

Church-Community Development

Hendricks Director Of
New G. W. Department

The director of the new Department of Church-Community Development, Rev. Garland A. Hendricks, will arrive here around the first of November. Hendricks comes to us from Apex, North Carolina, where he was pastor of the Olive Chapel Baptist Church, which has just been chosen by 100,000 protestant ministers as one of the twelve outstanding rural churches of America. Olive Chapel was chosen as the outstanding rural church from the states of Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida.

Rev. Hendricks was born on a North Carolina farm 37 years ago. He was converted at the age of twelve and decided to become a minister a year later. Because he came from a rather poor family, he had to work his way through Wake Forest College. He preached at his home church and other churches part of the time while he was in college. He taught school for \$65 a month and preached for a year after finishing Wake Forest in 1933.

Then he worked his way through Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville. He graduated in 1937, and two weeks later was married to Estelle Dabbs, a seminary student from South Carolina. Rev. Hendricks and his wife decided to work in rural churches which the denominational leaders have neglected. At first, he took four such churches in North Carolina, receiving a total salary of \$1,360. To keep up with all the happenings in the world, he and his wife decided to attend meetings, subscribe to good papers, and read at least two good books a week.

Rev. Hendricks is quite a writer, and by the time he had moved to the Knightsdale church, a full-time pastor, he was writing for denominational and farm papers. Afterward, he was stricken by rheumatic fever, and he found that his members would not let him suffer for the want of spiritual or mental needs which were in their power to give him, and after this time many of his former concerns about the goodness of humanity left him for good.

In 1943 Hendricks accepted a call to become pastor of the year at Chapel Church. In 1944, he introduced a six-year plan of work and advancement which the church accepted. This program is now almost completed.

The Progressive Farmer named him as "rural pastor of the year" in 1949. In March of this year he gave a series of lectures on the rural church at the Central Baptist Seminary of Kansas City. Rev. Hendricks serves on the social service commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and on the executive committee of the Baptist State Convention. He also taught a course in rural church administration at Wake Forest for two years until a full-time teacher could be acquired.

As the Olive church is an integral part of the community, so is Hendricks. He has many books on farming and rural life in his personal library. He was chairman of the Apex school board and chapter of the North Carolina Grange. He has served on the board of directors of the North Carolina Rural Institute and was successful in his attempt to get improvements made on the roads in his own community. In 1948, he

made a special study which showed that the rural Baptists were vastly under-represented in the North Carolina convention. His report brought this fact to the attention of Baptists all over North Carolina, and from that time the rural churches have been receiving a much better consideration from the convention.

Hendricks has written a book, *Biography of a Country Church*, which gives the history of Olive Chapel since its birth 100 years ago.

Rev. Hendricks' job and the Department of Church-Community Development's job, as stated by president Elliott, will be to make the church the center of the rural community. To fully understand this statement let's look at Olive Chapel briefly. Olive Chapel is the center of a community of some 70 square miles in which there is not another church. About 90% of the people in this area come to church at Olive Chapel. Most of the congregation are small farmers, and none of the members are rich, but the yearly contribution to the church by all the members is \$13,400 on the average. Over half of this goes to missions and to help (Continued on Page Six)

Sophomore Class
Elects Officers

As successful candidates of the Sophomore Class election, we find Al Homesley taking up the office of president. Al's demonstration of his leadership ability is well-represented by his fellow classmates from last year. Living up to his high school record (Stanley High School), we find him taking a position on the football squad, baseball team, and a very prominent one on the basketball team. He hails from Stanley, North Carolina. In nearby Gaston County, this year, he is a member of the Monogram Club and basketball president of the Huggins-Curtis Dormitory.

The office of vice-president is held by Beth White, from Rutherfordton, North Carolina. During her senior year at Central High School, she was president of the Music Club and Glee Club. She was an outstanding member of the varsity basketball team. Last year she was a member of the choir, Y.W.A., and Christian Volunteer Band. She was also elected First Vice President of the B.S.U. Council. Besides adding a great deal to Sparkle's social life, she has contributed immeasurably to the spiritual atmosphere of the campus.

Alice Lee Swann, from Statesville, North Carolina, very ably takes the office of secretary and treasurer. Her high school record was marked with dependability as well as election as the one most likely to succeed. She was a marshal, valedictorian of her class, and was elected president of the 4-H Club, and a member of the P.H.A. Last year, we remember her not only as secretary of the Y.W.A., but as Mrs. Soames in the production of "Our Town."



GARLAND HENDRICKS

Homecoming
Big Success
By NELL GRANTHAM

In an overwhelmingly triumphant game for the Gardner-Webb "Bulldogs," they faced the Presbyterian "Scots" on Saturday, October 21, in the homecoming game of the season. Bands were playing, colors were flying, and excitement filled the air. The throngs of spectators gave out with a hearty welcome to the visiting team. The cheerleaders who led the yells were: Mary Frances Howard, chief; Anna Stephens, Mary Rose Womble, Betty Sue Weathers, Shirley Dedmon, Frances Rhyme, Allyn Gibson, and Lewis Jackson.

The sponsors made a spectacular entry in an Oldsmobile convertible driven by Ben Wall. Immediately after their arrival, the Cherryville and Kings Mountain High School Bands played the national anthem. Immediately following this, the sponsors of the various campus organizations with their escorts entered the field from the Gardner-Webb goal post.

The following sponsors were introduced by Jim McDaniel: Rachel Smith of Mt. Holly escorted by Bob Mullinax, B. S. U.; Joanne Kincaid of Gastonia, escorted by James Stamey, the Student Government; Julia Hancock of Franklinville, escorted by Marion Benfield, Decker Hall; Nancy Lincoln of Lynchburg, Va., escorted by O. G. Morehead; Huggins-Curtis Dorm; Sara Reese of Jonesville, escorted by Robert Wright, the Marshal Club; and Iris Atkinson of Hargetts, escorted by Roger Wright, the Monogram Club. The sponsors were very attractively dressed in suits and carried beautiful white chrysanthemum ties.

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Dramatics Club
Presents Pageant

The Gardner - Webb Dramatics Department presented its first production of the season in the E. B. Hamrick auditorium Oct. 19th at 7:30 P.M. It was "A Dramatic Narrative of Baptist Progress," a pageant representing 100 years of growth in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association.

Directed by J. Y. Hamrick, the major part of the pageant was pantomimed with occasional speaking parts. The pageant was written by Sanford Martin, Jr., and narrated by Jimmy Hobbs of Radio Station W O R D in Spartanburg, S. C.

The highlights of the pageant came in the seventh and eighth scenes. The seventh dramatized the beginning of Gardner-Webb and told of its struggle through the depression years when it was almost abandoned and year after year came to the brink of disaster, and how at the beginning of the last decade O. Mixx Gardner took the help what was then Bolling Springs Junior College and of its phenomenal growth since then.

The eighth scene portrayed Rev. John Stittie who for 60 years has been a minister in Cleveland County.

This scene closed with a prayer by the narrator and the benediction by the Choir. Directed by Stephen Morrisett, and Mrs. Mary Dyer, with Miss Dorothy Jones at the organ, provided the music for the production. The technicians were: lighting, Carl McKinney, Don Roberts, Albert Cobb, and Martin Nichols, and make-up, Cora Ray Beach.

Those taking part in the pageant were: James Stamey, James McAlister, Mary Dean Minges, Rachel Morgan, Jean Devlin, James Quinn, Daniel, Zeb Wright, Frances Quinn, Eugene Lovett, Allyn Gibson, Barbara Huggins, Bill Elliott, Evelyn Leigh, Alberta Hamrick, Wilma Wilkie, Iris Love Champion, Bill Abernathy, Charles Lenoir, Rebecca Browning, Marion Benfield, Jr., Bobby Blackburn, M. A. Conrad, Richard B. Parham, and Neal E. Eller.

Porthole Editor
Chosen

In a recent meeting of the student council, the editor of the Porthole for 1951-52 was elected. For this important position, the student chosen must be outstanding in leadership, character, and achievement on the college campus. With this office comes a great responsibility and task. The student chosen to do this next year is Rudy Wardell, our student government president. During this school year, Rudy will select other students to help him.

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