



Memorial Chapel, Fork Union Military Academy

OCT 31, 1937

Fork Union To Dedicate New Chapel

FORK UNION—Dedication ceremonies for the chapel at Fork Union Military Academy will be held Saturday, with Dr. George W. Truett, president of the Baptist World Alliance, delivering the sermon. The program, which opens at noon, will include music by the school band and a solo by John Tivis Wicker of Richmond.

The invocation will be offered by Dr. J. W. Cammack, pastor at Fork Union and Bible teacher in the academy. Dr. John L. Slaughter of Leigh Street Baptist Church, Richmond, will lead the congregation in the responsive reading. Dr. Henry Alford Porter of the First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, will offer the dedicatory prayer. Dr. John J. Wicker, who is in his eighth year as president of the academy, will preside and Colonel N. J. Perkins, headmaster, who has been with the academy more than 20 years, will offer the benediction.

Built For Religious Use

The chapel is distinctly a religious edifice, designed for the religious use of the academy. The style is Gothic in motif, cruciform in shape. Both the interior and exterior are faced with handsome over-size black and red brick, laid in Flemish bond and trimmed with white, highly polished cast stone.

There are nearly 250,000 bricks in the building, all of them laid by one man, who took 11 months to accomplish this task. One of the interesting features of the dedication program will be the unveiling of a bronze tablet to the bricklayer, which will read as follows:

TO FELIX DE PANICIS
WHO LAID EVERY BRICK AND
STONE IN THIS CHAPEL, AND
PUT CHARACTER IN HIS
WORK.

Dr. Wicker says that this is an honor most worthily bestowed.

65-Foot Tower

The tower entrance rises 65 feet. The nave, or central body, of the auditorium is 44 feet wide by 73 feet long. The transepts, or the side wings, are in harmony with the rest of the building. Seating capacity is 700.

The ceiling is panelled in a soft material, the floors are laid with a mastic tile, the combination giving a remarkable acoustical effect. Lighting fixtures are specially made to match the architecture and the lighting is semi-indirect.

Felix De Panicis

Birth 19 MAR 1889 • Mosciano, Sant'Angelo, Italy

Death 4 JAN 1978 • Richmond, Henrico County, Virginia, United States of America

Brickmason Will Not Be Forgotten

FORK UNION, Va., Nov. 2. (AP)—Baptist dignitaries will not forget Felix de Panicis, brickmason, when they dedicate Fork Union Military Academy's new chapel Saturday.

The chapel contains 250,000 bricks and the officials will unveil a bronze tablet reading: "To Felix de Panicis, who laid every brick and stone in this chapel and put character in his work."

The job took Panicis eleven months.

Dr. G. W. Truett To Dedicate New Fork Union Chapel

FORK UNION, Va., Nov. 1.—(P)—Dr. George W. Truett, president of the Baptist World Alliance, will deliver the sermon at the dedication of a new chapel at Fork Union Military Academy Saturday.

Among others participating in the dedication will be Dr. J. W. Cammack, pastor at Fork Union and bible teacher at the academy; Dr. John L. Slaughter, of Richmond; Dr. Henry Alford Porter, of Charlottesville; Dr. John J. Wicker, who is in his eighth year as president of the academy, and Colonel N. J. Perkins, headmaster who has been with the academy more than 20 years.

The chapel, gothic in motif, was designed for the religious use of the academy. Fifteen of the 20 windows in the chapel are memorial windows.

A feature of the dedication will be the unveiling of a bronze tablet to the bricklayer who by himself laid the some 250,000 bricks in the building. It took him eleven months to accomplish the task.

Porter Will Assist Fork Union Program

Dr. Henry Alford Porter, pastor of the First Baptist Church this city, will go to Fork Union Military Academy on Saturday to participate in the dedication of a new chapel at the well known school.

The sermon will be delivered by Dr. George W. Truett, president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Among others participating in the dedication will be Dr. J. W. Cammack, pastor at Fork Union, and Bible teacher at the academy; Dr. John L. Slaughter, of Richmond; Dr. John J. Wicker, who is in his eighth year as president of the Academy, and Colonel N. J. Perkins, headmaster who has been with the Academy more than twenty years.

The chapel, Gothic in motif, was designed for the religious use of the academy. Fifteen of the twenty windows in the chapel are memorial windows.

A feature of the dedication will be the unveiling of a bronze tablet to the bricklayer who by himself laid the some 250,000 bricks in the building. It took him eleven months to accomplish the task.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR CHAPEL DEDICATION

Dedication Exercises Start At 12 o'Clock Tomorrow

FORK UNION, Nov. 5.—Dedication of the Fork Union Military Academy Chapel will take place tomorrow at 12 o'clock noon.

Presentation of the chapel to the board of trustees of the academy by John J. Wicker, president, and it will be accepted by M. C. Thomas, president of the board of trustees. The invocation will be made by Dr. J. W. Cammack and the dedicatory sermon will be preached by Dr. George W. Truett, of Dallas, Texas. The prayer of dedication will be delivered by Dr. Henry Alford Porter and the benediction will be pronounced by Colonel N. J. Perkins, headmaster.

The program for the exercises is as follows:

1. Band.
2. Hymn, "Stand Up, Stand Up

for Jesus."

3. Invocation, Dr. J. W. Cammack.

4. Announcements and introductions.

5. Special music.

6. Presentation of the chapel to the board of trustees, President Wicker.

7. Acceptance by the president of the board of trustees, M. C. Thomas.

8. Hymn, "He Leadeth Me," No. 406.

9. Dedicatory sermon, Dr. George W. Truett, Dallas, Tex.

10. Responsive reading.

11. Prayer of dedication, Dr. Henry Alford Porter.

12. Hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

13. Benediction, Headmaster Colonel N. J. Perkins.

14. Band.

Fork Union Military Academy Announces Gift of \$2,500

FORK UNION—A gift of \$2,500 has just been made Fork Union Military Academy by a person who desires that his name be withheld, Dr. J. J. Wicker, president, announced yesterday.

The money, said Dr. Wicker, will be used to help pay for the chapel which will be completed by the opening of the 1937 session in September. The chapel, which

September. The chapel, which will seat 650 persons, will be one of the handsomest school chapels in Virginia, officials said. Carneal, Johnston and Wright are the architects.

The board of trustees was in session two days last week and transacted business in connection with every department of the school. Fork Union now has an enrollment of 346 cadets from 27 States and a number of foreign countries. It is said to be impossible to enlarge attendance until further dormitory space is provided.

The immediate task is a recreation center, which those in charge said they hope will be completed this calendar year.

Dr. Wicker was commended by a resolution of the board for achievements during the seven years he has been president.

Colonel N. J. Perkins, headmaster of the academic department who has been with the academy for 21 years, was voted a continuance in the Legislature to which he was elected previous to the last session, and is a candidate for the coming session.

The board is composed of:

John J. Wicker Jr., Dr. R. D. Garcin, the Rev. S. T. Matthews, Dr. George H. Snead, M. U. Pitt, R. M. Stone, George S. Kemp, F. M. Collier, Dr. W. L. Prince, Wyatt B. Carneal and the Rev. John L. Slaughter of Richmond.

Also the Rev. H. J. Goodwin, Suffolk; H. P. Charlton, Lynenburg; E. H. Titmus, Petersburg; Dr. H. M. McManaway, Staunton; the Rev. H. Lee Scott, Waynesboro; Morton W. Turner, Roanoke; D. N. Davidson, Orange; M. C. Thomas, Charlottesville; E. J. Perkins, Charlottesville; Hill Fleet, Irvington; the Rev. Perry Mitchell and the Rev. Cecil V. Cook, Farmville;

Also George M. Bashaw, W. F. Snead, G. J. Snead, E. B. Weaver, S. P. Harland and O. R. LaFord of Fluvanna County.

In the chapel are 20 windows, 15 of which are memorial windows to the following:

"The Good Shepherd," to Benjamin Franklin Dickerson, by his widow, Mrs. B. F. Dickerson.

"The Resurrection and the Tomb," to Isaac Otey Perkins and Margaret Lelia Hughes by their son, E. J. Perkins.

"Behold I Stand at the Door and Knock," to the late Jonathan Bryan by George S. Kemp.

"Faith," to Betty M. Payne and Captain Charles Goodall Snead, by Mrs. Martha Averett and the other children.

"Hope," to the Rev. John R. Bagby, by J. Alfred Rucker who was baptized by Dr. Bagby.

"Christ Blessing the Children," to Ethel Beard Perkins, by her husband, Colonel N. J. Perkins.

"Christ in the Temple Disputing With the Doctors," in honor of John Alfred Rucker 2nd, a graduate of Fork Union Military Academy, by his father.

"Matthews," to the late Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellyson, by his friends.

"Mark," to H. K. Ellyson and William Ellyson, father and son (who served the denomination as State mission secretaries for 75 years, without compensation), by their friends.

"Luke," to R. D. Garland, who was, for a number of years secretary of State missions, by friends.

"John," to the late Rev. George T. Waite, secretary of State missions, by friends.

"Jesus Leads," to Malcolm Harris Pilcher, by "those who loved him."

"Christ Rescuing Peter," to the Rev. Samuel C. Clopton, by J. J. Wicker. Dr. Clopton baptized Dr. Wicker and performed his marriage ceremony.

"The Good Samaritan," to Charles A. Shuman, by J. J. Wicker, who, as the donor says, "was good to me in my college days."

"The Titmus Tower" was erected through the generosity of E. A. Titmus of Petersburg, and the large, arched memorial window, "Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane," over the main entrance is a memorial to Mr. Titmus' father and mother, Richard C. Titmus and Harriet E. Tatum.

All chairs and pulpit furniture have been given by various individuals, Sunday schools and churches in and outside of the State of Virginia, representing many religious denominations. The chairs are of folding opera design. The pulpit furniture is hand-carved, rich and ornate.

Many distinguished visitors and hundreds of friends from all parts of the State are expected to attend the dedication.

The board of trustees will occupy the platform, together with the faculty and a number of distinguished visitors.

The following are trustees of the school: M. C. Thomas, president, Charlottesville; D. N. Davidson, vice-president, Orange; George M. Bashaw, secretary, Fork Union; R. D. Garcin, M. D., Richmond; H. J. Goodwin, D. D., Suffolk; S. T. Matthews, D. D., Richmond; H. Lee Scott, D. D., Waynesboro; George H. Snead, M. D., Richmond; M. U. Pitt, Richmond; Morton W. Turner, Roanoke; D. N. Davidson, Orange; S. P. Harland, Palmyra; R. M. Stone, Richmond; John L. Slaughter, D. D., Richmond; M. C. Thomas, Charlottesville; E. J. Perkins, Charlottesville; O. R. Lanford, Carysbrook; George S. Kemp, Richmond; Cecil V. Cook, D. D., Farmville; F. M. Collier, Richmond; W. L. Prince, Ph.D., Richmond; Perry L. Mitchell, D. D., Clarendon; Hill Fleet, Irvington; George M. Bashaw, Fork Union; H. P. Charlton, Dillwyn; E. H. Titmus, Petersburg; L. Howard Jenkins, Richmond; W. F. Snead, Fork Union; H. M. McManaway, Ph.D., Staunton; G. J. Snead, Fork Union; Wyatt B. Carneal, Richmond; E. B. Weaver, Fork Union; John J. Wicker Jr., Richmond.

**Felix DePanicis
Brickmason
who built the
Chapel.**



(Staff Photos by Maurice Duke)

FELIX DePANICIS, MOTHER EMMA AND SHRINE HE BUILT