

InterCom

Vol. 2, No. 4

December, 1956

DURHAM, N. C.

New Chaplain Named at Duke

To those who have sought and found pastoral care while patients in a hospital, the importance of this service is well known.

A calm, friendly young minister has been seen on Duke Hospital halls since July 1, and patients and staff will be seeing a great deal more of him as the months go by.

He's the Rev. Paul W. Aitken, and he's Duke Hospital's new chaplain. Mr. Aitken succeeds Dr. Russell Dicks, professor of pastoral care in the University Divinity School, and his arrival marks a newly-intensified program in Duke Hospital's effort to provide for its patients' spiritual needs.

Mr. Aitken and his two Divinity student assistants, Frank Crim and Ted Hofman, will continue the Hospital chaplaincy policy of individual attention to patients. There is no routine bed to bed visitation program, Mr. Aitken explains, because the limits of time and personnel make complete coverage of the hospital impossible. Their efforts will continue, therefore, to be concentrated upon the critically ill and their families and upon pre-operative patients.

The Chaplain and his staff see patients upon the request of their friends and through family contacts, and upon referrals from doctors, nurses and other interested persons. The goal is that of good pastoral care such as ministers provide their local congregations. Specially trained for service in this growing field, the hospital chaplain devotes full-time to this important phase of the ministry. Mr. Aitken will also work closely with



Paul W. Aitken

Dr. Dicks in the existing chaplaincy training program which is being expanded under Dr. Dick's direction.

A native of Pennsylvania, the new chaplain is a graduate of Morris Hawley College in Charleston, W. Va. and of the Duke Divinity School and has had seven years of ministerial experience at a number of churches. His hospital experiences in ministering to his own congregations and his student work with Dr. Dicks at Duke Hospital led him into his full-time chaplaincy work. The results of his dedicated approach to his work and quiet, reassuring manner with patients and their families are already evident. In addition to his work at Duke, Mr. Aitken is sharing his time with Keely Institute in Greensboro, where he is setting up a chaplaincy program.

Mr. Aitken and his wife, Ruth Ellen, and their son Danny, three, are making their home at 1152 Delano St.

Auxiliary Starts Two New Services

Two new services staffed by Auxiliary volunteers are now in operation. The *Feeding Service* is exactly what the name implies. Five days a week, Monday through Friday, between 5 and 6 P. M., Auxiliary members help feed the young patients on Matas Ward. The volunteers who have assumed this responsibility at a difficult hour of the day are Liggett and Myers hostesses and school teachers. It is hoped that this service will become a permanent phase of Auxiliary work, and that someday it can be extended, also, to Howland Ward.

The second new job undertaken by the Auxiliary is a *Registration Service for Kirby Clinic*. This is now staffed on Monday and Wednesday mornings, and may someday include Friday morning, also. These volunteers not only register patients but they also answer the telephone, help with filing and do whatever clerical work they can. By the time Kirby Clinic moves into the new building, this should be an established service.—*Evelyn Stead*

Christmas Parties

The annual Christmas party for subsidiary workers will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 20. Entertainment will be featured during the open house.

On Friday, Dec. 21, wage employees will gather for their annual party, to be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the amphitheater. A show featuring employees will begin at 2:30 and will be repeated at 3:30 p.m.