



Dr. J. William Angell

## Dr. Angell Teaches Protestant Theology At Abbey

Dr. J. William Angell, who is currently Professor of Religion at Wake Forest University, is teaching a semester course here at Belmont Abbey on the subject of contemporary protestant theology. He came to 'The Abbey' this year as part of a professor exchange program sponsored by the Ecumenical Institute. Dr. Angell is the author of several outstanding books and essays on the subject of ecumenism, among

which are, *Can The Church Be Saved?* and *Catholics and Baptists in Ecumenical Dialogue*. Dr. Angell, a native of Mocksville, N.C., was brought up in a Baptist home and in a strongly Protestant town, remembers that he had little or no contact with the Roman Catholic Church until 1928 when his father, a local store owner, decided to support Presidential hopeful, Al Smith, who was a Democrat and a Catholic. Dr. Angell recalls that most of the townspeople were opposed to Smith solely because of his religious affiliations. It was then that he realized that it was senseless to hold religion against a man. "I'm not concerned about a man's denomination as long as he is a Christian. The differences between Protestants and Catholics are unimportant. Be a Christian first, then a Catholic or Protestant, second." Dr. Angell pointed out that he feels it is better to take some religious stance than to have no beliefs at all, "A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything," he said,

quoting the old saying. He further went on to affirm that the religion of men today who do take an active stance is one in which men know their own beliefs, and are tolerant of others, and any tensions between denominations seems, by and large, to have passed.

Dr. Angell suggests that some reasons for this change in attitude may be due to more accessible information about all religions, therefore, people don't get strange ideas about each other. Also, Christians in the western world are coming to the realization that the majority of people in the world are not Christians and if Christianity expects to be influential, it must make a stand for togetherness. He further stated that one major example that the old bigotry has passed away was the election of John F. Kennedy, a Catholic, as President.

In January, 1973, Pope Paul VI, presented Dr. Angell with an honorary medal for his ecumenical work. He has worked with the Ecumenical Institute since it began in 1968, and was director from 1970-74.

Three times he has led a class of ten to twelve students to Europe (Geneva and Rome primarily) for a course named "Studies in Ecumenical Theology." They have had a papal audience each time and participated in studies at the Vatican. The main purpose of his actions is to promote a general understanding between Christian people. During the trips to Europe, Dr. Angell and his students visited the headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. They also stopped in London and studied the Ecumenical Movement in England.

While Dr. Angell makes his weekly visit on Thursdays to teach "Contemporary Protestant Thought" to Abbey students, Fr. Jerome Dollard, O.S.B. travels from Belmont to Wake Forest where his seminar in "Contemporary Catholic Thought" is held.

The successful exchange between the two institutions is but one of many projects envisioned by Dr. Claude Broach, the Institute's Executive Director, and the more than thirty Baptist and Catholic leaders who serve on its Board of Directors.

## Jessie Brackett, Elected President

## Student Body

## Elections Held

## At Abbey

Results of student body elections at Belmont Abbey College have been announced. Four new officers have been elected to the Student Association for the 1976-77 academic year.

Jessie M. Brackett has become the first female to hold the position of president of the Student Association. While other girls have held offices, she is the first to be chief executive. This significant development appropriately has occurred in the historic year which marks the centennial anniversary of the founding of Belmont Abbey as an educational institution.

Jessie, a 1973 graduate of Hunter Huss High School in Gastonia, will act as liaison officer between the student body, faculty, administration, and community at large, in addition to her duties as

president.

John Joseph Gallagher will serve as vice-president under Jessie. He is a native of Wildwood, N.J. John's duties will include presiding over the Student Assembly and acting as assistant to the president.

Mary Michele Greaber, has been elected secretary. She hails from Atlanta, Georgia.

Bryan Rogers, from Rockville, Md., is the new treasurer.

All the officers will be in their senior year, except for Miss Greaber, who is a rising sophomore.

The Belmont Abbey College Student Association is the political arm of the student body in their relations with the other constituencies of the college. It sponsors on-campus projects and administers programs in the residence halls.



Belmont Abbey College Student Association officers elected for the 1976-77 academic year are: (left to right standing) - Jessie M. Brackett, President; and John J. Gallagher, Vice-President; (left to right seated) - Bryan G. Rogers, Treasurer; and Mary M. Greaber, Secretary.

### CROSSROADS

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