

Forward Lookers Federated Club celebrates 50 years of service

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A Heritage Exhibition, reflecting the program services, activities, and contributions of Forward Lookers Federated Club, adorned the College Hill Baptist Church Family Life Center, as the Club celebrated its 50th year Founder's Day observance Friday, February 11, 2022.

The exhibit of photographs, memorabilia, historical documents, souvenir program books, and award-winning scrapbooks chronicled program services, activities, and contributions of the Club during its 50-year existence and honored those who have led and supported the organization.

Forward Lookers, a local affiliate of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, the regional Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., was organized in 1972 under the leadership of Clara Alexander Jackson and Dr. Jessie B. Mosley. The Club's scholarship, named in honor of founder Clara Alexander Jackson, is awarded annually to two elementary education majors attending HBCUs in Mississippi.

After acknowledgement of charter members Mavis Chambliss, Kattie McCullough, and Patricia Alexander Sims, who were unable to attend, a procession of past Club presidents preceded the welcoming and introduction session.

A ceremony, "***We Remember***" (In Memoriam), honored Club founders, leaders, and twenty-one deceased members.

After a viewing of the exhibits and a photo session, the program proceeded in three acts, based on the Anniversary theme, "***Celebrating A Past, Cherishing the Present, and Claiming Our Future through Leadership, Scholarship and Service.***"

Act I of the celebration, “*Celebrating a Past*,” included a skit which reviewed and celebrated the 50-year history of Forward Lookers Federated Club while honoring its founder, charter members, and past and present memberships. The skit also gave credence to the cadre of generous supporters during its existence.

“*Cherishing the Present*” was the focus of Act II, which featured a video presentation summarizing the current works, services, and activities that Forward Lookers and its members are currently engaged in. The six focus areas covered monetary donations, community services, scholarships, media/technology, leadership, and our heritage celebration.

The focus of Act III was “*Claiming Our Future*,” and it included an in-depth assessment to encourage members to “move out of their comfort zones” into a more futuristic trendsetting mindset, thus setting the stage for the development of future sustainability, evaluation, and programmatic strategic planning.

After a brief recap, the socially distanced event was concluded with a prepackaged, personal lunch to go. The well-organized, historical observance was instructive and inspiring, giving incentive for needs to be met, as the Club moves forward to the future.