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Louisburg College

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Bishop C.P. Minnick, Jr.,



Willaim C. Friday,



J. Allen Norris,

Louisburg College Gearing Up for Bicentennial Week

By Scott Schlotzhauer

In 1787 something special happened: Franklin Male Academy, the predecessor to Louisburg College, was chartered. And in 1987, two-hundred years later, Louisburg College is still standing and running better than ever. Two hundred years is a very long time and worth celebrating. For the past few years a group of dedicated faculty and staff members have worked to this end and the fruits of their labor have been seen throughout this year, but the climax of their work can be witnessed March 23-28. It is a week listed on the calendar as the Bicentennial Week and it is full of events for students, faculty and alumni... the people that make Louisburg special.

The festivities start on Monday, March 23rd. The day has been dubbed "Dress-up Day" and everyone is invited to dress-up in costumes from some period within the past 200 years. The event will last all day long, teachers can wear costumes to classes and students could be taught math

by an instructor from the '20's and English from an instructor from the early 1900's. Prizes will be awarded to those with the best costumes; the first place winner will receive twenty-five dollars, second place will win fifteen dollars, and third place will win ten dollars. The prizes will be awarded Monday evening at the conclusion of the Torch Run.

Mr. Richard Byrd is in charge of the Torch Run. The idea will be to run a torch, the symbol of the Bicentennial Year, from the state capitol building in Raleigh to Main Building on campus. The runners will run one-mile intervals passing the torch between them. The event is open for anyone in the Louisburg family and townspeople.

The second day's events will start with a special Bicentennial Chapel Service at 11:00. The speaker at this event will be Dr. Belton Joyner, Executive Director of the North Carolina Conference Council on Ministries. The Louisburg Ensemble will sing at the

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Friday: "We've come a long way together"

By Paul Martini

On Saturday, January 24, Louisburg College had a birthday party.

The party was held in the Samuel M. Holton gymnasium and celebrated Founder's Day, or the date that original charter of the college (then Franklin Male Academy), which was January 6, 1787. Louisburg College is the oldest, chartered, two-year, church-related, coeducational college in America, and Saturday's festivities marked the beginning of it's 200th birthday celebration.

Among the visitors and guests were members of the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, former faculty and staff, patrons of the college, former Presidents, representatives from the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, descendants of founders, members of the State General Assembly, alumni, parents and students.

The program opened as the faculty and guests marched in to the musical processional "Pomp and Circumstance," performed by the Bicentennial

Brass Ensemble, arranged by Roper Harvey.

Sidney E. Stafford, Chaplain to the College, then administered the Invocation.

President J. Allen Norris, Jr., who was presiding, then gave everyone a welcome. "This day Jan. 6, 1987, is a special day for Louisburg College. 200 years ago. We are grateful that the General Assembly for that year signed the charter that formed the first institution that was a forerunner of what is now

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Louisburg - The History

By Dr. George-Anne Willard

This is our Bicentennial Year! Louisburg College is the oldest chartered, two-year, church-related, coeducational college in America!

Louisburg College had its beginnings in the period that witnessed the emergence of America as an independent nation, the birth of the Methodist Church in America, and the establishment of Franklin County and the town

of Louisburg. The county and town were founded in 1779. In 1785, the first Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States was held at the home of Rev. Green Hill near Louisburg. In 1787, the United States Federal Constitution was ratified, and the first school in Franklin County was chartered by the North Carolina Legislature.

The Franklin Male Academy, the first ancestor of

Louisburg College, was chartered on January 6, 1787. Among the twelve trustees named in the charter was Dr. John King, a pioneering founder of Methodism in Maryland and North Carolina. In 1802, the Legislature appointed fifteen trustees for Franklin Male Academy, three of whom had been named in 1787.

On January 1, 1805, classes began at the academy under the direction of the talented

Matthew Dickinson. A noted scholar, Dickinson was the only teacher at the academy. He instructed students in mathematics, philosophy, and five foreign languages. Dickinson and three other early academy principals were graduates of Yale; two of the principals in the antebellum period were graduates of the University of North Carolina. The male academy existed until 1905, and its two-story frame building still stands on

east campus.

On December 27, 1814, the North Carolina Legislature chartered the Louisburg Female Academy, the second ancestor institution of Louisburg College. Both the male and the female academies flourished, especially during the administrations of two husband and wife teams--Mr. and Mrs. John B. Bobbitt and Mr. and Mrs. Asher H. Ray. The Rays and some of their

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