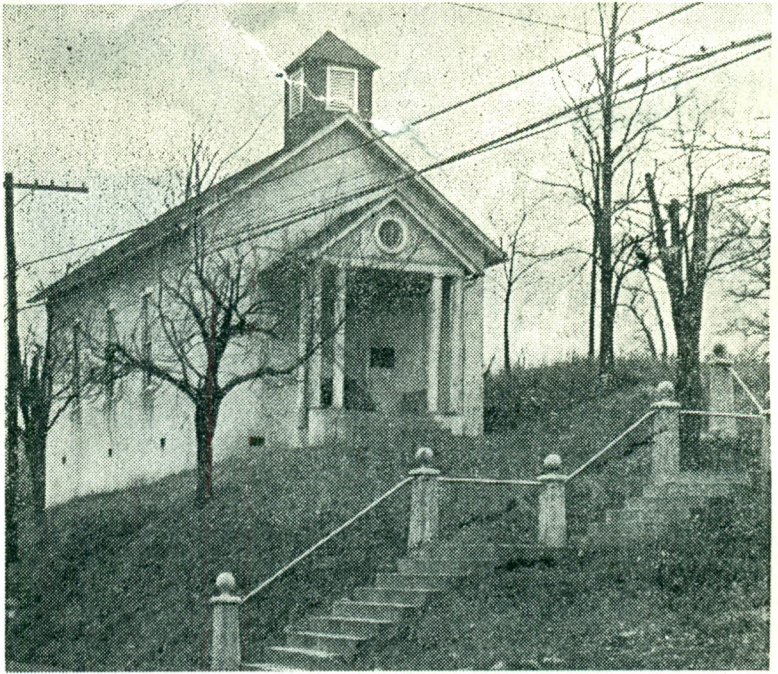


Little White Church On The Hill



By John L. Wilks

Not far from the most distant building on the campus of State college sits the Samaritan Baptist church.

The "Little White Church on the Side of the Hill" has served State college students and community members of Institute for many years by offering church services on the first and third Sundays, and Sunday School on the second and fourth Sundays.

Looking up at the church from the foot of its winding stairway, one is inclined to think of it as a recently constructed building. Actually it was built in 1896, somewhat before "the day" of any student. Yet there are some in the community who can recall the days of the building of the church. Work on it was principally done by Claude Hurt, and Solomon Brown who were 16 and 17 years of age, respectively at that time.

Recalls Worthy Cause Pleasures

Mr. Solomon Brown recalls with pride the many pleasures derived from his participation in a "worthy cause." And we may go further and call his participation a historical one—one exemplifying the thoughtfulness, and willingness to work and sacrifice for accomplishment that is so characteristic of the builders of our churches, schools, and meeting places—in short, the builders of America.

Along with the pleasant moments, Mr. Brown can also recall the tragic ones. One such moment was the death of the Reverend Moses Hall, first pastor of Samaritan Baptist. The late Reverend was killed upon being struck by a train at a railroad crossing as he was returning to his Saint Albans home after rendering prayer with a portion of his congregation within the frame work of the unfinished building. Although the first pastor of the "Little White Church," Reverend Hall never preached in it—the present church is a third building. Two others have

been erected in different sites near the campus.

"State" Well Represented

State college students have always been instrumental in the functioning of the church. A glance at the list of the numerous officers of Samaritan Baptist reveals that students and college personnel hold offices from the pastorship to its ushers.

The Samaritan Baptist choir is composed of students under a student director; likewise do students compose the major portion of the congregation. Affirmative evidence of the college influence was shown recently by the initiation of Orlando V. Brown, pre-med student, as deacon. Mr. Charles Byrd, auto-mechanics instructor, fills the position of deacon, and serves as Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Since last September, Dean of Men Edward W. Jones has served as pastor of Samaritan Baptist church filling a position vacated by the former Dean of Men Charles W. Thomas.

Dean-Pastor Jones resigned as the only Negro scientist at the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa., to come to State, and Samaritan Baptist church. Having served as a Army chaplain, Dean of men Jones has held pastorates in Indiananoplis, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky.

"All I can say is to come to church," said Pastor Jones when asked to make a statement.