

## Editorials

## An Open Letter

North Carolina Wesleyan College in 1968 will be an extension of what we are making it now.

There will be more—more buildings, students, faculty, staff—but we are creating the pattern and establishing the guide lines by which we expand.

The campus in 1968 should include all of the buildings we now have, or have under construction. In addition we should have the gymnasium—well worn, the library—well read; the auditorium—fine arts building—well attended. The fifth dormitory will probably be occupied by young men and it's possible the sixth will be in use by young ladies.

The greenhouse and formal gardens will be centers of interest. We can also hope for the completion of the beautiful Chapel in the front pines by this time.

You will find the conversations more numerous since we anticipate 750 to 800 students on campus, with approximately 600 in residence. Our present 25 faculty members will have grown to 50 or 55 full-time professors.

For these things to come to fruition, we must have the continued support of our close friends, the Founders of the Rocky Mount Community and the Methodists of the North Carolina Annual Conference.

We are committed to a program of excellence in liberal arts education so the number of majors will still number only three or four more than our present dozen. We prefer to do well what we attempt rather than to attempt everything and do nothing well.

To attain the concept of Christian Higher Education, we must work together, administration, faculty, and students to produce a growing sense of community, Christian commitment, and trustworthiness.

No single element of the community can make these goals a reality. Any single element can prevent this accomplishment. Therefore we must be "laborers together with God" and we shall look forward to 1968 and after with eager anticipation.

Thomas A. Collins  
President, Wesleyan College

## Milestone Year

This issue of the Decree offers a preview of Wesleyan's first milestone year, 1968. Expressed on these pages are the carefully thought-out plans of the architects, the expectations of the administration, the aspirations of the faculty, and the hopes of the students.

The prevalence of such a bright attitude regarding the future indicates to us that Wesleyan has experienced in many ways a remarkable history. To reminisce in search of why's and wherefore's seems mandatory as perhaps the recognition of these items will add somewhat to the full realization of future goals.

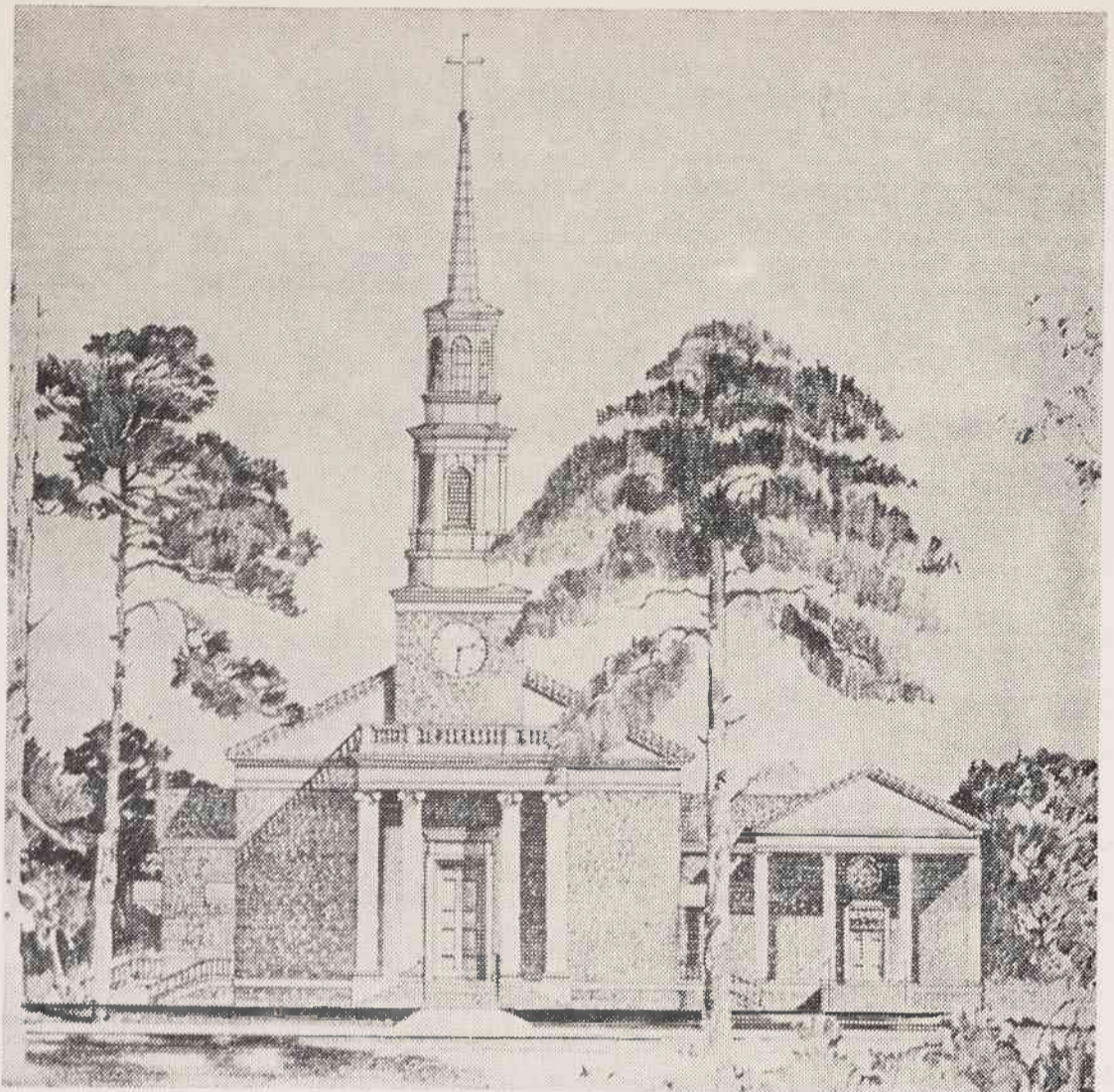
Wesleyan's most valuable asset has been the unanimous encouragement and support from among the surrounding populace; had it not been so freely offered, Wesleyan would not exist to this day. These people, who have helped to form the very foundations upon which this institution is built, have asked little in return other than the dividend of higher education itself.

Our administration has proven itself unique in successfully tackling the innumerable problems involved in the establishment of sound procedure so necessary to effective administration. It has done well in providing this very institution with a faculty of exceptional quality, and also in attempting to make available to the students the most challenging and comprehensive program possible.

Among all these who have played any part in the history of Wesleyan, the students deserve the highest praise. In several short years they have provided the college with an admirable government already noted by similar groups for its excellence. The present students have gone to all lengths to insure that Wesleyan's future life blood will have worthy traditions to uphold and a more meaningful college experience, both socially and academically.

In retrospect, I see challenges that were successfully encountered by forward-looking people all concerned with the betterment of the total life of Wesleyan College. If the past be a crystal ball pointing pathways to 1968, we can carefully expect all our aspirations to be realized.

—Mr. X



ARTIST'S SKETCH OF THE FUTURE WESLEYAN CHAPEL

## Hailey Supports Proposed Chapel

In a recent interview Dr. James Hailey gave Wesleyan students new insights on the much needed Chapel that is proposed for future construction.

The Chapel will have a chaplain to lead all religious activities. Weekly chapel services will be held on Thursdays as well as a worship service on Sundays. The Chapel will be a regular church to serve the college community, with its activities closely resembling the churches in town.

This concept is based on the assumption that a church-related school must have a strong religious life as an important and vital addition to college life. The student may, for this reason, hold an associate membership in the college church while still holding membership ties with his home church.

## Large Sanctuary

The interior of the Chapel will feature a large sanctuary

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with an adjoining chapel. This chapel will be open, along with the sanctuary, for personal use and meditation. There will be an office for the chaplain in the Chapel, as well as recreational facilities.

The Wesleyan Chapel will probably be non-denominational, giving greater elasticity to the service orders and to further meet the individual student's needs.

Organization of religious life will be handled by the Inter-Faith Commission as a part of the total Student Government. Separate groups under Inter-Faith guidance will enlarge their memberships for more effective chapel presentation and

organization.

Baptist Student Union, Methodist Youth Fellowship, Canterbury, and Westminster Fellowship will be the more prominent denominational councils within the Inter-Faith Commission. The Inter-Faith Commission chairman and the president of each denominational group will hold Senate seats and co-ordinate the total religious program.

There will also be a ministerial organization for pre-ministerial students. The goal of the Wesleyan administration is to make available facilities and instruction to all students for growth and new understanding in their religious life.

## Academic Standards To Be Strengthened

The most prevalent comment on Wesleyan academic standards according to a recent survey taken by The Decree editors was that one of the principal aims of Wesleyan College is to offer a good, solid, strong major in a few fields, instead of offering lower quality standards in many varied major study areas.

Statements of this type are in direct conflict with what many people think will be the future of Wesleyan. The curriculum-planning agencies of the college are definitely opposed to lowering standards in a maze of different fields of study. The 11 major areas of study will, of course, be continued and strengthened, and only a few more majors will be offered in the proceeding years.

The college will continue to be basically a liberal arts institution, with no courses being offered in the professional fields. Curriculum studies are being made continuously, and the aim of these studies is to move toward free, more experimental schedules of study. Individual curriculum practices and policies, many of which will be exclusive to Wesleyan, will begin.

The curriculum study group's desire for beneficial, original ideas can be seen in unique results already obtained by them, such as the present freshman religion requirements (Introduction to Religion and World Religion) and the Humanities courses, which include investigations into all the fine arts with examinations of their basic similarities.

It is hoped that Wesleyan may one day offer an extra special area of study—one in which the college may become recognized as excelling all other schools in its teaching.

All areas of the present curriculum are to be expanded, with new courses being offered each semester. More languages will be available, as will expanded science courses. At the present time Wesleyan has no real art program, but as the college expands a full area of study in art will be offered.

The policy in the past has been one of "do it right or not at all," so gradually courses such as Principles of Aesthetics, Introduction to Painting, etc., will become realities.

Requirements for graduation (Continued on page 4)