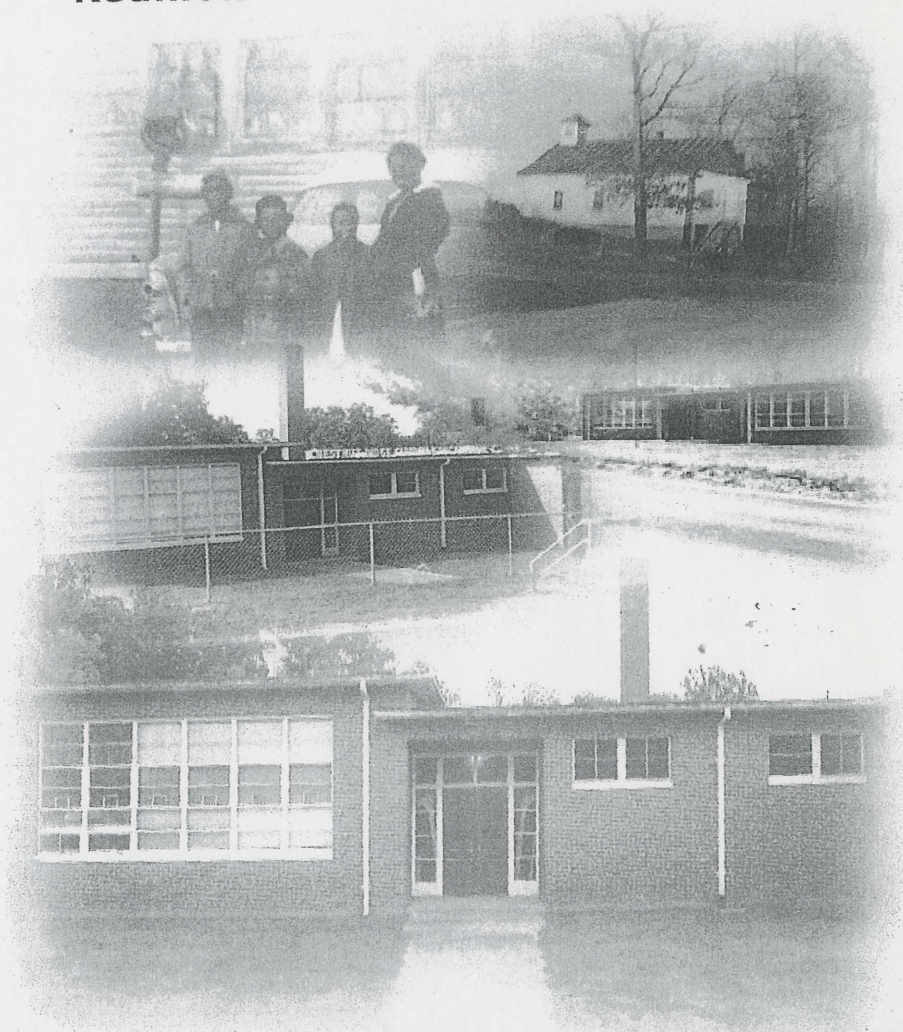


# 2012 Reunion

## Ridge Westfield School



**"Look How Far We've Come With The Lord"**

Commit thy works unto the Lord,  
and thy thoughts shall be established.

-Proverbs 16:3

A black and white portrait of Bernice Cox Lowe, an African American woman with short, dark, curly hair, wearing glasses and a multi-strand pearl necklace. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

## FORWARD

Sunday Evening, August 28, 2011

To All My Students:

I am so elated concerning the upcoming events and overjoyed because of this occasion. It is so gratifying to know that you have become outstanding men and women. I am very proud of your accomplishments. You have become ministers, pastors, and evangelist and I am proud of that. There are so many educators, professionals, businessmen/women, farmers, artists, designers, home engineers, mechanics, maids, authors, city planners, politicians, administrators, truck drivers, workers in industry textiles, seamstress, nurses, doctors, lawyers, secretaries, executive assistants, librarians and so many occupations too numerous for me to name and I am proud of all these great things you have achieved and will continue to do in your life. You are fine citizens in the communities in which you live. You continue to demonstrate "you are somebody, coming from someplace, going somewhere."

I want you to help build a better nation and world. I desire for you to vote always to elect people that are going to help all people, especially remembering the poor. Never forget from whence you have come. Our roots keep us grounded and humble! Most of all I love you and Christ loves you best. You cannot do anything better in life than to meet Jesus Christ.

Lastly, Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.". I love you and I hope to meet you all in heaven one day.

Love your Principal,  
Bernice Cox Lowe

### *RWS Graduates*

Authors, Librarians,  
Speech Pathologist,  
Seamstress, Ministers,  
Secretaries, Beauticians.  
Farmers, Home Engineers,  
Educators, Nurses, Dentist,  
Executives, Lawyers, Truck  
Drivers, Doctors, Business  
Owners





Dear RWS Family,

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is with great pleasure I welcome all of you to the 2nd Ridge Westfield Elementary School Reunion. God has allowed us to come together once again to celebrate, fellowship, and to remember the good times we had together while we were at RWS. We thank God for giving us the opportunity at the last reunion to honor those who had given so much of themselves to ensure a better future for all of us.

Thank God for dreams that come true. As I stated on last year, there is a dreamer in every family, Jacob was a dreamer in Isaac's family and Joseph became the dreamer in Jacob's family. Jacob dreamed that the angels of God were ascending and descending. God told Jacob in the dream, "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you (Gen. 28:15)."

I am the dreamer in my family. I prayed and dreamed of having a RWS Reunion for a number of years. I thank God for answering my prayers. God is faithful in what he promises. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17). What is faith? "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). We live by faith and not by sight, because all things are possible with God. Now unto him (God) that is able to do exceeding and abundantly above anything we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us (Eph. 3:20). He has brought us back to this place.

The idea of the RWS Reunion began a few years ago. I had a yearning in my heart and felt it was something that should be done because RWS was such an important part of our life. The school and teachers invested so much into our lives with limited resources by teaching with left over or used text books and supplies, while white schools were receiving new supplies and teachers were being paid \$125.00 a month. Our teachers only received \$75.00 a month. They were still dedicated teachers who were determined that we would learn.

We were reading, writing, and doing math in the first grade and learned to write in cursive by the second. The teachers poured everything they knew into us. They were determined we would be somebody, that we did not have sawdust in our heads, and we would learn—and learn we did. Now kids today are not taught to write in cursive; but for us, RWS is where it all began. We spent eight years at RWS, seven hours a day, from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. RWS is where we received our foundation—a sure foundation. These same teachers were the ones who taught us at Sunday School.

I truly thank and praise God for allowing Mrs. Lowe to live long enough to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Ridge Westfield School Reunion. Mrs. Lowe would often talk about her children not Lashene, Jill or Julie, but her students from RWS with so much love and admiration. In talking and praying with her, I realized bringing her students together once again was something she not only wanted, but needed, before God called her home. I believe you give honor where honor is due and give one their flowers while they can still smell their sweet fragrance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for whatever part you have had in making our first and now second RWS Reunion a success.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Lizzie Penn James, Founder/Coordinator of RWS Reunion

## OVERVIEW OF THE RIDGE-WESTFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ridge-Westfield sat on acreage along Highway 89E, below the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and east of the Parkway in North Carolina. As you leave the home of Andy Griffith which was Mount Airy, North Carolina. Ridge-Westfield lies in the foothills among the ridges and chestnut trees between the communities of Shelton town and Woodsville. Many people considered Westfield a part of this locale until the United Postal Service redistricted this area. It was a rural route of Westfield. The ridges offset the Slate Mountain area, as well.

Originally, Chestnut Ridge Community was comprised of many Black landowners. They were farmers with large families and large acreage plots according to Negro standards at this time. They owned hundreds of acres of land around the school and church. After the church was built – the church and school became synonymous with one another. Many Negro landholders lived along Highway 89 and the Cain and Athey-Simmons Roads. The unjust tax laws, uneducated Black landowners and the unscrupulous lawmakers and their enforcers soon led to the demise of these large black landowners. The school and church was located in a prosperous and growing Black community. Imogene Jessup's painting of the Chestnut Ridge community's prosperity is depicted graphically and hangs in the Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church. One can only remember the Jim Crow laws to know those taxation laws were of the genocide nature. The sense of community never left the Negro people/parents/ families even though they were dispersed in various areas of the state and nation.

A Rosenwald School was built for the Negro primarily to educate the Blacks in the South. Schools for black people were chronically underfunded and the African-American students were required to attend segregated schools. Julius Rosenwald contributed seed monies for many southern schools and he required communities to raise public funds and make donations to help fund the schools. Many African-Americans in rural communities collected and donated monies for their children to acquire a better education. Westfield Colored School and Chestnut Ridge were probably schools built with Rosenwald monies. One can only view pictures of the building at Chestnut Ridge and compare them to the models of Rosenwald to conclude that it was a Rosenwald School. The name of Westfield Colored School leads one to believe its origin lay in Rosenwald funding.

According to Principal Bernice Cox Lowe, Ridge-Westfield was a Rosenwald School. She recalls a group of men visiting from Raleigh. Mrs. Julia Flowers and she were the only teachers for grades 1-8. They had more than two classrooms. Each of them would assign students work and walk to another classroom and instruct and assign work. This routine continued throughout the day. The students were so well behaved and stayed on task so well that the visitors were amazed. They proclaimed if any colored school is going to be built in Surry County; it will be at this site. This is how the current Ridge-Westfield building began and this present location designated. Chestnut Ridge and Westfield Colored Schools were closed and thusly Ridge-Westfield obtained its name. In 1954, the new building of, Ridge-Westfield was opened.



## CURRICULUM

Mrs. Julia Cox Flowers seemingly taught everyone in this area and Northwest Stokes County. Many of the students ages 55 and above share similar stories about the classroom and teaching methods of Mrs. Flowers. The room was colorful with large beautiful bulletin boards, mostly seasonal themes. The alphabets on display were both cursive and manuscript. The walls and bulletin boards were focal points for teaching. Mother Goose characters surrounded the room and nursery rhymes were recited on a regular basis. The displays in the rooms were drawn by the teachers, children, or someone in the community. Commercial displays were not to be found in the school.

Rhyming schematic recitations and songs about academic studies were heard as you moved throughout the building. Children were excited about learning and knowing how to read. Few if any children could not read; it was a priority for children and teachers to learn to read. Those who did not read came to school only a few days out of the year. They only came when all the crops had been completed and after the crops had been planted. Even so, they learned to read a little. Reciting the alphabet, mathematical skills, and spelling filled the ears of those who listen intentionally and those who unintentionally heard. These first and second graders were prepared for any instructor anywhere.

Lessons on self-esteem began in Mrs. Cox/Flowers room. She could be heard to speak to the children from her repertoire of sayings, don't be a knocked kneed, box-ankled, pigeon toed nothing in this world. You are somebody, from somewhere, going somewhere. Because they heard these words so often, they began to believe they were somebody. Finally there were the rhymes and songs that helped the children learn the strokes necessary to form the letters either in manuscript or cursive writing.

Interestingly, all the textbooks were used and outdated. We excelled anyway. This fact is demonstrated as one travels throughout the county, state, and nation. Ridge-Westfield, Chestnut Ridge, and Westfield's alumnus hold jobs in all types of occupations and do these jobs outstandingly well. In 1966 the Caucasian teachers were surprised at the skill and abilities the Negro students brought with them from the segregated school. We made the A, AB, and B Honor Roll and graduated in the top 10% of the class. The best teachers came from the Black schools. The students are proof of their teaching abilities and the strength, scope, and sequence of the curriculum. Our teachers never doubted our intellect or ability to learn and become successful citizens of the world.

The funding or materials in Surry County was allotted to each school. Ridge-Westfield did not receive this funding. The materials came from the kind hearts of teachers. Even supplementary materials and books were bought by teachers. Any paper, crayons, or additional art supplies were purchased at the discretion of the teachers. The beautifully decorated rooms were the design of and paid for by the teachers. All instructors were vested in each student, financially, spiritually, and educationally. One cannot share the curriculum without the pedagogical skills of the teachers.

The education methods began in the first and second grades and were expanded in more extensive techniques in grades 3-8. The talent, experience, and teacher motivation increased the thinking, problem solving, and learning skills of each child. The students participated in spelling bees, writing articles for the Junior Tar heel and local talent competition. Literature was loved by most students. Poetry was taught from the first grade through the eighth grade. Some of our favorite poems were "October's Party", "October's Bright Blue Weather", "How Would You Like To Go Up In a Swing", "Great Wide Wonderful World", and many others. Rudyard Kipling's "If" was taught to all students.

Black literary works were a familiar part of the learning experiences and children could be heard throughout the building reciting the works. Information about the authors, poems, and stories were told by students and teachers alike. The fact that several students became English majors and minors could be attributed to the exposure they had in the elementary grades of great authors. You could hear students recite "In The Morning", "Little Brown Baby", or Langston Hughes's "I To Sing America". These and other Harlem Renaissance writers were exposed to the minds of the Ridge-Westfield Elementary School students. Exposure to the works of William Cullen Bryant, William Wordsworth Longfellow, and others probably caused diversity of learning for the black child early in their educational careers.

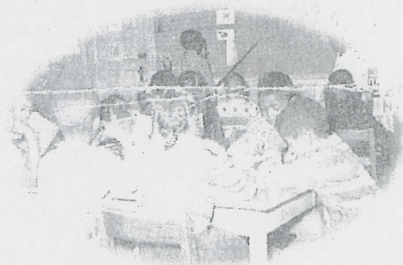
Black heritage was taught with grace, preciseness, and pride. Negro History lessons guided a sense of pride in learning. It was taught daily but emphasized more during Negro History Week. Magazines with Mary McCloud Bethune and George Washington Carver were brought to the classrooms along with creative, colorful, and informative bulletin boards throughout the building only helped to stimulate pride in one's self. Special assignments in the seventh and eighth grades included research, written reports, and drawing the dignitaries one chose to study. The research included biographical or autobiographical sketches of contributors to our country's history. We learned about many of the contributions made by Negroes through these studies. We knew that our ancestors were kings and queens in Africa. We knew from memory the 3 verses of the Negro National Anthem.

Music was a natural phenomenal for the entire student body. All of our teachers sang melodiously. Mrs. Flowers made everyone think they had special talents. We could all just simply sing. Reverend and Mrs. Ward came to the school and taught us Christian songs and told Bible stories, too. Mrs. Flowers played the piano and Mrs. Katie McCarther Hatcher told us we were outstanding songsters.

Art education was a tool used to motivate and enhance the learning experience. Mrs. Hatcher taught us about paper-mache. Students made horses, globes, and other things that increased our core curriculum. We drew figures, used a variety of materials, painted and created scenes as well. We discovered we were capable creative artist. Mrs. Hatcher always had positive things to say to the children and without a doubt a favorite saying was, your heads are not full of sawdust and water and you will learn this.

Other instructors emphasized different talents to inspire learning. Mr. Robert L. Cox, Sr., the only male teacher for many of us, shared stories of aging, historical events, and socialization. The history of the Roman and Greek gods and goddess made fifth and sixth grades interesting. Our learning experiences included knowledge of Roman Numbers and the Greek alphabet.

Dance was a natural phenomenon for us. Mrs. Geraldine Hughes Kiser gave an added dimension to the word dance. Mrs. Donna Rowell inspired the students in the arts as well. Many of the alumni still mention those dance techniques learned in the early years.





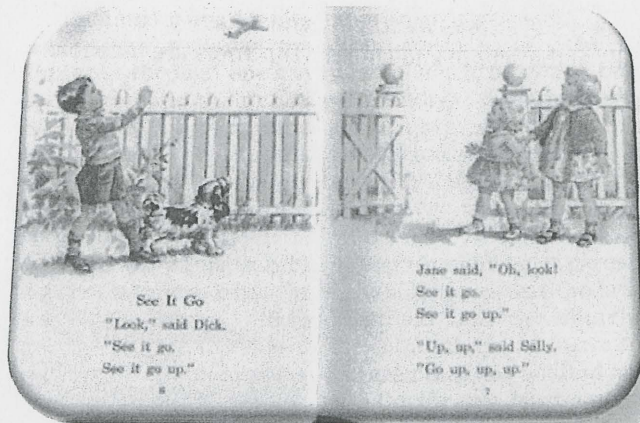
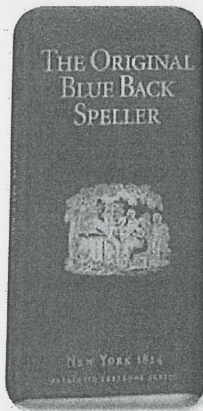
An additional staff member, Mrs. Rita Smith came and taught the first and second grade. After a few years this luxury turned to a passing thought because a decline in student enrollment developed. Mrs. Julia Flowers who had taught 46 years retired so the younger teachers would not receive pink slips. This was an ultimate sacrifice for Mrs. Flowers; she loved her home, community, and most of all children and teaching. Art and music was taught in Surry County and presumably there was funding but it was not available to our school. Again the teachers taught art and music to everyone. We thought we could draw and paint like Van Gough. We felt we were all capable artist.

We cannot leave diagramming sentences and special events out of the curriculum. Mrs. Lowe taught us to diagram sentences. Everyone was anxious to be given a sentence and go to the board to diagram it. Many times students would race to see who could finish first. Mrs. Lowe shared the story of someone who enrolled in a college course, "Grammar and Structure". The professor asked the student about his knowledge of grammar and was told his performance exceeded that of his English majors. The student responded that my seventh and eighth grade teacher is responsible for my knowledge of grammar.

Each year we had plays, especially at the end of the school year. Mrs. Flowers made costumes from crepe paper. The students, parents and community enjoyed the performances. We preformed plays with themes about Mother Goose to contemporary issues.

In the spring students were involved in the wrapping of the May Pole. Whether you participated in the actual event or acted as an observer, it was a festive occasion. Students were given fruit and vegetable names. Each child learned 2 or 3 lines of a rhyme to say as they wrapped the pole.

Finally we got a library. Mrs. Gloria G. Cox was our librarian. She got us books to read. We could check them out. In 1962 it opened and it was as if a new world opened for us. There were reference books, biographies, science, history, religion, mathematics, sports and fiction. We had shelves and bookcases but only a few books were on those shelves. Even so, we had an opportunity to go on great adventures through books.



## RELIGION

The principal and teachers were professed Christians. They taught love and respect for God. Their actions, deeds, and mannerism were exemplary of a Christian. The cooks, janitors, and bus drivers were Christians too. Most of them were members of Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church which sat next door to the school.

Christian education permeated the school climate. Each month Reverend and Mrs. Ward would come to the school. We would have an assembly in the lunchroom. They taught Bible stories, verses and songs to the children. This experience was enjoyed by all. The school and the church shared in the learning taught by the Wards. Facilities were used interchangeably. Graduations were held at the church and in the school. Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church was influential in the Christian growth of most students. The implications for many of the staff working and attending the same church made a difference in both the lives of the teachers and the students.

Many students recall saying prayers and Bible verses at the opening of the school day and during lunch time prayers were sung or recited. We learned many songs praising the Lord. Most first and second graders remember singing, "Heavenly Sunlight." The repertoire of songs includes such songs as "Now the Day is Over", Christmas and Easter Anthems, "The Hallelujah Chorus" and "Great Is The Lord".

In essence, ones Christian journey is individualized and begins officially through various channels. The students at Ridge-Westfield School have a common thread of experiences that began within the walls of the school and church. Our roots are indelible.





## FINALE

In 1966 our beloved school was closed and we were integrated into other schools. Many could not understand why such a pristine building was closed. The schools we went to were old dilapidated structures. None of the schools we went to were as new and did not have the climate we shared at Ridge-Westfield. Many of our leaders believed this was the only way we could receive an equally funded education. One could only have been a part of Ridge-Westfield to understand the cultural loss to the African-American community.

Things lost in the school climate academic journey, scope and sequence of the curriculum and the methods of thinking and problem-solving, along with the teaching methods were captured in that school setting. As one reflects on the plight of the African-American children today the missing link is pride, self-esteem building and teacher motivation. The loss lies in the achievement thus producing an achievement gap. Even with outdated textbooks and materials the students at Ridge Westfield achieved and were a complete force academically and in society as a whole.

Mrs. Lowe shared her experience at a principal's meeting. The Superintendent was having the latest editions of textbooks distributed amongst the white principals. She said, "Where are my students textbooks? Ridge-Westfield always receive outdated, torn up and used textbooks." She still received the leftovers but all were knowledgeable about what the black children received that day, but we are sure they knew it all along.

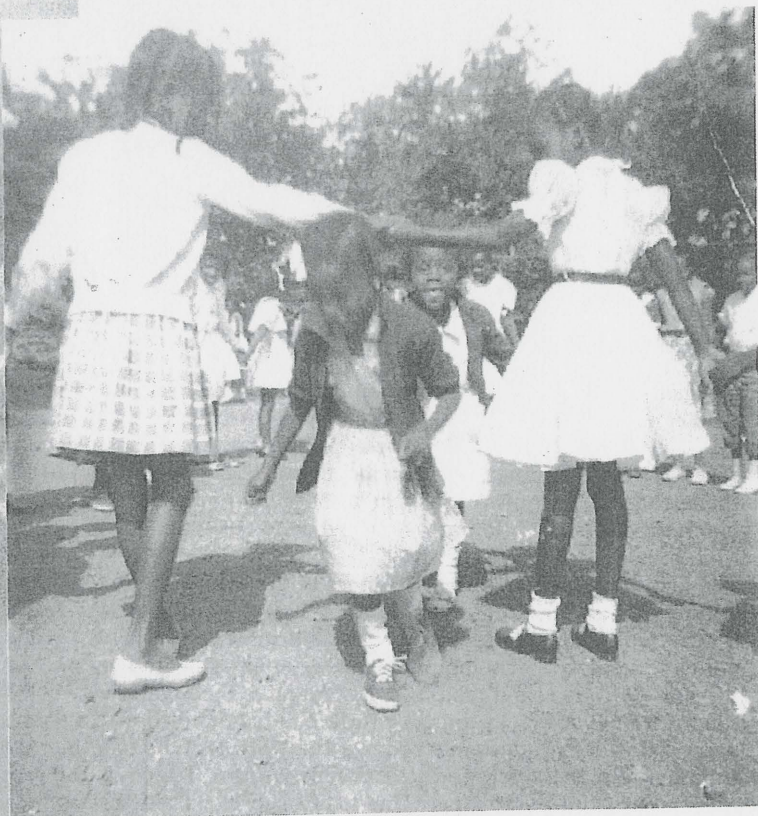
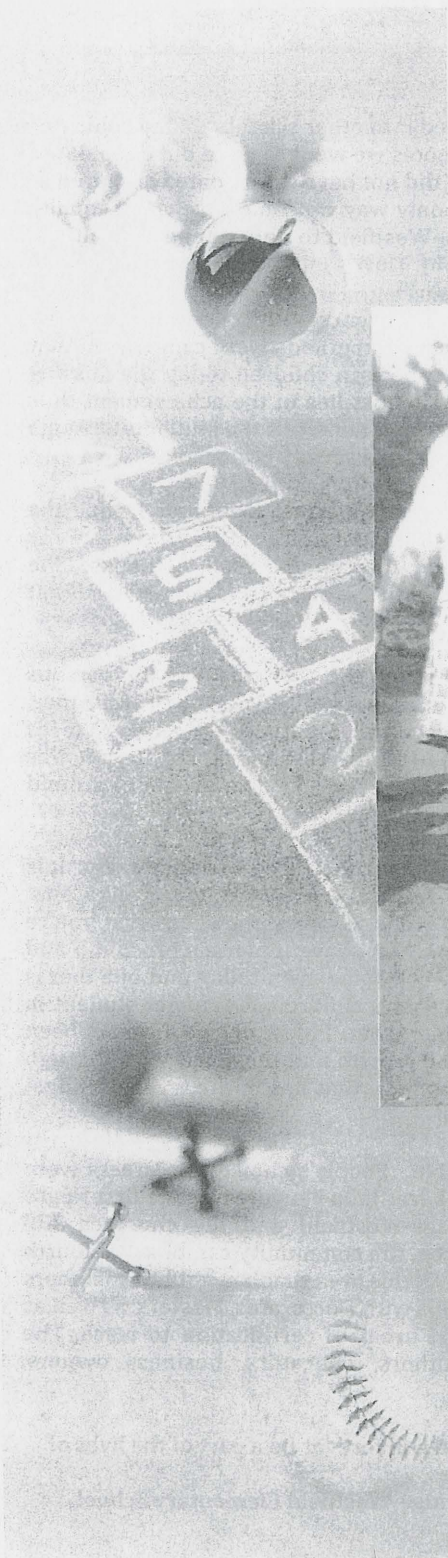
Integration existed during the tenure of Ridge Westfield through the curricula and the persons who came into the building to teach and provide the school with nursing and dentistry assistance. Ms. Lucy Ellen Gwyn was a speech therapist at the school, Mrs. Hazel Inman worked as Mrs. Lowes secretary one summer, the Wards gave Bible instruction, and Nurses Brannock and Bryant was there to give immunizations. Nurse Bryant remarked that she always tried to get there around lunch time so she could partake of the delicious lunches.

The last day of school still bring tears to the eyes of people who shared the events of that day. It is vividly etched in the minds of students. Everyone was crying – teachers and students alike. Mrs. Lowes words to us are memorable. "You are somebody, coming from somewhere and you're going someplace." The someplace was our future endeavors. "You have mountains to climb and wars to win". It was a message that radiates through one's very being even today and one that is taught by the students today to their children and their children's children. A younger student in second or third grade remarked, we will NEVER all be together again. Physically we have not been together, but the spirit and love dwells within. The love, the growth and the spirit lives through our careers and off springs. One is blessed to obtain the mystery that lies in the walls of Ridge-Westfield. May it forever serve future generations?

The experiences gained at Ridge Westfield are immeasurable. People's choices of careers were influenced by the journey. The idea to attend college began here. Julia Flowers was the first Negro in the community to receive a Bachelor's Degree. Ridge-Westfield and the churches still encourage the youth to attend college. The school, the church, the community can boast of fourth and fifth generation of college graduates. Few families exist in this area that has not had members of their families graduate from college. Now there are persons with Doctorates, Masters, as well as Bachelor Degrees in all fields and people with four or five areas of certification to teach. The pendulum swings among actors, actresses, singers, authors, educators, business owners, ministers, among other endeavors.

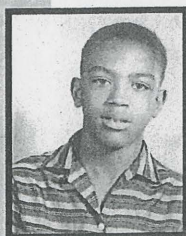
Our love for the people and the lessons taught and learned will forever be a part of the lives of attendees and graduates.

Thank you God for the experiences gained at dear ole Ridge-Westfield Elementary School.



School Picnic  
September 1, 2012  
11:30 a.m.





Thank God for the training  
received at "Dear Ole" Ridge  
Westfield Elementary School

## Sunday Service

Sunday, September 2, 2012

2:00 P.M.

Reverend Lizzie P. James -- Presiding

Class Processional  
(Classmates Please Sit Together)

Selection  
"What A Fellowship"

Welcome  
Swanson Jessup

Greetings  
Leo Cox, Teacher  
Gloria Cox, Teacher  
Katie Hatcher, Teacher  
Geraldine Kiser, Teacher

Sing's-long  
Leo Cox and Katie Hatcher

Offering  
(To Help Repair the Roof on Our Beloved School)

Selection  
Kings Mountain View Male Chorus  
Chestnut Ridge Male Chorus

Introduction of Speaker  
Ronald Jessup

Selection  
Kings Mountain View Male Chorus  
Chestnut Ridge Male Chorus

Reunion Message  
Bishop Donald Jessup of Greater Love Fellowship Ministries

Call to Discipleship

Remarks  
(3 Minutes PLEASE!)

Memorial Tribute  
for Classmates and Teachers  
who have passed since August 2011

Closing Remarks  
Lizzie Penn James, Founder of RWS Reunion

Closing Hymn  
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Benediction

"Fellowship Dinner"

## Sing- A- Long Songs

### Deep and Wide

Deep and wide  
Deep and wide  
There's a fountain flowing  
Deep and wide

Deep and wide  
Deep and wide  
There's a fountain flowing  
Deep and wide

### Joy In My Heart

I have the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart  
Down in my heart  
Down in my heart  
I have the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart  
Down in my heart to stay

I have the love of Jesus,  
Love of Jesus  
Down in my heart (cont'd)

I have the peace that passes  
under-  
Standing  
Down in my heart (cont'd)

For there is therefore now no  
condemnation  
Down in my heart (cont'd)

I have the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart (cont'd)

### Running Over

Running over,  
Running over,  
My cup's filled and running over  
Since the Lord saved me  
I'm as happy as can be  
My cup's filled and running over

### The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E  
Yes that's the book for me  
I'll read and pray and will obey  
The B-I-B-L-E

### The Wise Man

The wise man built his house  
upon a rock  
The wise man built his house  
upon a rock  
The wise man built his house  
upon a rock  
And the rain came tumbling  
down

The rain came down as the  
prayers went up  
The rain came down as the  
prayers went up  
The rain came down as the  
prayers went up  
And the wise man's house stood  
firm.

The foolish man built his house  
upon the sand  
The foolish man built his house  
upon the sand  
The foolish man built his house  
upon the sand  
And the foolish man's house  
went splat.

So build your house upon the  
Lord Jesus Christ  
So build your house upon the  
Lord Jesus Christ  
So build your house upon the  
Lord Jesus Christ  
Now build your house upon the  
rock!

### Jesus Loves The Little Ones

Jesus loves the little ones like  
me, me, me,  
Jesus loves the little ones like  
me, me, me

Little ones like me  
Set upon his knee  
Jesus loves the little ones like  
me, me, me

Jesus loves the little ones like  
you, you, you  
Jesus loves the little ones like  
you, you, you  
Little ones like you,  
Saves them through and  
through  
Jesus loves the little ones like  
you, you, you

### Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children  
All the children of the world  
Red and yellow, black and white  
They are precious in his sight  
Jesus loves the little children  
of the world.

### Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know  
For the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to him belong  
They are weak but He is strong

Yes, Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me  
The Bible tells me so.



### REMEMBER!

*These are some of the  
songs taught to us  
by  
Reverend and Mrs.  
Ward.*





## “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat,  
have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers died?

We have come over a way that with tears have been watered; we have come,  
treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past,  
till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.

# "In Remembrance 2011"

*"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more,  
neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,  
for the former things have passed away."*

**-Revelation 21:4**



## **Students**

*Hiawatha Jr. Berry*

*Thomas Hatcher*

*Clara Hill*

*Elaine Milliner*

*Carolyn Love*

*Revell Smith*

*Simmons*

*Michael Smith*

*William Donald Smith*

## **Teachers**

*Nancy Wallington*



**Mrs. Bernice Cox Lowe,  
Beloved Principal**

**March 1, 1922 - June 1, 2012**

***"It is so gratifying to know that you have  
become outstanding men and women.... I  
am proud of all these great things you have  
achieved and will continue to do in your  
life." – Principal Lowe***





RWS Picnic Highlights from 2011



## **The RWS Picnic/Cookout**

*September 3, 2011*

The Ridge Westfield School (RWS) Reunion met on Saturday, September 3, 2011 on the grounds of the old school. It was a joyous occasion. We were so excited to see Nurses Brannock and Bryant in attendance. They helped us reminisce on their visits to RWS and the anxiety we felt at their appearance. James Avery McCarther, a RWS graduate, recalled the dreaded small pox shot students would receive each year. He described how the shot would scab over and the lingering pain that stayed with you for three or four days thereafter. Other RWS students commented on how they dreaded to see the nurses because they knew what lied ahead.

Both Nurse Brannock and Bryant, spoke of the food they received when coming to RWS. They both said they tried to plan their arrivals around lunch time. They spoke of how much they enjoyed working with the staff and children. The discussion of food took us back to the days of Miss Crissie's pies and the way we all wanted to help her clean the dining room, so we could eat the leftovers.

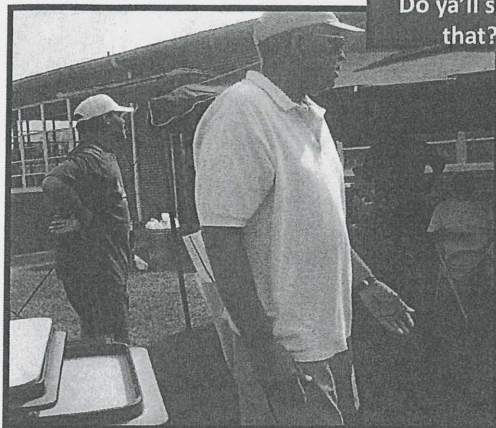
The delicious spread prepared for the cookout took us back in time to the 1950's. A galvanized tub at the reunion was filled with red Kool Aid and floating lemons. This turned out to be a big hit amongst reunion participants. Hardly anyone chose soda, instead they went for the memories. Hot dogs and hamburgers with all the "fixings" was a meal fit for kings and queens.

Just to see friends from the early years sent so much joy into the hearts of all that came. The hugs, kisses, and words of greetings seem to have everyone saying, "Don't make this the last year!" It was a pleasure to see everyone in attendance.

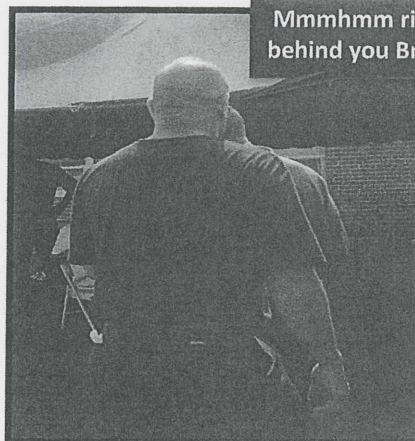
*We hope to see everyone in 2012!*



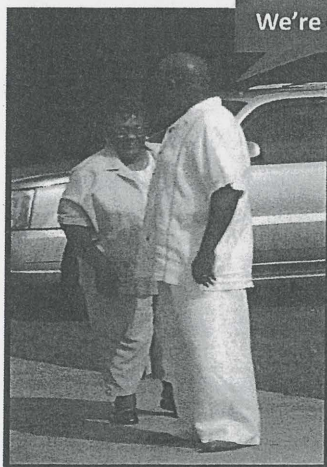




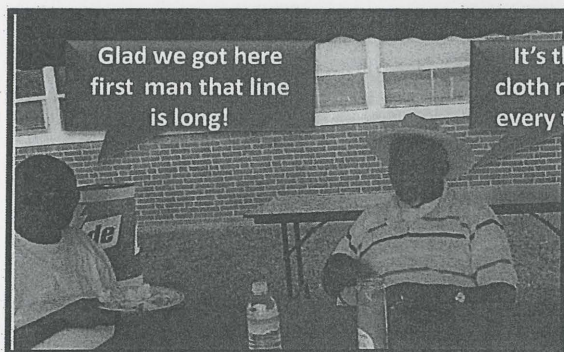
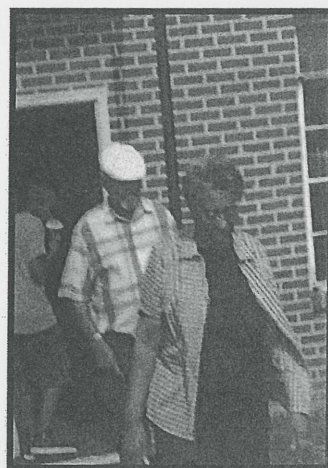
Do ya'll smell  
that?



Mmmhmm right  
behind you Bruh!



We're Comin'!



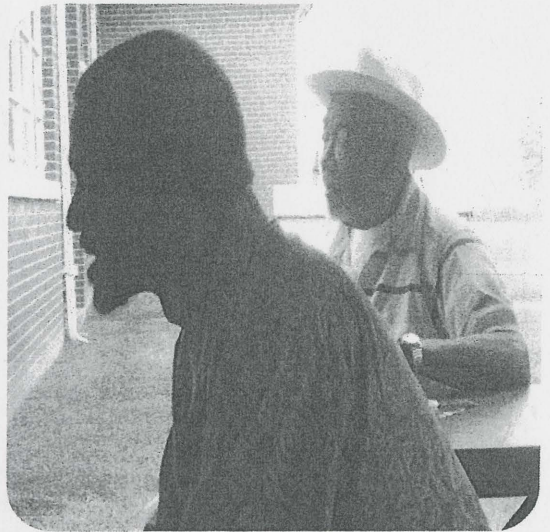
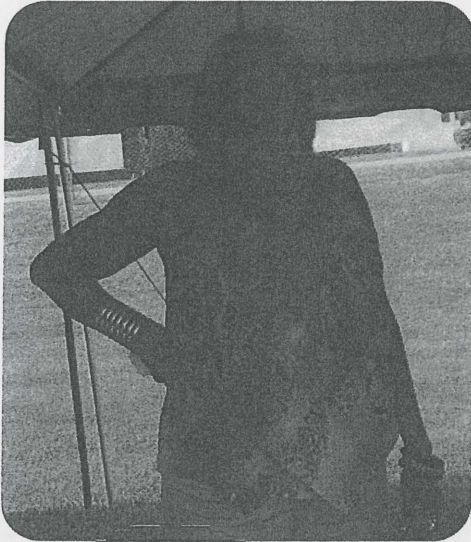
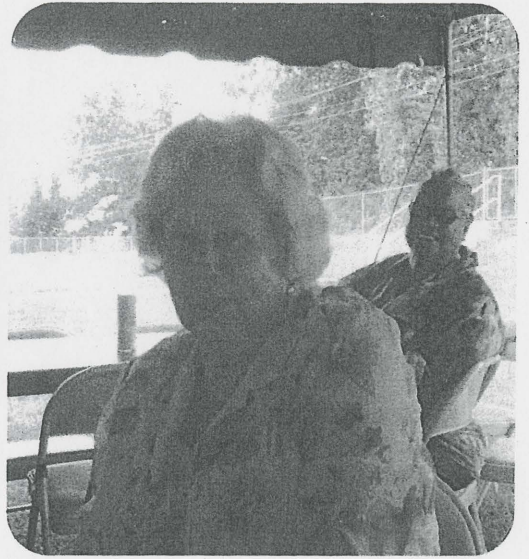
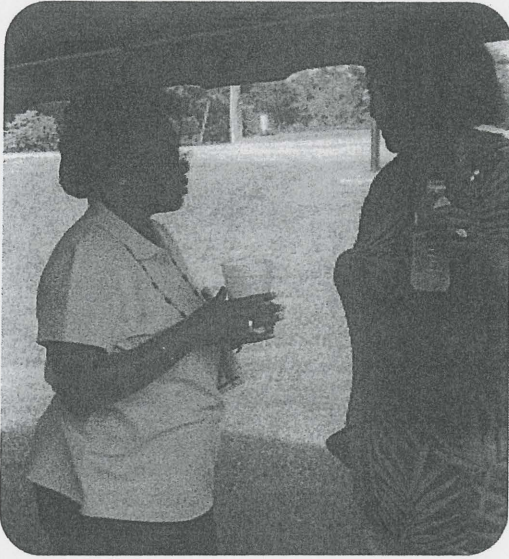
Glad we got here  
first man that line  
is long!

It's the prayer  
cloth man, works  
every time! LoL\*

Lots of Laugh (LoL)\*





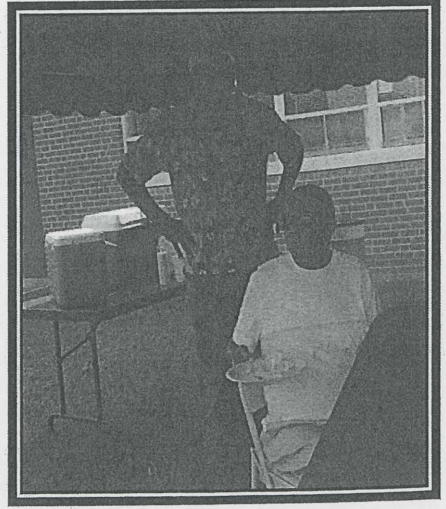
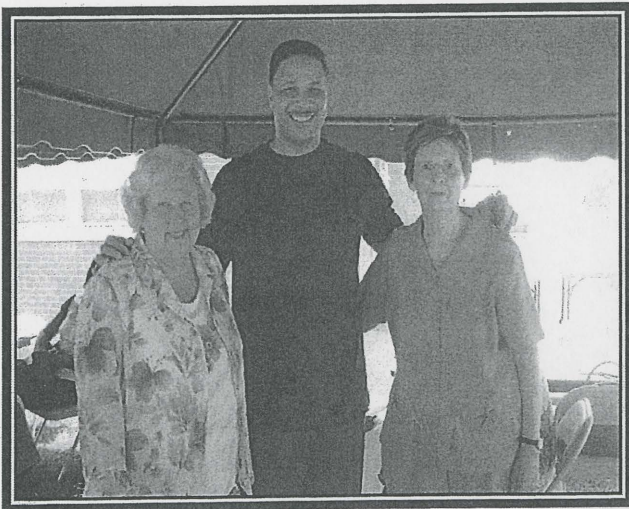
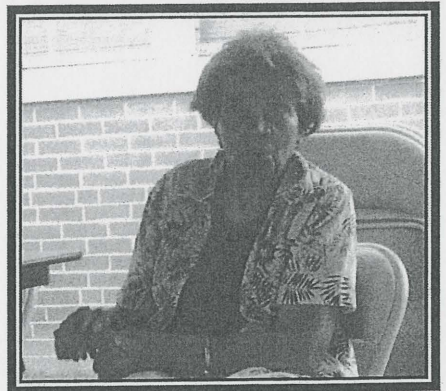
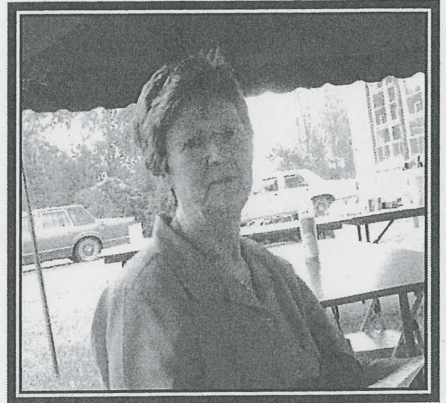


Can You Remember When....





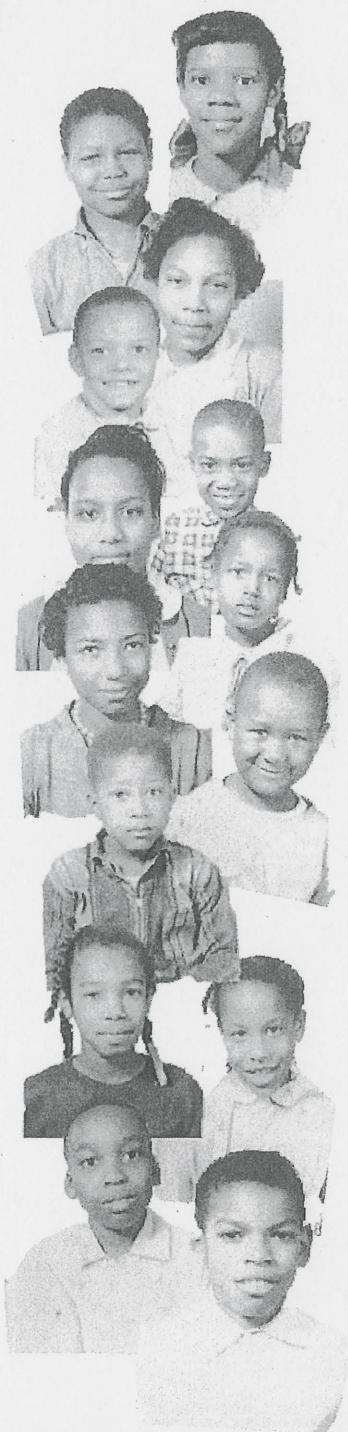
School days, school days  
Dear old Golden Rule days  
'Reading and 'riting and 'rithmetic  
Taught to the tune of the hick'ry stick



## RSW Fellowship Dinner Highlights from 2011



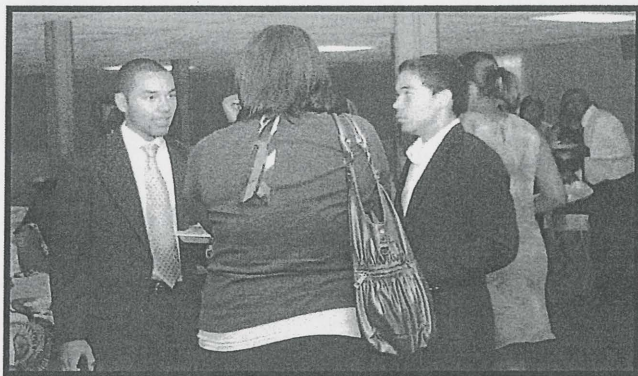
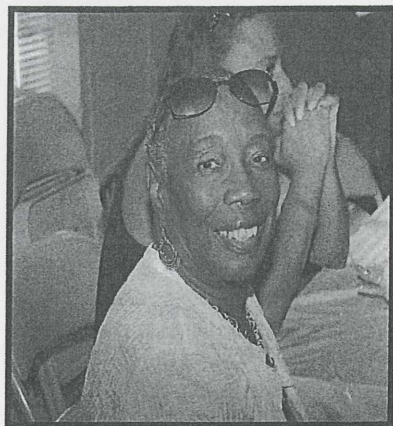
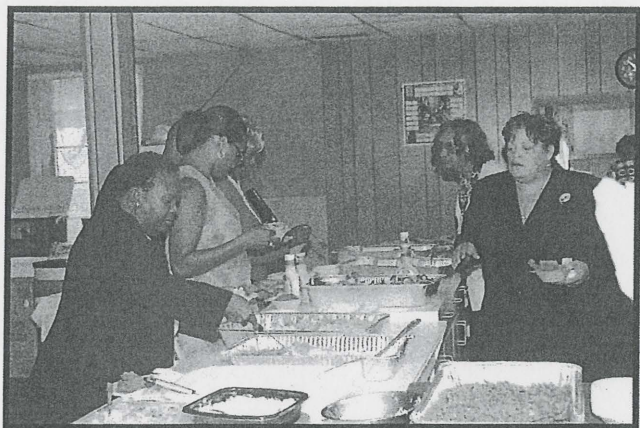




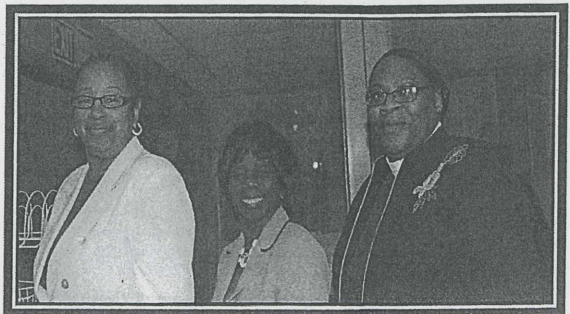
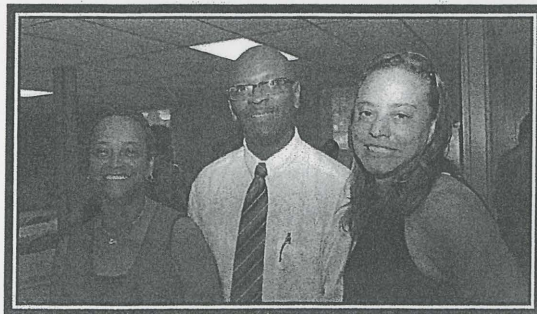
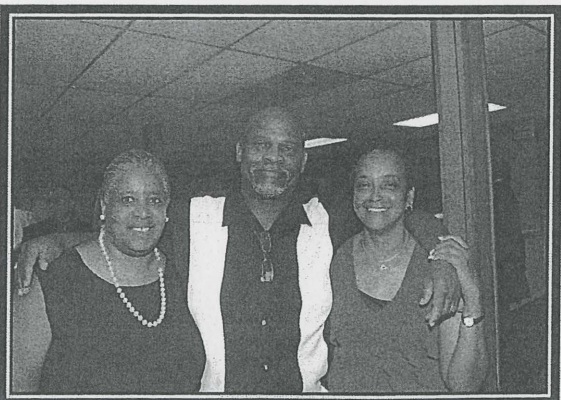
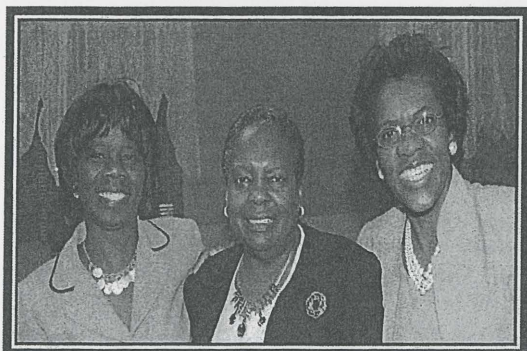
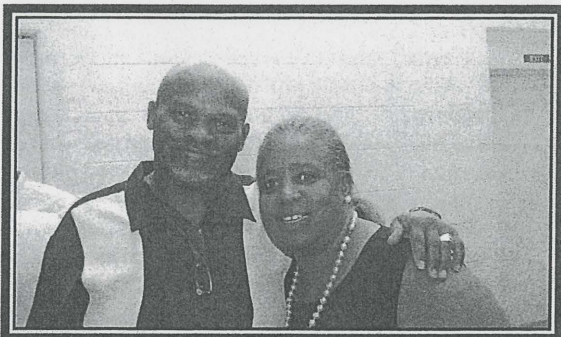
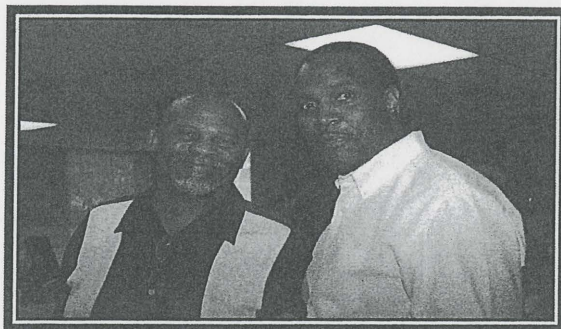
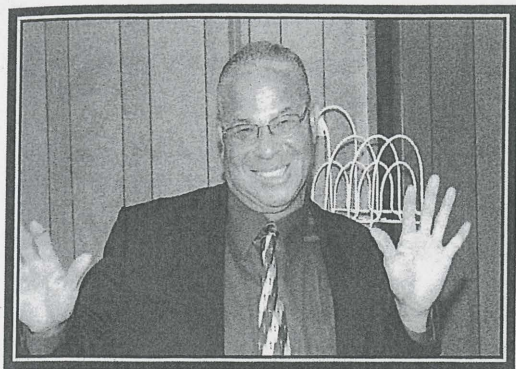
Do you have any old photos of your days at  
the Ridges or the Reunion?

If so, make a copy, write your name,  
and send your pictures to  
[rwspictures@yahoo.com](mailto:rwspictures@yahoo.com)

We would love to see your memories  
in the RWS Reunion Book!









RSW Church Service from 2011





## Ridge Westfield Sunday Service

September 4, 2011

"What a Fellowship, what a joy divine" to see our dear principal, Bernice Cox Lowe; enter the Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church to meet "her children". She began the service by singing. Reverend Lizzie James presided over the Sunday Service. Teachers Leo Cox, Katie Hatcher, and Librarian Gloria Cox were in attendance. Minister Ronald Smith became our song leader for the afternoon. The message for the afternoon was given by our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Reverend Leo Cox.

Reverend Cox reminded us of the need to pass down history and to tell our children of our personal history as well as our national history. He let us know it was up to us as parents to pass history along because without history we can never truly know and appreciate "from whence we've come."

Teachers were presented with plaques of appreciation for all they had contributed to the students at Ridge Westfield Elementary School. A Certificate of Achievement was presented to Debra McCarther for being the first to pay her money for our first reunion. Sadie Strickland still has her perfect attendance and a 1932 certificate of promotion from Chestnut Ridge School.

Mary E. Martin and LeMerle Siler were recognized for perfect attendance at the Big Creek School. Big Creek was a feeder school to Stokes County.

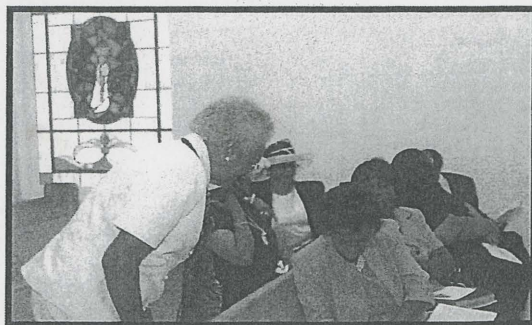
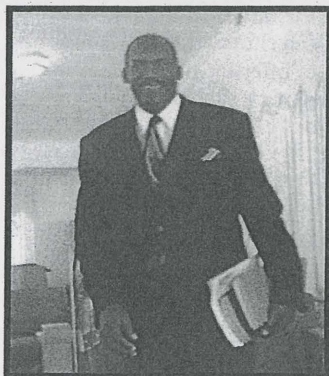
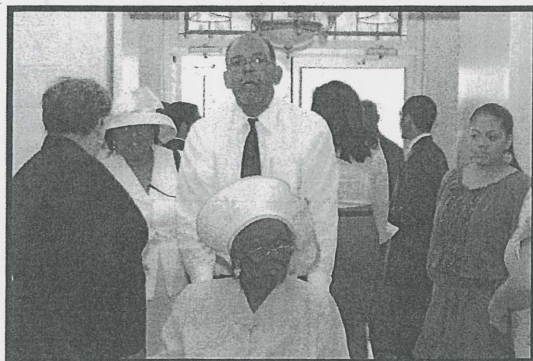
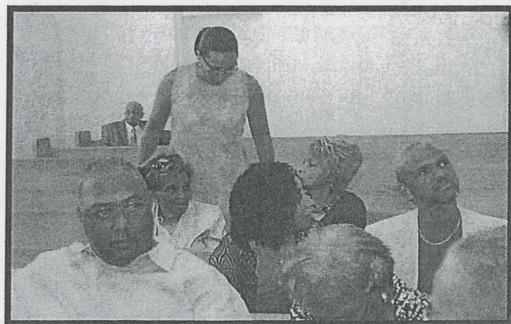
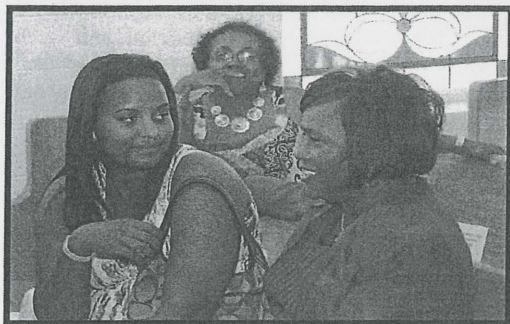
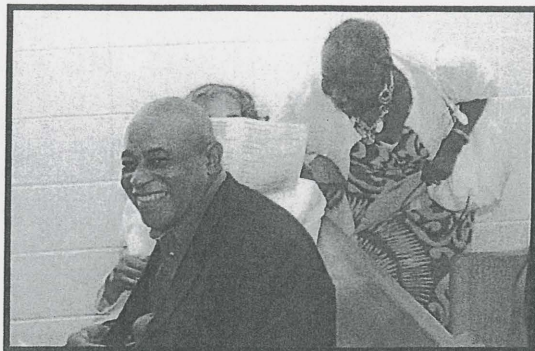
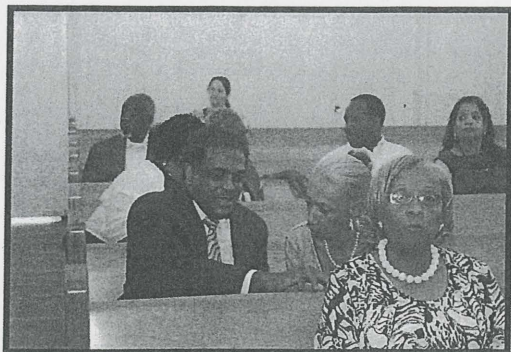
The ministers present made remarks to the Reunion. All had attended our beloved school - Reverend Gilbert Cox, Reverend Larry Penn, Minister Lynn McCarther, Minister Ronald Smith, and Elder James Strickland.

The offering was accepted by R. J. Clark and Swanson Jessup. Swanson told us that as he saw Mrs. Lowe come into the church, his spirit said we need to give her a "love offering." During the "love offering", \$645.00 was provided to Ms. Lowe and \$347.00 was received to repair the school's roof. The total offering for the day was \$1,002.00.

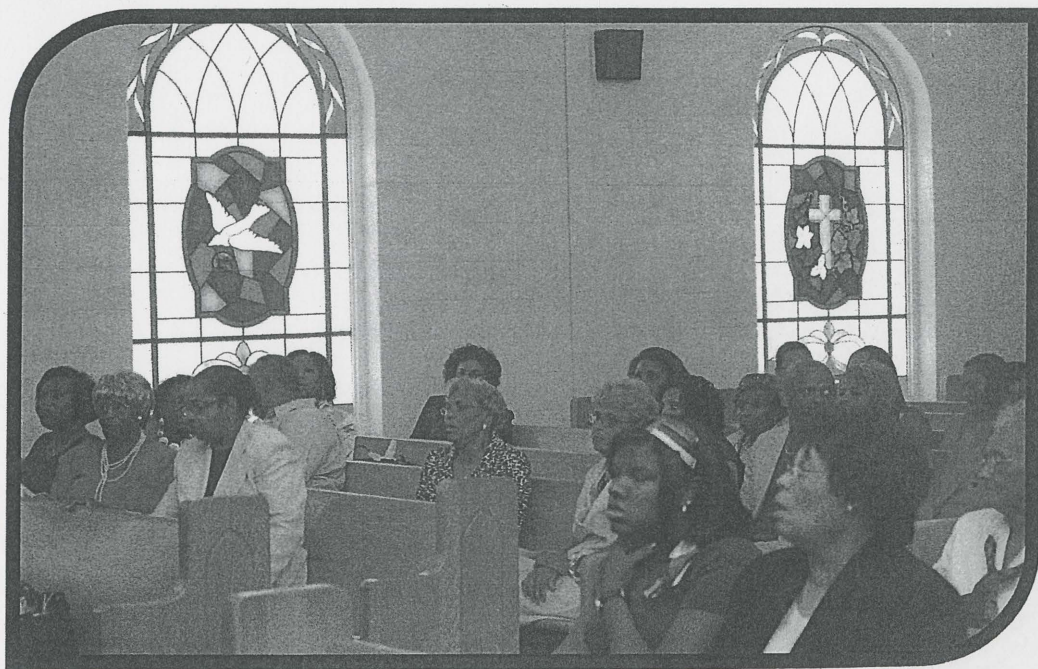
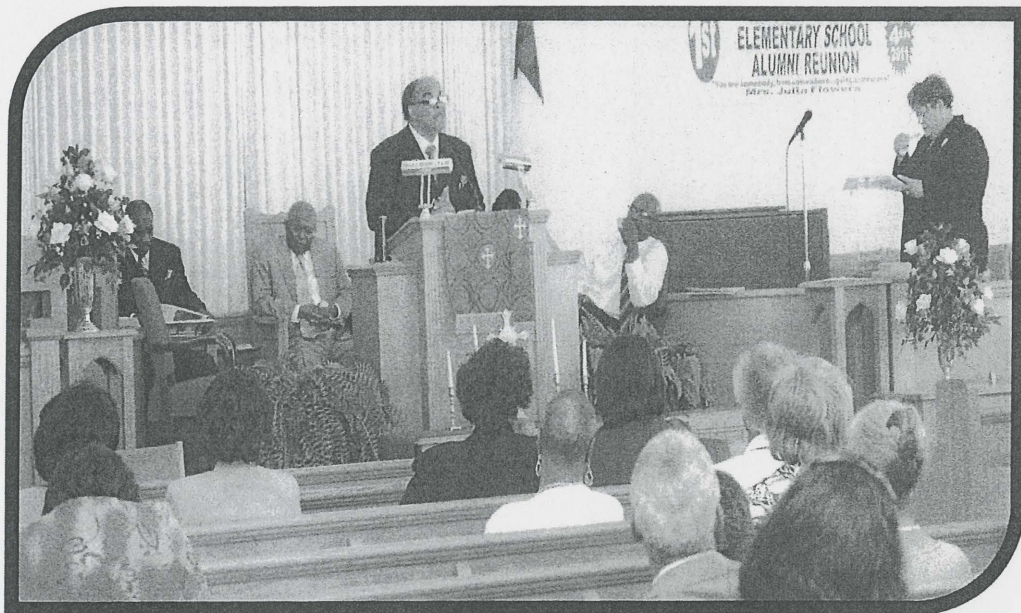
Reverend Larry Penn officiated at the Memorial Service. Minister Ronald Smith prayed the Memorial Prayer. Following remarks from the organizer, Lizzie Penn James, we enjoyed a "feast" in the fellowship hall of the church.

Plans were on the way for "2012".

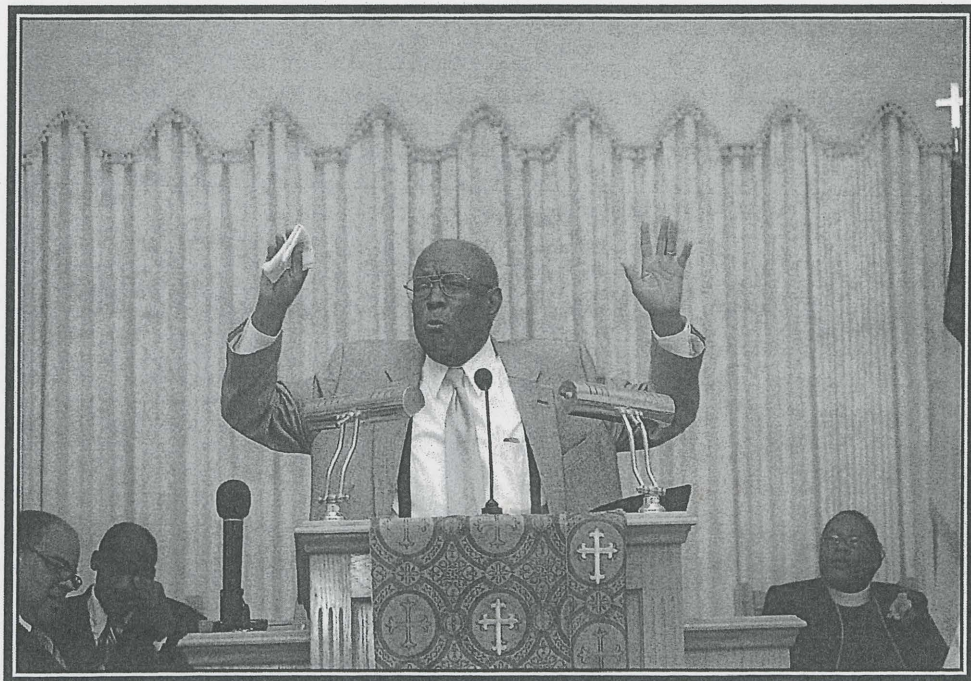
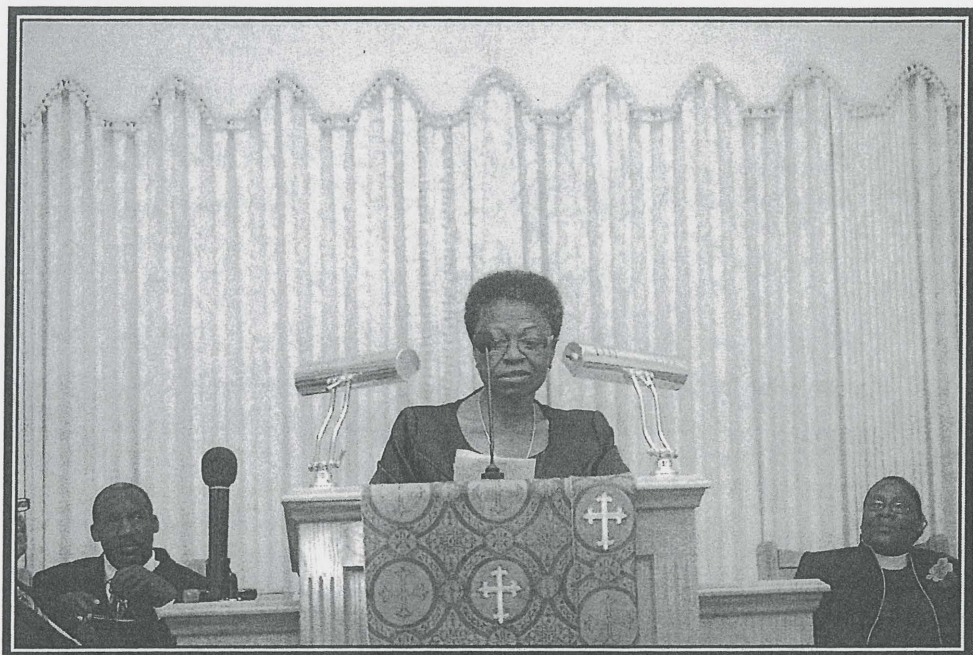




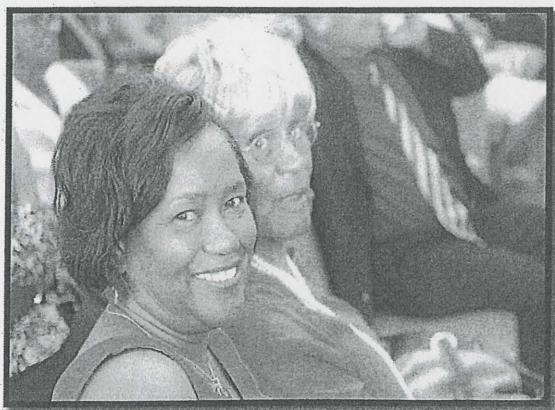
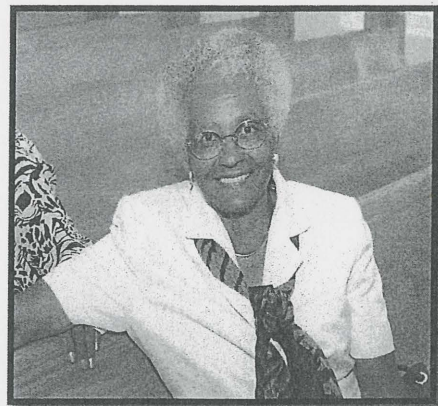
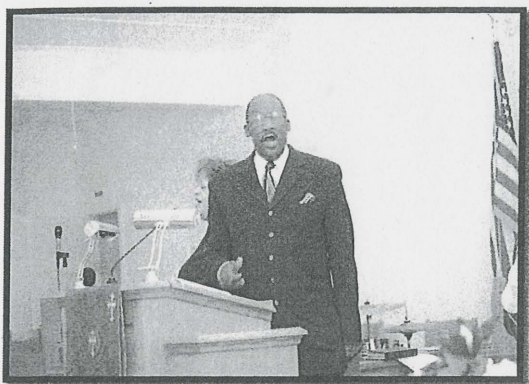




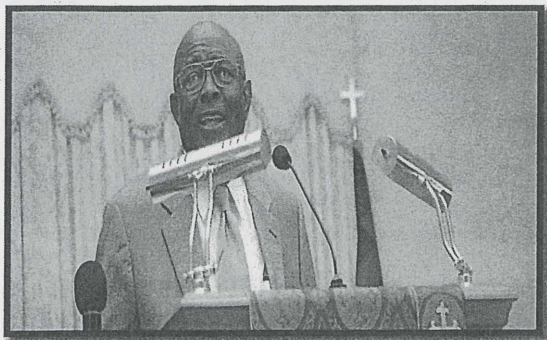
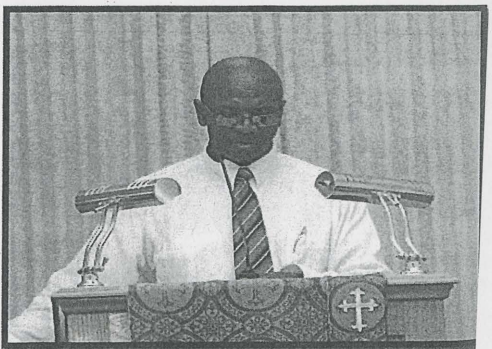
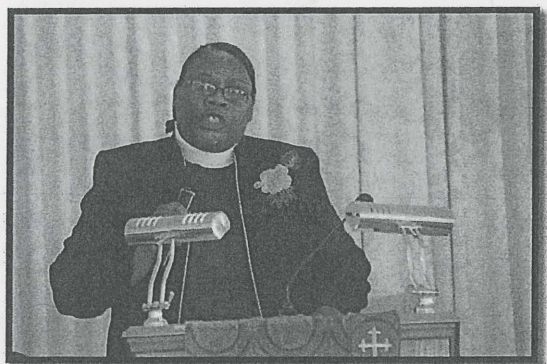
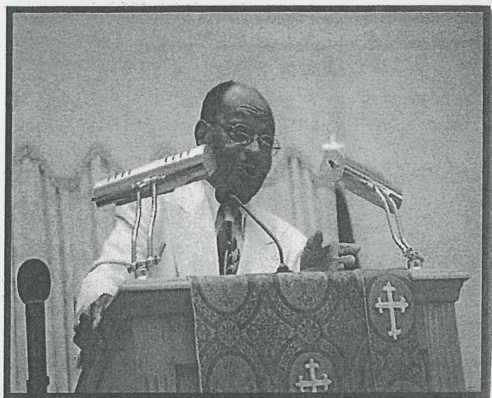
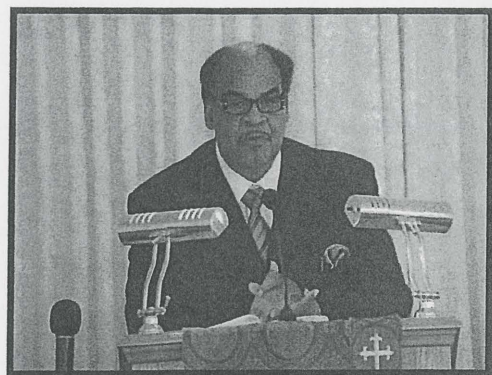






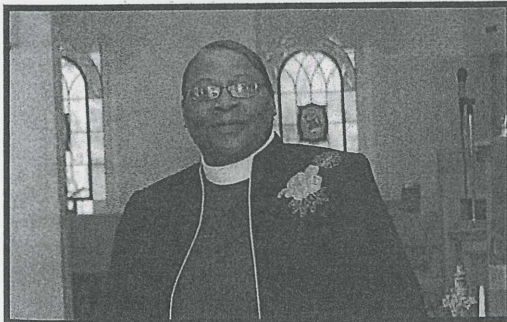
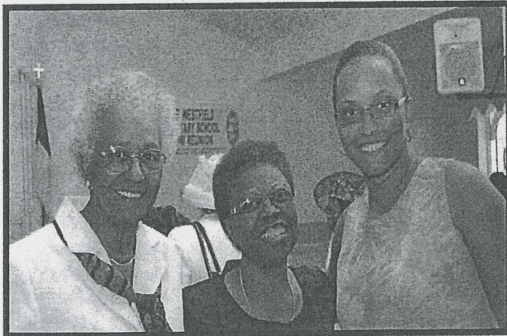
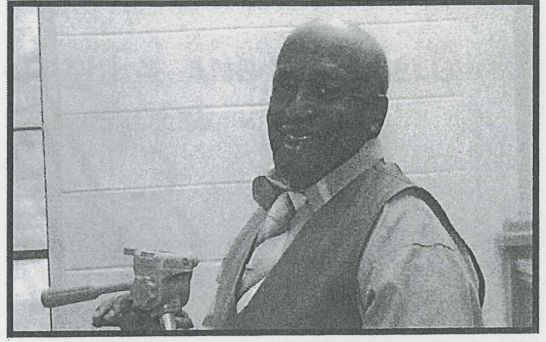






Ministers who Graduated from  
Ridge Westfield Elementary





## RIDGE WESTFIELD, CHESTNUT RIDGE, AND WESTFIELD ALUMNUS & ATTENDEES

Gilbert, Cassie	Hickman, Estelle	Hughes, Rita
Gilbert, Lucy	Hickman, Frances	Hughes, Robert Earl
Gilbert, Molly	Hickman, Gerald	Hughes, Roger Dale
Gilbert, Naomi	Hickman, Geraldine	Hughes, Sam
Hairston, April	Hickman, Grady	Hughes, Sharon
Hairston, Elaine,	Hickman, Grayland	Hughes, Sue
Hairston, Vivian	Hickman, Gunnell	Hughes, Susie
Hatcher, Alma	Hickman, Hassell	Hughes, Terry Lynn
Hatcher, Aurilla	Hickman, Herman	Hughes, Tommy
Hatcher, Beverly	Hickman, Inez	Jessup, Adam (Junior)
Hatcher, Carol	Hickman, James	Jessup, Alphonso
Hatcher, Charles	Hickman, Jean	Jessup, Annabelle
Hatcher, Claiborne	Hickman, Kelroy	Jessup, Ansley
Hatcher, Cooleridge	Hickman, Larry	Jessup, Bobby
Hatcher, Dora Mae	Hickman, Lyndell	Jessup, Buzzie Owen (Manuel)
Hatcher, Earline	Hickman, Pauline	Jessup, Carolyn
Hatcher, Ezra	Hickman, Runetta	Jessup, Chauncey
Hatcher, Flora Ann	Hickman, Thomas	Jessup, Clifton
Hatcher, Frances	Hill, Bobby	Jessup, Danny
Hatcher, Fred	Hill, Brenda	Jessup, Donald
Hatcher, Glenn	Hill, Buster	Jessup, Elijah
Hatcher, Gloria Jean	Hill, Clara	Jessup, Eliza
Hatcher, Harvey	Hill, C.L.	Jessup, Erastus
Hatcher, Ida	Hill, Greg	Jessup, Ernesteen
Hatcher, Ida Lou	Hill, Jerome	Jessup, Frances
Hatcher, Jerry	Hill, Johnny	Jessup, Gentry
Hatcher, Johnny	Hill, Lynn	Jessup, Gray
Hatcher, Kathy	Hill, O'Shea	Jessup, Harvey
Hatcher, Lenora	Hill, Robert	Jessup, Imogene
Hatcher, Letcher	Hill, Sue	Jessup, Jean
Hatcher, Levola	Hill, Vicky	Jessup, John (J.C.)
Hatcher, Maggie	Holly, Andy	Jessup, John D.
Hatcher, Mertie	Holly, Charlie	Jessup, Kay Frances
Hatcher, Morris	Holly, Johnny	Jessup, Kelly
Hatcher, Oliver	Horton, Clifton	Jessup, Lenora
Hatcher, Paula	Horton, Delores	Jessup, Lorenzo
Hatcher, Randall	Horton, James Ray	Jessup, Lovady
Hatcher, Robert Lee	Horton, Napoleon	Jessup, Luetta
Hatcher, Robert Lee	Hughes, Aggress	Jessup, Luzenia
Hatcher, Sandra	Hughes, Andrea	Jessup, Marie
Hatcher, Thomas Jr.	Hughes, Bobbie Jo	Jessup, Mayola
Hatcher, Tim	Hughes, Dion	Jessup, Melvin
Hatcher, Phillip	Hughes, Edsel	Jessup, Owen
Hickman, Bernie	Hughes, Eurcell	Jessup, Patsy
Hickman, Billy Ray	Hughes, Norris	Jessup, Robert
Hickman, Eddie	Hughes, Patricia	Jessup, Roland

Updated for 2012. Please check the names to see if they are accurate and see if others should be included or deleted.  
Please give corrections to Lizzie James.



## RIDGE WESTFIELD, CHESTNUT RIDGE, AND WESTFIELD ALUMNUS & ATTENDEES

Jessup, Ronald	Martin, Natalie	McCarthy, Thomas
Jessup, Roscoe	Martin, Rose (Bankie)	McCarthy, Thurmond
Jessup, Sherman	Martin, Shanola	McCarthy, Trevathan
Jessup, Shirley	McArthur, Levandus	McCarthy, Vernell
Jessup, Susie	McCarthy, Olandius	McCarthy, Vicky
Jessup, Swanson	McCarthy, Argene	McCarthy, Wayvell
Jessup, Thaddeus	McCarthy, Arnetta	Milliner, Elaine
Jessup, Thomas	McCarthy, Avis	Milliner, Patricia
Jessup, Tom	McCarthy, Bernard	Mitchell, Marie
Jessup, Vance	McCarthy, Bernette	Moore, Angela
Jessup, Wayne	McCarthy, Cardell	Moore, Cleveland
Joyce, Glendora	McCarthy, Carolyn	Moore, Daisy
Joyce, Romaine	McCarthy, Cathedral	Moore, Decosten
King, Alphonso	McCarthy, Charlie	Moore, Delores
King, Barbara Jo	McCarthy, Claudette	Moore, Dianne
King, Barry	McCarthy, Clifton	Moore, Edward
King, Brenda	McCarthy, Corrina	Moore, George Willie Lee
King, Charles	McCarthy, Crissie Myrtle	Moore, Jackie
King, Edward	McCarthy, Darius	Moore, Joe Tom
King, Fredson	McCarthy, Debra	Moore, Johnny
King, Garry	McCarthy, Doretha	Moore, Lewis
King, James Alvin	McCarthy, Eddie	Moore, Loni
King, Kenneth	McCarthy, Elnora	Moore, Louise
King, Patricia	McCarthy, Eugene	Moore, Margaret
King, Ralph	McCarthy, Felecia	Moore, Mary Alice
Love, Linda Gail	McCarthy, Freda	Moore, Nannie Lou
Love, Bonnie Faye	McCarthy, Gladys	Moore, R.C.
Love, Carolyn	McCarthy, Hayward	Moore, Robert Lee
Love, Clarissa	McCarthy, James Avery	Moore, Roger
Love, Crunis	McCarthy, Katie	Moore, Ruby Faye
Love, Don	McCarthy, Keith	Moore, Tom
Love, Dottie Jean	McCarthy, Langston	Moore, Vernesteen
Love, Dudley	McCarthy, Lester	Moore, Versie
Love, Ettavene	McCarthy, Linda	Payne, Katherine
Love, Gennell	McCarthy, Loretta	Payne, Shelia
Love, Laverne	McCarthy, Lynn	Penn, Alvin
Love, Marshall	McCarthy, Margie	Penn, Amanda
Love, Nevada	McCarthy, Millard	Penn, Donald
Love, Raleigh	McCarthy, Morris	Penn, E.C.
Love, Ricky	McCarthy, Nathaniel	Penn, Gerome
Lowe, Lashene	McCarthy, Otha	Penn, Karone
Lowe, Tommie Jill	McCarthy, Phadonia	Penn, Larry
Manaway, Marie	McCarthy, Prenston	Penn, Laurie
Martin, Erston	McCarthy, Robbie	Penn, Lizzie
Martin, Melva	McCarthy, Stafford	Penn, Michael
Martin, Monroe	McCarthy, Sylvester	Penn, Perry

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## RIDGE WESTFIELD, CHESTNUT RIDGE, AND WESTFIELD ALUMNUS & ATTENDEES

Penn, Raymond (Alzee)	Smith, Juanita	Walker, Jimmie
Penn, Ronnie	Smith, Kelly	Walker, Mona
Penn, Virginia	Smith, Kermit	Walker, Mozella
Reynolds, Delano	Smith, LeAnn	Walker, Walter
Reynolds, Gunter	Smith, Mann	Waugh, Forest
Reynolds, James Ray	Smith, McClain (Junior)	Waugh, Hurl (Junior)
Reynolds, Jean	Smith, Melvene	Waugh, Terry
Rice, Betty	Smith, Michael	Ziglar, Freddie
Rice, Jimmy	Smith, Mollie	Ziglar, Gabriel
Sawyers, Dorothy	Smith, Nora Ellen	Ziglar, Larry
Sawyers, Earlene	Smith, Polly	Ziglar, Mary Lou
Sawyers, Geraldine	Smith, Reggie	Ziglar, O'Neal
Shuff, Frankie	Smith, Revellie	
Shuff, Leon	Smith, Richard	
Shuff, Linda	Smith, Ronald	
Shuff, Peggy	Smith, Ted	
Shuff, Shirley Mae	Smith, Thomas (Tommy)	
Shuff, Walter, Jr.	Smith, Walter	
Simmons, Beulah	Smith, Wendell	
Simmons, Carvie	Strickland, Alfred	
Simmons, Davie	Strickland, Annie Jane	
Simmons, Geraldine	Strickland, Arlene	
Simmons, Gid	Strickland, Darlene	
Simmons, James	Strickland, Nannie Sue	
Simmons, Josephine	Strickland, Peggy	
Simmons, Marie	Strickland, Randolph	
Simmons, Mary Ethel	Strickland, Sterling	
Simmons, Roosevelt	Strickland, Tom	
Smith, Beatrice	Strickland, Virginia	
Smith, Bernie	Strickland, Wayne	
Smith, Betty	Strickland, Wesley	
Smith, Bill	Strickland, Wilma	
Smith, Bryant (Curtis)	Strickland, Yvonne	
Smith, Cecil	Taylor, Irene	
Smith, Daphanie	Taylor, Thaxton	
Smith, Delmar	Thompson, Brenda	
Smith, Donald	Thompson, Donald	
Smith, Eddie Gerald	Thompson, Nancy	
Smith, Eloise	Thompson, Patricia	
Smith, Freddie	Turner, Debra	
Smith, Genieve	Turner, Charlene	
Smith, Gloria Jean	Travis, Eugene	
Smith, Horace	Travis, James	
Smith, J.D.	Travis, Lonnie, Sr.	
Smith, Jerry	Travis, Randal	
Smith, John Robert	Walker, Aaron	

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*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your  
face; the rains fall soft upon  
your fields and until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.  
-Amen*

*See you in 2014!*

