

## Chaplain Hargus Taylor

# How could we fill his 'plush position'

By Larry N. Matthews

There is a thin little man who waits patiently twice a week while students at Chowan College mill around the Columns Building trying to find seats. This is about the only time many of the students are associated with him. This is too bad, a closer look reveals a dedicated and dynamic young man.

Hargus Taylor, Chaplain of Chowan College, was born October 4, 1931. His home is in Middlesboro, Ky., where he attended a small rural grammar school. He commuted by commercial bus to a larger high school in which there were about 90 students in his graduating class.

After high school, he attended Cumberland Junior College in Williamsburg, Ky., now a senior college, where he got his AA degree. Chaplain Taylor received his BA from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and his BD and ThD from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Before coming to Chowan in 1963, Chaplain Taylor held positions in prominent churches in Kentucky and in Durham, N. C. He is quick to tell you that he likes the life of a college chaplain much better than working with a regular church. He likes to work with young people.

The comment has been made around campus many times that the "Pope" is one man in this college who really has it made. All he has to do is preach to the students every Tuesday and arrange a program every Thursday. When Dr. Taylor hears this he just kind of grins and goes on about his duties.

If you look up the position of

*'A little man  
with a big job'*



The Chaplain with his wife, Doris



Chatting with students before Chapel



Dr. Hargus Taylor

Chaplain of the College in the Faculty Handbook you will find that there are fourteen different items listed as duties for this man.

For example, he is director of BSU, he must supervise religious, spiritual and moral life of students. He counsels students and coordinates the work of organizations. The Chaplain has the responsibility of attending district conferences in our area and providing much material about the college to different state and national publications.

The Chaplain must aid in promoting and organizing special events on the campus, promote church attendance and act as a liaison with the churches of the area. Very often Sunday morning finds Chaplain Taylor in the pulpit of a church somewhere in the state.

All of this, along with having to maintain office hours, adds up to a pretty full schedule for any man. In addition there is a loophole in the Faculty Handbook that says the Chaplain must perform any other duties that the President of the College might feel necessary. According to Dr. Taylor, this loophole is used quite frequently.

Since he came to Chowan in 1963, Chaplain Taylor has noticed a marked increase in the quality of the student attending the college. "They have a broader background. They know more about more things."

He attributes this mainly to an increase in the quality of the high schools in the area and perhaps to television and other media of communications. The world is much smaller for the student today.

The biggest problem Dr. Taylor has to face in his job at Chowan is the fact that most students cannot communicate with the leaders in their churches at home. The attitude is that the student is a child and must be treated as such.

This viewpoint comes to school with many students which makes it very difficult for them to communicate here. He urges all students to overcome this attitude and at least try to participate in the functions of the BSU and the local churches.

Most people, when they do, are surprised at how much more rewarding their church life is here among other students than at home.

He hopes also that those who need personal guidance will not look upon him as an older adult who must not be bothered but as someone to whom one can confide.

Chaplain Taylor makes no mention of plans to leave Chowan in the near future. If he were to leave, it is doubtful that the school could find someone else who could fit so well into such a "plush" position.