

Reverend Sides: A Member of the Salem Family

by Noomina Al Mamun
The Salemite

Editors Note: In an effort to facilitate improved communication between the Board of Trustees and the student body, we will run a series of articles focusing on each Trustee in turn. The goal is to discover the person behind the title. Who could be a better choice to interview for the introductory piece than Reverend Rick Sides of Home Moravian? Not only is he a member of the Board of Trustees, he is, more visibly perhaps, a member of the Salem community and family.

When *The Salemite* decided to do a profile on the Board of Trustees, it seemed appropriate to start with Rev. Sides - and why not? He lives near the campus, is easily approachable, and is reputed to have a very pleasing and charming personality.

So, I talked to him over the phone, and, to my delight, he more than lived up to his reputation as well as being very enthusiastic about his work as a Trustee.

Elected to the Board by the "Synod," the governing body of the Moravian Church, Reverend Richard L. Sides has been a member of the Board of Trustees since April, 1986. Currently, he is the youngest member of the Board. (Representatives are sent to the Board of Trustees as elected by the Southern Province).

I often have wondered about the role of the Board of Trustees at Salem College. I knew they were important, of course, but I did not realize the extent of their importance. Rev. Sides enlightened me about both the business of the Board as well as the numerous difficulties they encounter in order to achieve their objectives.

The Board of Trustees is the central nervous system of our institution. They are responsible for making all legislative, executive, and financial policies. In other words, every decision, every move, every new idea must receive the Board's approval before being finalized.

Reverend Sides has been involved with Home Moravian Church since 1975. He became a member of the pastoral staff at Home Moravian in 1981. Previously, he had taught at a high school for four years. Upon joining the Board of Trustees, he worked for the Executive, Finance, and Student Affairs Committees. At the moment, Rev. Sides not only is the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, but he also belongs to the Selection Committee, a large council composed of faculty, alumnae, and Board of Trustees members currently searching nationwide for the new permanent President for Salem.

Rev. Sides is very compassionate about and interested in his work. According to the Vice-Chairman, one of the great things about living near campus is "getting to know the students."

Indeed, he considers it a treat! To Rev. Sides, one of the most important qualities of a Trustee is the ability to communicate well with students. In other words, Board of Trustee members must have a good rapport with students, talk to them, and understand their points of view in order to make decisions which will benefit the College.

According to Reverend Sides, the Board of Trustees are very appreciative of the student body's support of recent changes. He also commented strongly on the students' morale and understanding of the excitement as well as apprehension which exists in times of leadership changes.

Rev. Sides is excited about

the new administrators on campus, speaking highly of Dean Allen, Jim Harman, the Director of Institutional Development, Reverend Burkette, and the new Admissions Office staff.

At the moment Rev. Sides is optimistic about Salem's future. While "we are in a time of change in terms of leadership," Rev. Sides is extremely pleased with Dr. Herman Collier, the Interim President of Salem Academy and College. Rev. Sides has worked with Dr. Collier in the past and has the highest regard and respect for him. He hopes that the new Interim President, and eventually the permanent president, will ensure a bright and successful future for Salem.

Admissions Update

by Robin Wilson
The Salemite

Recently, there has been a nationwide decline in college enrollment. Salem, too, has experienced this decline; however, the decline has been no more than other colleges proportionally speaking. According to Dean Raftus, "We need to hold our own this coming year (1991-1992)."

Much is being done to spark the interests of prospective Salem students. Alumni organizations are very busy trying to recruit; for instance, the Charlotte Alumni Chapter has developed a special task force. There are perspective parties everywhere from North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia to Texas.

In addition to the increased amount of parties off campus for prospec-

tives, many new on-campus policies are underway. For instance, many programs, once offered only to seniors and juniors in their Spring semester are now open to all juniors and even sophomores.

Salem is doing her best to recruit new students, although academic standards for admission have not been dropped. Dean Raftus predicts that by 1992 we will have a turn around in the recent decline. Her goal is to bring Salem up to a 500 population.

Student help is greatly needed as well. In late February a phonathon for an applicant overnight will take place. Volunteers will be greatly appreciated. If you can help call Tammy Taylor.