

# Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"—John vii, 35.

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## COLORFUL COMMENCEMENT AT JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY

NEW GYMNASIUM DEDICATED—ALSO SITE FOR \$125,000 CHURCH—MRS. JOHNSON C. SMITH, BENEFAC- TRESS, PRESENT.

By Rev. Lionel B. West, D. D.

"The Commencement exercises were of an unusually high order." Thus spake the Rev. John M. Gaston, D. D., LL. D., Secretary of the Division of Missions for Colored People of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., at the close of the sixtieth annual Commencement of Johnson C. Smith University.

The exercises which came to an end on Wednesday afternoon, June 6th, when twenty-nine young men from the college and theological departments received their diplomas, have never been surpassed in the history of the institution. The crowds were large and the commencement spirit permeated them. The weather, although unfavorable at times, did not dampen the enthusiasm. There were several interesting features which made the occasion colorful.

The exercises were held in the auditorium of Biddle Memorial Hall. This auditorium had been thoroughly renovated and presented a very attractive appearance. The walls and wood work which had carried a natural color for all these years were beautifully coated with paint. The rostrum was adorned with stately palms and all sorts of the season's choicest flowers artistically arranged.

The music was thrilling. The large University chorus under the masterly direction of Prof. W. S. Peyton charmed the audiences with their superb renditions. The Quintet gave several selections to the delight of all.

The baccalaureate sermon, addresses of the invited speakers, also the orations of the students, were full of thought and inspiration.

The University authorities gave the alumni and visitors a warm welcome and did all in their power in accommodating and entertaining them.

**Mrs. Johnson C. Smith**  
Mrs. Johnson C. Smith, of Pittsburgh, Pa., benefactress of the institution, was present. Her presence added much to the joy of the occasion. She received a tremendous ovation from the faculty, student body and friends.

Mrs. Smith said: "I am glad to be here. I am thrilled. Two years ago, because of my serious sickness, I did not expect to be back. I feel that through your prayers and the prayers of my friends that God has spared my life. I want to thank you for the flowers you sent me and your kind remembrances. I am grateful for the kindness that has been shown to me by Dr. and Mrs. McCrorey and Dr. Gaston and others. I do hope that the boys who go out from this school will make good in life, and live up to the privileges and opportunities that have been given them here. May God bless the graduates."

Mrs. Smith, as is her custom, presented each graduate with a copy of the Holy Bible. She also gave to the graduating class a large and beautiful basket of lilies and other flowers tied with a large bow of pink maline.

The refectory was a scene of an elaborate supper on Monday evening when the faculty and their wives, the students and members of the alumni and their wives were the guests of Mrs. Smith.

The Board of Trustees announced that Mrs. Johnson C. Smith had been selected as a member of that Board.

Mrs. Smith was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. E. F. Woods, and Mrs. M. E. Shafer.

**High School**  
Twenty-seven young men were graduated from the High School on Friday night, June 1. Five of them delivered orations in competition for an alumni prize. The program follows:

Invocation, Rev. A. H. Prince.  
Music, Trio.  
Oration, "The Power of Ambition," Sherwood H. Blue.  
Oration, "Labor Unto Success," Eugene O. Ellis.  
Instrumental Solo, Wendall Delarge.

Oration, "An Ideal Citizenship," Doras L. Hoyle.  
Oration, "Dive Deep for Pearls," Peter C. Kelly.

Solo, Lorenzo Gaston.  
Oration, "The Negro Mother-Love," Ralph B. Tildon.

Address, Rev. H. C. Miller.  
Music, Class Song.  
Awarding Diplomas.

Benediction, Rev. J. H. Ward.  
Judges: Prof. H. D. Johnson, Chairman; Mr. Jacob Thompson, Prof. E. H. Hunt, Prof. J. N. Brown, Rev. R. L. Moore.

The Rev. Miller delivered a very able address from the subject, "New Tasks for New Heroes." He pictured the present, social, economic, political and religious conditions under which we live, and said that there were intricate problems connected therewith which furnished tasks for the young schoolmen of today. He challenged the graduates to assume these tasks as heroes and work for the betterment of humanity and the race.

The oration prize was won by Mr. Blue.

The E. W. Carpenter prize for English and the scholarship prizes offered by the University and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity went to Ralph Tildon.

Prof. S. D. Williams, Principal, presided. The diplomas were presented by Rev. Miller. The list of graduates follow:

Jas. C. Belton, Sherwood H. Blue, Spellman Cunningham, E. L. Dudley, Eugene O. Ellis, Gilbert T. Franklin, J. O. Horne, Julian A. Jones, Peter C. Kelly, Paul J. Morrison, John A. Ramseur, John Stockton, Roland M. Thom, Hunter Bess, Frank M. Bogle, Wendall D. Delarge, Lorenzo Gaston, Fletcher Haywood, Doras L. Hoyle, J. J. Jordan, Andrew J. Mack, D. T. Ramseur, Albert L. Sumner, Ralph B. Tildon, Carlton E. Wilson, Wiley H. Williams, Israel L. Tribble.

**Baccalaureate services.**  
The services were full of dignity. The graduates marched into the chapel headed by President McCrorey, Deans Jones and Alston and Drs. W. L. McEwan and L. B. West, all robed in their caps and gowns. The processional hymn was "Faith of Our Fathers," sung by the large choir which filed in behind the graduates. Dr. L. B. West made the invocation. After the Scripture had been read, Dr. T. R. Lewis, President of Scotia Woman's College, Concord, offered a fervent prayer. President McCrorey presided.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. Wm. L. McEwan, D. D., LL. D., pastor of the Third Presbyterian church, Pittsburgh, Pa. His text was: "And

whoever will be chief among you let him be your servant." Matt. 20:27. The topic of the discourse was "Greatness Through Service." Dr. McEwan said that corporations, bankers, business men, statesmen and leaders in all walks of life had learned that the teachings of Jesus were not the words of an impractical dreamer, but can be applied to all conditions of life for the improvement of humanity. He said that Jesus taught men how to render service for the benefit of their fellowmen, and declared that no man can hold his place long who is not actually serving his fellowmen.

He showed how the spirit of Christ permeated all of life, and covered a wider realm than the church. He said the race's truest benefactors were those who are serving God in whatever sphere of life they were placed, from the humblest to the highest. He pointed out the dangers which come from the abuse of power, and called attention to the blessings which come to humanity through service.

Dr. McEwan said that just the accumulation of knowledge and wealth did not bring satisfaction and true greatness. It was only as men used these things for the common welfare of humanity that they could be called great. He mentioned several of the world's benefactors who had attained heights of greatness because of the service they had rendered. He said that the teachings of God as given by Jesus Christ were the best for the happiness of man.

Dr. McEwan in closing counseled the young men not to go after greed and gain for by these men were not counted great. He urged upon them to go forth and render faithful and helpful service for God and their fellowmen. He quoted the lines of Geo. L. Banks—

"I live for those who love me,  
For those who know me true;  
For the heavens that shine  
above me,  
And the good that I can do.

"For the cause that needs assistance;  
For the wrong that needs resistance;  
For the future in the distance,  
And the good that I can do."

Dr. McEwan is Mrs. Smith's pastor. In his introductory remarks he paid a glowing tribute to the memory of Mr. Johnson C. Smith who passed away nine years ago, this summer. He spoke of the high ideals and Christian character of Mr. Smith, his consideration of those with whom he dealt and his liberal spirit. He said that Mrs. Smith, in her generosity, was carrying out the spirit of her sainted husband.

**Dedicatory Services**  
The new gymnasium, a large and spacious brick building, architecturally beautiful, and fully equipped, the gift of Mrs. Johnson C. Smith, in memory of her nephew, Hartley Berry Woods,

**In Memory of  
Hartley Berry Woods,  
Erected by his Aunt,  
Mrs. Johnson C. Smith,  
June, 1928.**

a victim of the World War, was dedicated on Monday afternoon, June 4, with appropriate services. The Rev. John M. Gaston, D. D., presided. Hymn, "How Firm a Foundation," was sung. The 103rd Psalm was read by Dr. Wm. L. McEwan. Mr. Earle Whitton, of the Southeastern Construction Company, presented the keys to Dr. Gaston, who, in turn, presented them to President McCrorey. Each made suitable remarks. The Quintet sang.

Dr. Gaston then read a brief statement setting forth the facts in connection with the building as a memorial.

Mrs. Smith gave the history of the life of Hartley Berry Woods. She told of the unique place he occupied as a member of the family. She portrayed his scholarly attainments, his athletic prowess, his business acumen, and, above all, his Christian character and godly life. She thought the building a fitting memorial to his noble life.

Dr. McEwan made the prayer of dedication and the benediction was pronounced after the Quintet had sung softly and sweetly, "Still With Thee."

Mrs. A. F. Woods, mother of Hartley Berry Woods, witnessed the ceremony; also Mr. A. G. Lamont, architect.

The most outstanding announcement at Commencement was to the effect that Mrs. Smith had given \$125,000 for the erection of a church on the campus. The site has been selected and dedicated. The church will be near the entrance of the main gate on the left side of the Science Hall. It was planned to march from the gymnasium to the church site, but owing to the downpour of rain at the time, it was thought best to conduct the service in the gymnasium.

Dr. McEwan, in choice words, set apart the site for the church in the name of the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—with humble and reverent hearts, with the hope that it would be blessed and sanctified by Him for the saving of souls.

Dr. Gaston offered an earnest prayer of dedication. The Quintet sang, "Remember Now Thy Creator."

The audience stood and sang "Faith of Our Fathers," and Dr. Gaston pronounced the benediction.

**Junior Prize Orations.**  
As usual this event created a great deal of interest. The auditorium was too small for the surging crowd that came to listen to the stirring orations of the contestants. The contest was spirited. Two prizes were offered—the alumni gold medal and \$10 in gold by Mr. A. J. Clement, of Charleston, S. C. The program follows:

Processional, Orchestra.  
Invocation, Dr. C. J. Baker.  
Chorus, "Great is the Lord,"—Mendelssohn.

What of Tomorrow? John M. Belton, Rock Hill, S. C.

The Deterioration of American Democracy, Vance H. Chavis, Wadesboro, N. C.

Chorus, "Morning,"—Speaks.  
The Struggle for Freedom in the East, B. J. Hayes, Louisburg, N. C.

The Influence of Art Upon American Civilization, G. F. Newell, Clarkton, N. C.

Chorus, "When a Maid Comes,"—Friml.

The Negro of Tomorrow, Alphonso S. Powe, Cheraw, S. C.

How the Promise Shall be Realized, Leon Steele, Mocksville, N. C.

Chorus, "Moonlight Meadows,"—Czibulka.

Benediction, Dr. Z. A. Dockery.  
Dean J. Henry Alston, presiding.

The winners of the prizes are Mr. A. S. Powe, Cheraw, S. C., 1st prize, and Mr. G. F. Newell, of Clarkton, 2nd. Dr. T. H. Ayers presented the prizes on Commencement day.

**The Alumni**  
The Alumni Association held its meetings in the Y. M. C. A. Hall of the Carnegie Library. Quite a number was present and the meetings were full of interest. The Rev. W. R. Mayberry in opening the Association made

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## BURKEVILLE (VA.) SCHOOL HOLDS ITS FINALS

By Mrs. David Coleman

The annual closing exercises of Burkeville Public School were held at Christ Presbyterian church, Thursday and Friday evenings, May 31st and June 1, under the direction of Mrs. S. R. Clarke, Misses N. E. Jennings and Miss E. Inez Perry.

On Thursday evening a large audience assembled to hear the general closing exercises which consisted of an operetta, "Flower Nymph Surprise," by the Primary grades and a patriotic play, "America," by the upper grades.

To many this was a vivid reminiscence of the days long passed when the nymphs tripped about on their toes, sang blithely and threw out carefully censored humor over the footlight.

This year's exercises were featured by many interesting and entertaining events and greater enthusiasm was manifested by both pupils and teachers which tended to make the event the best ever held here.

After the programme Mrs. S. Cralle, President of the Mothers' Club gave a brief talk on the work accomplished this year which was to raise money to lengthen the school term which was suggested by one of the mothers, Mrs. Florence Miller; so the mothers got busy, and appointed captains. The captains, Mrs. Florence Miller, W. B. Taylor, and also the sub-captain, Mrs. Wm. Carter, made their reports. The amount raised by the captains was \$42.01. The amount raised during the year was \$66.74.

The active members of the club are Mrs. S. Cralle, Mrs. M. J. Miller, Mrs. Sarah Epps, Mrs. Annie Hudson, Mrs. Wm. Carter, Mrs. Anna Miller, Mrs. Algia Jeter, Mrs. Lula Jackson, Mrs. F. Duncan, Mrs. Ida Miller, Mrs. Sallie Jeter, Mrs. Mary Richardson, Mrs. F. Miller, Mrs. E. Taylor, Mrs. Florence Foster, Mrs. M. E. Stokes, Mr. R. Miller, Mrs. Paul Lindsay, Mrs. Sallie Fowlkes, Mrs. L. Love, Mrs. E. Miller, Mrs. C. H. Rowe, Mrs. Mattie Smith, Mrs. D. Oliver, Mrs. Lucy Smith, Mrs. David Coleman, Mrs. Emma Knight and Mrs. Sallie Epps.

It is hoped by the President that all the mothers will attend the meetings as there are great things in store yet.

On Friday evening a large number of eager listeners crowded the church to witness the graduation exercises and especially to hear Dr. C. J. Baker, of Atlanta, Ga. These exercises were conducted by the members of the seventh grade who received certificates of entrance to high school as their motto was; "Not Finished—Just Begun."

It is true that certificates are due only to 8th grade students, but Mrs. Clarke gave these as an incentive to the students, as heretofore they had begun to drop out of school. The class was composed of Misses Annetta Oliver, Salutatory; Celeste Oliver; Reading; Mr. Elwood Jones, Valectory.

Mr. H. Smith, President of the School League, presented the diplomas, after which a piano solo, "Home, Sweet Home," in variations, was rendered by Miss Gladys Miller, of Thyne Institute.

Mr. Charles Miller, Treasurer of the School League, in a few brief striking remarks, complimented the three teachers on the program and the work for the term and called special attention to Mrs. Clark, in the great work she has done and is still doing as Principal of Burkeville school.

He then in a pleasing manner introduced the speaker of the

evening. Dr. Baker delivered a most interesting discourse with "Building up Our Reserve Forces" as his subject. He emphasized the necessity of caring for the body; also the spiritual, physical and mental reserve forces and of performing our duty to ourselves and God. He said it pays to know more than you are required, to cover every inch of ground and be guided by the Unseen Hand who will carry you safely through.

All who heard the speaker said it was one of the greatest addresses ever delivered here to a graduating class.

Mrs. Clarke thanked the friends and parents for their lovely attendance during the two nights, and thanked the mothers for their faithfulness in prolonging the school term another month, and said she would not leave out the fathers, as they deserve credit, too.

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## INGLESIDE SEMINARY ALUMNAE REUNION

The Alumnae of Ingleside Seminary met in the chapel of Ingleside Seminary, Burkeville, Va., May 29, 1928.

The object of the Alumnae at present is to raise money for the Campbell Memorial. The Campbell Memorial is a scholarship to be raised by the Alumnae for the education of some worthy girl at Ingleside Seminary who is not able to pay her tuition, providing she comes well recommended and meets all of the requirements of a good religious institution.

The business meeting opened at 12:30, with the President, Mrs. Mary B. Marks, presiding. The meeting was opened with a song, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee." Scripture was read by Mrs. Ada Chavious, and prayer was offered by Rev. M. G. Haskins, who had journeyed from Baltimore to be present at the meeting.

The minutes were read and adopted. The President next called for the report of the treasurer, Mrs. Charlie Miller, which was satisfactorily given.

Reports from the chapters were called for. A chapter is composed of Ingleside girls living in the same localities. The Jetersville chapter, represented by Mrs. Fannie Green Wilkerson and Mrs. Evelyn Towns, presented \$7.15 to the Campbell Memorial Fund. This was greatly appreciated by the Alumnae.

The roll was called and the Alumnae responded with their annual payment of dues, \$2.50. The graduating class of 1928 presented \$5.00 to the Alumnae and they seemed very happy to contribute something to a good and worthy cause. A vote of thanks was extended them by the Alumnae.

Rev. M. G. Haskins gave some very wholesome remarks which were greatly appreciated by all; also his very liberal donation of \$5.00. Rev. Mr. Haskins is very much interested in the work at Ingleside, and came to the meeting at the invitation of our very wide awake President, Mrs. Mary B. Marks.

Receipts of the afternoon were \$38.15. The amount in treasury is \$110.91.

After the discussion of "Foreign Missions" we had benediction by the Rev. M. G. Haskins. After an intermission of five minutes, we returned and took up our "program" for the afternoon. The hymn, "Stand Up for Jesus," was sung, and the 23rd Psalm read, led by Mrs. Sallie Cralle.

The welcome address was delivered to the Alumnae by Mrs. R. L. Alter, Principal of Ingleside, who showed to us by her

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