



1998 scholarship winner Kolitala Toshia Williams, center, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Williams



Honorary members, seated, left to right, Lena Youngblood, Alice Mitchem, Annie M. Gordon; standing, left to right, Alberta Thombs, Jeanette Surratt, Martha Taylor

## Davidson Alumni celebrate centennial

Sunday, July 19 marked a momentous occasion for the Davidson School Alumni, and the community. Not only was it the date to acknowledge the 20th anniversary of the Alumni Association, but more importantly, the Centennial of the birth of the school.

Joyce Byers Hewett, who gave the history, stressed the fact that long before it became known as Davidson, and relocated twice, the one-room school was connected by the Bynum Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church on what is now Cherokee Street.

The legacy of the school, its growth and development is testimony to the tremendous success of the many students who passed through during its time until it merged with the school plan of the 60's.

The annual celebration held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church (at the site of the former school) was filled with song

and presentations provided respectively by the Adams Chapel A.M.E. Zion Choir, memorial (Hazelene Abernathy), and a special salute to former teachers and honorees (Sarah T. Adams).

One of the key features is the annual scholarship to recipients who are going to college for the freshman term. Tribute was paid to the former winners (1987 to present) by Margaret Leach.

Those in attendance had a special treat for the guest speaker, who, as many times in the past, is a former student. Rev. Albert Thombs stressed the benefits Davidson students derived from the guidance and instruction of previous principals and teachers. Drawing from the Book of Proverbs, Rev. Thombs cited that "though the students at Davidson may have lacked resources, such as appropriate building structure or chairs and the like, everyone who came

through the school had proper direction - the highest direction."

Rev. Thombs reminded all in attendance of the importance and value of the right direction, the right instructions, those being the difference between failure and success; the difference between life and death. No one could argue with the essence of Rev. Thombs' delivery. It was indeed a special day to mark once again a special era in history.

The scholarship winner for 1998 is Kolita La Toshia

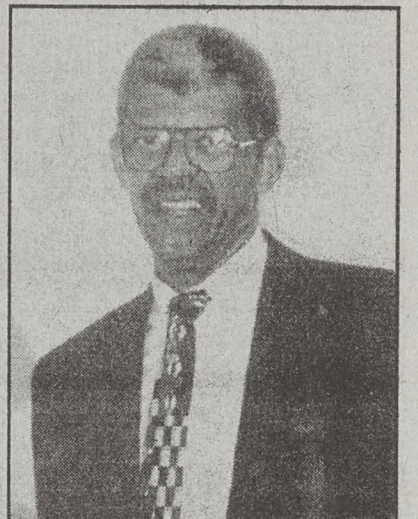
Williams. She and the many former students and other attendees had the special treat of a photographic display mounted at the church for all to see during a brief reception following the service.

The third Sunday in July is earmarked each year for a church service to commemorate the Davidson School and its rightful place in history. Additional festivities are held on alternating years.

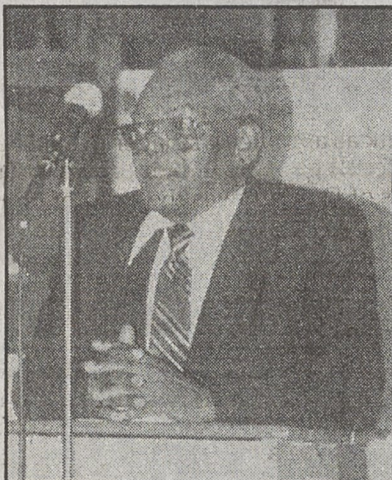
Given the special occasion of the 20th year alumni anniversary and the centennial anniversary of the birth of the school, a banquet was held earlier on June 19.

The Alumni Association is honoring requests for reprinting of the school yearbooks of 1948 and 1949, as well as commemorative T-shirts picturing the school building and Rev. Davidson in whose honor the school was named. The theme throughout the 20 years of organized events lingers on "Lest We Forget."

(Submitted by Joyce Hewett, former student and Historian).



REV. ALBERT THOMBS



CALVIN THOMBS  
Introduces speaker



HAZELENE B. ABERNATHY  
Memorial dedication

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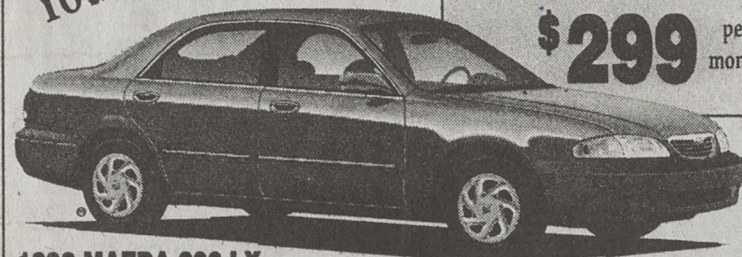


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