

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Office of Public Relations/Communication
P. O. Box 1889
Wake Forest, NC 27588-1889
phone & fax number
(919) 556-3101

NEWS

Paul T. Brock, Director
Home Phone
(919) 556-3630
CompuServe
70420,145

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SEBTS Celebrates 41st Founders' Day

(Wake Forest, NC) - Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) celebrated its 41st Founders' Day during the Binkley Chapel services on Tuesday, March 10.

Rev. Donald E. Williams, Jr., Pastor of Harris Chapel Baptist Church in Hollister, North Carolina was presented the Warren-Poe Grant by Dr. Charles Dorman, Director of Student/Field Ministries. Dorman quoted from Williams' application letter, "This is a desirable locale for my ministry. The greatest of all the church ministries is in the small rural churches."

The Warren-Poe Grant for Rural Church Ministry was established at SEBTS in memory of Dr. C.C. Warren and Rev. William Dowd Poe by William E. Poe and his wife, Virginia Warren Poe of Charlotte, North Carolina. The grant is awarded annually to a minister in his/her first rural pastorate.

In Mrs. Allen's message titled "Our Community of Learning" she proposed that this Founders' Day be a continuation of the dedication to scholarship and education that began on this campus in 1834.

She told the story of the founding of Wake Forest College on the land called the forest of Wake and of the initial opposition to the college by other Baptists. Overcoming the opposition on February 3, 1834 the first 16 students came to classes and devoted themselves to prayer, classes and work in fields.

"There have always been students who work themselves through school," Mrs. Allen said humorously.

Mrs. Allen continued with the closing of the college during the Civil War followed by its re-opening afterwards and its subsequent prosperity and growth.

"In 1951 the seminary students joined us on campus," Mrs. Allen said.

Mrs. Allen recalled the days when the seminary and college shared the campus and then the moving of the college to Winston-Salem in 1956. This initially caused some economic hardship on the town of Wake Forest. As the seminary grew, and more students enrolled "SEBTS made its presence known in many ways," Mrs. Allen said.

Mrs. Allen also told of the cooperation SEBTS has had with the Wake County School system and with the town of Wake Forest.

The seminary donated the old college stadium and some 5 acres of land for the building of the new high school.

"The faculty, staff and students of the seminary have certainly enriched the quality of the town," Mrs. Allen said.

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She told of former students who had been employed at *The Wake Weekly* and student/parents who have been involved in PTA's, crisis ministries and Meals on Wheels.

In conclusion, Mrs. Allen urged a continued "community of learning" and a love for the tasks that SEBTS has undertaken.

Margaret (Peggy) Allen, editor of *The Wake Weekly*, is a resident of Wake Forest, North Carolina. She is a graduate of Mars Hill Junior College and received her B.A. degree from Wake Forest College.

Mrs. Allen's grandfather and grandmother served as missionaries with the Home Mission Board in the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Mrs. Allen and her husband, Bob Allen, are owners of *The Wake Weekly* and are active in state and national press groups. She is a past director of the North Carolina Press Association.

They have four grown sons and one grandchild.

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