



Dr. Earl Parker lectures to Philosophy students.

## Dr. Parker Elected to E. Lee Oliver Fagan Chair of Religion

Dr. Earl H. Parker, professor of religion and philosophy, has been elected to the E. Lee Oliver Fagan Chair of Bible and Religion at Chowan College.

The chair, the first established at Chowan, was funded with an initial gift of \$130,000 by the late E. Lee Fagan of Stanardsville, Va. in memory of his mother who graduated from Chowan in 1893. Fagan served as a member of Chowan's Board of Advisors until his death on March 22, 1977.

Parker was appointed to the position by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of Chowan President Bruce E. Whitaker and Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., dean of the college.

Parker began his service at Chowan in 1969 after serving as counselor with the Vocational Rehabilitation Facility at Butner. Prior to that, he served over 11 years as pastor of Beth Car Baptist Church in Halifax, Va., and two years as pastor at Fremont Baptist Church.

Parker also served two years as an Air Force chaplain with the rank of captain, and two years as chaplain and professor of religion and philosophy at Converse College, Spartanburg, S.C.

The Rocky Mount native received his B.A. at Wake Forest University, B.D. at Yale University, and Ph.D. at Edinburgh University in Scotland. He is married to the former Elizabeth Lewis of Fremont, a secretary in Chowan's Department of Development. They have two children, Jenny, a graduate of Chowan and Wake

Forest, and Mary, a junior at Murfreesboro High School.

Parker has received a number of honors since coming to Chowan. He was selected an Outstanding Educator of America for 1975. In 1976, the Chowan annual, THE CHOWANOKA, was dedicated to Parker and Gilbert Tripp, professor in the Department of Science. Parker took a class on a Biblelands Tour to Israel and Greece in January, 1975.

Dean Lowe emphasized Parker's qualifications for the position. "He has an excellent educational background by virtue of having studied at Wake Forest, Yale and Edinburgh. His broad experience as a pastor, chaplain, counselor and professor has prepared him superbly for his work here at Chowan. He has proven to be one of the most popular professors on campus. In many ways, he has proven his loyalty to the college and love for the teaching process and interaction with the students."

Continued Lowe, "The Department of Religion and Philosophy is an important part of the academic program at Chowan, a Baptist college. The election of Dr. Parker to the E. Lee Oliver Fagan Chair of Bible and Religion brings added prestige to the chair, department, and college."

Dr. Parker said he was "deeply honored" and regarded "the offer of this Chair as a significant recognition and as a placement of great confidence in me."

He said he accepted the appointment "with deep satisfaction and with deepening commitment to Christ and to Chowan College."

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