

Those who made a difference . . .

When Chowan College re-opened in September 1949 after being closed for several years during World War II, Dr. B. D. Bunn, president, said that a "new day dawned" and called attention to the many tasks which confronted the faculty, staff and friends of the college in the years ahead.

But after a period of operation, a delegation from the Council on Christian Education of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina visited Chowan and declared that they "were delighted with what they observed." Their report to the Council said "everything bore testimony to the spirit of determination among the people of the Chowan area to support and operate a college program."

Dr. Jerry F. Jackson, president, said "it was only through the commitment of men and women, limited only by their faith, loyalty and cooperation, who brought Chowan College from the 'dawn of that new day' to be one of the great colleges it is today."

These were men and women with vision and a mission.

One who, indeed, had a vision of greatness for Chowan College was the Rev. John Felix Arnold . . . a man who made a difference.

A native of Shannon, Mississippi, Felix Arnold received his bachelor's degree from Mississippi College.

He was awarded the master of divinity degree by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and became associate pastor at First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem.

Arnold then accepted a call to become pastor of Boykins (VA) Baptist Church and it was then he first heard of Chowan College—a small, liberal arts college fifteen miles away.

It was also at Boykins Baptist Church where Arnold met his future bride, the former Frances Marks, daughter of the late Texie Camp Marks, a staunch Chowan supporter and a major benefactor.

He served the Boykins church for several years and then entered the Navy for duty as a chaplain during World War II. After completing his tour of military service, Arnold accepted a call to Enfield Baptist Church, but he did not forget Chowan.

He was first elected to the Board of Trustees in the late 1950s and once described his first term on the governing board as "struggling years."

"The school had just re-opened after World War II," he once said, "but we had excellent leadership and a very strong commitment by each member of the board."

Arnold was subsequently elected chairman of the board and in 1961 successfully guided a financial campaign to raise \$900,000 for a library and a classroom building.

Totally committed to supporting the college, Arnold gave generously to the financial effort, even to the point of what others considered sacrificial giving. His generosity inspired others to give as well.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. (Texie Camp) Marks, the parents of Arnold's wife, contributed \$50,000 to the campaign which was then the largest single gift in the history of the college. The classroom building was named in their honor and memory when it was dedicated in the spring of 1964.

The Rev. Mr. Arnold also gave generously of his time and talent in outstanding service to his community and his church.

He was a past president of the Enfield Lions Club; a moderator of the North Roanoke Baptist Association; served eight years on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention and 12 years on the Council on Christian Higher Education.

He was named Pastor Emeritus of Enfield Baptist Church in recognition of being pastor for 28 years.

In later years, the J. Felix Arnold Scholarship Fund was established at Chowan College through his generosity and that of members of his family. He was the father of five children: Mrs. Felice A. Parent, Mrs. LouAnn A. Clarke, Robert Marks, John F. (Jack), and Claude Camp.



Rev. J. Felix Arnold

But J. Felix Arnold was not a man satisfied with reaching one goal — or serving one term in leadership positions.

He went on to serve a total of 22 years on the Board of Trustees and chairman for 11 years, a member of the Executive Committee for 14 years and a member of the college's advisory group for more than a decade.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees in the late 1980s, Arnold was presented a plaque in testimony of his outstanding service and the board also presented resolutions of appreciation.

In part, the resolutions said "his studied consideration of issues before us, his wise counsel, and his gift for enlisting others in the support of this institution and her mission in higher education have been characteristic of the attention he has given to the role of trustee and advisor.

"It seems particularly fitting that such service and devotion to the cause of Christian higher education be recognized and honored."

The Rev. J. Felix Arnold died on September 30, 1994, but he will be remembered for countless years to come in the life of Chowan College — an institution he loved.

John Felix Arnold gave a lifetime of commitment.

He truly made a difference.

The Rev. J. Felix Arnold served 22 years on the Board of Trustees and was a member of the Executive Committee for 14.

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Comments, suggestions and informational submissions from alumni, friends and parents are welcome. Please send them to Director of College Relations, PO Box 1848, Murfreesboro, N. C., 27855.

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PRESIDENT OF CHOWAN COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees of Chowan College and its Presidential Search Committee invite nominations and applications for the position of President.

Chowan College was founded in 1848 and is affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Chowan is a four-year liberal arts institution, located in northeastern North Carolina, approximately 60 miles southwest of Norfolk, Virginia. It offers programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. It has an enrollment of about 800 students, with about 60 full-time faculty members.

The Search Committee seeks applications from individuals possessing the following characteristics: a commitment to undergraduate Christian higher education; an earned doctorate; administrative and teaching experience in an institution of higher education; skills in fund raising; the ability to work collaboratively with the various constituencies of the college; knowledge in the areas of finance and budgeting; ability to provide leadership in charting plans for the future; ability to articulate the mission of the college, both internally and externally; ability to build teamwork among the groups encompassing the college community.

Nominations and letters of applications, accompanied by a resume, should be sent to:

Mr. Clement Yancey
Chair, Presidential Search Committee
ATTN: Mrs. Bettie Ricks
Chowan College
P. O. Box 1848
Murfreesboro, NC 27855

The deadline for receipt of nominations and applications is August 1, 1995.

Chowan College is an equal opportunity employer.

