

Welcome Back!

THE HILLTOP

Volume 63, Number 1

Mars Hill, North Carolina

Friday, September 15, 1989

Broyhill Chapel Dedicated

Andrea Deaton
Staff Writer

After two years of planning and fifteen months of construction, the Broyhill Chapel and English Prayer Garden is complete. This new structure reflects the enthusiasm of a large group of people who love and support the college.

Four hundred and twenty three volunteers assisted in the construction, including members of the student body, the faculty and staff, residents of the Mars Hill community and volunteers from all over North Carolina who contributed hundreds of hours of labor to the project.

A formal dedication service was held during the President's Convocation service Tuesday, September 12. Members of the Broyhill family, Mrs. English and others were honored guests during the ceremony. Dr. Roy J. Smith, Executive Director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, brought the address. He spoke of the partnership involved in the building of the chapel and fellowship hall, and how the completion of the complex was a success not only to members of the college community, but to Christians everywhere. Dr. Smith summed up the feelings of our Christian community as he asked God to "take this labor of love and the result of this partnership and use it for His glory." All of the contributors and volunteers, a vital part of the construction, were saluted at the dedication. The contributors and volun-

teers will be formally recognized in a special service on Saturday.

According to college president Dr. Fred Bentley, "The extensive use of volunteers has resulted not only in a saving on the cost of the one million dollar facility, but it has also introduced 300 new friends to Mars Hill College. This has brought the volunteers and the college into a closer, bonding relationship which will be multi-generational."

The Broyhill family, after which the chapel was named, donated approximately \$350,000 to the building.

The new facility consists of two buildings joined by covered walkways. The area between them provides the setting for a small prayer garden, which is being beautified with flowers and ornamental shrubs.

The east wing of the structure is a fellowship hall with a kitchen and large area for meetings and receptions. There are also offices for the campus minister, a receptionist and the Christian Student Movement.

The west wing is the sanctuary. Before the chapel was built, services were held in the large Moore Auditorium which was not practical for chapel services. Now a more worshipful atmosphere is provided by the stone and wood frame sanctuary to which many items have been donated.



Movable chairs provide flexibility in seating arrangements.

The doors to the entrance of the chapel, which depict scenes from the Old and New Testaments, were hand carved by Dr. Bentley. The 13 X 6 wooden cross which hangs over the main entrance to the sanctuary was donated by the father of a student who was killed in a boating accident while enrolled at the college. The cross was constructed and hung by members of the Bentley family.

The seating for the chapel sanctuary consists of 325 chairs which were purchased by individuals in honor or in memory of former teachers, friends, or relatives. There is also a prayer room set aside in the sanctuary for those who would like to come to the chapel and pray.

The stained-glass window, pipe organ, pulpit, pulpit Bible and communion table were also donated. The

pulpit and communion table are of cherry wood and were made by friends of MHC. The pulpit Bible was donated by the Class of 1987.

Much of the chapel is symbolic of Mars Hill College's commitment to be a Christian College. The structure's wooden beams point up, and this draws one's attention heavenward. The wooden cross at the entrance symbolizes the dedication to Christian worship and the redemption of Christ. The wood, stone and large windows are reminiscent of the glory and nature of the outdoors. The stained glass window can be meaningful to each individual in a different way.

The Broyhill Chapel will be used for services, weddings, Christian Student Movement meetings, and music recitals. The doors will be open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.



The Chapel and fellowship hall are open to students every day for prayer and quiet time away from the rush and bustle of classes.