

People

Chaplain sees position as 'spirit booster'

By Vicky Jiggetts
Student Affairs Editor

Chaplain Richard McBride describes his position at Elon College as "a boost in my own spirit." He says, "With the boost in my spirit, the world is full of color for me."

This summer McBride replaced Chaplain Bill Sharpe, who was a member of the college faculty for 12 years.

McBride, a native of Fiedale, Va., said that he enjoys working with a variety of students here at Elon. "When you encounter people from different backgrounds, somehow you can add to your own way of seeing the world, and that can be an advantage," said McBride. "We have to open ourselves up to new people and God in a different way."

He said that he has to remain alert to people in every group, as well as those who are not in any particular group. "I have to keep myself open and supportive all around campus, and find ways to reach people," said McBride. "There's a large group of Baptists, there are Catholics, and the largest group of all is those who have no particular religious prefer-

ence. Every student experiences some type of stress and strain about themselves and their beliefs."

He said, "I think that I have a job that relates to the issues that everyone is encountering. I would like to have programs to help people decide what to do with their lives, such as alcohol awareness and Tuesday Chapel Services.

"I'm not on anyone's required list. This means sometimes not getting involved with people who may need my help. You have to personally choose to seek help from the chaplain. Personal values are worthwhile when you voluntarily choose them, and they aren't forced on you."

Although many students here are not involved in religious groups, McBride said that they may realize that this is a good time to consider the serious study of religion.

"Some of the most profound questions on religion are asked by people who don't realize that they are asking about religion," said McBride. He added that the most religious questions relate to ideas about everyday life. "I just have to hope that they will recognize me as

an authentic person to whom they can relate about sports, music, or anything else. I don't want to wear my religion on my sleeve, and I want people to see me as a real person," he said.

McBride said that his job is an "open" one, and "I like it because definition of the job can change from time to time." In 1969 McBride was a campus minister during the Vietnam War, and he retains an interest in social issues.

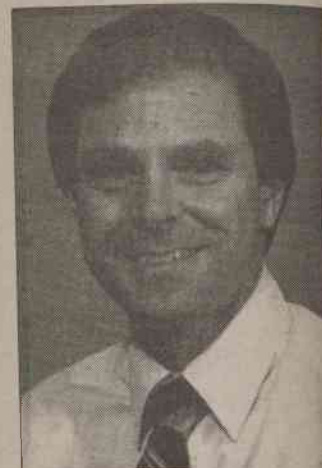
"At the moment, we're under a global concern, the nuclear war threat," said McBride. "Here at Elon, I wonder why there isn't a great (student) awareness of that."

McBride attended the University of Virginia, and started in the school of engineering. He changed his major to English, received a teaching certificate, and taught for three years in Albemarle County High School. He said, "While doing that, I served as a lay pastor for two country churches, and I wasn't ordained at the time." He later attended Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

His field work was in a Bap-

tist church in Harlem. He recalled, "It turned out that they were my Southern neighbors, because they had moved to New York from the South. I was there from 1966 to 1969. Lucky for me, I was getting a chance to see the point of view of the people in the churches.

"During those civil rights years, I was lucky to be in touch with black people, and to see how they felt. That was good for a person as myself, who in the past, had minimal contact with blacks."



Richard McBride

Elon College Homecoming Dance

at Best Western Hotel

Friday, Oct. 5th

8:00 - 1:00

Jam to Johnny White & the Elite Band (Top-40 & Funk)



Tickets will be sold today and Friday in the student center. They will also be on sale at the door. Tickets are \$7 for a couple and \$4 for a single.

— Open to all students!! —

No alcohol will be permitted in the dance.

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5:30 - 9:00 \$6.25 / per person

SUNDAY LUNCH BUFFET

12:00 - 2:30 \$4.85 / per person

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