

## Dedication of the A. Felix duPont, Jr. Memorial Chapel September 1997

IT IS PERFECTLY APPROPRIATE AND TRULY FITTING that this Chapel be dedicated to A. Felix duPont, Jr., the son of the School's Founder and a loyal and generous leader of our Board of Trustees for over 40 years. Until his death last December, Mr. duPont was a most loyal and faithful steward of St. Andrew's School; he was the person most responsible for carrying on the vision of his father that began as an idea presented to Bishop Cook on Thursday, August 11, 1927.

A. Felix duPont, Jr., was born in 1905, twenty-five years before his father founded St. Andrew's. He joined our Board of Trustees in 1956 and served as Vice President (1957-60), Executive Vice President (1960-74), President (1974-85) and Chairman of the Board (1985-96). In 1996, the Board of Trustees selected him to be the charter member of the Founders Forum, an organization honoring those members of the faculty, staff, alumni, past parent body, Trustees and friends of St. Andrew's who have significantly served the Founder's mission. In addition to the St. Andrew's Board, Mr. duPont served on the boards of the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of America, Delaware Wild Lands, Delaware Curative Workshop, Franklin Institute, the Medical Center of Delaware and St. James School of Maryland.

The transformation of St. Andrew's School from its founding to its development as a truly national boarding school could not have taken place without the guidance of A. Felix duPont, Jr. It was Mr. duPont who from 1956 to 1996 never missed a meeting of the full Board or a committee meeting; it was Mr. duPont who provided the leadership on the Board of Trustees that led to the purchase of land surrounding Noxontown Pond that has protected the School campus from the rapid development we see all around us. It was Mr. duPont who provided leadership when St. Andrew's became an integrated school and a coeducational school. It was Mr. duPont who brought our second Headmaster, Bob Moss, and our third Headmaster, Jon O'Brien, to St. Andrew's. Much to my own pleasure and gratitude, it was Mr. duPont who welcomed me as St. Andrew's fourth Headmaster in December of 1995.

Those of us who knew Mr. duPont know that in addition to his great gifts as a leader and benefactor to the School, he was a remarkably quiet, kind, humble and self-effacing man. He let the students, faculty, Board of Trustees and Headmasters celebrate the great potential of the School he and his father created. His commitment to public service, to quality education, to the church was performed without the fanfare and public posturing of so many influential leaders.

And so it was simply his presence at family-style meals, athletic events, graduations, Board meetings and School celebrations that made us all feel complete, in touch with the very essence and spirit of this remarkable school. Generations of St. Andreans deemed their education complete only when they inspected their diploma and found Mr. duPont's signature upon it. The final two times I saw him were typical moments: at a cold, blustery November St. Andrew's football game against Tatnall, he watched with pride the way our team played courageously and tenaciously; in December last year, Mr. duPont's satisfaction and pleasure with student musical performances and his daughter Kitten Gahagan's reading of the Trustee lesson were evident at the Service of Lessons and Carols.

As we dedicate the Chapel to A. Felix duPont, Jr., we thank him and his family for their abiding vision, faith and service to St. Andrew's. We confirm our desire to create a school community that is a reflection of Mr. duPont's life—one of service, one of humility, one of commitment, and one of faith and learning.

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