

Religion

The Guilfordian March 25, 1983

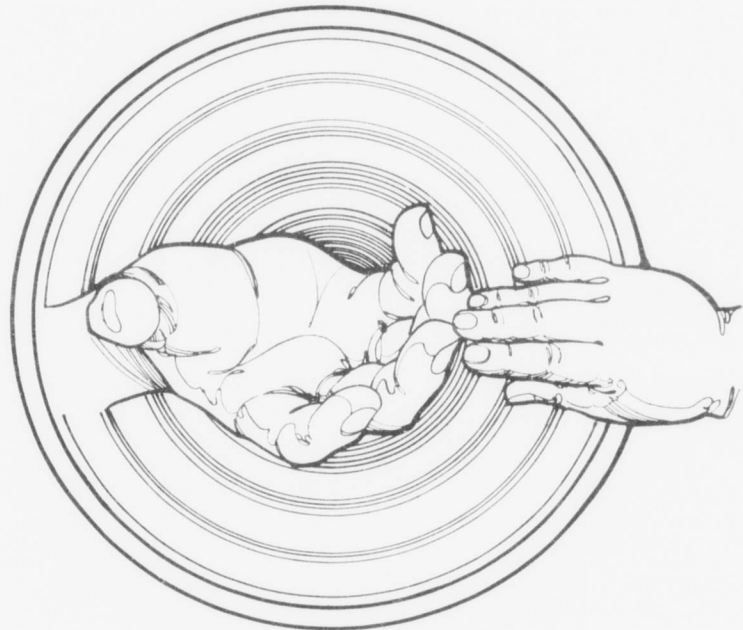
Not Sunday School'

further explained, "In fact many don't realize how hard a religion major is and drop it."

Professor Keiser attributes the trend of an increasing amount of religion majors in recent years to a national trend back to the humanities. He also adds that the addition of Joe Groves in the department made the major even more attractive. Additionally, Mel insists that the teachers of the subject at Guilford (others are Pete Moore and John Stoneburner) don't insist on any one theological point of view. As a result, many types of faiths have declared religion their major in-

cluding Quakers, Jews and other secularized religions. The department offers interdisciplinary classes, coupling religion with topics as history, psychology, philosophy and literature. These courses are primarily taught as IDS 401 classes.

On the ultimate goal of the religion program Professor Keiser stated, "It's a good way of getting a liberal arts education and a good way to become more aware of yourself and the world; essentially, we (the Religion Department) are trying to create a learner who will keep on learning long after he graduates."



World of Islam

are other religious differences that make it hard for Muslims to feel completely comfortable in American society. In most Islamic countries, religious and secular matters are so closely intertwined as to be almost indistinguishable from each other, unlike our country with its emphasis on the separation of church and state.

Islamic religious rites include fasting, recitation of the Koran, and prayers five times a day. These religious requirements are a basic part of Muslim life, and are continued by the individual even when he or she is removed from the native environment. Nouri Salamah of Kuwait, says that his cross-cultural experience has made him stronger in his religious beliefs. He faithfully observes the rites, and they have become more meaningful for him. Juma al-Shamari, also of Kuwait, expressed that each Muslim student must incorporate their contact with a non-Islamic culture in their own way, but that most are just as devout here as they are at home.

For the most part, Muslim students at Guilford adjust to their experiences very well. Almost all return to their home country after their stay here, so they do not seem to feel intense cultural conflict. Perhaps the most severe problem faced by these students is weight loss - many don't like American food and eat very little while here.

What impression of our community does the Muslim student take home with him? For some, it is not the contact with Christianity, or the advanced technology, or the people, or even the Big Mac that they remember most. Sue Siler tells of picking up one of the first Muslim students at the airport two years ago, and his first comment on our area: "All this green!" Coming from a country that is mostly desert, he was very impressed with the trees and grass he saw all around him.

Such appreciation of nature would seem to transcend religious differences.

Worship Opportunities

by Bill Wilder
Staff Writer

For those students interested in an opportunity for worship according to their faith or beliefs, there are a number of area churches and ministers anxious to serve the students' needs. Many opportunities lie right at our doorsteps as several ministers conduct worship services on campus.

Among these is Father Jac Campbell who holds Catholic mass every week in Boren Lounge at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings. He can provide information for those interested in fellowship or going on retreats with other Catholic students here or at UNC-G. In the Moon Room, Jim Prevatt leads an Episcopal service at 5:30 on Tuesday nights and the Friends gather here as well as on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for an unprogrammed meeting. Jewish students on campus wishing to worship may contact Sheldon Novak (852-9394) for information on upcoming meetings and worship opportunities.

A rapidly growing Christian fellowship is also on campus, holding bible studies several times a week and encouraging more participation from the stu-

dent body. If you're interested in attending one of these meetings you can contact Jennifer Williamson for information.

For those of you willing to leave campus to worship, the New Garden Friends Meeting is right across the street and its semi-programmed service begins at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Next year Trinity Methodist Church, which has a fine college and career class, will be moving to within a mile of the campus on Friendly Ave.

Yet Guilford students are certainly not limited to these particular on-campus or near campus opportunities. Some other churches with good reputations among college students include Westover Presbyterian Church and Florida Street Baptist Church. Although Westover is now searching for a new pastor it has long been noted for its fine college class and Florida Street Baptist, with Robert Goode as pastor, also has an active class for the college student.

Another opportunity offered is the Gospel Light Baptist Church, another popular church among Guilford students, having 2000 members, it makes it the 19th largest Baptist Church in America. Gospel Light is in

Walkertown (about 22 miles), but it is said that the drive is well worth it.

There are a great many churches and religious organizations in Greensboro well-suited to serve the needs of all college students. These numerous opportunities can satisfy the diverse needs of the Guilford College student body. See you in church!

*For more information, contact Bill Wilder, 852-9353.

