New Hymnal, Gold Mosaic To Mark Memorial Chapel

By PERT VIRTANEN

The new Memorial Chapel for the Rice campus is nearing completion. The carpet has been laid, the organ has been shipped, and the pews are due to arrive soon.

The carpet, which is a rich reddish orange and of a nubby texture, was selected by Evans-Walsh Interior Decorators. The mosaic of the columns and apse wall was imported from the Ravenna Mosaic Company of Italy. It is gold leaf fused in glass. The pattern was executed by hand and shipped in segments.

Stained Glass

The stained glass for the upper windows ranges in thickness from one to two inches and is set in concrete. The designer was Roger Darricarrere formerly of France and now established in Los Angeles.

All woodwork in the chapel is oak; the uncarpeted floor is Roman travertine. The pews will seat 125 and there is a possibility that additional cathedral type seating in the side aisles will be provided. This would increase the seating capacity 100.

Bi-weekly Services

The Religious Council has been making plans for the use of the chapel and the eight offices which are provided in addition. The chapel program will consist of interdenominational services probably on a bi-weekly basis.

A weekend will be selected for chapel services, which will be conducted by prominent speakers both on the local and national level. Joe Key, president of the Religious Council, emphasized that the topics of each program will be held on a high intellectual plane.

Dedication

The dedication service will be held next semester on Sunday, February 7, following Religious Emphasis Week. At this time there will be an organ recital by Claire Coci. Arrangements are now being completed for the speaker for Religious Emphasis Week, the first week of the second semester.

The past success of Religious Emphasis Week makes the Religious Council confident that a positive program concerning the new chapel will fill a definite need with regard to campus life and will be well received by the student body.

The Organ

Arthur E. Hall, Professor of the Shepherd School of Music, furnishes the following information concerning the organ. It was built in three sections by the Andover Organ Company of Methuen, Massachusetts.

The balcony railing and two manual keyboards are integrated. Some of the pipes from the ruckpositiv section will be mounted on the balcony railing. The organ, in addition to the chapel, is the gift of J. Newton Rayzor.

Special Hymnal

A hymnal for the chapel is now in publication. Mr. Hall made the selections, choosing hymns that will be appropriate for various seasons of the year. He also wishes to form a choir of from 20 to 24 members. In addition to choral music at each chapel service, Mr. Hall plans to have a musical evening about once a month.

The organ will be available for use by permission only.