

# The SALEMITE

Volume LXI  
Number 14  
April 13, 1979

-serving the salem college community since 1920

## Dr. Richard Morrill

named the sixteenth president of Salem Academy and College by the school's board of trustees at its annual Spring meeting. He will assume his new position this summer.

Morrill, now executive assistant to the provost of the Pennsylvania State University (University Park, Pa.), will succeed Dr. Merrimon Cuninggim, who is retiring in June.

Morrill, who also serves as affiliate associate professor of religious studies at the university, is chief staff officer to the provost, who serves as chief academic officer and deputy president for the university's 21 campuses and all programs in instruction, research and public service.

The announcement was made by Thomas S. Douglas III, chairman of the trustee presidential search committee, following a unanimous vote of the 39-member board of trustees. The trustee committee was assisted by an advisory committee composed of representatives of the faculty, administration, alumnae and students of the college and academy.

Before his Pennsylvania State University appointment, Morrill was, from 1973 to 1977, associate provost and assistant to the president at Chatham College (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and also taught in the department of philosophy and religion.

Previous to 1974, he was assistant professor at Chatham and initiated and served as director of the college's interim program in January. From 1967 to 1968 he taught in the history and philosophy of religion department at Wells College, Aurora, N.Y.

Morrill, who will be 40 years old in June, is a magna cum laude graduate of Brown University (B.A. degree in history), a Phi Beta Kappa and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow (1961-62). He holds the B.D. degree in religious thought from Yale University (1964), where he received the Tew Prize for excellence in studies in 1962, and the Ph. D. degree from Duke University (1967). He was the James B. Duke Fellow from 1964-1967, the highest award of the Duke University Graduate School.

He has a particular interest in ethics and values in higher education and has written and spoken widely on these subjects.

He and his wife, the former Martha Leahy, have two daughters, 12 and 9 years old. Salem News Bureau



Dr. Richard L. Morrill

## Salem's Traditional Sunrise Service

The Easter Sunrise Service of the Moravian's in Winston-Salem, which is now one of the largest and best known in the United States, is an old service, rich in spiritual significance.

The service it originated in Herrnhut, a village in Southern Saxony, by a band of religious refugees from Moravia. These people became known as "Moravians." In 1732, a group of young men met before dawn on "God's Acre," the Moravian's grave yard, to sing and meditate upon the fact of Christ's death and resurrection. A greater appreciation of the resurrection truth came to the men as they stood among the simply marked graves watching the sun rise and drive away the darkness. Since this simple beginning, the sunrise service on Easter morning has been an annual feature in the worship services of the Moravian Church wherever it has been established.

This first sunrise service held in Salem was in 1771, at this time, though the village had been started, no graves had yet been made in God's Acre but the villagers gathered at dawn, Easter morning, for their service then familiar to their church for almost 40 years.

In Winston-Salem today this service is held with as little variation from the traditional ones as present day conditions and large groups of worshipers will permit. It is in no way a service of spectacular show or pageantry but is still held as a simple service of true worship centering on the renewal of faith in the Risen Christ.

During the week before Easter, nightly services are held at the church. Passages are read from the passion week manual which contains Gospel accounts of the sufferings, death and resurrection of Christ. On Thursday night, the Maundy Thursday communion service is held with further readings. Friday afternoon at 2:15 is the Crucifixion service at which the story of the crucifixion is read with the climax coming at 3 o'clock, the supposed hour of Christ's death. At 7:45 Friday night the Good Friday Love Feast takes place. This is a song service primarily, with remarks by the minister. A simple meal of coffee and buns is served. This service is preceded by a prelude of chorales by the church band.

The climax of the week, of course, is the sunrise service on Easter morning which begins one-half hour before sunrise. The service begins in front of church, with the congregation gathered in the street and around Salem square. About mid-way through the liturgy, the congregation begins its procession to the graveyard where the service concludes.

Cont'd. on 3



Rev. Steler opens the sunrise service



Sunrise over God's Acre on Easter morning

Photos by Cookie Snyder