



Forward Facs

www.forwardlookersfederatedclub.com

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President's Message

Greetings Club Sisters,

"When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well with my soul." The words to this hymn were penned by hymnist Horatio Spafford as he mourned the death of his daughters at sea. I have found myself singing this song quite often lately as the words of comfort and assurance in times of physical and spiritual crisis ring true in my heart. The words convey a sense of trust and ultimate peace with God's plan for our lives. With everything going on in our world today: the 2020 Census, a debated presidential election, and at the forefront

of everything, the COVID-19 Virus; God is still in control. Even in the face of "sorrows" and Satan's temptations to make us fearful, we as Christians believe, "it is well with my/your soul." That experience of trust and peace derives from knowing with certainty that Christ has paid the penalty for "our sin, not in part, but the whole." We find comfort in Spafford's hymn which affirms that it will be "well with my soul" on the great day of Christ's return and we will have "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine, because our "Hope is Built on Nothing Less than Jesus' Blood and Righteousness." Sisters, please know that the storms of life do pass away, but our soul is forever, and as long as it is well there, no storms can take that from us.

During this time of sheltering in place, we can ask God to direct us in ways that we can best be used for Him. Let us look within and discover personal ways we can serve and uplift others. Do you like to bake? Or cook? Or shop? If we have the desire to serve and lift others, there will be a place for us. Sometimes obstacles can guide the path before us, as in the case of the coronavirus. We might not travel to the far corners of the globe, but we can look for opportunities to help those in need-----whether they are our neighbors or have come from the other side of the world. Let us use this time to "Lift Others as We Climb."

Sisterly,

Mary J. Collier

Mary J. Collier

We welcome our newest club sisters, **Debra Spell-Rayborn, Ashley D. Gilyard, Mattie James McQuarter, & Angela Booze** to Forward Lookers Federated Club!
Let us continue to "Lift as we Climb"





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Why do we serve at Stewpot?

Malena W. Dow

Volunteers from Forward Lookers are scheduled to serve at Stewpot each quarter in 2020, in March, June, July and October.

Twenty years ago, I read an article in "Stewpot Services" newsletter entitled, "Why I am Scared to Serve at Stewpot." The writer, Stewpot volunteer, Dexter Branscome is a retired Lt. Col. who served two combat tours in Vietnam. His message haunted me for some time and has become even more relevant, now that I serve at Stewpot.

The meat of the message, in my opinion, is a challenge for self-evaluation for why we do what we do and to become aware of the idols we have been constructing in our lives, namely: closets too full, surplus multi-media equipment, the newest cars, and excuses we are too blind to see. I share verbatim Lt. Col. Branscome's words: "... And I recommend that anyone who might consider becoming a volunteer to consider it prayerfully and with trepidation. It is not just thirty minutes of feel good about yourself time; It can get inside of you."

Serving at Stewpot is not just about passing out plates and cleaning tables and chairs. It is more about sharing God's love with others and allowing them to share His love with us. It's about recognizing His presence there and that God loves all mankind. It's about the interactions, the relationships and what He expects of you and me in that relationship.

So, the next time we go to Stewpot, let's ask God to open our eyes and hearts that we may renounce the false gods we have so easily constructed and allow the homeless to lavish His love on our plates.

Motivational Thoughts for the Day

Ashley D. Gilyard

May these "Ways to Love" uplift you, touch your heart, and remind you to keep God first on your journey.

Ten Ways to Love

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:31)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)



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"Remembering Our Sisters"

Ashley Gilyard

"What we have once enjoyed deeply we can never lose.
All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

~~ Helen Keller

This year, we lost two of our sisters, Vivacious Violet Williams and Gracious Gwendolyn Chambliss. Although we are deeply saddened by their departures, we know God knew best. In the spirit of "Lifting as We Climb," let us remember our sisters for their years of friendship, service and sisterly love to Federation.



Violet Williams



Gwendolyn Chambliss



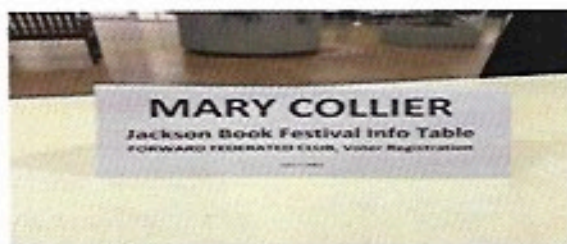
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Forward Lookers endorses "We Vote, Mississippi"

Monocia (AKA Monica) Connors

Voter Registration in Mississippi is vital! Mississippians typically don't exercise their right to vote. Thus, there is a project in Mississippi initiated by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) an American nonprofit legal advocacy organization specializing in civil rights, invested \$450,000.00 ahead of the 2019 and 2020 election year. The project "We Vote, Mississippi," a non-partisan, grassroots voter engagement is focused on voter registration, mobilization and get-out-to-vote (GOTV) efforts across the state.

Forward Lookers Federated Club partnered with Meredith McGee, CEO of Meredith Etc. and the Jackson Book Festival to promote voter rights and the importance of voting. Club members volunteered at the Jackson Medical Mall in Jackson, MS on Friday, February 7, 2020 to assist in making available voter registration on the spot at a day long Book Fair. The event was open to the community, beginning at 12 noon until 7:00 p.m. The coordinator invited FLFC to host the Voter Registration Project to work in shifts of two or three to cover the day. Carolyn Coleman, Mary Collier, Irene Booker, Gwen Chess, Bonnie Harris, Laura Vickers, and Monocia Connors all volunteered in the **Voter Registration Project**.



VOLUNTEERS

Club Sisters from left to right: Laura Vickers, Gwendolyn Chess & Bonnie Harris.
Not pictured: Carolyn Coleman, Mary Collier, Irene Booker & Monocia Connor



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Mary Collier

2020 COAT DRIVE @ BURLINGTON'S METRO CENTER – JACKSON, MS

Warm Coats, Warm Hearts is an annual collaboration with the Metro Jackson PanHellenic Council to donate warm coats to the less fortunate in our community. The event is held annually in January on Martin King's Day of Service and is held at Burlington's in Metro Center Mall. This year Forward Lookers donated more than twenty coats. Stewpot Community Services received the coats to stock their coat closet. This project enables Stewpot Ministries to donate to individuals in need during the winter months. Keep the generosity going, Club Sisters!

Excerpts from the book: "Radiant" by Priscilla Shirer

Be Yourself - "remarkably and wondrously made." (Psalm 139:140)

Be Blessed - "with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3)

Be Assured - "He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion." (Philippians 1:6)

Be on Mission - "He who calls you is faithful: He will do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

And as always, be **RADIANT**.



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**Carol J. Cooper, President
MSFCWC, Inc. and Youth Affiliates
"Lifting as We Climb"**

The Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. and Youth Affiliates held its One Hundred Sixteenth Anniversary and One Hundred Eleventh Convention on November 1-3, 2019 at The Hilton Jackson Hotel, Jackson, Mississippi. The Convention was hosted by the 4th District under the leadership of the 4th District President, Mrs. Dynetha Thornton, with Chairpersons, Dr. Delores Hopkins and Mrs. Terryce Walker.

The 2019 MSFCWC Convention gave Federated ladies from various parts of Mississippi a chance to exchange ideas, to reflect on past endeavors, and to celebrate their accomplishments. Yet, members felt the void, the absence of the late, energetic and spirited Gwendolyn B. Chambliss.

As always, having our youth clubs to attend the annual convention is an immeasurable honor. It is amazing the magnitude of talent these young people possess. Their talent and skills range from sewing and modeling their outfits, presenting orations and delivering PowerPoint presentations.

Annually, the educational workshops are very inspiring and informative. We were very fortunate to have State Representative, Debra Gibbs, District 72, to enlighten members about a very crucial subject, "Voting Literacy."

We were happy to meet the managers of the four housing towers for elderly residents in Clarksdale, Clinton, Grenada, and Hattiesburg. The managers gave an update on the residents, shared some of their monthly activities, and the community's involvement and participation with the residents.

At the Awards Banquet, three Past State Presidents, Mrs. Essie Brumfield, Mrs. Edna White, and Dr. Lynda Taylor received plaques for dedicated service to Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. and Youth Affiliates. The highlight of the Awards Banquet was the music and entertainment provided by artful Pam Confer.

The Prayer Breakfast, hosted by our youth, was memorable and noteworthy. Minister Lincoln Smith delivered a motivating and stimulating message to the youth. He encouraged these young leaders to strive for academic success, whereas they can become future leaders of their city or their state, and be of service to humanity.

The convention concluded November 3, 2019 with members pledging commitment To Recruit, To Reclaim, and to Reactivate, while "Lifting as We Climb."



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"Living Our Best Life During Challenging Times"

African American women have traditionally served as the backbone of the family throughout history. Through their faith and sheer grit, our mothers, grandmothers and aunts have been there setting examples of Christian love, community engagement and self-sacrifice. Their unconditional commitment to God and family has been the hallmark of these women of virtue. We have always admired them and relied on their wisdom and sought to emulate their character.

Black women are blessed and treasured creations from our Heavenly Father. God created us to serve and witness to others. Our gifts and talents are numerous and varied and we must share them cheerfully. The sisterhood of which we belong is an awesome source of strength and inspiration, particularly at times such as these. We must continue to lean on and support each other while placing all our faith in the One who can do anything but fail.

Peace & Blessings,
Evelyn Alexander Bishop



Inspiration: "When This Is Over" by Laura Kelly Fanucci

"When this is over, may we never again take for granted

A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theater
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way — better
for each other
because of the worst."



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Forward Lookers Federated Club 34th Annual Heritage Luncheon - Forty-Eighth Anniversary "Forging Forward During Turbulent Times" Monocia Connors (AKA Monica Connors)

On Saturday, February 1, 2020, The Forward Lookers Federated Club, supporters, friends, and guests all assembled at The Jackson Country Club in Jackson, Mississippi, for its Annual Heritage Luncheon. The event was open to the public and greetings were extended by club sisters Irene Booker, Secretary and Carol Cooper, President, Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. & Youth Affiliates.

It was in 1987, Gwendolyn B. Chambless became President and during her tenure, the first Black History Month luncheon was sponsored, and The Clara Alexander Jackson Memorial Scholarship was initiated. Under the leadership of Kattie G. McCullough, Forward Lookers Institutionalized the Clara Alexander Jackson Scholarship, an annual award, to a student majoring in elementary education at Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, or Mississippi Valley State University. Rust College and Tougaloo College were added during the leadership of Malena W. Dow. In 1999, Dr. Evelyn J. Leggett became President, and it was during her tenure, Forward Lookers increased the amount of the scholarship to all historically black colleges and universities in Mississippi. During this year's luncheon, the Clara Alexander Jackson Scholarship was awarded to two outstanding academic scholars: **Ms. Kennedy Lester**, a junior Elementary Education major from Mississippi Valley State University, and **Ms. Tanisha Baker**, a graduating senior Elementary Education major from Rust College.

As we celebrated our heritage and dined on a delicious meal, we presented the **Service Award to the Honorable Alyce G. Clarke**, an American politician, member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from the 69th District, and a member of the Democratic party. She is an individual who has demonstrated sensitivity to community social problems. Additionally, we presented the **Heritage Award to the Retired Honorable Robert Clark, Jr.**, a trailblazer, educator, coach, civil rights activist, and the first African American elected to the Mississippi State Legislature in the twentieth century. He is an individual who has made great strides in helping to improve the lives of others through local, state and national efforts.

The **Uplift Award** was presented to two worthy Federated women who have volunteered in the community and rendered outstanding services to Federation on the local, state and national levels. They are **Mrs. Jean Hayes Coleman Gore**, a dedicated club sister, whose daily life personifies our motto, "**Lifting as We Climb.**" Since her initial involvement with Forward Lookers Federated Club in 1994, Mrs. Gore has given unselfishly of herself, her time, and her resources. The members of Forward Lookers proudly salute **Dr. Donna Williams** for exemplary service to Federation on all levels: local, State, Regional and National, and for her outstanding contributions to the educational, civic and religious communities in which she serves.

Dr. Carmen J. Walters, the 14th President of the historic Tougaloo College was our special guest speaker. Dr. Walters challenged us to be more active in the lives of our youth. She strongly stated that we have the responsibility to share our wisdom, invest in and spend time with a young person in our household, community, church or surrounding college or university. Our club sisters, **Mary Collier**, President, **Theresa Hence**, Treasurer, **Hostesses** and **Ticket Receivers** insured that our luncheon flowed smoothly, and our guests were greeted and made to feel welcomed. Mr. Johnny Bogan entertained us with music and Elder Quernardo Castilla offered the invocation and the benediction.