THE FORTY-FIRST

ANNIVERSARY

DINNER

FOR

Knox United Presbyterian Church

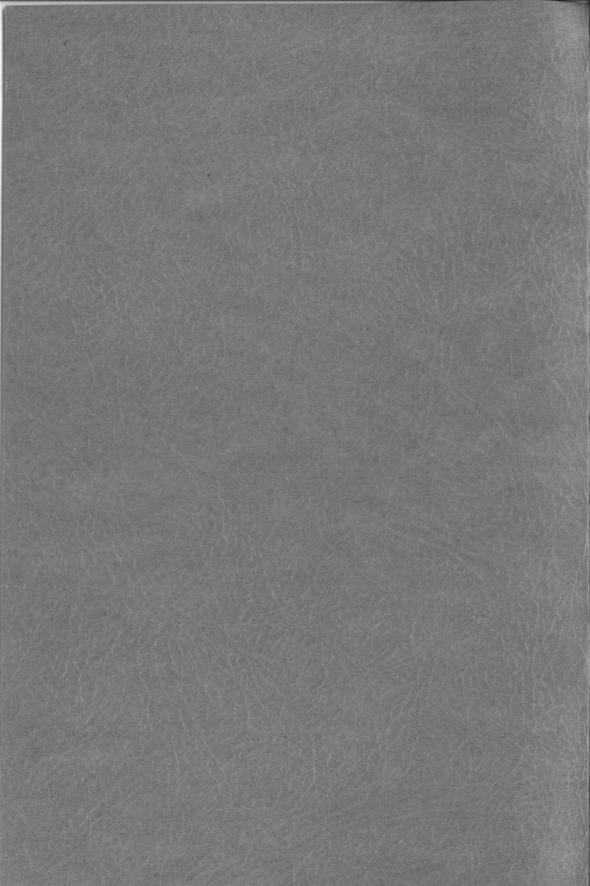


AT THE EASTWIND

Thursday, May 27, 1971 - 7:30 p. m.

Mrs. Irene R. Walker, Banquet Chairman

Rev. H. Octavious Graham, Pastor



FOREWORD . .

Under the leadership of Samuel the Israelites defeated the Philistines who were their enemies. This victory was so great that it was important to commemorate the event, so Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us (I Samuel—7:12). Literally, according to the Hebrew language, Ebenezer means Stone of the help. Truly, Knox can say God has been our immovable stone of defense; when every known source of help failed the congregation could joyfully sing, "Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not abide with me."

Prior to the organizing of the church many hurdles had to be overcome. Usually, the Presbytery is the creator of the suitable and ideal climate for the birth of a church; but the founding minister did not find it so. He found a divided presbytery on the question of a new Presbyterian church for Negroes in East Baltimore. He was even told that Negroes are too emotional for the Presbyterian denomination. The argument against the organizing of Knox assumed a rather degraded stand when it was intimated that the people of East Baltimore were too low in intelligence to appreciate the Presbyterian church. This statement caused the organizing minister to prepare his garb for war. He was furious and with righteous indignation told one of his objectors that he had no monopoly on the Presbyterian denomination. After many disappointments it was necessary to tell another that Knox was tired of others preparing the food, cooking it, chewing it and now attempting to digest it.

With all candor, however, there was a very small minority within the Presbytery who saw the wisdom of a church for our people. Thank God for this group who encouraged the founder and who believed "That they that be with us are more than they that be against us."

After the church was organized another barrier had to be crossed as a very subtle attempt was made to dissolve this new organization. The enemies tried hard, but here again a strong minority of the Presbytery who believed that East Baltimore needed the Presbyterian witness succeeded in fostering and developing our church.

As we begin a new milestone, the same God who has led us thus far will

sustain and keep us. With this in mind we will sing:

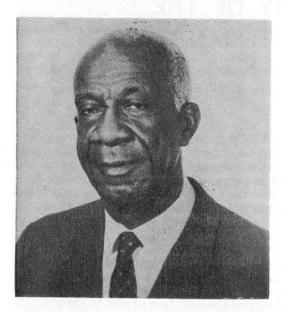
"Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal Home."

. Ondy Varion

e the least of exposed the medition defected the Philistotics

KNOX UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

De Verreignert in 1946 akalı ing. And eur elemen Home."



REV. H. OCTAVIUS GRAHAM



MRS H. OCTAVIUS GRAHAM

HISTORY OF THE KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Matt. 17:20

From humble beginnings, great edifices ofttimes develop. Such was the beginning of Knox Presbyterian Church. A young man dreamed and visualized a church of tomorrow to serve as a shining star for the building of God's Kingdom. He realized, as did many men of note, that before harvest can come, a storm of rain must batter the field. Before a tree takes root, the kernel must decay to liberate the seed. He knew that "faith works that which it expects." He had read the Apostle James (1:17) "Faith without works is dead." He understood that "faith always looks in two

ways: (1) it looks to God; (2) it looks to self.

H. Octavius Graham, possessing humility, foresight and faith was inspired because he dreamed dreams and saw visions. Just as the Christ Child was born in low estate, so was Knox Presbyterian Church. From an acorn, as tiny as it might be, the arms of the oak tree grows to expand; its shade falls upon the earth. It shelters the animals and serves to satisfy the needs of man. All the creations of God begin small, develop slowly, and expand immensely. From original man, great tribes grew in multiplicity, replenish the earth and procreated numerous nations. What does this have to do with the development of Knox Presbyterian Church and those of us who have assisted in making it the beacon light that it is today? It exemplifies the knowledge that to climb a ladder you must be willing to make efforts. To get to the top, you must keep faith, hope, confidence, love, energetic ambition, and a heart full of charity and forgiveness.

"God's Hand Stretched Forth to Lincoln University"

Rev. Graham came to Baltimore in June, 1926, at the invitation of The Baltimore Presbytery. The far-sightedness of the late Rev. John T. Colbert brought about this invitation. Reverend Colbert saw the need for a Presbyterian Church in East Baltimore because of its dense and increasing population. He wrote to the President of Lincoln University and requested that a young man of splendid qualifications be sent to Baltimore for the work. God's hand stretched forth and fingerpointed Rev. Graham for the stupendous task. Previous to the coming of Rev. Graham to Baltimore, the Elders of Grace Presbyterian Church held Sunday School in the Star Theatre on East Monument Street. However, this Sunday School was held in the summer months, and was non-existent when Rev. Graham arrived.

Rev. Bruce McDonald was Executive Secretary of the Presbytery when Rev. Graham came to this city. He did everything possible to foster the work, but it seemed that the Presbytery was not ready to accept this

responsibility.

"Humble Beginnings and Dark Shadows"

Rev. Graham came as a young graduate of Lincoln University. As an article stated in an edition of The Afro American paper, the story of Knox

Church is the story of Rev. Graham. Without a church structure or a congregation, Rev. Graham began his work here by ringing door bells. A room in the 1600 block of East Monument Street was secured for the little church. The first church member and two of her three children are working members of Knox Church today. By mid-July, twenty-five children attended the Sunday School, and three adults attended the Church. Disappointments and obstacles beset Rev. Graham on every hand. He often thought of packing and going in other directions. However, the challenge to continue his work here was squarely met by Rev. Graham's deep faith in God and the possibilities of his Creator. He and his little flock weathered the storms of the depression, and through growth found it necessary to move to 1242 East Monument Street near Central Avenue. The latter part of 1927, the church moved to another store-front at the corner of Eden and Jefferson Streets. To make this new place of worship a monument to God and His work, Rev. Graham purchased folding chairs from Blums for \$156.00 for the comfort of his followers. Under Rev. Graham's leadership and diversified program, the work progressed and in 1929 the mission requested to be admitted to the Presbytery as an organized church. After many disappointments and trying situations, Knox was organized May 20, 1930 through a commission sent by the Presbytery.

With its forty members, Knox Presbyterian Church became one of the many churches of many denominations catering to the needs of the populace in East Baltimore. The members were taken in the Knox Mission under the care of the Grace Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John T. Colbert

its pastor.

"Increasing Disappointments and Shadows"

The location of the new Junior High School invited the membership to select the corner of Eden and Jefferson Streets as an ideal site for our church. The depression descended with dark shadows and stifling proportions on our ideals and dreams. Soon the aid given by the Board of National Missions was sharply cut, and in the heart of the depression around 1933, all aid was completely ceased. The Committee on National Missions informed the church that there were no more funds to foster Knox. This meant that there were one of two things that Knox Church could do-"fight with bulldog tenacity to overcome the obstacles or give up in defeat." The only two elders were called by the minister to discuss the problem. He remembered his messages on faith. He had preached Faith in Christ, Faith in the Presbytery, now the test for Faith in Him. He explained to them that if they would continue to follow his leadership under God's guidance, he was willing to continue. Soon after this meeting, Rev. Graham took a regular job outside of his regular church duties, the church assumed a greater obligation, and a building fund was started.

"Faint Sunlight Through the Dense Shadows"

To ease the financial pressure on the congregation, the landlord was requested to reduce the rent, which he did. The Rev. Dr. William J. G. Carruthers, a minister and friend to all who needed him, came to the rescue. He held conferences with Rev. Graham and young members of the church to encourage youth work. Through the sympathy and understanding of the Rev. Dr. Carruthers, who befriended the pastor and congrega-

tion, investigations were made with the idea of publicizing the work. Dr. Carruthers became Chairman of the Subcommittee for Negro work under the care of the Board of National Missions for Knox Church. His interest paved the way for the return of financial aid to the church from the National Missions. He fostered a series of surveys. The survey was made by the Urban League which was released by permission of the League through the Federation of Churches; and then another by Mr. Novak under the direction of the Secretary of the Baltimore Federation of Churches. A third survey, or appendix to the general survey, was made by Mr. Novak at the request of the Committee on National Missions of the Baltimore Presbytery. Ministers of every denomination were called in conference at the Faith Presbyterian Church to voice their opinions on the need of a Presbyterian Church in East Baltimore. The ministers agreed that the existence of Knox Church should continue and that it ought to be encouraged. The Reverend C. Edward Browne was Rev. Graham's staunchest friend and most loyal supporter during this crisis. After the impressive surveys were made, and the successful conferences were held with the ministers, Knox was again put on the payroll of the Presbytery.

Dr. Carruthers encouraged every minister of the Presbytery to see the deplorable condition in which Knox worshipped. He personally assisted Rev. Graham in the securing of speakers once a month for an extensive period of time. He was further instrumental in re-establishing the Building Fund after he had observed a Building Chart in the church. When he found out that monies for the original fund were lost in the bank crash, he was deeply concerned and spurred to action. Donations of furniture, books, and needed church materials were also secured under his guidance. Truly this man of God had our work at heart, and Knox today stands as a symbol

of his untiring efforts and Godly actions.

The congregation was elated over the purchase of lots to be used for building the church. However, this jubilation was of short duration. Subsequently, the lots were sold through an order of the Presbytery when a newly founded organization requested permission to buy them for a playground for their children. The Presbytery acquiesced.

"Stronger Sunlight"

Dr. Walter Cremeans, our present general Presbyter, came on the scene just in time to complete the work so nobly begun by our beloved Dr. Carruthers. Working closely with the Presbytery, Dr. Cremeans assisted us to secure our first building and to realize our first dream and aspiration for Kingdom Building. At the present time the Rev. T. Guthrie Speers, Pastor of the Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church, is the Chairman of the Knox Committee. Dr. Speers is doing a commendable job to enhance the scope and magnify the work in its larger aspects.

Knox Presbyterian Church, now with an increased membership, felt the need for an adequate building. At the request of Rev. Graham, a committee was named by Presbytery to look into the securing of a desirable edifice. The old Bohemian Moravian Presbyterian Church at the corner of Ashland Avenue and Washington Street was secured, and on the last Sunday in

October, 1944, the Knox congregation occupied this building.

The Rev. Earl Seymour Fox, the Pastor of The Forest Park Presbyterian Church, was a friend to the Pastor and the church. He used great influence personally in assisting Knox to receive financial aid. He was influential in getting his church to give active financial support to Knox through benevolence. Abbott Memorial Presbyterian Church, under the leadership of Dr. Rea W. Martin, also gave substantial financial help.

Many accomplishments were realized at Ashland Avenue and Washington Street. In six and one-half years of progress at this location, Rev. Graham inaugurated a program that proved his value to the Baltimore Presbytery and citizenry. The congregation grew and more responsibilities were added:

Daily Vacation Bible School organized.
 The reorganization of the Usher Board.

3. Revitalization of the Sunday Church School.

4. Development of a Girl's Choir.

5. Development of Dramatic Clubs for Special Day Activities.

6. Organization of Westminster Fellowship.

Training Class for Communicants.
 Organizing of the Missionary Society.
 Foundation for Boy Scouts started.

10. Senior Choir reorganized.

"Wonders — God Planned" "Radiant—Sunbeams"

Even before our facilities and possibilities at this location had been exhausted the opportunity came through a recommendation for the occupancy of the present location. The Washington Street Church was sold to the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Congregation by the Presbytery. The Faith Congregation, due to the phenomena of shifting population, made plans to erect a new church in a new locale. They built their church and moved on Woodbourne and Loch Raven Blvd. On Sunday, April 29, 1951, Rev. Graham led his congregation into the big greystone structure on Broadway, formerly pastored by his dear friend, Dr. Carruthers.

"God Worked in a Mysterious Way this Wonder to Perform"

Here, the work took new aspects. In the words of our beloved pastor, whose unfailing faith led his people all the way with divine guidance, "we can administer to all areas and needs of a man's life." Our present structure is a modern church which serves spiritual, moral and physical needs and demands. Its facilities and personnel offer a seven day program. The doors are open at all times. The services of a Director of Christian Education and a Director of the Community Center are utilized to provide a valuable addition to the cultural life of East Baltimore and a moral service to East Baltimore youth of all races and denominations. The Center now employs four paid workers, plus a volunteer staff for the Community Center. The Church has four paid workers. Together, the Church and Center have eight paid workers, including the Pastor, plus numerous volunteer workers.

There is a close coordination between the Church, the Community Center and the Pilot House. Most of the activities are inter-racial. Bible School and Youth Activities are taught and sponsored by inter-racial Christian leaders under the Director of Christian Education. Christ has and is using Knox as a beacon light throwing out a lifeline to the young and old alike. The use of the Sanctuary, Chapel, separate auditorium,

gymnasium, plus numerous Club and Social Rooms afford the community many opportunities for expansion of worthy projects "curbing rather than curing delinquency." Some of the activities provided for Kingdom Building here are:

- 1. Correlation of activities between Church and Community Center.
- 2. Knox Chorale.
- 3. Sanctuary Choir.
- 4. Cherub Choir.
- 5. Deacon Board.
- 6. Departmentalization of the Church Sunday School.
- 7. Week-end Work Camps (Inter-racial and Inter-faith).
- 8. Pre-school Program for children and parents (Kiddie Kollege).
- 9. Week Day Clubs to meet interests of children and youth (Arts, crafts, etc., skating, cooking, dramatics, club groups, dance groups).
- 10. Daily Vacation Church School (Inter-racial and Inter-denominational).
- 11. Sports (Basketball, Baseball, Indoor Games, etc.).
- 12. Junior Ushers.
- 13. Training Class for Communicants.
- 14. Teen Council.
- 15. Scout Troops (Explorers, Boy Scouts, Senior Girl Scouts, Intermediate Girl Scouts, Brownies).

We are thankful for the realization that success of this church which brings us thankfully to its twenty-fifth anniversary is a journey planned by the Heavenly Father to lead men to their destination. This Church is a manifestation of God's love and divine guidance. Humbly, we are grateful. Where there is no vision, the people perish. Faith, prayer, love and sacrifice have brought us to this memorable day. Through continued faith, trust and works of love, one with another, let us march forward, onward and upward. Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

SIXTEEN YEARS LATER

Our Forty-First Year

"Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and departing leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time."

People throughout the world recognize this famous quote, but each nation interprets it in the manner that benefits its purpose and use.

Just as this fact is realized, so is the purpose of celebrating a wonderful anniversary. We are so thankful for our forty-one years of service and loving fellowship that we desired to share it with others.

Thus, through these portals of Knox pass some of the individuals who form the human laboratory in Christian Relations. They are the nucleus

of the Knox Church and the structure indicative of its future. Therefore, Knox continues to go forth to serve.

Not wanting to be pococurantes as members, the people of Knox showed their love, interest, Christian beliefs and actions through their sacrifices and works. We developed knowledge of the program of our church by working, sharing and encouraging city and state facilities to work and share with us. We encouraged all to share their finances and talents.

We are pragmatists, for we pragmatize any problem confronting Knox. We have discovered that solutions do not come without teamwork. We have tried and succeeded to a point, to span all gaps, educational, age, and spiritual.

Our Pastor, as a young man, was perceptual. He had dreams, visions and became well known for utilizing his brain and muscle for the building of God's Kingdom. These same attributes, habits and tendencies exist in him today. They have matured to behold bigger and better tasks. A partial list of his honors attest to his integrity and high esteem. Conferred on him through the years were these awards and plaques.

1953—Afro-American Award for Good Citizenship.

1962—NAACP Award.

1968—Certificate of Appreciation for more than 30 years of service as visiting clergy of Johns Hopkins Hospital.

1969—Plaque presented by Surprise Circle (Pastor's Aid).

1969—Moderator of the Presbytery of Baltimore; Commissioner to General Assembly three times.

1971—Gave invocation at inaugural ceremonies for Governor Mandel. Given trip to Holy Land by Surprise Circle and Church Members.

Here, let us pray, "We entreat Thee, O God, we petition, we present our fervent requests expressed and unexpressed that the work of Knox continue for the building of your Kingdom. We realize and acknowledge as did Tennyson, that more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

"Through the Years"

Through the years we have set precedents for ourselves. Though membership is average, our program is inclusive, comprehensive and involved, and our budgetary items are provided. We usually succeed when we set our hearts, minds and hands to support our prayers.

We have seen the Church Center thrive under the leadership of Mrs. Rachel Swann Adams, and expand further to include community and federalized nurseries under the directorship of Mrs. Mercedes Douglass. A trained staff and prepared teachers are employed in these programs under the leadership of the present director, Rev. George Eggleston.

Our Pastor, Rev. H. Octavius Graham, "God bless him for what he has been and has done for us," was and is a person with vision, patience, and understanding. He is a diligent worker, a crusader, and a firm believer in all mankind. Even when presiding as moderator of his Session, he sees

virtue, wisdom, and God's hand in the operation of the tasks concerned. He was persistent and aesthetically happy when the church conferred honors on three of its beloved senior members. Their leadership, contributions and examples exemplified the best for humanity and will be difficult to replace. These beloved people are Sister Nancy Johnson, Elder William Barber and Elder Essie M. Hall; also, the first church member.

"Intrinsic Values"

Intrinsic values were embedded in our youth through the programs promoted by Mrs. Rachel Swann Adams and Mrs. Mercedes Douglass, Directors of Christian Education. Opportunities for spiritual growth, inter-racial learnings, sharing and living in brotherhood were provided. Participation with many churches of various faiths proved Knox to be ecumenical long before many began to discern or discuss it. Because of this fact, our choir was recognized city and state-wide and along the east coast.

"Sharing God's Wealth With Others"

Our church has been involved in community activities, marches and programs involving better living and housing for all peoples. Our building has been used for meetings and organizations helping the poor and needy. This is God's way. We share our complete building for club activities, meetings, health and civic programs for community interests.

Our outstanding choir, under the directorship of Mr. Roy F. Knight, has thrilled audiences throughout the city. Demicoractére is also provided. Dramatic classics interpreting moods and modes with command performances have been presented two years in succession.

Women's work at Knox is well recognized by all. Miss Emma Hammer, now deceased, was a member of Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church. She loved Knox and the Graham Family. Through her friendship and love for Pastor and Mrs. Graham, many benefits were received. She encouraged Mrs. Janie Graham to organize the first Presbyterian Women's Organization of Knox. This body of women studied scriptures, fostered and sponsored activities to assist others. This work is presently continuing under the leadership of Mrs. Annie M. Hemphill and Mrs. Willie R. Knight. As an outgrowth of the P.W.O. several circles evolved. Each of these circles, organizations and other cooperating bodies of the chiurch has contributed in helping Knox to achieve its budget of today which is a great advance from the budget of yesteryear.

We are proud of the history of our Church. We have faced problems, hurdled struggles, reaped rewards and have developed spiritual insights. We know that God has led us thus far and that He alone can provide our future successes. While attempting to fulfill our mission, we will earnestly strive to attain ethereal endowments on the premise that God's work must and will be done. Long live Knox.

BANQUET PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies REV. VERNON DOBSON

Solo	Miss Potsy Homphill
	Mr. Roy F. Knight, Accompanist
Invocation	Rev. Carl Washington
Music	
Octavius in Profile Speakers Associates and Fam The Third Dime	
Rev. Herman O. Graham, Jr.	
Rev. George Eggleston	
Mrs. Ivy Davidson and Family	
Mrs. Enolia McMillan	
Solo	Miss Patsy Hemphill
Rev. R. Moses Williams	
Rev. William T. Peters	
Rev. L. Murray Smoot	
Mrs. Rachel S. Adams	
Poem: WHAT YOU AND KNOZ Composed by Mrs. Florine Was Dedicated to Mrs. E Dedicated by Daughter, Mr	shington, First Member Essie M. Hall
Rev. C. Andre Kearns	
Rev. Carl Washington	
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Alvin Graham



THE DEACONS





THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



REV. and MR. GEORGE EGGLESTON
The Director of the Community Center



THE YOUTH CHOIR - Mrs. Jean Johnson, Choir Directress



THE SANCTUARY CHOIR



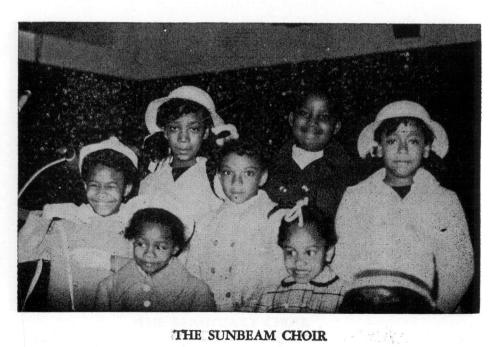
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THE SESSION



THE SURPRISE CIRCLE

"With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

—St. Matthew 19-26

SESSION OF KNOX

H. Octavius Graham (Pastor), Moderator

Roy F. Knight, Clerk of Session

ELDERS

Charles Downs

Hanson E. Caldwell

Elizabeth Day

Tommy Williams

Dorothy Dougherty

Claude Evans

Capitola Doswell

Alvin Graham

Beulah M. H. Caldwell

"Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way."

-St. Matthew 5-24

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Luvenia Cates

Lula Waddell

Mary Loftin

Ruth Miller

Pearl Brown

Doris Loftin

Marva Graham

Loretta Ervin

"We Offer Praise Through Music And Song"

KNOX'S SANCTUARY CHOIR

Manasseh Johnson, President Alma Parrish, Vice President Dorothy Raines, Secretary Evelyn Boyd, Treasurer Annie M. Hemphill, Chaplain

Mamie Brown Pearlie Ball Phillip Boyd Viola Brown Doretha Claiborne Capitola Doswell Janie Graham Patsy Hemphill
Ephriam Johnson
Isiah Johnson
Anthony Melvin
Reginald Melvin
Willie Rush

Willie Russell (Mrs.)

· · Woodrow Thompson

ROY F. KNIGHT, Director

Greetings To Our Beloved Knox

from

THE SURPRISE CIRCLE (PASTOR'S AID)

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Vice President	
Corresponding Secretary	
Recording Secretary	
Financial Secretary	
Treasurer	

"We believe in service to the Pastor, God's spokesman."

From All the Women of

KNOX UNITED PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Annie M. Hemphill	President
Willie R. Knight	
Willie MooreFinancial	Secretary
Anita Hall	Treasurer
Edith Francis	Secretary

GREETINGS

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Mrs.	Willie K. Knight	President
Mrs.	Willie MooreFinancial	Secretary
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Mrs.	Edith Francis	Secretary

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Greetings on this, Your 41st Anniversary

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of the Alpha Chi Pi Omega

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ETHEL M. CALDWELL

ETHEL M. CALDWELL
CHARLES D. CALDWELL
and

ETHEL E. CALDWELL

By Hanson E. Caldwell

In Loving Memory of

Our Beloved Son and Brother

RICHARD D. ROBERTS

Mother, Mrs. Irene Walker and Family

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Mrs. Doretha Melvin Claiborne

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Husband of

Annie Mae Hemphill

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