

February 28

Anna Julia Haywood Cooper, 1964,
and Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, 1904
Educators

Anna Julia Haywood Cooper was born on August 10, 1858, in Raleigh, North Carolina, to an enslaved woman and a white man, presumably her mother's master. She attended St. Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute, founded by The Episcopal Church to educate African American teachers and clergy. There she became an Episcopalian and married George Cooper, one of her instructors, who was the second African American ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in North Carolina. She was an active member of St. Luke's in Washington, D.C., while Alexander Crummell served as its rector.

Cooper emphasized the importance of equal education for African Americans. An advocate for African American women, Cooper assisted in organizing the Colored Women's League and the first Colored Settlement House in Washington, D.C. In 1892, her book *A View from the South* was published, in which she challenged The Episcopal Church to offer more direct support for the African American members of its church in their quest for advancement and improvement in a segregated society.

At the age of 65, on April 3, 1925, Cooper became the fourth African American woman to complete a doctorate, granted by the Sorbonne in Paris. From 1930-1942, she served as President of Freylinghuysen University in Washington, D.C. She died on February 27, 1964, at the age of 105.

Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was born in Talbotton, Georgia, in 1872. Her father was an African American and her mother of Cherokee descent.

With the encouragement of her teachers, she enrolled at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. She worked for the school during the day and attended night classes, but Olivia Washington, wife of the head of Tuskegee, Booker T. Washington, noted her promise and strength of

character. Mrs. Washington made it possible for her to attend day classes.

Wright interrupted her studies and went to Hampton County, South Carolina, to establish a school for rural black children. Arsonists thwarted her efforts, and she returned to Tuskegee to finish her degree, graduating in 1894. She returned to Hampton County to re-start her school, but, once again, her efforts were turned back. Together with two colleagues, Jessie Dorsey and Hattie Davidson, she ventured to friendlier territory near Denmark, South Carolina, in 1897. There she started the Denmark Industrial Institute, modeled after Tuskegee. It continues today as Voorhees College, affiliated with The Episcopal Church.

Wright died on December 14, 1906, in Battle Creek, Michigan.



Rite I Eternal God, who didst inspire Anna Julia Haywood Cooper and Elizabeth Evelyn Wright with the love of learning and the joy of teaching: Help us also to gather and use the resources of our communities for the education of all thy children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Rite II Eternal God, you inspired Anna Julia Haywood Cooper and Elizabeth Evelyn Wright with the love of learning and the joy of teaching: Help us also to gather and use the resources of our communities for the education of all your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For Liturgical Celebration: [Common of a Saint, A23] [For Education, A60]

FEBRUARY 28