

The Grace Beacon Supplement

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"A Community of Baptized Believers Committed to the Faithfulness of God, Building Families of Fellowship in the Spirit of God, and Blessing the Fallen Through the Forgiveness of God"

Snow in May??? What's Next, 2020?



From the Pen Of The Editor

Many of you did not see this supplemental issue because Covid 19 closed Grace at this point. This was an addition to the March issue of the Beacon because I forgot to include one of the most fabulous of the female Philadelphians. I am sure there are many others that could be included in that list, but this is another fabulous Grace member who should have and would have been at the top of the list had I not tried to get the Beacon ready for press on the evening that my brother, Jeff, died. I sincerely apologize to Mrs. Green and all of our readers for the oversight.

LILLER B. GREEN
"A LIVING LEGACY"



+ EDUCATOR, FOUNDER OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF
PHILANTHROPISTS +
"A CHAMPION FOR SCHOLARSHIP"

Liller Green along with her husband, the late William C. Green, founded Ivy Leaf School in Philadelphia, PA in 1965 when she could not find an academic

pre-school that was similar to the one of her childhood, for her three-year-old daughter, Pam. It was the first African-American, private academic school established and licensed under the Pennsylvania Private Academic School Board. The Ivy Leaf School name was chosen because the original building was surrounded by ivy plants, and "Ivy League" schools were the most elite citadels of higher learning among colleges and universities. Under her guidance, the Ivy Leaf School in Philadelphia became one of the largest African American independent schools in the nation. At its prime, Ivy Leaf swelled to more than 800

students and 4 buildings across Philadelphia.

Soror Green is a proud member of The Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. In 1991, Soror Liller Green received the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter's Sadie T.M. Alexander award for her "dedication to community service" at the annual May Week celebration. While watching the awarding of scholarships to outstanding high school seniors at that celebration, she was inspired to establish a scholarship endowment fund that would provide scholarships for the Sorority annually.

She is a devoted member of Grace where she was the Director of the Youth Training Union (BTU) from 1952-1973. Also listed in Who's Who Among Black Americans.

From the thousands of children and adults who have benefitted from having you in their lives, thank you for your legacy of excellence, Mrs. Green.

THANK YOU GRACE!

Citizens of Bujagali and Mesese3 in Jinja, Uganda and our brothers and sisters in Gomba and Matuga, Kampala, Uganda want to be sure that you know how much they appreciate the pillowcase dresses, eyeglasses, ties, shoes, shorts for boys, medical supplies, toiletries and treats for their little children. The fact that you cared brought big bright smiles on the faces of each man, woman, and



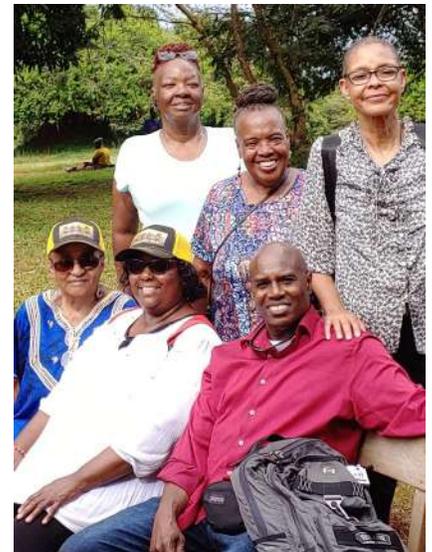
Ivy Leaf students and educators celebrate Liller Green's 90th birthday. Green founded the Ivy Leaf School. (Submitted photo.)

child that was blessed by your kindness and generosity.

Our church flag prominently hangs in two churches and the members promise to pray for us and asked if we would pray for them.

They are all looking forward to our return.

Deacon Sandie Jordan-Gordon



Scholastic Achievement

Grace Honors The Scholar of the Year and the Runner Up

As you well know, many activities and celebrations at Grace and most other churches have been postponed or cancelled because of the pandemic. One of our most honored traditions, The Men's Ministry's Scholarship Banquet, fell victim to Covid 19 this year. So, the Scholar of the Year and the Runner-Up were not announced.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the 2020 Men's Ministry Scholar of the Year and Runner-Up.

Letters of Congratulations and checks have been mailed to our two honorees. Their plaques will be presented to them at a later date.

All 2020 Graduates should have their notes indicating they are graduating to the Scholarship Ministry by June 15. We will have a safe celebration...It's in the planning!

Meet our Scholar of the Year Runner-Up

Marcia Lusakweno

Daughter of the late Rev. Vangu Lusakweno and Ms. Colette Lusakweno Mutongo

Throughout her whole life, Marcia has lived with her mother, Colette, and her three older siblings Murine, Denise, and Ivan.

At the age of four, she began her education at Ivy Leaf Lower School where she had attended pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. After the school closed down, she moved to



her neighborhood school, Anna Lane Lingelbach Elementary school. There, she had attended from the first grade to the eighth grade. Now, she is a senior who attends Parkway Center City Middle College where she plans to graduate and pursue her goals of getting into college and studying criminal justice. She looks forward to the challenge of furthering her education. So far, she has been accepted to Newman University.

Marcia has been an active member of Grace from the age of 4 when she was featured as a soloist with the Wright's Gospel Chorus. Since then, she has been a member of both the Celestial and now, the

Cathedral Choirs. Marcia is one of the young people that are frequently called on for service such as running the coat room for the Men's Scholarship Banquet, acting as a server for various events and this past summer as a counselor for the summer program. She is or has been a member of Golden Eagle Ushers, Mute Exultations Mime Ministry, Drama Ministry, the Praise Team and is a member of the Expressions of Praise Dance Ministry.

Dancing is one of her passions. She has been dancing since her days at Ivy Leaf.

Marcia has faced some of the typical challenges of being female, being African American and being a teenager, including dealing with bullying. With her biological family and church family by her side, she had always known she was loved. They had always provided her with words of encouragement and helping hands through her hardest times. She is grateful to God that she has been blessed with such a strong support system!

**Meet our
Scholar of the Year
Brooke Hickenbottom**

**Daughter of
Mrs. Tracey Hickenbottom,
Granddaughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur (Burnestine)
Burrell**



Hello, my name is **Brooke Lee Hickenbottom**. I started my education at Lowell Elementary School. As a young child I was always a fast learner and ready to learn new things. Then, I went on to Grover Washington Jr. Middle School where I really started to understand and find myself. In middle school, I was in lots of

groups. I started praise dancing, I joined Teenshop, I ran track and lastly, in my final year, I started my volleyball career. Other than the sports I did, I also expanded my intelligence by getting accepted to the overnight STEM program at

L i n c o l n University. This program focused on the study of mass transportation. I was in this program for two years. Alongside starting my volleyball career, I was the president of a group students who started a project to change our school. Our project was to

make our school more comfortable for learning. This led us into a city wide competition named "Compete 360". We won 3rd place and earned our school \$10,000 to start our new design for our classrooms. I created a chair design compatible for left handed students.

I currently attend The Philadelphia High School for Girls. Freshman year up until now I continued to play varsity volleyball in the outside position. I also tried other sports like swimming and cheerleading. In my sophomore year I fell in love with interior design. I started watching the "HGTV" channel and doing research on interior design. To help with my start to college I picked up my first real job at Wendy's.

In church, as I mentioned I joined the praise dance team, but I also did other programs. I was dedicated and baptized by the late Pastor Emeritus Daniel G. Jones. I was in Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Children's Church and Youth Leadership for many years. I visited nursing homes, helped split the palms for Palm Sunday and I also participated in the Church-wide Study.

All of these sports and programs have shaped me into the young lady I am today, one who looks forward to furthering my education in college. I would like to thank the one and only Jesus Christ for guiding me to where I am today and where I'm going. In closing, earning the title "Scholar of the Year" will be the jump start for me on my journey to college and my future.