

## Lifetime collection becomes part of Whitaker Library

*"A cooperative spirit among those who serve is the key element in the success of a college or a church."*

A library built during a ministry that spanned almost a half century, along with a collection of sermons numbering in the thousands, will become a part of Chowan College's Whitaker Library and be housed in the Antiquities Room.

The Rev. J. Felix Arnold, who served as pastor of Enfield Baptist Church from 1947 until his retirement in July of 1975, donated his collection to Chowan "that they might be used by the many students the college is serving."

"We are delighted to receive Mr. Arnold's large collection of books," said Mrs. Geraldine Harris, head librarian. "This will be a very valuable addition to our holdings of religious works."

The copies of sermons delivered by Arnold during his long ministry at three churches will be bound and housed with other historical documents, Mrs. Harris noted.

Arnold, a native of Shannon, Mississippi, served Chowan as a trustee for four decades and was elected Honorary Life Trustee about two years ago.

Serving as chairman for a number of terms, he was first elected to the Board of Trustees in the late 1950s. "Those were struggling years for Chowan College," Arnold said as he reflected upon his association with the institution.

"The school had just re-opened following World War II, but we had excellent leadership and a very strong commitment by the board," he continued.

"The student enrollment was very small, and there were only one or two buildings on campus other than the McDowell Columns building," he said.

Arnold described his service as a trustee as being "very rewarding because I felt that I was a part of making a positive difference in the life and service of a great institution."

Reviewing Chowan's progress since the late 1950s, the former trustee quickly testified that "a cooperative spirit among those who serve is the key, and the most important element, in the success of a college or a church."

"The college is certainly on the right track now," he related, "by returning to senior college status."

*"I felt I was making a positive difference in the life and service of a great institution."*



*The Rev. J. Felix Arnold points out some of his books which have "been like old friends" during his long ministry at Enfield Baptist Church. The library, consisting of hundreds of volumes, has been donated to Chowan College along with a collection of Arnold's sermons.*

"Chowan will now be able to continue to grow and to provide a broader and greater service to our young people."

After receiving his undergraduate degree from Mississippi College, Arnold graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"He was a member of a quartet while at the seminary," Mrs. Arnold proudly noted. "He sang high tenor."

"Yes, as a matter of fact," the retired minister agreed, "we helped get Dr. John Sampey, the president of the seminary, elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention."

"We were asked to sing at the convention and we must have been good enough to get some votes for him."

Arnold served only three churches in his long ministry.

After graduating from the seminary, he was an associate pastor of the First Baptist Church of

Winston-Salem before assuming the pastorate of Boykins (VA) Baptist Church.

It was during his ministry at the Boykins church that Arnold met his future bride, the former Frances Marks, the daughter of Mrs. Texie Camp Marks, who currently serves as a Chowan trustee and is the first out-of-state female to serve in such a capacity.

After serving the Boykins church for several years and a three-year stint as a chaplain in the Navy during World War II, Arnold was called to the Enfield Baptist Church where he served until his retirement.

The Arnolds are the parents of two daughters: Felice Parent, Louanne Clarke; and three sons: Marks, John F., Jr., and Claude. The couple also has ten grandchildren.

The couple recently moved to Wilmington but plan to continue to keep close ties with "the folks in Enfield" and those at Chowan College.

## Friends of Library receives grant from Powell Charitable Trust

The Friends of Whitaker Library of Chowan College has received a grant from the J. Dewey and Mabel M. Powell Charitable Trust to help expand library services and programs to students and citizens of the area.

"We are delighted that the Powell Charitable Trust is providing assistance to the Friends of Whitaker Library," said R. Clayton Lewis, director of corporate and foundation relations. "The gift will help provide further strength to Chowan's library facilities to better serve our students and be of greater service to the people of the Roanoke-Chowan area."

The J. Dewey and Mabel M. Powell Charitable Trust, with offices in Youngsville, has provided financial assistance to several churches and has also made grants for social services programs.

The Friends of Whitaker Library is a newly-formed organization to "provide leadership in fostering greater understanding and appreciation for Whitaker Library as a source of strength" for the R-C area and the Franklin/Southampton County region.

Dr. James W. Batten, of Greenville, serves as president of the library organization. Membership is open to all individuals, organizations and businesses who have an interest in reading and research.

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