

# Be A Part of the Solution

by Jamie Mullis

On Wednesday, February 27, Dr. Ruth Schmidt opened Meredith's Centennial Celebration with an inspiring Founders' Day address.

T. Robert Mullinax, executive director of the Council on Christian Higher Education, delivered the invocation and Dr. Jean Jackson, director of the Meredith Centennial Commission, welcomed the audience. She noted the North Carolina General Assembly's vote declaring February 27 as Charter Day in honor of Thomas Meredith and to send greetings from Governor James Martin.

The Meredith Chorale sang the anthem "Alleluia" under the direction of James Powers. Meredith President John E. Weems introduced Dr. Schmidt.

Dr. Schmidt's presentation, "Women's Sphere in the 21st Century," discussed the development of women's roles since the 19th century and what their roles will be in the future. She defined a woman's sphere as the private sphere of home and a man's as the public sphere.

In the 19th century, the idea generated that women should

receive a higher education so they they would become better wives and mothers. Dr. Schmidt pointed out that women were only accepted into the public sphere when it was beneficial for society, such as during war time. She brought attention to the fact that fifty percent of women with bachelor degrees and one-third of those with doctorates still enter the typically female roles of educators and nurses.

While the earnings gender gap is closing, Schmidt noted that women still earn only 70% of a man's dollar.

Schmidt questioned whether a woman's sphere can ever be a totality. She advocated the freedom to choose a path without preconceived gender expectations. The women's sphere in the 21st century is "the globe itself." Schmidt said that "repentance of a nation could achieve wholeness."

She concluded by challenging women's colleges to contribute by taking seriously their history as pioneers.

"We are being equipped to be a part of the solution and should celebrate our progress."

# Let them eat cake!

by Karen Nipper

"Let them eat cake!" seemed to be the rallying cry as the rotunda filled with hungry students and boisterous music thundered down from the balconies of the third floor of Johnson Hall on February 27. But then, free treats and entertainment always attract large crowds.

ARA Food Services provided a long rectangular white sheet cake inscribed with a pink Centennial slogan, "Honoring Our Heritage...Expanding Our Vision."

A special touch was a small round cake hovering above the

sheet cake on four columns, displaying a scene of Johnson Hall.

The Meredith Chorale and Meredith Orchestra filled the rotunda with song and music as film footage of the college from 1937-1938 was shown on a large monitor. Photographic slides traced college life from 1891 to 1970.

Rather than just a place to pass through on the way to or from class, this afternoon saw Johnson Hall's rotunda a stage for celebration and congregation.

# Centennial Play Draws Crowd

by Nicole Rivenbark

"The Parable of the Morning Star," an original centennial play written by Carolyn C. Robinson explaining the beginnings of Meredith College, was enjoyed by a large group of students, faculty and staff on Wednesday, February 27 in Jones Auditorium.

The humorous skit about Baptist Female University was preceded by a presentation of two new class dolls representing 1891 and the class of 1991.

Dr. Suzanne Britt narrated the production as several staff

members and students portrayed characters of the late 1800s.

Dr. Jean Jackson played Lily B. Pearson as an especially comical figure, rattling off many well-known sayings.

The play reminded the audience of Meredith's lasting heritage and revealed the vision its founders saw of a top-rated women's college. That same vision continues today to build the College's character and reputable standing.

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
Baptist  
Female  
University  
and  
Meredith  
College!**