



FAVORITE SPEAKER

A favorite Bible Conference speaker back in the day was Dr. Ian Paisley. He was a regular speaker at Bible Conference. Ellen Boyle of the Center for Leadership Development said she remembers people lining up outside the auditorium an hour before services started to hear him preach. People from the school and community often gathered together outside to have impromptu singspirations where they would sing until the ushers opened up the auditorium.



BIBLE CONFERENCE TRADITIONS

DATING TRADITIONS

A common occurrence at Bible Conference is what is now jokingly referred to as “Drop-Add Week.” Corretta Grass, a faculty member in the department of communication studies, said going on a date to a service was allowed only after the first of four services. Boyle and Mrs. Christine Boone of the Center for Leadership Development remember that at breakfast the men sat on one side of the dining common and the women on the other, but at lunch they were allowed to date.



MUSIC TRADITIONS

Dr. Dwight Gustafson (1930-2014), former dean of the School of Fine Arts, used to lead the singing, Boyle said, and he would always have the congregation sing “Wonderful Grace of Jesus,” and “Master, the Tempest is Raging.” Boyle said that in the last stanza of “Master, the Tempest is Raging,” Gustafson would have the attendees in the balcony echo those on the main floor. In years past, the SoundForth Singers performed concerts, and various other musical groups have performed as well.

PICNIC ON THE LAWN

One of the traditions that has been around Bible Conference since the 1970s is picnicking on the lawn. According to Boone, sitting on the lawn was a big deal for students because it was a favorite way to “date” back in the day. If there was rain during Bible Conference, then Stratton Hall, the library and a few other locations would be opened to allow students to have other opportunities to fellowship with each other, even if it could not be out on the lawn. “Students used to not go off campus that much,” Boyle said, “so basically, they’d do everything here.”



