

CHURCH



MRS. IDA MALONE (standing, center) retiring president of the A. C. Powell Overseas Club, who was recently feted at a birthday party in her honor in the vestry of Abyssinian Baptist Church. Dr. A. C. Powell, sr., is shown here presenting Mrs. Malone with a gold pin. Others in the picture are Mrs. Martha Pryor (seated) and Mrs. Mamie Washington. Dr. Powell, in commending Mrs. Malone on her splendid contribution to the organization, suggested that her name be placed upon the memorial plaque in the lobby of the church for posterity—(Gaines foto).

Rev. W. E. Houston, Jr., To Rendall Memorial

CHERAW, S. C.—In a special meeting last week, the Presbytery of Fairfield, S. C., released two of its most promising young ministers, one, the Rev. W. Eugene Houston, jr., to serve in New York City, and the other, Robert E. Foster, to serve in southern Virginia. For the past two years director of athletic publicity

at Johnson C. Smith, the Rev. Mr. Houston, who has accepted the pastorate of the Rendall Memorial Presbyterian Church, 61 W 137 st, is well-known as a journalist, his by-line having appeared in several of the nation's best-known papers.

The Rev. Mr. Foster, who will head the religious work at Grace Presbyterian Church at Martinsville, Va., served for the past year as assistant to the Boys' Work Secretary of the Second Street branch of the Charlotte YMCA.

Rhode Island Pastor To Florida School

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (ANP) — Rev. Walter C. Wynn, seven years pastor of the Pond Street Baptist Church, resigned his post effective Sept. 1 and on Sept. 15 will become chaplain of Florida A. & M. College in Tallahassee, Fla. Rev. Wynn was born in Florida and is an alumnus of Florida A. & M. While in Providence, he was a member of the board of directors of the Urban League and affiliated with other community organizations.

'99th' Hero Gets Special Service

Lt. Hugh Warner, one of the heroes of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, was honored with a special service last Sunday morning at the Mt. Cavalry Church, proudly boasts his name on its honor role, at which time the Rev. J. C. Hill, pastor, delivered a prayer for his safe return from overseas.

According to Mrs. Estelle Warner, stepmother of the NY ace, PV's exclusive story last week brought scores of letters and telephone calls from friends of Lt. Warner, a member of the Finance Committee of Cavalry Baptist Church, and now recuperating in Washington from a serious illness, declared that he is "very proud" of his son, Hugh.

Son of Shirley Graham Dies Following Illness

Funeral services for Robert McCanns, elder son of Miss Shirley Graham, well known writer and race relations worker, were held from Dade's Funeral Home Friday afternoon, with the Rev. Joseph Evans, of the Congregational Church, officiating.

The 20-year-old youth came here ill some months ago from Indianapolis, where he was a junior at the University of Indiana. He died Tuesday in Montefiore Hospital. He had spent two years at the University of California and had transferred to the Indiana school last year. He will be interred in Flushing, L. I.

Besides his mother, Robert is survived by a younger brother, Graham, who is in the Army air forces; an uncle, William B. Graham, a resident of this city, a grandmother, and other relatives.

Unitarian Youth Attacks Jimcra

Launching a sharp attack against discrimination in any form, the national office of the American Unitarian Youth last week released the resolutions adopted by its annual convention for the US and Canada, held recently at Ferry Beach, Me.

Delegates from California to Maine and from Texas to Canada declared that "winning the war is of paramount importance" and outlined their proposals for a world organization to insure the peace. In support of the small countries, they declared that membership in a strong world organization with a police force and the power of economic sanctions, must be open to all nations with equal representation.

"As a group," they declared, "we are unalterably opposed to any discrimination because of race, color, religion or national origin as incompatibly with our democratic way of life."

Wires from the convention were sent to President Roosevelt protesting the color segregation within the Armed Forces and to the American Red Cross protesting segregation of Negro and white blood in the blood banks.

One God--One People

By RHEUBIE B. RICHARDSON

EVERY FEW DAYS MY HUSBAND is sent on some errand or other out of town tracking down the pernicious pursuits of those who practice anti-Semitism—and if you look at it right you can see that this is not such a roundabout way of fighting anti-Negroism, too. This week he has expressed a wish to have me write his column for him—but only with the explanation that the views represented here are mine and not necessarily his.

As I look at the Negro and religion I see three distinct trends—the religion of our fathers, the religion of ourselves and friends, and the religion of our children. It can really be considered as the religions of the immediate past, the immediate present, and the immediate future.

THE IMMEDIATE PAST

The generation before us is definitely inclined toward the idea that the young people have forgotten how to go to church—how to worship as they were taught to worship. It is their constant lament that their children have turned from God. And in their disappointment and sorrow they turn to their religion with more zeal, more fervor, and more shouting—but with no more real understanding of what their children are actually doing with their religion. Our parents can still go to meetings and have a good time singing hymns, praying, and giving testimony. Given half an opening any one or a dozen of them will tell you how God has always answered their prayers, has always shown them the way when the path was dark, and how He has "looked out for his own."

There is no doubt about it—the religion of our parents is built upon a deep and beautiful faith; it is the essence of their religion. And it is indeed a wonderful devotion that can make a man live a self-respecting, Christian life—that can give him the personal joy and peace that these folk have.

To them Jesus is a friend as well as confidant. They try hard to carry out His teachings faithfully, and because they have lived so long in the glory of His word they cannot understand why their children should turn from this well-spring of human life that has proved itself through the centuries. Some of them even sneer at the youngsters who graduate from high schools and colleges and go on securing more knowledge, more skill, and more degrees. They mumble, yes, and even shout, that education isn't everything—that without God these young people are nothing, and they are right. Our generation knows they are right—and we are trying hard—but we just have a different way of showing the results of our experiences with God and religion.

THE IMMEDIATE PRESENT

Our generation is what Negro writers and speakers and leaders of today are referring to as the "New Negro." This New Negro makes his religion work for him. Fundamentally, our ideas do not differ too much from those of our fathers. We still love the old hymns and prayers and we still read and listen to the services with interest and inspiration. Basically, we have the same religious beliefs that they held—but we have added to them. We have information. We know that the Bible is not necessarily the final word of God to mankind, and that the writing and composing of the Bible was finished, inspiration was not finished.

We have made our religion a decidedly practical thing in our lives. We have realized that with the help of God and good honest work we can make our living conditions better. We know that God isn't going downtown to get a job for us—but we know that with God in our hearts and information in our heads we can get and keep a good job. We know that God isn't going to build a house for us—but we know that with both God and skill we can build a sturdy home.

No, parents, we haven't turned from God—we are WITH Him. Our religion is still in our hearts, and more important—it is in our heads, also. The faith of the New Negro is a common sense faith.

THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

And what will we teach our children of God and religion? We know that some of the favorite Bible stories should be told with a tongue in the cheek; stories about Jonah being swallowed by a whale and being regurgitated on the shore safely; stories such as Daniel being introduced into a den of lions who had been waiting weeks for just such a meal and coming out unharmed; and stories like Lot's wife being turned to salt. We'll teach these stories as part of their culture, but with the explanation about the circumstances under which they were written and the morals they are meant to express. We want them to have this part of religious learning along with the hymns and prayers that can make God a part of you as no other medium can. And we'll teach them to have the practical education to put their religion to work for them.

We'll teach our children that the salvation of the New Negro lies not only in his education, not only in his being accepted socially, not only in his having economic opportunities, and not only in his religion. We must bind these, all together in adequate proportions into one unbreakable yagot and kindle our hearts and minds with the flame of greater achievement for the race.