

MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE BULLETIN



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Rochester, Michigan

October, 1978

MCC begins twentieth year with new president

September chapel themes centered around *new beginnings* as Michigan Christian College opened its twentieth year under the leadership of a new president, Walter Gilfilen. He replaces Dr. Don Gardner, who resigned to accept the presidency of Christian Schools of Greater Houston. Gilfilen comes to MCC from Brevard Community College in Cocoa, Florida, where he served as Assistant to the President.

Gilfilen received the Master of Arts degree from Harding College in 1958, and has completed other graduate work since that time. He pioneered in the opening of Magic Valley Christian College in Albion, Idaho from 1958 to 1961, where he served as Dean of Students.

During his seventeen years' stay at Brevard, he served as Business Manager and more recently directed the development activities of the college, generating over \$2.3 million in Federal funding during 1977-78. He has served as a consultant to colleges for the past three years. While in Florida, he served as an elder in the Central Church of Christ in Cocoa for the past ten years. He

and his wife, Benny Ann, have three children, David, Tim, and Jan, a freshman at MCC.

Commenting on the *new beginnings* at Michigan Christian College, President Gilfilen stated, "*The college is building on strong foundations established by Otis Gatewood, Lucien Palmer, and Don Gardner, former presidents. As MCC approaches its twentieth anniversary, it is launching a baccalaureate degree program in the field of religious education, which is designed to train and serve preachers in the North Central area. This will be supported by our ongoing liberal arts program on the Associates Degree level. We believe that Michigan Christian College, with continued support from Christians in this area, will make even greater strides within the next twenty years.*"

It is gratifying to be back in Christian education after many years in the public sector. I would highly recommend such a move by other Christian educators who have opportunity to do so."

Westside Central Chapel and Utley Student Center officially dedicated

Early on the morning of August 13, 1978, former members of Detroit's Westside Central Church of Christ traveled to Rochester for a unique reunion. They came for a special worship service preceding the official dedication of MCC's new chapel, which is named in honor of their congregation.

Beautiful windows forming a large arrow pointing upward highlight the Westside Chapel's view of the campus lakes. A unique seating arrangement allows for the dividing of the facility into three large lecture rooms within minutes after the closing of chapel programs.

Dedication services also included the opening of the Utley Student Center, named in honor of L.C. and Elizabeth Utley. Former Board Chairman, Wheeler Utley, son of L.C. and Elizabeth, participated in the program. Bob Utley presented a portrait of his parents to Student Body President Jay Crow.

Two levels within the new Utley Student Center include a recreation area and a leisure area. Both areas have decks overlooking the lakes. Funds raised by the student body of last year are helping to furnish the new center.



Upcoming Events

November 2

Cross Country at Great Lakes Christian College, Lansing

November 7

Associates and Men's Club Meetings

November 10-11

Musical Presentation, *The Fantasticks*

November 11

High School Day

Basketball with Ohio Valley College, Home

November 14

Basketball with Macomb Community College, Home

November 17

Basketball with Sacred Heart Seminary, Home

November 18

Basketball at Schoolcraft Community College, Livonia

November 21

Basketball with Highland Park Community College, Home

November 28

Basketball at Jordon College, Cedar Springs

December 1-2

Basketball at University of Michigan, Dearborn

December 2

Associates Gift-a-Rama

December 5

Basketball at Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit

Associates and Men's Club Meetings

December 12

Basketball at St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake

January 2

Associates and Men's Club Meetings

January 7

Residence Halls Open

January 8

Winter Semester Registration

January 9

Winter Semester Classes Begin

Students from nineteen states enroll

Residence Halls hummed with activity as they opened their doors on September 3rd. A total of 323 students from nineteen states and five foreign countries enrolled for classes. They came to MCC from Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, Marshall Islands, Nigeria, Palau, South Africa, and Truk.

Student body executive officers began their school year two weeks early with daily planning sessions on campus. They finalized plans for numerous student activities and set a fund-raising goal of \$10,000 to be used in restoring campus landmarks from the original Maxon estate. Officers include Jay Crow of Meadville, Pennsylvania, President; John Debelak of Skandia, Michigan, Vice-President; Pam Montgomery of Indianapolis, Indiana, Secretary; and Lynne McKee of Flint, Michigan, Treasurer (pictured below).



Seven added to faculty

Adding to the excitement of a new year, five families came to Rochester this fall to join the MCC faculty. Two husband and wife teaching teams contributed to the additions.

Dr. Leonard Knight and his wife, Fawn, came to MCC from Shults-Lewis Children's Home in Valparaiso, Indiana. Dr. Knight received his doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary. He teaches Bible, counseling, and psychology at MCC in addition to serving as Dean of Students. Fawn holds a Masters degree from Pepperdine University and teaches English and reading.

Paul and Janine Varner joined the English Department. Both have completed the course work for their doctorates from the University of Tennessee. They are both currently working on their doctoral dissertations.

Eldred Echols traveled to MCC after thirty-five years of mission work in South Africa, where he founded and taught in the Southern Africa Bible School. He is awaiting approval of his doctoral thesis from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. He teaches upper division Bible and Greek at MCC.

Also benefiting from recent missionary experience, Coy Roper came to MCC directly from a ten year work in Australia. He founded and taught in the Macquarie School of Preaching. He holds a Masters degree from Abilene Christian University and Northeastern Oklahoma State University and teaches Bible and Greek at MCC.

Returning to MCC after teaching for four years at Georgia Christian School, Garth Pleasant brings to campus his background as a former MCC student. He holds a Bachelors degree from David Lipscomb College and teaches First Aid at MCC. He also directs the intramural program, coaches intercollegiate basketball, and supervises the Barbier Residence Hall.



Guests of the 21st Annual Lectureship on October 9-12 listened as speakers issued the challenge to *Evangelize or Die*. Tremendous fellowship, bookstore shopping, the first chorus performance, and special dinners added to the excitement of the week. Simultaneous sessions during peak attendance hours at chapel and in the evening made possible the hosting of record crowds.



Speakers graciously took extra sessions to cover an unexpected illness of Jack Exum. Key evening speakers included Willie Franklin, Coy Roper, Marvin Phillips, Charles Hodge, Eldred Echols, and Ira North. Lottie Beth Hobbs highlighted the women's program with daily sessions.



Early confirmations for the 1979 Lectureship include Neil Lightfoot, Jim Woodruff, and Betty Muns. Additional speakers and programs will be announced later.

School year begins with spiritual emphasis

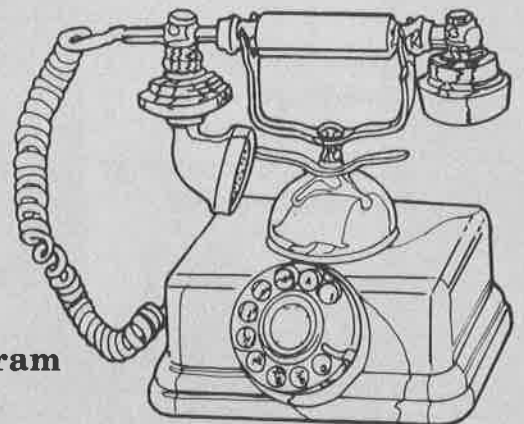
Spiritual growth became evident in the lives of several students as the new school year began. Large attendance at weekly devotionals and daily concern for one another have led to the start of a special year.

Mission Emphasis completed their first campaign on September 23. A group of twenty-three students personally invited the residents of South Lyon, Michigan to attend a gospel meeting at the local congregation.

The positive atmosphere on campus has already encouraged seven students in their decision to be baptized. Another thirty-six have asked for prayers at the Rochester Church of Christ. In the words of one student, *"There has been a lot of talk around campus about this time in our lives being one of the greatest opportunities of our spiritual lives. I realize now that I can't pass it up."*

THE CALL FOR SUPPORT

Phon-a-Visit IV
November 2-30
Salary Sharing Program





Fall Festival welcomes unpredicted sunshine

Several rainy days preceded October 7, but weather forecasts proved wrong when not a drop of rain fell on the 18th annual Fall Festival. Over eighty booths participated in the event, which marked the largest annual project of the MCC Associates.

In addition to the increased number of booths, a second large tent demonstrated further growth of the activity. Festival planners estimate a total of \$35,000 income when all proceeds are submitted.

During noon ceremonies, the project chairman, Mildred Freeland, presented Patty Harrison of the Rochester Chapter as Festival Queen. Other queen candidates included Alfrida Hargis, Sally Kessler, Josephine Motes, and Benita Ward. A total of \$13,553 was raised in queen's votes.

Although plans for next year's festival are already underway, the Associates will next host their annual Gift-a-Rama in the MCC Cafeteria on December 2.

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