



methodist college
fayetteville, n.c.

NEWS

August 16, 1973

Mason Sykes appointed Dean of Men

Kari Hagan, Public Relations

488-7110, ext. 228

The appointment of S. Mason Sykes as Dean of Men at Methodist College is announced by Dr. Richard W. Pearce, president of the college.

Sykes joined the Methodist College faculty in January of 1966 as soccer, wrestling and tennis coach. He has also been intramural director for the past six years.

While at Methodist he has been named DIAC soccer coach of the year on three occasions and in 1969-70 was the District 29 of the NAIA soccer coach of the year. In 1970 he was selected the DIAC tennis coach of the year and was the DIAC wrestling coach of the year in 1968.

In addition to being Dean of Men he will continue his coaching responsibilities and will remain assistant professor of physical education.

A recipient of the B.S. and M.A. degrees from Appalachian State University, Sykes was coach and athletic director of St. Paul city schools and coach at Kinston city schools before coming to Methodist.

Sykes is married to the former Gwen Pheagin and they have one child.



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fayetteville, n.c.

NEWS

August 16, 1973 To: FAYETTEVILLE MEDIA
unable to attend conference
Joe Gallagher appointed Head Basketball
Coach and Assistant Athletic Director.

Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations
488-7110, ext. 228

FAYETTEVILLE _____

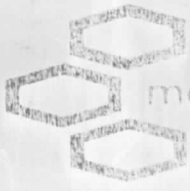
Former Pembroke basketball star

Joe Gallagher has been named head basketball coach and assistant athletic director at Methodist College.

Gallagher's appointment to succeed Gene Clayton as basketball coach was announced during a 10:30 press conference this morning on the college campus.

While a student at Pembroke State Gallagher captured virtually every basketball honor, going on to a coaching position at Carolina Military Academy in Maxton for a year. Gallagher spent this past year completing course work in a master of education program at East Carolina University-Greenville.

Following graduation from PSU in 1968, the new Methodist College coach was a member of the championship N.A.I.A. basketball team at the Olympic trials held at the University of New Mexico. Gallagher then played two years with the Goodyear Flyers in Akron, Ohio. In the summer of 1972, Gallagher was chosen to go with the St. Joseph's College, Philadelphia, ^{basketball} team to Europe.



methodist college
fayetteville n.c.

August 16, 1973

To: All Fayetteville Media

Freshman Orientation

FOR RELEASE BEFORE AUGUST 20, 1973

NEWS

Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations
488-7110, ext. 228

FAYETTEVILLE _____ More than 250 new freshmen will begin orientation at Methodist College with a special dinner for the incoming students and their parents August 21 in the college cafeteria.

The orientation schedule will continue with the traditional President's reception, and will draw to a close August 22 with testing and counseling sessions by college personnel.

"The increase in this year's freshman class over previous years can be attributed to the growing number of military personnel who are taking advantage of Methodist College's Military Degree Completion Program, plus the fact that Methodist has maintained a low tuition, board and room rate compared to other comparable private colleges," said Thomas S. Yow, director of admissions.

Students from 14 states and three foreign countries will attend Methodist College this fall. According to Yow, the college's 1 to 14 teacher - student ratio as well as the faculty, of which over 35 percent hold Ph.D. degrees, are decisive factors in the choice of Methodist for many students.



methodist college
fayetteville, n.c.

NEWS

August 20, 1973 To: ALL FAYETTEVILLE MEDICAL

Convocation to formally open school August 23

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations
488-7110, ext. 228

FAYETTEVILLE _____

will signify the first day of classes at Methodist College August 23 at
10:20 a.m. in Reeves Auditorium.

The convocation, in which faculty and staff members will proceed in formal regalia, marks the first appearance before the collective student body and college personnel by new Methodist College President Richard W. Pearce.

Following the processional music by Jean B. Ishee, assistant professor of piano and music, and the invocation by Dr. Garland Knott, college chaplain, President of the Board of Trustees Dr. Mott P. Blair will introduce Dr. Pearce. Dr. Pearce will address the group concerning the future policies and plans of Methodist College.

The opening day convocation ceremonies will become a tradition for the college, as are formal closing ceremonies during spring graduation exercises.

The public is invited to attend

A formal opening day convocation
tomorrow



August 23, 1973 To: FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Convocation Ceremonies today

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS

Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations
488-7110, ext. 228

FAYETTEVILLE _____ Dr. Mott P. Blair (left) chairman
of the Methodist College Board of Trustees, and college President Richard
W. Pearce pause after the formal convocation ceremonies in Reeves
Auditorium Thursday morning. Dr. Pearce spoke before the student
body, faculty and staff for the first time since taking office in June.

Photo enclosed



August 24, 1973 To: FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
Jim Pharr, religion editor
CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE
Jo-Ann Merritt, Methodist Minister

FOR USE IN FRIDAY, August 31, RELIGION SECTION

NEWS

Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations
488-7110, ext. 228

FAYETTEVILLE _____ "In the faces of men and women I see God." That Walt Whitman philosophism has captured the aspiration of Jo-Ann Merritt, newly ordained minister of the United Methodist Church.

Distinguished as one of only three women ministers ordained in the Church's North Carolina Conference, the 1972 Methodist College religion graduate sees the duties of a minister defined "in the word administering, which means concern for and service to the needs of people."

Following graduation from the Boston University School of Theology in two years, Jo-Ann hopes to serve God as a Parish minister, or pastor of the people. In her intense desire to help "build a caring community and to preach the word of God," the lady pastor sought her training in Boston as a means of "finding the middle of the road between the extreme conservatism of the south and liberalism of the north."

Although some parishioners might expect a conflict between preaching and the traditional female role,

MORE

Jo-Ann sees no problems in combining the ministry with marriage and children that cannot be overcome. Of special interest to her are the concerns of the elderly church member. "Although great strides have been made to help correct the plight of elderly America on all levels of the government, there is still a lot more to do, especially on the local church level," Jo-Ann feels.

Whether she's inside the church sanctuary or out in the community, one thing is certain, Jo-Ann has a definite mission to help others find the forgiveness, dedication, faith and will to "give of oneself" that she has found in God.

1. At what time in your life did you become interested in going into the ministry? Please give any special occurrences, influences or experiences that may have influenced your decision.

(a) I feel that I need to be a little more specific in order to answer your questions adequately. I see minister as in the word administering which means concern for and service to the needs of people. This idea encompasses all persons everywhere. This is the responsibility of every member of a community -- be it church or society. There are, however, persons who feel that they have been called to full-time (vocation) in the Christian ministry in specific areas. Specific vocations are the Parish Ministry, Counseling, Christian Education, etc. When a person goes into full-time service in the Parish Ministry, he is known as a pastor (shepherd) of the people in ~~the~~ a specific parish.

(b) In 1968 I decided to enter college so that I might go into some type of full-time Christian service. Persons who had influenced my decision prior to that time:

1. Rev. Everett Dasher, Pastor of St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Wilmington, N. C. (1960-1962). Rev. Dasher showed me the power of forgiveness.
2. Rev. Peter Marshall. The life of Peter Marshall through the movies seen and books read was an inspiration. His life was an example of what faith can do for man and what God can do with a life when he is allowed to enter and dwell.
3. Rev. Wm. A. Seawell, Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, Wilmington, N. C. (1965-1970). Rev. Seawell showed me the example of dedication and faithfulness. A model for a pastor.
4. Mr. W. C. Taylor, Wilmington District Manager of North Carolina Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Inc. It was Mr. Taylor's philosophy of life, service to the people and for the people in the work that we did which influenced me.

* There have been several special persons since I have been in school who have

2. Did you have the ministry in mind when you entered Methodist College? *been a constant inspiration and help.*

When I entered Methodist College I planned to ~~to~~ go into some type of full-time Christian service, but I did not know what type of service that would be. I had no plans for entering graduate school.

3. Do you have any family members who are pastors?

No, and to my knoweldge there has been no pastors in the recent history of the Merritt family.

4. What preparation did you make while at Methodist College? Courses, etc.

I majored in Religion and minored in English. All of the courses that I took at Methodist College, I feel, have helped me and will help me in some way toward the vocation that I have ~~chosen~~ been called. I feel that not any one field of study can exist soley to itself; they must be interdependent, supporting one another.

5. Please tell me something about the school where you are now enrolled and why you chose it.

(a) Boston University School of Theology

(b) The South has always been noted for its conservatism and the North for its liberalism. I felt that I needed to do part of my work in both geographical locations so that I could find a middle road between the two extremes. The differences in the lifestyles will also help me in understanding and coping with the problems today.

(c) Boston University School of Theology is noted basically for graduating men and women for the Parish Ministry. It also has degrees in Counseling, Sacred Music, Church History, Theology, etc. It stresses the need for both reason and experience in the educational process. The School of Theology is one of various schools which makes up the complex system of the University. The enrollment in the School of Theology during the 1972-73 school year was approximately 300.

The School of Theology has a chorus which consists of men and women. The name of the chorus is the Seminary Singers. They sing for the chapel services, tour during their spring break, and give concerts in the local area.

The Danielson Counseling Center is located on the fourth floor of the School of Theology. Members of the faculty are the staff who operate the Center.

I am enclosing a few pages from the University's bulletin which may be of some help to you.

6. Do you have any special interest in a specific area of the ministry? Such as youth work, etc.

Yes, I do. I would like to work with the elderly. I feel that this age group has been neglected for a long time. Over the past several years great strides have been made at all levels of government to help correct the plight of elderly America but there is still a lot more to do. I would like to work with and for this age group within the local church.

7. What role do you see for a woman pastor?

Her role is to help build a caring community and to preach the Word of God -- and in that order. The instruments through which God works is and should not be as important as the work that he wants and asks us to do.

8. Do you see any conflict between a woman being married, having children and being a pastor?

I can see problems which may arise, but I do not see any that cannot be dealt with and overcome.

9. Please give me any hopes, aspirations or plans you may have for your future.

Today, I plan to complete my studies at Boston University School of Theology. Upon graduation I hope to return to the North Carolina Conference (United Methodist) to receive elders orders. Following ordination I wish to enter into the Parish Ministry. Other aspirations that I have are one day to teach religion at the college level and possibly to write in the field of theology.



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fayetteville, n.c.

NEWS

August 27, 1973 To: FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
FAYETTEVILLE TIMES

Methodist College Woman's Club

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

488-7110,
Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations ext. 228

FAYETTEVILLE _____ The Methodist College Woman's
Club will meet at the home of Mrs. Karl H. Berns August 29 at 8:00 p.m.
The group, made up of Methodist College faculty and faculty wives ,
will be introduced to new faculty wives joining the college community
for the first time this fall.



August 27, 1973 To: CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

New College President-Dr. Richard W. Pearce

FOR RELEASE IN UPCOMING CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE
ISSUE

NEWS

488-7110, ext. 228

Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations

FAYETTEVILLE _____ As its name signifies, Methodist College is a church school, but the definition doesn't stop there. Under the administration of a new president, Methodist College is determined to become a more church-involved school. Since his arrival in June, President Richard W. Pearce hesitates to use the phrase "church-related college," instead, he prefers to call Methodist a "church-involved college." Pearce believes higher education is a "mission field of the church."

Dr. Mott P. Blair, chairman of the board of trustees, has repeatedly declared Dr. Pearce a "miracle of God" for Methodist College. Having received his J.D. degree from Stetson University School of Law, the president gave up a successful law practice to get back to young people. Unanimous trustee approval for the former dean and vice-president of Florida Southern College wasn't really a surprise. After all, as the Board spokesman enthused, "What more could Methodist College seek than a man who loves young people, has been a faculty member, has proven himself as a lawyer, enjoys the academic world, has an outstanding community service record, and a strong dedication to Christian higher education."

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Methodism comes easily to Dr. Pearce. His great-grandfather was a Methodist missionary to the Indians in Canada. The President is a former Methodist Church lay leader and delegate to Annual Conference and Jurisdictional Conference.

In an early attempt to get to know Methodist College, Dr. Pearce opted to live on campus. He and his wife, along with their daughter and son, when they're not in college at Florida Southern, live in one of the college owned houses to give students and faculty the opportunity to drop in for a talk. Already Pearce's energetic youthful ideas have made a hit with both students and personnel, as happy cheers of approval rang in Reeves Auditorium during the college's first opening-day convocation ceremony August 23.

With growing skepticism in our society over the future of the church college, President Pearce feels there are many ways that a church-involved college can play a "more viable role." in higher education than can the tax supported school. "We recognize the fact that we can't compete with state institutions for faculty and facilities- their resources are unlimited," he admitted. "On the other hand, I don't feel that they can compete with us in terms of student environment and personalized attention."

That personalized touch has been evident to the 250 new ~~freshmen~~ ^{Students} entering Methodist College this fall as faculty and administration continue to take a very individualized approach toward launching their college careers. Methodist is proud of its 1:14 teacher-student ratio and

MORE

its smooth running faculty advisory program, but more than that Methodist feels such individualized education often makes the difference between success or failure for many college students. During convocation the President stressed that "The doors must be open to faculty and administrative offices and the students must feel free to come in and discuss their problems, social and academic, with us."

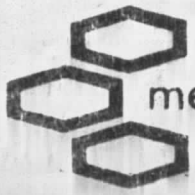
Pearce continues to emphasize the importance of Methodist College's goal to "teach students how to live, as opposed to teaching them how to make a living." "There are technical schools to train their hands, we must train their minds." In his plans to expand religious emphasis as a part of the school's overall educational concept, Dr. Pearce explained, "Our students must be prepared for the real world. There are values and standards in the real world and, therefore, we must maintain them here."

This fall, more students will find themselves an integral part of the college community, credited to Pearce's hopes for accelerated "student involvement and student leadership." Academically, the college will continue to stress its liberal arts program. As Dr. Pearce outlined, "The liberal arts program is the most important as far as we are concerned. About 80 percent of all graduates enter fields other than their majors. If this is the case, a broad education is more advantageous."

"We must take a look at ourselves, our facilities, our attributes and our progress," he declared during convocation ceremonies.

MORE

The President strongly believes progress is based on dreams. But for those dreams to come true, students and faculty must share their dreams, ideas and enthusiasm so that the entire college community can work together to make Methodist College a progressively better place to go to school.



methodist college
fayetteville, n.c.

NEWS

August 28, 1973 To: FAYETTEVILLE TIMES ,
FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER,
ALL RADIO, TV

Registration to end Thursday

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations
488-7110, ext. 228

FAYETTEVILLE _____ With registration to continue
through Thursday at Methodist College, the fall semester enrollment
stands at 616 students.

According to Registrar Samuel
R. Edwards, enrollment at this time has surpassed all earlier estimates.
Broken down, that figure shows 114 students have transferred from
other schools and 132 are new freshmen .

In other college news, Academic
Dean Samuel J. Womack has announced the promotion of two faculty
members from instructors to assistant professors. They are Mrs. Frances
G. Allsbrook, English; and Stacey H. Johnson, Physics.

Graduation exercises for 39
students who have completed degree requirement during summer school
will be held at 10:30 a.m. in Hensdale Chapel on the college campus, Friday.



methodist college
fayetteville, n.c.

NEWS

August 30, 1973 To: FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
FAYETTEVILLE TIMES

Methodist College Women's Club

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

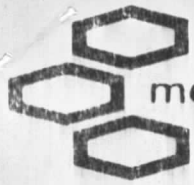
Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations
488-7110, ext. 228

FAYETTEVILLE _____ The Methodist College Women's
Club met for its first meeting of the academic year at the home of
Mrs. Bernice Berns, 5830 Woodhaven Circle, Wednesday evening.

Dr. Richard W. Pearce, new M.C. president, spoke to
the group about its role in the future of the college. Following the
presentation of new members, refreshments were served by the hostess
and co-hostesses: Mrs. Helen Heffern, Mrs. Betty Plyler and Mrs.
Annick Arnold. Plans are being completed for a September picnic.

Photo enclosed

-30-



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fayetteville, n.c.

NEWS

August 30, 1973 To: FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER,
FAYETTEVILLE TIMES

Methodist College Women's Club

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kari Michele Hagan, Public Relations
488-7110, ext. 228

FAYETTEVILLE _____ New members of the Methodist
College Women's Club were introduced during its first meeting of the
academic year Wednesday evening. Bottom row, left to right: Mrs.
Jo Anna Dicks, Mrs. Neva Pearce, Second row: Mrs. Marcy Barger,
Mrs. Julia Yow, Back row: Mrs. Elsie Smith, Mrs. Beverly Rasmussen.
New members not pictured are: Dr. Margaret Folsom, Mrs. Sharon
Gallagher and Mrs. Yvette Sanderford and Mrs. Rena Perkins.