard teachers making condescending remarks about them. One teacher said to another, "Look at those little hussies dancing over there; they'll be pregnant before they're 18." Hearing such disparaging comments about children simply expressing their culture revealed a profound cultural ignorance on the part of these teachers.

What they didn't realize is that movement and dance are integral to the very essence of people of African descent. You cannot separate dance and movement from people of African descent (be it in the schoolyard or the church house) any more than you can separate water from the ocean.

The black church literally embodies the words of Psalms 98:4-9: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise, rejoice, and sing praises. . . Praise Him with the timbrel and dance."

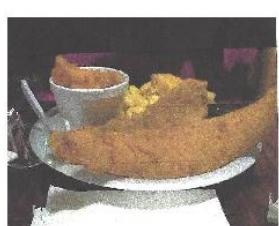
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Choose Your Era for 2026!

By Darlene G. Lewis, Ret. Educator & WCM Contributor



January 2026

Okay Boomers, it's that time of year again! You know time to make those resolutions we end up crashing two weeks into the year. As we enter 2026, a year that marks a major milestone as the oldest members of our Baby Boom generation turn 80, the traditional "New Year's Resolution" has evolved. This year we're going to turn resolutions (they're so passe) on its head! You can thank me later since you've probably broken two to three of them already.

For our generation the focus is shifting away from restrictive dieting and grueling gym schedules and towards Intentionality. This means moving with purpose, choosing activities that align with your deep values, and recognizing that time is our most precious currency. 2026 is the year to develop lifegoals that feel vibrant and meaningful. The new way to enter this yearly season of change and self-improvements is to declare an "Era". An era is defined as a period of unfixed time when a series of events or stages of developments are typical. Taylor Swift made the term very popular the past two years with her wildly popular ERAS Tour taking fans through her musical lineage and personal growth. (if you don't know who Taylor Swift is just ask any random person on the planet...keep up Boomers!)

People across the internet are declaring their Era for the new year. The beauty of selecting an Era is it's like an umbrella of your goals: you choose a few objectives, and you take as long as you need to complete goals. An Era represents your innermost objectives of growth and development that can span as long as it takes you to complete.

If you think the word era sounds familiar, you're right. We tend to think of eras when we think of dinosaurs. (no pun intended Boomers) The most memorable is the Mesozoic Era which spanned from approximately 252 to 66 million years and is characterized by the dominance of dinosaurs across the earth. This period is divided into three main periods: **Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous**. Each period had distinct characteristics and saw the evolution and diversification of dinosaurs and other life forms. **Okay, enough about dinosaurs but remember those two words: evolution and diversification.** We are never too old to evolve; we've done it all our lives: crawling, walking, running, bottle, cup, straw, glass, etcetera and getting those monthly checks from Uncle Sam doesn't give us a pass on continuing to grow and evolving into our best and most exciting selves. (that's right life can still be exciting Boomers!)

I have chosen 2026-2027 as **"My Era of Travel, Wellness, and Intention"**. I want to travel more domestically and internationally, I want to be spiritually, physically, and mentally healthier, and I want to delve into things I love more thoroughly and intentionally. Notice I made the Era for 2026-2027 which gives me more time to complete the "Era". Perfect. No Pressure. More time. Growth takes time and even though we've grown so much there are still things to learn and time to diversify and spread our wings and knowledge. Let's look at some milestones you can put into your Eras goals:

Physical Wellness: This area remains a cornerstone of a fulfilling lifestyle. The modern approach is about longevity and joy rather than intensity. Swap a gym membership for morning walks or start a walking group in your neighborhood that focuses on strength, balance and mobility. These physical skills keep you independent. (*Checkout Golden Goats in Georgetown. They have a senior group that meets weekly to hike the woods or you could start a chapter in your church or community or find a local Tai Chi group) Be proactive in your wellness journey by getting those preventative screening early and annually. Nourish your body with high-protein and whole foods that boost your energy for the things you love like gardening, traveling, grandkids, or working.



Continued on Page 21

Boomers: Choose Your Era for 2026!

By Darlene G. Lewis, Ret. Educator & WCM Contributor



Cont'd from Page 20

Mental and Emotional: We are a generation that has always valued growth and 2026 can offer endless opportunities to be a “lifelong” learner. Keeping the brain active through complex hobbies like learning a musical instrument you always wanted to play, board games (Mahjong) or card games (Poker) or a new language not only provides a sense of accomplishment but also builds cognitive resilience as we age. I plan to get my boating and gun permits this year. As an Outer Banks native, the ocean was always at our back door. My grandfather took us on numerous trips to the Sound to crab and fish. I fondly remember the pungent salty smell of the water and marshes, and calm peace on the water, and I want to expose my grands to the experience as well. Boat clubs allow you to use boats for a monthly fee without having to own one.



Social Connection: Connection is perhaps the most significant predictor of happiness in our later years. Intentionality in 2026 means being the “social architect” of your own life. Reaching out and making plans with an old friend, joining a local club or volunteering your professional expertise to a non-profit organization. It means moving from passive social interaction to active engagement ensuring your calendar is filled with faces and conversations that uplift you and ward off feelings of isolation that can sometimes creep in during retirement. There are online classes as well as in person classes at local colleges free to seniors that may pique your interests such as Forensics, Genealogy, and Religion. Online book clubs also offer visual and auditory opportunities to share with people across the globe or start a community or church book club.



Being Intentional: Finally, choosing what goals to put into your Era requires a shift from “big ideas” to smart milestones. To be intentional it is to be specific: instead of saying I want to travel more, go ahead now and book a two night stay close to home with a few friends for a few days or book a hotel locally while prices are low. Take friends or your partner for a weekend getaway that doesn’t require flying or hours of travel. Each month write down one overall milestone you want to accomplish and turn vague wishes into concrete plans. Making a **Vision board** can help you plan more concretely. Once you see your goals all together (cutting pictures of places, things, and people from magazines and posting them all on a board) it will inspire you to not just wish but to activate your plan. As we enter the “Expansion Era” of our lives, remember that we aren’t just aging; we are continuing to influence and explore the world around us. Remember too that “Comfort and Growth do not coexist”. Getting out of your zone-of comfort and petrified routines can only add to your growth. Remember: some of the most wonderful things in life lie just on the other side of fear! Be fearless Boomers... rock your new Era! Make your 2026 Era the year you live with more focus, more heart and more intention than ever before! Okay Boomers, you’ve got this!



Whittemore High School Alumnus Donates \$250,000 to Johnson C. Smith University

The World Community Magazine is seizing this opportunity with much pride and appreciation to recognize a Whittemore High School Alumnus, Class of 1968, who walks the walk when it comes to contributing to critical educational needs. We are talking about none other than Whittemore High School graduate, Mr. Thomas Latimer. Mr. Latimer and his wife, Dorothy are both graduates of Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU), Class of '72 and '74, respectively.



Thomas & Dorothy Latimer

that made my education possible and changed the trajectory of my life. That scholarship represented the first true hope I had that I could do something and be something on my own. While Conway was my foundation, I understood early that my future and opportunity to advance extended beyond its boundaries. As Scripture reminds us, “I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Dorothy came to Johnson C. Smith University in 1970 from Bartow, Florida—a small town rich in character and community but limited in opportunity. Like Conway, Bartow shaped who we were, yet JCSU expanded who we could become. The University opened doors that neither of our hometowns could provide at the time, and it did so with purpose, faith, and vision.

We met at Johnson C. Smith University and were married in 1973, one year before Dorothy's graduation. After marriage, we spent time in Winston-Salem, where I worked as a supervisor for UPS. During that season, I made a defining decision that I would never allow a job to control our lives or determine our destiny. “Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established” (Proverbs 16:3).

In 1975, I began my career with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, where I served as a supervisor until 2004. That same year, I earned my real estate license and purchased our first rental property. By God's grace, we still own that property today—nearly fifty years later. In 2004, the Lord allowed me to retire at the age of 54, and we have continued to work in our business, grow assets, and steward what God has entrusted to us. “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

In July of 2025, Johnson C. Smith University, an HBCU, was placed on academic probation due to its ongoing financial struggles. Upon learning this, **the Latimers** sprang into action starting with an unrestrictive gift of **\$250,000** to the university.

Their journey with JCSU is chronicled for WCM by the narrative they submitted as follows:

“My journey with Johnson C. Smith University began in 1968, following my graduation from Whittemore High School in Conway, South Carolina. I arrived at JCSU on a scholarship—an opportunity

that made my education possible and changed the trajectory of my life. That scholarship represented the first true hope I had that I could do something and be something on my own. While Conway was my foundation, I understood early that my future and opportunity to advance extended beyond its boundaries. As Scripture reminds us, “I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

When we learned that Johnson C. Smith University had been placed on probation by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), there was no hesitation in our hearts. We could not stand by while the institution that lifted us from small towns into expanded purpose faced such a critical moment. The immediate needs of the University compelled us to accelerate our giving ahead of schedule. “To whom much is given, much will be required” (Luke 12:48).

Legacy and Estate Commitment

In addition to this current gift, our commitment to Johnson C. Smith University extends beyond our lifetimes. As part of our estate planning, we intend for JCSU to remain a beneficiary of our legacy, so that future generations—particularly students from small towns and Underserved communities—may continue to receive the same hope, opportunity, and faith-filled education that changed our lives. “A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children” (Proverbs 13:22). It is our prayer that this legacy will serve as a lasting testimony to God’s provision and to the transformative power of Christian education.

*This year, we also established a scholarship at **Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee**, where our daughter, Brittany, graduated in 2012 as a member of the inaugural pharmacy class. She now serves our nation as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army. We are grateful beyond measure for the teachers, mentors, and institutions that invested in our family. “One generation shall commend your works to another” (Psalm 145:4).*

We offer this gift and future legacy with humility and thanksgiving, trusting that God will continue to use Johnson C. Smith University to raise future generations from small towns to great purpose.”

With gratitude and faith,

Thomas & Dorothy Latimer



Thomas Latimer
WHS Class of 1968



Lt. Colonel Brittany Latimer (Center)
with Parents, Thomas and Dorothy Latimer

“WITH THIS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION, JCSU IS POISED TO ACCELERATE ITS VISION OF SHAPING FUTURE LEADERS, FOSTERING INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE, AND MAKING A LASTING IMPACT ON SOCIETY.”

JCSU President Dr. Valerie Kinloch

Celebrating Greatness By

Steve Williams, Formerly of The Georgetown Times

January 2026

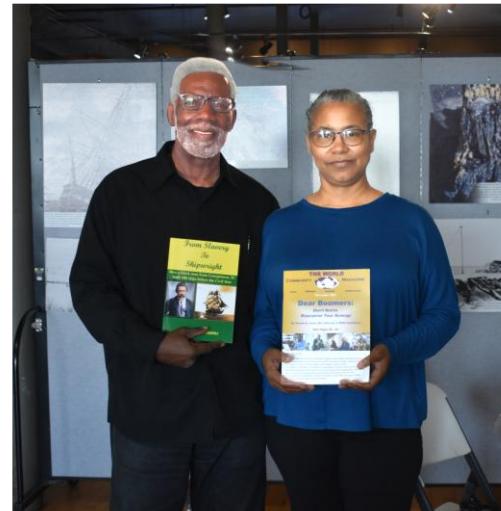


I sincerely thank all who came out on December 13, 2025, to the fantastic event at the Maritime Museum. I've had over a dozen book signings before, but never one like this one. This was special.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the following people: **Marilyn Hemingway**, who selflessly took time from her busy schedule to organize this entire book signing; **Zenobia Harper**, once again demonstrating the depth of her friendship and artistic talent—your shipbuilding activities were a delight for the kids; **Aunny Johnson**, whose copious amount of shrimp & grits was off the chain!; **Ms. Gwen Alston**, who I am grateful for dedicating your time to guide the children with their arts and crafts projects; and finally, **Hope and Justin** from the **Maritime Museum**, for so graciously hosting this memorable event, and last but certainly not least, **brother Edward and sister Jo Ella McQueen** for coming out to participate in this momentous event. All who were there seem to enjoy the event including ice skating for youth and the vibe.

If you'd like your children or grandchildren to discover the inspiring story of John Mashow—born enslaved two centuries ago, yet, once freed from bondage, rolled up his sleeves and built 100 ships at the height of the whale-oil economy—than this book is for them. And it's very affordable. His life proves that, when given the chance, a person's potential has no boundaries. I can be reached at (864) 346-0749, or 424steve@gmail.com. As with many of my books, they're available with online booksellers, particularly Amazon Books.

John Mashow's remarkable story deserves a place in every school library in our county. Until that day comes, reach out to me directly, and I'll make sure you receive a copy. Our ancestors may have come up on the rough side of the mountain, but heroes like John Mashow were always among us—if only we would take the time to recognize them.





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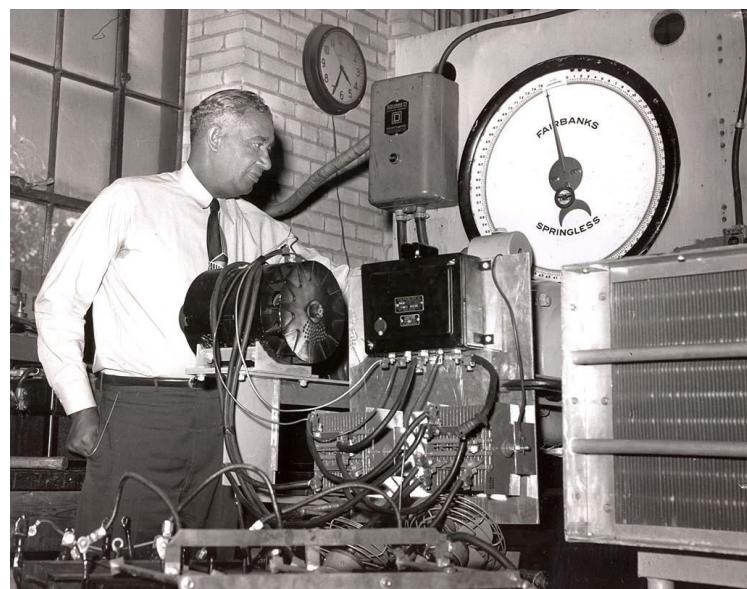
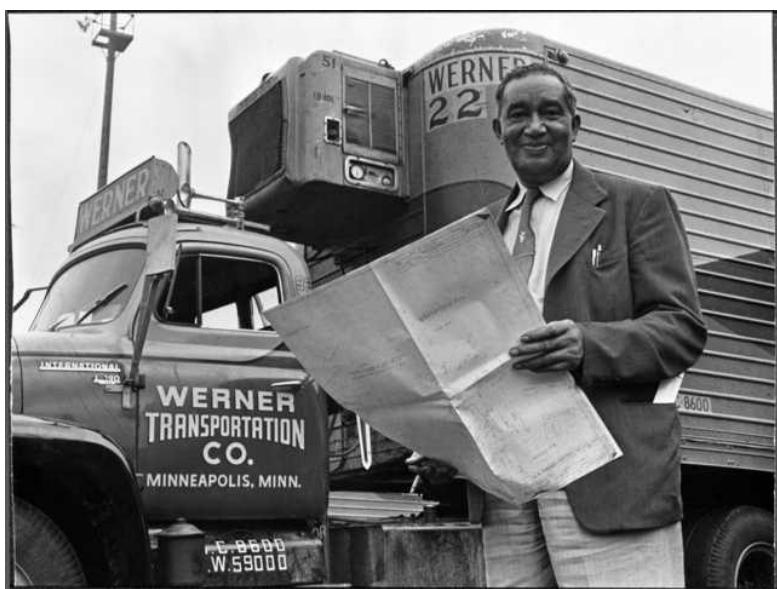
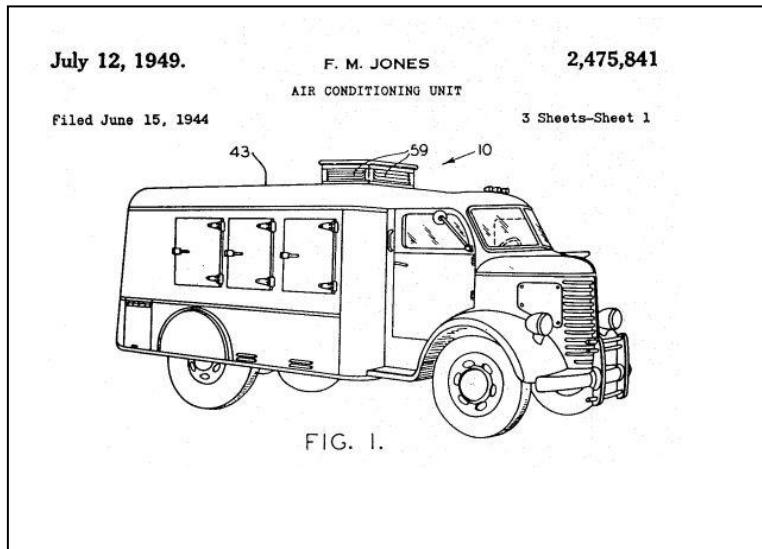
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Samya A. Muhammad

Have you ever wondered who invented the first mobile refrigerated vehicle? Yes, well let me tell you about an amazing black inventor named **Fredrick McKinley Jones**. He was born May 17, 1893 and taught himself the science of engineering and had many important inventions. The most recognized invention he made was a refrigerator machine that had a purpose of transporting food, medicine, and blood in World War II. Not only did he invent the refrigerator machine, he also invented an air conditioner for military hospitals, a refrigerator for military kitchens, a self-starting gas engine, a numerous amount of inventions for movie projectors and movie theater equipment that gave tickets and gave change back. Mr. Jones died on February 21, 1961 but his inventions have a huge impact on how we transport our food.





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“We Value Your Opinion”

January 2026

By **Priscilla Wyman Fuller, WCM Contributing Editor**



In this new column, various things that occur in our community that will impact our community will be discussed. You, as a reader, may not agree with my perspective, but here you have an opportunity to express your opinion as I have expressed mine.

The Conway community has grown tremendously since the time I grew up. I see the growth of numerous businesses and countless homes being developed. That is a good thing to keep the town growing, but where are our voices leading a voice about **WHAT GOES INTO** our community? There are various mechanisms that are available, but are we utilizing them in our community? ***The City Council meetings, the Planning Board meeting, and meetings with elected officials.*** All of these are methods to let our voices be heard. Increased taxes on homes and other regulations are being put in place without your input. All of us pay taxes, which are utilized for development. We are justified to say that we have a voice on how those funds are being used and where those funds are used. We are so important to the process, but oftentimes our voices are just complaints to each other. Vote and Demand more of the people we elect for any public office. They are elected to represent the community. Let us demand that they do that !



Priscilla W. Fuller
WCM Contributor

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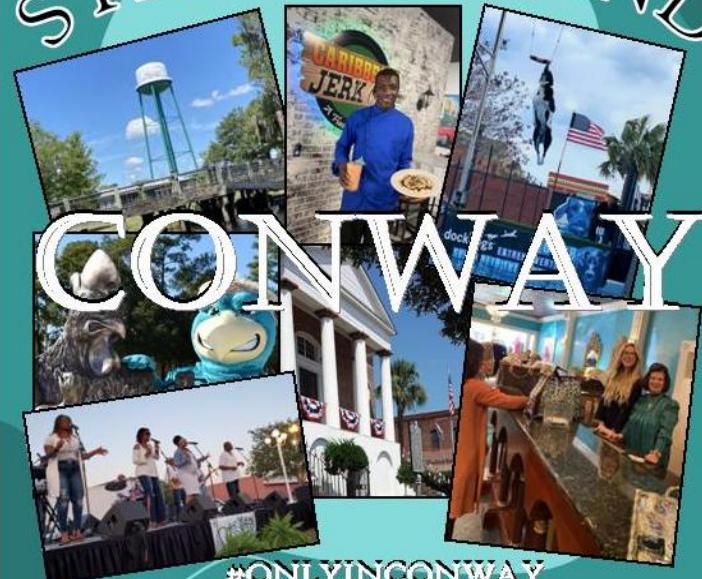
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- ❖ Nutrition
- ❖ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- ❖ Youth Employment Training Services (YETS)
- ❖ Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)
- ❖ Summer Foods (Horry County Only)



Waccamaw WEOC, Inc. also operates the following programs:

- Weatherization Assistance
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For list of locations serving meals go to website at: <http://weoc.org/sf/locations.pdf>
 For assistance in your county, go to website at: <http://weoc.org/agency/contacts.html>

By David C. Wilson, WCM Contributor

David C. Wilson
WCM Guest Columnist

Considerable attention has been directed toward evaluating the academic outcomes of students enrolled in charter schools compared to those attending traditional public schools, with a particular emphasis on Black and Hispanic student achievement. To empirically assess this premise, I analyzed student assessment data sourced from the Office of Research and Data Analysis within the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE).

This examination involved a comparative analysis of learning outcomes between public school districts and charter school districts from 2017 to 2024, specifically aiming to determine whether charter schools yielded superior academic results, especially for Black students. The entities under review included all South Carolina public schools as a collective group as well as

four individual public-school districts: Horry County Schools (HCS), Georgetown County School District (GCSD), Charleston County School District (CCSD), and Orangeburg County School District (OCSD). For charter schools, the study focused on the SC Public Charter School District and the Charter Institute at Erskine. Assessment tools incorporated were the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Assessments (SC READY) for elementary and middle school English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics, and the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) for high school English II (ENG II) and algebra (ALG). These subjects were selected for their foundational importance, encapsulating reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The findings presented herein do not advocate for a simplistic binary choice between charter and public-school attendance. For instance, HCS Hispanic middle school students performed 20.7% lower than their charter school counterparts in ELA yet outperformed them by 20.6% in mathematics. Cumulatively, this resulted in HCS underperforming compared to charter schools by 3.1% overall (refer to Table 1). However, this aggregate figure may be misleading due to pronounced discrepancies between performance in ELA and mathematics. Numerous such disparities are documented in Table 1. All performance differences cited are reported as absolute values, and averages for the years 2017 to 2024 have been adjusted to exclude data from the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 academic years, when testing was disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While South Carolina's traditional public schools and HCS students, in general, demonstrated stronger outcomes relative to charter schools, disaggregated analyses for Hispanic and Black student subpopulations revealed varied patterns of achievement. Specifically, charter schools exhibited higher performance in ELA, whereas public schools showed more robust outcomes in mathematics. This divergence presents a complex scenario for Hispanic and Black students. Within the four examined public-school districts, evidence suggests that Hispanic and Black students achieved better results in charter schools than in GCSD, CCSD, and OCSD, while HCS displayed relatively balanced outcomes between public and charter settings. Furthermore, the data suggest that White students derive minimal advantage from attending charter schools in South Carolina, except in districts with characteristics akin to OCSD.



At the beginning of every year, many people ponder what the new year will bring to their lives. In 1863, a group of enslaved people also spent the night worrying and praying if they were going to be granted their freedom on January 1. When they found out President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing them, there was much celebration. They were unaware of what the future held, other than the fact that they had been granted their freedom.

This year, on January 1, Freewoods Farms conducted a fireside chat regarding Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation, led by Dr. O'Neil Smart. The Location of the discussion was ideal and made for a perfect setting. It was in a structure similar to the early 1800s, providing the atmosphere with a large wood fire fireplace with plenty of hot chocolate and coffee made on a wood stove. Dr. Smart engaged the group of attendees in an in-depth discussion about the time period, as well as the consequences of the signing of the Proclamation for enslaved people as well as the landowners in the South and Northern states. He provided provoking discussions around the rationale for the Civil War and what was learned from it.

Dr. Small's family owns the Freewoods Farms, consisting of 40 acres which is not only a functioning farm but also a museum farm available for tours and other activities. Thank you, Dr. Smalls and Freewoods Farms, for providing such a purposeful New Year's Day. History that cannot be forgotten!

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The Quiet? I Can Hear Crickets

By Priscilla Wyman Fuller, WCM Contributing Editor

There used to be an old saying by our elders, "that it is so quiet you can hear the crickets". I clearly know what that means, though I do not understand what it means in this new era. Last week, Governor McMaster announced a halt to Government contracts that have been awarded to Minority companies and women. Many minority businesses would not have been able to start if these grants were not available. Not that these businesses were not qualified, but in the past, they were discriminated against based on race or gender. This week, the current administration also announced that the National Parks would no longer be free on Martin Luther King's birthday and Juneteenth holidays. DEI Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion programs have been sacked by this administration. Professionals such as Nurses, social workers, physician assistants, physical therapists, and several others are now being declassified as Professionals, thereby reducing their ability to get certain types of grants and aid for college. Every other week, the list goes on. Minorities are being marginalized, and the country is being divided more and more. Where are the major organizations speaking out against what is happening? What is the plan to counter this? What we are hearing is the quiet, the crickets. Major sororities and fraternities, major organizations, are not letting their voices be heard. Where is the leadership? These are situations where we should be putting our boots to the ground and voicing our concerns. Not only voicing it but getting our folks registered to vote. getting out there educating our folk about how these issues are affecting their lives and demanding accountability from the people already in office. Each individual can make a difference in their own way, but together our efforts can be greater. Is this what 2026 is going to look like? Crickets or are we going to be energized and let our voices be heard?

By Marilyn L. Hemingway, CEO of Gullah Geechee Chamber of Commerce



Ms. Marilyn Hemingway

Georgetown, SC- The Gullah Geechee Chamber Foundation proudly announces it has been awarded a two-year **\$750,000** grant from the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation {NFWF}- National Coastal Resilience Fund 2025**. The funded project, titled **"Planning for Flood Resilience and Habitat Restoration in the Pee Dee Watershed,"** will focus on developing community-driven, nature-based solutions to strengthen flood resilience and restore critical habitats throughout the Pee Dee watershed, including the Black and Sampit rivers.

This major investment supports a coordinated effort to identify, design, and prioritize nature-based solutions in collaboration with the Gullah Geechee community, local residents, community organizations, environmental and regional partners. A Technical Advisory Panel will guide the project as the Foundation engages directly with communities most impacted by recurrent flooding, ensuring that local expertise and generational knowledge shape the planning process. A Community Partner Advisory Board comprised of local community-based organizations will engage community members with direct involvement.

The project will generate protocols and planning frameworks for restoring wetlands, rivers, and shoreline ecosystems within the Pee Dee watershed. These nature-based solutions-such as living shorelines, wetland restoration, and floodplain reconnection-aim to reduce flood risks while improving water quality, biodiversity, and climate resilience. The initiative will also help set the stage for future implementation projects that bring long-term environmental and economic benefits to the region.

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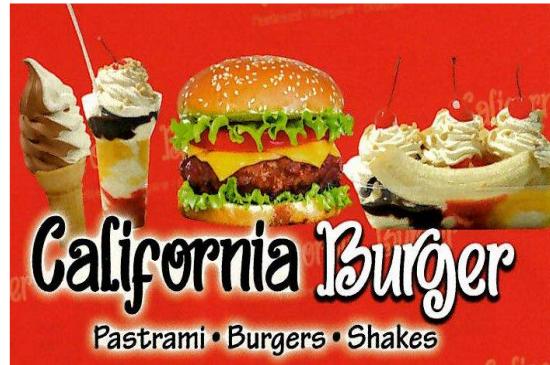
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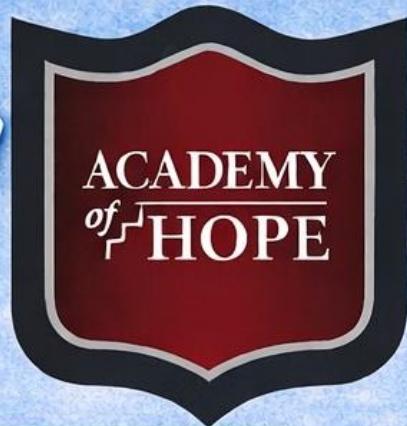
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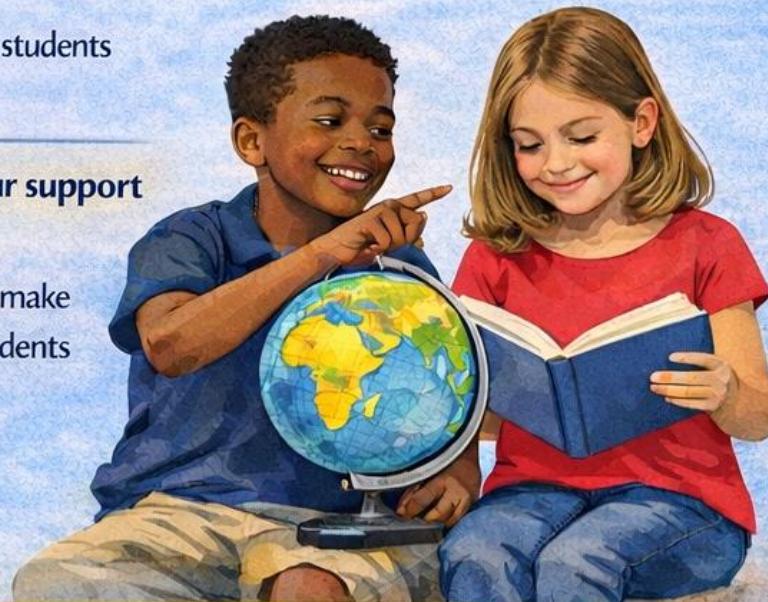
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By David C. Wilson, WCM Contributor



David C. Wilson
WCM Contributor

Cont'd from Page 31

In summary, there is a notable discrepancy between subject areas when comparing academic performance across public and charter schools: charters demonstrate relative strength in English, and public schools in mathematics. The evidence presented indicates that Hispanic and Black students may benefit from enrolling in charter schools, particularly if they attend low-performing institutions or districts. Marked differences in performance were observed in HCS and OCSD (see Table 1). Additionally, these findings align with conclusions drawn in previous research conducted by Stanford University.

According to the third Stanford's Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO): Black and Hispanic students appear to be doing much better at charter schools, on average, than at traditional public schools. White students, by contrast, tended to learn no more at charter schools; their annual reading gains were the same at traditional schools, and their annual math gains were significantly weaker than at traditional schools. <https://ncss3.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Credo-NCSS3-Report.pdf>

Table 1. Summary of performance absolute differences between public and charter schools.

		Absolute Performance Differences Between Public and Charter Schools*								
School Districts		Elementary School (SC READY)			Middle School (SC READY)			High School (EOCEP)		
SC Public↓→	ELA	Math	Overall	ELA	Math	Overall	ENG II	ALG	Overall	
All SC	2.5%	23.8%	12.6%	10.4%	20.0%	2.1%	11.4%	15.2%	1.2%	
Hispanic	17.3%	9.8%	4.2%	30.0%	1.9%	18.5%	23.0%	0.9%	13.6%	
Black	8.9%	15.4%	2.3%	30.2%	5.2%	18.0%	18.1%	9.4%	8.8%	
White	13.3%	30.6%	21.7%	4.8%	34.7%	17.6%	0.6%	25.9%	10.0%	
HCS↓→	ELA	Math	Overall	ELA	Math	Overall	ENG II	ALG	Overall	
All HCS	14.9%	41.3%	27.8%	0.8%	42.1%	18.5%	18.4%	56.2%	15.3%	
Hispanic	7.9%	24.2%	7.9%	20.7%	20.6%	3.1%	20.7%	22.3%	2.6%	
Black	0.4%	35.2%	16.6%	28.7%	30.8%	6.4%	17.7%	44.4%	6.1%	
White	17.6%	38.4%	27.8%	7.4%	44.0%	23.4%	2.0%	41.1%	18.4%	
GCSD↓→	ELA	Math	Overall	ELA	Math	Overall	ENG II	ALG	Overall	
All GCSD	10.3%	6.7%	2.3%	22.9%	1.7%	13.0%	25.4%	22.2%	24.3%	
Hispanic	14.7%	6.1%	4.8%	24.6%	3.4%	16.1%	16.6%	22.2%	18.6%	
Black	25.6%	0.6%	13.6%	52.9%	20.0%	41.7%	41.9%	39.5%	41.2%	
White	7.5%	21.1%	13.9%	0.1%	24.6%	10.3%	8.1%	0.6%	5.3%	
CCSD↓→	ELA	Math	Overall	ELA	Math	Overall	ENG II	ALG	Overall	
All CCSD	11.9%	32.8%	21.9%	4.2%	39.8%	19.2%	35.5%	1.4%	21.1%	
Hispanic	43.6%	11.5%	28.0%	45.9%	19.3%	35.1%	33.2%	3.2%	21.2%	
Black	27.4%	0.7%	14.5%	44.2%	14.8%	34.3%	28.4%	5.4%	16.8%	
White	34.9%	51.8%	43.0%	31.0%	65.6%	46.3%	13.5%	53.5%	30.5%	
OCSD↓→	ELA	Math	Overall	ELA	Math	Overall	ENG II	ALG	Overall	
All OCSD	50.0%	31.7%	41.4%	65.7%	71.0%	67.6%	48.1%	59.5%	52.0%	
Hispanic	41.5%	34.3%	38.2%	52.2%	44.5%	49.2%	30.7%	40.7%	34.2%	
Black	29.0%	6.5%	18.6%	52.7%	51.6%	52.4%	37.4%	30.8%	35.3%	
White	27.9%	11.8%	20.3%	42.0%	35.8%	39.6%	15.3%	32.4%	21.3%	

Legend

Charter school performance is greater than public.
Public school performance is greater than charter.

*The percentages in this table were computed using original data shown in Chapters 5-7 tables. Therefore, to compute overall differences shown on the charts will not yield accurate overall performances differences.

My biography: David C. Wilson, originally from Horry County and a graduate of its public school system, including the former Chestnut Consolidated High School (now North Myrtle Beach High School). He is an IBM retired engineer and adjunct professor. Dave taught in higher education part-time for 26 years. After his retirement, he has built a diverse career as a consultant, statistical practitioner, family history researcher, author, and self-publisher. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in electrical engineering from The City College of New York, CUNY and Manhattan University (formerly Manhattan College), respectively.

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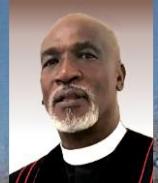


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Pastor James L. Lee -Superintendent

Cynosa Sherman

At 8:22pm on **Sunday, December 14, 2025**, **Cynosa Sherman** transitioned peacefully after a courageous and hard-fought battle with cancer. Deitrich, as she was affectionately called, was born **Jan. 16, 1979**, in Conway, SC.

She attended Horry County Schools and was a top graduate of Conway High's Class of 1997. In high school, she was very active, well-known, and loved by her classmates; a 4-year NJROTC Cadet, decorated officer, and female drill team commander, as well as a Varsity Volleyball Player, MatCat Cheerleader, Peer Mediator, & Beta Club Member. **Those left to cherish her memories: her beloved son, Troy-Eric Roberts of Gwynn Oak, MD; her mother, Rosemary of Conway; bonus dad, Charles of Murrells Inlet; Siblings- Dexter (Rachelle), SC; Dwight (Melissa); Reshard (LaKeisha), Crystal, Stacy(Gabe) all of Conway, SC, NaTonya of TX, and Arsenial (Bryan) of Charlotte, NC; two aunts, Katherine of Conway, SC, Lisa (Brian) of Holly Hill, SC; best friend since 1st grade, Valentina (Edward) of Conway, SC; college bestie, Barikia Tate of Greenville, SC; bonus aunt, Dorothy "99" of Conway, SC; and a host of extended family including great aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.**



1979 - 2025



Eloise F. Morgan

Eloise Footman Morgan was born on **June 9, 1947**, in Mitchell County, Georgia, to the late Ira Footman and Ethel Jackson Footman. Affectionately known as "Moody Gal" in her youth and later lovingly called "Fox News" by her children, Eloise carried a spirit full of personality, wisdom, and joy. She was educated in the Polk County School System and proudly graduated from Jewette High School, Class of 1966. Soon after, Eloise met and married Charlie Morgan, and together they were blessed with three beautiful children. She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Ira and Ethel Footman, and siblings Doris Dudley, Laura Jean Williams, Laura Dean Clifton, and Larsenia Donaldson. Eloise leaves behind a legacy of love and faith. **She is survived by her children, Quantana (Jay), Cameron of Little River, South Carolina, and Danielle of Tampa, Florida; grandchildren, Todielle, Anthony, Nico, Janae, and Niya; great-grandchildren, five precious blessings who carry her spirit forward; siblings, Evelyn Brown of Miami, FL, Ethel Smothers of Grand Rapids, MI, Ira Footman Jr. of College Park, GA, Robert Footman (Barbara) of Palm Beach, FL, Scottie Footman (Mavis) of Grand Rapids, MI, Ralph Footman (Alfreida) of Winter Haven, FL, Timothy Footman (Charlotte) of Bartow, FL, and Bernard Footman of Winter Haven, FL.** On **Monday, December 8, 2025**, God gently called His child home to eternal rest.



1947 - 2025



Dessie Bell

Mrs. Dessie Bell, affectionately known as "Det," was born on **May 15, 1944**, in the Mt. Calvary community of Horry County. She was the sixth of eleven children born to the late T.C. Pratt and Emma Dozier Pratt. Dessie Lee was a devoted wife, daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend. She graduated from Chestnut Consolidated School in 1963. Shortly after, on January 31, 1964, she married the love of her life, the late Dennis Bell. Together, they shared more than 30 years of marriage. She was preceded in death by nine siblings: Ethel Wilson Bellamy, Robert Charles Wilson, Henry Pratt, Ardell Pratt, Robert Thomas Pratt Sr., Redessa Pratt, Freddie Mae Martin, Hattie Pratt, and Tommy Harrison Pratt. **Left to treasure her memory are her brother, Freddie Pratt (Amy) of Columbia, SC; four sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Wilson of Miramar Beach, Florida, Betty Pratt of Camden, New Jersey, Agnes Tanksley of Sicklerville, New Jersey, and Hazel Bell of Loris, SC; one brother-in-law, Rev. Paul Bell (Annie) of Tabor City, NC; She dearly loved all of her nieces and nephews, each of whom held a special place in her heart. She also leaves behind a host of relatives and friends who will fondly remember her.**



1944 - 2025



Jeraldine A.. Decker

Jeraldine Decker departed this life on **December 6, 2025**. In that peaceful moment, she was reunited with the love of her life, her husband of 54 years, Jerry was born on **November 29, 1944**. Jerry leaves behind her two devoted daughters, Sharon (John) Decker Clark and Karen (Angelo) Congilaro, who were her pride and joy. **She is also survived by her cherished grandchildren: Anthony (Lauren) Decker, and her granddaughters Alyssa Marsh and Hannah Congilaro, each of whom held a special place in her heart. As the eldest of nine children, Jerry's love and strength shaped an entire family. She is survived by her siblings, Louann Palermo, Sarah Palermo, Josephine Koch, JC Palermo, Julie Palermo, and Lenny Palermo, along with countless nieces and nephews who adored their "Aunt Jerry."** She was welcomed into eternity by her husband Ted, her brother Butch Palermo, her sister Tia Ravich, her mother Beatrice Palermo, her biological father Royal MacDonald, her adoptive father Joseph Palermo, her niece Lindsay and her nephew Christian. Jerry grew up in Mt. Morris, NY, and later moved to Rochester, where she met Ted and began a love story that would define her life. Together, they built a home in Farmington and raised their daughters on a lively horse farm filled with laughter, work, and the chaos of animals. Jerry was a fierce protector of her family—God help anyone who ever tried to cross them. Her love was passionate, loyal, and unwavering.



1944 - 2025



Delton O'Brian Bessant

Delton "D-Rock" O'Brian Bessent, the son of Mr. Leverne and Mrs. Bobbie Bessent was born on **May 24, 1978**. He departed this life on **November 26, 2025** at Novant New Hanover Medical Center in Wilmington, North Carolina. He attended North Myrtle Beach public schools. Delton accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Delton's smile lit up every room he entered. His memories will forever live in our hearts. some of his favorite hobbies were going fishing, and "kicking it" with his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Mr. Leverne Bessent; his brother, Darrell Bessent; his sister, Shamala Bessent; his nephew, Darrell Cedric Stevenson; his grandmother, Mrs. Ella Jane Anderson; and his brother-in-law, Mr. Nathaniel Goodson. **Delton leaves to cherish his memories his mother, Bobbie Jane Bessent; three siblings, Loullen Goodson of Longs, South Carolina, Emmrick Bessent and Sheena Bessent of Little River, South Carolina; four children, Deltrona Bessent, Delton "DJ" Bessent, Jr., Keontae Hill, and Ava Leigh Bessent; two grandchildren, Ivory Bessent and La'lani King all of Shallotte, North Carolina; along with a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and his very special friends, Ericka Hill, Kershen and Lakella Clarida "aka" Brenda.**



1978 - 2025



Olga Leann Rogers

Olga Ann Rogers, a truly gentle, kind, and quiet soul who grew up in Brooklyn, New York, passed away suddenly on **Saturday, November 29, 2025**, at the age of 50. Olga was born on **July 1, 1975**, in Brooklyn, New York, to the late Lillie Ann Reid-Rogers and Louis Rogers. Olga was a devoted lifelong member of West Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where she worshiped from childhood through adulthood. Olga Rogers received her high school diploma in Brooklyn, New York, and later moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where she furthered her education at Horry Georgetown Technical College. She cherished her children, Karon and Lyric, with all her heart, and her happiness grew even brighter with the love of her only grandchild, Ray Jr. **She is survived by her beloved father, Louis Rogers; her sisters, Felicia Rogers of Murrells Inlet, SC, Della Rogers of Brooklyn, NY, Maureen Bridges of Jamaica, New York, and Sharon and her husband, Darryl Woody, of San Antonio, TX; her only son, Karon Rogers of Murrells Inlet, SC; her only daughter, Lyric Love-Smith and her husband Raymond Smith of Hepzibah, GA; and her cherished grandson, Ray Smith Jr. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews, beloved aunts and one uncle, and a large and loving extended family of cousins.**



1975 - 2025



Suzette Parker

Suzette Parker-Vick, the baby and 13th child of the family, was born on **March 10, 1964**, to Heyward Parker-Dewitt and Martha Grant Parker. She was the granddaughter of Boston Dewitt, Hattie Gause Parker, and Marcus and Sarah Grant. The sun would set for Suzette one last time on Wednesday, **December 17, 2025**. Suzette met and married Wayne Vick on July 2, 2010, and to this union, two children were born. She recently retired from the United Postal Service after being employed for 30 years. Suzette had the spirit of giving and would give her last to help anyone. Sadly, Suzette has journeyed to rest with her ancestors and join six siblings, Jesse, LJ, Lula, David William, Vance, and William, who preceded her in death. **Suzette leaves to cherish loving memories, her husband of 15 years, Wayne Vick; two children, Darrius Stackhouse and Ali (Kelsey) Stackhouse; her siblings, Bernice, Lillie, Stella, Alma (Norris), Chuck, and Winford (Amber), her mother-in-law, Laura Vick; sister-in law, Pam (Jeanclaude) Vick; along with a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, classmates, co-workers, other family and friends.**



1964 - 2025

Tanguy Lavar Cox

Tanguy LaVar Cox was born in Conway, SC on **July 23, 1978** to the late Handy Jr. and Vanessa Vereen. On **December 10, 2025**, he took his final journey to be with the Lord. **Tanguy leaves to cherish sweet memories his mother, Vanessa Vereen and Darryl "Pops" Hemingway; his children, Cornesha Beaty of Conway, SC, Nafiesha Cox and Aviannah Cox both of Longs, SC; two grandchildren, Braxton Cox and Terrance Cox Jr.; two brothers Rashein (Kontrissa) Vereen of Little River, SC and Tyrese Vereen of Longs, SC; Solomon (Casey) Gause of Atlanta, GA; Latresha Greene of Fayetteville, NC; Jarrett Vereen of El Paso, TX; Antwion Vereen of Little River, SC, Nicholas and Anthony of New York, NY; six aunts, Charlotte (Izell) Grissett of Longs, SC, Mabel (Jack) Cox of Longs, SC, Lilly (Carl) Gore of Little River, SC, Gwen (Darryl) Bryant of Spring Valley, NY, Pennee (Keith) of Longs, SC, and Maxine Connor of Longs, SC; six uncles, Floyd (Dottie) Livingston, Alfred Moss of Little River, SC, Curtis (Lena) Vereen of Longs, SC, and Kevin (Tracie) Vereen of Little River, SC; great aunts, Merlene (Roy) Hill and Ina Mae Livingston both of Longs, SC, Doreatha Stevens and Eltha Lewis, both of Little River, SC; cousins raised like siblings, Brad (Darline) Cox of Longs, SC, Swain "Flimp" Cox of Longs, SC, "Tish" Cox-Johnson of Little River**



1978 - 2025

Veronica Verona Washington

The late **Veronica Washington** (Ewitt, Nana) was born on **August 8, 1953**, in St James, Jamaica, to Zetilda Gaynor and James Reid. She died on **December 13, 2025**, leaving behind her children, Anecia McIntosh, Milisa Fenlator, and Ralston Haughton, as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives, and friends. Veronica was raised in Hertford, Westmoreland, Jamaica, by her grandmother, the late Caroline Gordon. She completed her schooling in Westmoreland and worked odd jobs to make ends meet for her children. Veronica migrated to the United States in the 1990s, where she met and married her husband, the late Earl Washington. Her children soon followed. Veronica worked at Kingston Plantation for over two decades in Myrtle Beach. She was a longstanding member of the St. Delight Pentecostal Church in Little River, South Carolina, serving as an Usher, Missionary, and Church Mother.



1953 - 2025



John Paul Hardy

John Paul Hardy (known to many simply as "Pop") on **December 12, 2025**, at the age of 85. John was born on **March 27, 1940**. John was the proud father of three girls, Dawn, Terri, and Tracy, and a great grandson, JJ, who he had the privilege to raise as his own son. He had 7 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-great-grandchild. John shared a loving bond with his 2 brothers and 1 sister. Jim, Dave, and Sue. John was rarely sick a day in his life, and left us much too quickly after a tragically short battle with cancer. He touched the lives of everyone who knew him, and his passing has left a void that can never be filled.



1940 - 2025



Vinnette Johnson

Mrs. Vinnetta Carol Johnson was born on **November 25, 1969**, in Conway, South Carolina, to the late Frank and Jennean Johnson. Vinnetta was a gift to all who knew her. She departed this life on **December 7, 2025**. Vinnetta was born into Christ at an early age and joined Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Vinnetta was educated in the Horry County public school system and proudly graduated from Conway High School, Class of 1988. Vinnetta was preceded in death by her parents and by her sister JoAnn White. **She leaves to celebrate her legacy and carry her love forward, her devoted son and pride of her heart, Chase Tre'veon Longs of Charlotte, North Carolina. She is also lovingly remembered by six sisters, Coleen Chapman of Rock Hill, South Carolina, Joyce (John) McCray of Conway, South Carolina, Elizabeth (Michael) Johnson of Lancaster, South Carolina, Jacqueline (Anthony) Hooks of Darlington, South Carolina, Franchella (Andy) Jordan of Conway, South Carolina, and Frances (William) Parrish of Conway, South Carolina. She also leaves behind one brother, Jonathan (Rosa) Nichols of Conway, South Carolina; along with a host of nieces, nephews, a beloved goddaughter, Courtney Robinson, one godson, Jamus McCray, extended family members, and countless friends who will forever cherish the joy she brought into their lives.**



1969 - 2025

Na'Liyah Na'Jhyia Alderman

Na'Liyah Na'Jhyia Alderman, affectionately known as "Tater Tot," was born on **Saturday, July 19, 2025**, to Destiny Alderman. Her angelic spirit was called home on **Saturday, November 22, 2025**. Although her time on earth was short, she was a bright light when her family needed her most. Na'Liyah brought an overwhelming sense of joy, happiness, and most of all, love to those who surrounded her. She was literally "heaven-sent". Na'Liyah loved watching Minnie Mouse, Elmo's World, and listening to any kind of music, especially gospel music. **Na'Liyah will forever be loved by her mother, Destiny Alderman; her glam-mom, Shonda Stamps Hinton (Dee); her grandfather, Stacey Alderman of the home; her uncle, David Alderman; three aunts, Stacy Alderman, Trinity Alderman, and Najae Alderman; great grandmother, Elvanda Alderman; great grandfather, Richard Stamps; great-great grandmother, Bernice Alderman; great-great grandfather, Richard Ross; special godparents, Lily and Karl who were there from her birth; the Coates family; Andrea and Porsha whom she had a special connection with; and a host of great aunts, great uncles, and cousins who loved her dearly.**



2025 - 2025

Guadalupe Patron Hernandez

Guadalupe Patron Hernandez age 49 was born on **December 12, 1976**. He was the oldest son born and raised in Veracruz, Mexico to Ermelindo Patron Mancilla and Reina Hernandez Maceda. He lived in Bronx, New York. He departed this life on **December 5, 2025**. Guadalupe is remembered as a loving son, brother, father, and family member whose kindness and warm spirit touched many lives. **Guadalupe leaves a legacy of love to his sisters, Yuri Lazano, and Caralina Patron Hernandez; his brother, Alberto Patron Hernandez; his sons, Ezequiel Patron, David Patron, Carlos Cortez, and Henry Patron; and his grandchildren, Sophia, Madison, Crew, Molly, and David, Jr. He was preceded in death by his parents Ermelindo Patron Mancilla and Reina Hernandez Maceda, and a sister, Susana Patron Hernandez.**



1976 - 2025



Anthony L. Burroughs

Mr. Anthony L. Burroughs, son of Martha M. and Irwin L. Burroughs, was born on **May 20, 1975**, in Conway, South Carolina. After a long and fulfilling life, he passed away on **Wednesday, December 10, 2025**. He received his education from the Commission of the Blind and Conway High School. Anthony was a loving father, son, uncle, cousin, and friend to many. Anthony enjoyed fishing with his mother and helping his father in any way he could. He loved his mother's home cooking and spending time with his son, nieces, and nephews. Anthony loved music and preferred to be called "DJ Kiss". He had the ability to turn the largest frown upside down and loved making people laugh. He was the kind of person who would help others in any way possible. Four siblings, Author Hicks, Darryl Hicks, Monica Burroughs, and Glendale Hemingway, all preceded him in death. *He leaves to cherish his memory his parents, Martha and Irwin Burroughs of Pee Dee, South Carolina; his grandmother, Mable Griffin of Baltimore, Maryland; one son, RaShawn Skinner of Pee Dee, South Carolina; one daughter, Linesha Brown of Conway, South Carolina; one sister, Michelle (Antonio) McCray of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; one brother, James Hemingway of Conway, South Carolina; along with a host of nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends.*



1975 - 2025



Shametree Lee

Shametree Lee of Marion, SC was born on **October 28, 1979**. She departed this life on **December 24, 2025**.



1979 - 2025

Samuel Eddie Hopkins

Samuel Edwards Rodriguez Hopkins, also known as "Sha," was born on **January 11, 1952** as the only son of Lehman Hopkins and Izetta Hopkins. He departed this life on **December 21, 2025**. In 1985, Samuel relocated to Camden, New Jersey. A year prior to this move, his daughter, Sha Hopkins, was born. During his time in Camden, Samuel adopted Naihmia Boone as his daughter and raised her as his own. He later relocated to Longs, South Carolina, where he spent his golden years living with his oldest son, Shawn, his daughter-in-law, Trianna, and their family. Samuel Edwards Rodriguez Hopkins departed this life on December 21, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents, Izetta Hopkins and Lehman Hopkins. *He leaves to cherish his memory two sons, Shawn and Yusuf Hopkins; two daughters, Sha Hopkins and Naihmia Hopkins; his daughter-in-law, Trianna Hopkins; and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*



1952 - 2025



Douglas Wilson, Jr.

Douglas Wilson, Jr., the son of the late Douglas Wilson, Sr. and Oneita Stanley Wilson, was born on **October 16, 1950**, in Horry County, South Carolina. On **December 23, 2025**, at 11:16 a.m., Douglas departed this life. He was a graduate of Chestnut Consolidated High School, class of 1970. Douglas was preceded in death by his parents, Douglas and Oneita Wilson; and his sisters, Earlene Wilson, Tammy Turner, and Hattie Lee Vereen. *He leaves to cherish his fond memories his daughters, Shekeitha Wilson (Rayshawn) Bowden, Anna Wilson, Jessica (Poochie) Wilson, and Megan Wilson; his grandchildren that he loved dearly, Gwendolyn Wilson, Najwa (duke) Edge, Shaniyah Scott, Alana (jaws) Lewis, Amirrah Hill, Serenity Watson, Ayden Hill, Jermaine Bowden, and Ashtyn Hill; his siblings, Robert Lee (Alice) Wilson, Justine Lewis, Rebecca (Alex) Dunlap, Annie (Solon) Chestnut, Covel (Nanette) Wilson, Charlene Green, David Wilson, Freddie (Ruth) Wilson, Bennie (Rosa) Wilson, and Melvin (Susanna) Wilson; a devoted friend, Carrie Lance; special nieces, Sytona Evans, Brenda Bellamy, and Faith Wilson; special nephews, Chris Turner and James Wilson; special friends, Crystal Corley and Jonathan Williams; along with a host of nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. He will truly be missed.*



1950 - 2025



Frances Parker

Frances Riggins Parker, age 90, passed away peacefully on **December 23, 2025**, in Longs, South Carolina. Born on **January 2, 1935**, in Conway, South Carolina, Frances spent the majority of her life in Florida with her brother Ricky Carter and sister Winnie Childs and cousin, Arlene Evans. Frances was a beloved mother to her son Alfred Parker and her daughters Quannah Campbell and Charles Ann Parker. *She was also held close in memory of her husband Mal Parker and daughter Wanda Parker Chapman and son Alphonzo Parker, who preceded her in death. The simple joys that brought her peace and fulfillment were fishing—relishing the quiet moments by the water—as well as working on puzzles that challenged her mind and brought satisfaction with each completed piece. Gospel music was a constant companion throughout her life, offering comfort and inspiration through its uplifting melodies and messages. Frances had a total of five children, twelve grandchildren, thirty-six great-grandchildren, and a host of great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins who all held a special place in her heart. May the memory of Frances Ann Parker bring comfort to those who knew and loved her.*

1935 - 2025



1935 - 2025

Dorotha Anita Thomas

On November 10, 1966, Dorotha Anita Thomas was born to Johnnie Lee Gore and Mable Thomas-Langston in New Haven, Connecticut. She surrendered to the will of God and was called home on **Tuesday, December 23, 2025**. Dorotha attended the public schools in New Haven, Connecticut and graduated from Hillhouse High School. After graduation she worked in the hospitality industry. Dorotha valued her time with her loved ones. Her energy could light up an entire room, while drawing people to her like a magnet. She was a devoted, hardworking, and loving person who loved to party and have a good time with family. Her home was always the go-to for many. The warmth of her presence left a lasting impression on everyone she met. She was preceded in death by her mother, Mable Thomas-Langston; stepfather, Thurman Langston; a son, Tarell Thomas; four brothers, Anthony Thomas, Christopher Langston, Johnnie Bowman, and Johnnie Gore, Jr.; and one sister, Shannon Harrison. *Dorotha will forever be remembered by her children, Karel Aiken, Sharell Aiken, Dorrel Aiken, Shannel Aiken, Brynell Aiken, and Brian Mckiever; her siblings, Brenda Thomas, Karen Langston, Crystal Gore, Tiffany Gore, Melvin Harrison, and Eric Harrison; 16 grandchildren; along with other family members and friends who will miss her dearly.*



1966 - 2025



Mack Davis Hudson

Mr. Mack David Hudson, son of the late Winnie Lee Dewitt Hudson and the late Jesse Hudson, was born on **March 18, 1955**, in Conway, South Carolina. God called Mack home on **Tuesday, December 2, 2025**, and took him to eternal rest. At a young age Mack became a member of Greater St. James AME Church. Mack was educated in the Horry County Public Schools and attended Horry Georgetown technical College. Mack was a loving son, brother, uncle, cousin, and many friends. Mack was preceded in death by his parents, Winnie Lee DeWitt Hudson and Jesse Hudson, and by five brothers: Eddie Johnson, Alexander Johnson, Marshall Lee Hudson, Donald Hudson, and Paul Hudson. *Mack leaves to cherish his loving memory to brother, Charles Crosby of Temple Hills, Maryland; two sister-in-laws, Loretta Johnson and Princess Diane Hudson, both of Conway, SC; cousins, nieces, nephews, and a host of sorrowful relatives and friends.*



1955 - 2025



Pearl Ann Scott

Pearl Ann Scott (née Faulk), 71, passed away peacefully on **December 26, 2025**, in Conway, South Carolina. Born on **July 3, 1954**, she spent her life in the community she loved, touching countless hearts with her warmth, resilience, and generous spirit. A proud member of Conway High School's Class of 1973, Pearl carried the values of hard work and community throughout her 32 years of dedicated service at AVX Corporation. Pearl found joy in life's simple pleasures, cooking for loved ones, solving crossword puzzles, and fishing with enthusiasm and grace. She was a devoted mother to Cornelius Scott and Sequoia Scott, and a cherished grandmother to Briana Murphy, BJ Fraiser, and Sierra Fraiser. She is reunited in eternal rest with her husband, Paul Edward Scott; her daughter Felicia Ann Faulk; her parents Willie and Irene Dickerson Faulk; sisters Linda, Hilda, and Shirley Faulk; and brothers James Kenneth and Willie Clarence Faulk. *Pearl leaves behind her loving siblings: Leo Faulk Sr., Larry Faulk (Beatrice), and Willa Faulk; along with nieces, nephews, and a host of relatives and friends who will forever cherish her memory.*



1954- 2025



Kenneth Bellamy

Kenneth Bellamy was born on **September 30, 1955**. He departed this life on **December 20, 2025**.



1955 - 2025



Richard Thomas Broshious

Richard Thomas Broshious was born on **October 1, 1956**. He departed this life on **December 15, 2025**.



1956 - 2025



Lucile Gause

Mrs. Gause was born on **March 20, 1930**. She departed this life on **December 8, 2025**. She is the daughter of Mr. Herbert (Eva) Gause. *She leaves to cherish memories Two Children, Mrs. Eva Gause and Mr. Herbert Lee Gause and Grandmother of Jeremy K. Gause.*



1930 - 2025



James Moody

James Moody was born on **October 25, 1942**. She departed this life on **December 12, 2025**.



1942- 2025



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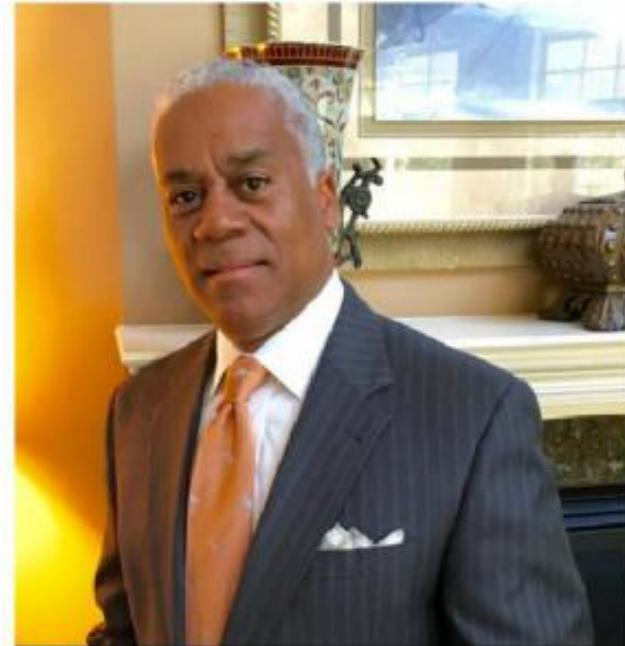
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