

Resources available but worship services denied

Aside from the view of Johnson Hall, one of the first sights a visitor sees upon entering the Meredith College campus is the chapel. The tall steeple is a symbol of the erected faith this Baptist institution was founded upon. However, when it comes to religious services on Sunday, the college ignores the spiritual needs of the students.

Although many students have found a home in Raleigh's churches, some students are unable or inhibited to attend worship services off campus.

These problems often stem from either not having transportation to the churches or because the students feel uncomfortable in a place filled with strangers. For a small-town girl, a big-city church can be intimidating — so much that the student doesn't go at all. Therefore, her worship experience is limited to the time when she visits her home or attends Convocation on Wednesdays.

The ten o'clock Wednesday worship seems to be the alternate source of a Sunday service; But is it?

It's wrong to assume that this time is convenient for all. Unfortunately, many times grades come first over worship — at least during the weekdays. I know my mom has said, "Praying won't help you pass a test or class. You've got to study." And, many people take the ten o'clock time just for that. There are also those who work and even have classes at other colleges. So — why not have services when everyone can come? Does Sunday sound familiar?

The issue of having Sunday worship in the chapel was brought up over a year ago in *The Twig*; and now the *Meredith Herald* has tackled this — more in depth this time — because we see the importance of providing students with religious services, religious outlets.

Most of the students at Meredith were brought up in homes which participated in weekly worship on Sundays. And whereas many colleges provide services for students on Sunday, Meredith doesn't.

When I asked Kelley Milstead, Meredith Christian Association President,

Dear Students, Faculty and Administrators,

I am writing concerning the "Letter to the Editor" that appeared in the February 13, 1986 issue of the *Meredith Herald*.

I would like to apologize for allowing this letter to be printed for several reasons.

I apologize to the persons mentioned in the letter for the content. Statements were made that were detrimental and caused public embarrassment.

I apologize also for not following the Editorial Policy which I wrote myself. I feel the Policy is a tremendous asset to the paper and I did not adhere to the guidelines when I allowed the letter to be printed.

I exhibited poor judgment as Editor and realize that because of my poor judgment persons were hurt. It is not my intent to harm others through the paper. I regret printing anything that varies from the guidelines I set for the paper and myself. I take full responsibility for this editorial decision.

Cynthia L. Church
Editor, *The Meredith Herald*

about services on campus, she said, "I don't think it's a good idea." Milstead added that "Meredith doesn't have the resources to have the services."

I think a chapel is a good resource. A building doesn't have to have the title "church" in order to hold services. It's my understanding anyway that a church is not a building but the gathering of people in a common place to worship God. And for "preacher" resources, the Southeastern Seminary has stated they could possibly provide interns.

So there it is. We have the facility, the desire from the students and the possibility of a seminary student preaching — free.

Since the Southern Baptists are so hip on preaching the word to all, it's a bit ironic Meredith is refusing this service on Sunday. You never can have too much religion, can you? And what if only ten people show for the services, at least that's ten people who want to learn, who want to hear.

Cynthia L. Church
Editor, *The Meredith Herald*

Opinion

Like most Meredith students, my memory of my first visit to Meredith's campus is a vivid one. I remember walking around the lake with my student tour guide in the fall when the leaves had just reached their height of beauty. I was enchanted by the full color of the leaves and the free-flowing water in the lake. To me, the amphitheater summed up the essence of Meredith's character. I was so impressed with the lake area that it was the first image conjured in my mind when Dr. Brewer assigned my 111 English class to write a descriptive paragraph on "a place."

Today I wonder how many potential freshmen are affected by the lake the way I was. Of course, the leaves still turn brilliant colors in the fall and the Dogwoods

bloom every spring, but the water no longer runs free. The lake is stagnant and dirty and overgrown, with plant life. I hope Meredith students and people in the Raleigh community do not think the lake as it exists now is a reflection on Meredith's image as I once did.

The lake area is a retreat ground. People throughout Raleigh, as well as Meredith students, retreat to the lake for sun, fun, relaxation, meditation, romance, exercise and much more. I can't help but think that most people are (or were) drawn to the lake by its beauty and peaceful surroundings. Everywhere you look it's green — and brown. The cloudy mud and scum in the lake masks its potential beauty. It is a problem worth note since the lake area

seems to be a direct reflection on Meredith.

Before the drought set in, it was a Sunday ritual for me to grab a blanket, a Frisbee and all the sticks I could find for a fun afternoon at the lake. I would spend hours tossing sticks into the lake with hopes of turning my water-shy puppy, Sandy, into a brave dog-paddler. As weeks passed and the water became more and more dirty, I soon regretted my endeavors to make Sandy a swimmer. After diving into the water, Sandy would paddle back to shore and shake slime all over me. Once out of the water he looked much more muddy than he ever did sandy.

As a senior, my interest in the lake may

be selfish. I would like the lake to be naturally blue and not temporarily dyed for graduation. I would like the water to sparkle and shine just as the anxious recipients of degrees will be shining as they stride across the island to accept their diplomas. I want to be proud on my graduation day and not ashamed of my surroundings.

I hope the building and grounds committee will recognize that this is an important issue instead of a petty detail. I firmly believe Meredith's outer appearance is directly related to its inner ideals. Some people do read a book by its cover (pardon the cliché).

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Interim Editor, *The Meredith Herald*

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Editorial Policy

The Meredith Herald is published weekly by the students of Meredith College during the academic year. The paper is funded by the college and through advertising. *The Meredith Herald* will not print material containing personal attacks, insults, ridicule or libelous statements. All letters to the editor must be signed unless discussed with the editor.

The opinions expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Meredith Herald welcomes criticism and will respond promptly to any submitted in writing and signed by the writer.

The Meredith Herald office is located on the second floor of Cate Center. Address correspondence to: *The Meredith Herald*, Box X133, Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C. 27607-5298. Phone (919) 829-8599. Advertising rates available upon request.

Submission Policy

The Meredith Herald welcomes articles and letters to the editors from any student, faculty member or administrator. We will print every article and letter, but we adhere to these guidelines:

1. We require all articles/letters to be in one of *The Meredith Herald* drop boxes by 5:00 p.m. on Fridays.
2. We require all articles/letters to be signed by the writer and to include his/her title, if representing an organization. This should be in the upper right hand corner of the first page.

3. We require all articles/letters to be neatly written or typed and double-spaced.

4. We require all writers to count the number of words in the article/letter and place it on the first page.

5. We reserve the right not to print material that:

- (a) functions as advertisement;
- (b) does not follow the Editorial Policy;
- (c) does not meet the above requirements; and
- (d) lists minutes to meetings held.