

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL

PALMETTO STATE HOSPITAL

PINELAND,

A STATE TRAINING SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL



Vol. 13 No. 3

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

March, 1965



CHAPEL OF HOPE
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL
COLUMBIA, S. C.

Groundbreaking December 8, 1963
Cornerstone Laying September 20, 1964

Steeple Raising January 6, 1965
Dedication February 14, 1965

Staff Photo The State-Columbia Record

WILLIAM S. HALL, M.D.
STATE COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPERINTENDENT, STATE HOSPITALS
FRANCES C. SHIMMEL, EDITOR

THE CHAPEL OF HOPE
AND
KEMPSON CENTER
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL

DEDICATION -- SUNDAY MORNING -- 9:00 -- February 14, 1965
TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ariety
ontinued fr
inister
eople

Mrs. Inez Nolan Fri

The Chapel of Hope at the South Carolina State Hospital was filled with patient personnel at nine o'clock Sunday morning, February 14, 1965, for a heartwarming, dedication of the first separate campus church in the history of the hospital which established in 1821 with the first patient admitted in 1828.

With simple dignity and a spirit of gratitude, the House of Worship and the Kempson Center for the clinical pastoral training program and chapel activities for the 3,200 patients were dedicated.

This first religious facility, The Chapel of Hope, is the culmination of the effort and contribution of a few white patients at the Columbia Unit, S. C. State Hospital in November 1943. With the encouragement of Chaplain J. Obert Kempson and the full operation of the hospital superintendent, Dr. C. Fred Williams, interest in the project spread throughout the state and slowly, but surely, the chapel fund increased. The continuous, earnest and prayerful endeavors through the years of literally thousands of individuals, church and other groups, including the General Assembly of South Carolina, the church or chapel has become a reality.

Appropriately, the dedication and first worship service were for the patients.

loria Patri
cripture Le

ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Organ Prelude "All Glory Be To God On High" - Decius Edmundson
- Choral Prelude "Here In Thy Name, Eternal God" - Embler
Mrs. Evangeline Embler, Choirmaster and Organist
White Robed Patient Chapel Choir
- Hymn 140 "Come, Thou Almighty King"
- Call To Worship
- Minister
- People
- Prayer of Confession
- Words of Assurance
- Responsive Reading Psalm 122

nthem "
he Affirmat
ymn 263 "
ermon "
astoral Pray
he Presentat
and Kemp
ct of Dedicat
of the

(Continued from page 8a)

Minister I was glad when they said unto me,
 People Let us go into the House of the Lord.
 Our feet shall stand within Thy gates,
 O Jerusalem
 Jerusalem is builded as a city
 That is compact together;
 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord
 Unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks
 unto the name of the Lord
 For there are set thrones of judgment
 The thrones of the House of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 They shall prosper that love Thee.

Peace be within Thy walls,
 And prosperity within Thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes,
 I will now say, peace be within thee
 Because of the House of the Lord, our God.

I will seek Thy good.

Gloria Patri -----Number 301

Scripture Lessons Genesis 28:10-17. Romans 5:1-11
 The Rev. Burton J. Newman
 Assistant Supervisor, Clinical Pastoral Education

Anthem "Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation" - Wood Patient Chapel Choir

The Affirmation of Faith-----Number 1

Hymn 263 "The Church's One Foundation"

Sermon "A House of God"
 The Rev. Carroll A. Wise, Th.D.
 Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling
 Director of Counseling
 Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Presentation of the Chapel of Hope
 and Kempson Center for Dedication
 Dr. William S. Hall
 State Commissioner of Mental Health
 and
 Superintendent, S. C. State Hospital

Act of Dedication
 of the Chapel of Hope
 The Rev. J. Obert Kempson, L.H.D.
 Consultant, Pastoral Services
 Department of Mental Health

(Continued on page 10a)

Variety
(Continued from page 9a)

Minister

People

To the glory of God who has called us by His grace,
who loves us and gave Himself for us, and who illumines
and sanctifies us:

WE DEDICATE THIS CHAPEL

For the worship of God in prayer and praise; for the
preaching of the everlasting Gospel; for the celebration
of the Holy Sacraments;

WE DEDICATE THIS CHAPEL

For the comfort of all who mourn, for the strength to
those who are tempted; for light to those who seek the way;

WE DEDICATE THIS CHAPEL

For the strengthening of fellowship; for the teaching
and guiding of all; for the perfecting of the saints;

WE DEDICATE THIS CHAPEL

For the conversion of sinners; for the promotion of
righteousness; for the extension of the Kingdom of God;

WE DEDICATE THIS CHAPEL

In the unity of faith; in the bond of Christian brotherhood;
in charity and good will to all;

WE DEDICATE THIS CHAPEL

In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve Thee
and Thy people; in loving remembrance of those who have
finished their course; in the hope of a blessed immortality
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

WE DEDICATE THIS CHAPEL

Prayer of Dedication
The Act of Dedication
of Kempson Center

Hymn 259

The Benediction

Choral Amen

Organ Postlude

The Rev. William M. Major, Chaplain

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

"Carillon for a Joyful Day" - McKay

Tour of Chapel of Hope
and
Kempson Center

riety

DEDI

At three o'clock,
sell with hundreds
on services of the
cilities.

Presiding-----

Organ Prelude-----

Invocation-----

Remarks-----

Anthem-----

Scripture-----

Anthem-----

Address

Presentation of The
And Kempson Cent

The Act of Dedicati
of the Chapel of H

1965

March, 1965

Variety

11a

THE CHAPEL OF HOPE
and
KEMPSON CENTER
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL

DEDICATION - SUNDAY AFTERNOON - 3:00 - FEBRUARY 14, 1965

At three o'clock, Sunday afternoon, February 14, 1965, Governor and Mrs. Donald S. Russell with hundreds of others from throughout the state attended the second dedication services of the Chapel of Hope and the Kempson Center, and then toured the two facilities.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Presiding-----Hon. C. M. Tucker , Jr.
Pageland, Chairman, S. C.
Mental Health Commission
- Organ Prelude-----"Praise To The Lord, The Almighty" - Walther
"My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker" - Buxtehude
Mrs. Evangeline Emblor
Choirmaster and Organist
- Invocation-----The Rev. William M. Major
Chaplain
- Remarks-----Dr. William S. Hall
State Commissioner of Mental Health
and Superintendent, S. C. State Hospital

Dr. Lawson H. Bowling
Director of Professional Services
S. C. State Hospital

Dr. J. Rupert McGregor
Chairman, The Committee for the Chapel Fund
- Anthem-----"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" White Robed Patient
18th Century German Melody Chapel Choirs
- Scripture-----Genesis 28:10-17 Rabbi Murray Gershon
House of Peace, Columbia
- Anthem-----"Cry Out With Joy" Chapel Choirs
- Address "A House of God" The Rev. Carroll A. Wise, Th.D.
Professor of Pastoral Psychology
and Counseling
Garrett Theological Seminary
Evanston, Illinois
- Presentation of The Chapel of Hope -----Dr. William S. Hall
And Kempson Center for Dedication
- The Act of Dedication
of the Chapel of Hope-----The Rev. J. Obert Kempson,
L.H.D., Consultant, Pastoral
Services, Department of Mental
Health

plain

1a)

The Act of Dedication of Kempson Center-----The Rev. William M. Major

The Benediction-----The Rev. Ernest Kennedy
St. Peter's Catholic
Church, Columbia, S. C.

Organ Postlude-----Choral Improvisation on "Now Thank We All" - Karg-Elert

REMARKS

Dr. Carroll A. Wise of Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, guest minister for the dedication, compared the Chapel of Hope to a symbol of man's upreach toward God and of God's prior outreach toward man. "A Chapel of Hope", he said, "should remind us that hope is in God, not in ourselves--When we seek to bring healing to others, we must mediate something of the healing that has been given to us--To be healed means to reach out to the Grace of God as revealed in Christ--God does not solve our problems for us, nor give us easy answers. He does not deliver us from suffering. In the heart of our faith stands a cross, a symbol of the eternal suffering in the heart of God." "A deep insight of the Christian faith is that no man heals himself", said Dr. Wise, one of the nation's best known professors of pastoral psychology and counseling.

Dr. William S. Hall said that the building of the chapel was an act of faith. He explained that "At this hospital we are firmly persuaded that a sound spirit is vital to a sound mind. The health of the mind is closely attuned to the health of the soul." Dr. Hall expressed deep appreciation to everyone who had shared in making the Chapel of Hope at last a reality.

Dr. Hall further said that it was appropriate that the chapel's associated pastoral training and activity center should be the Kempson Center, honoring the Rev. J. Obert Kempson, L.H.D., chaplain at the hospital nearly 30 years and recently appointed Pastoral Services Consultant for the State Department of Mental Health.

Dr. J. Rupert McGregor, Chairman, Volunteer Committee of Clergymen and Laymen for the Chapel Fund, spoke of their work to promote the chapel project and their success in raising funds for the furnishings. He expressed the belief that the building of the chapel was the most significant single step to help the mentally ill.

Tribute was paid to the small group of patients who in November, 1943, with the guidance of Chaplain Kempson, during the administration of Dr. C. Fred Williams (superintendent, 1915-1945) initiated the chapel fund. Dr. McGregor voiced gratitude for the faith and continuous work of many persons far and wide which brought into being the beautiful, imposing Chapel of Hope.

Dr. McGregor said the one thing lacking in the Chapel of Hope is an adequate organ, and for this he invited contributions.

Dr. Lawson H. Bowling, Director of Professional Services, South Carolina State Hospital, emphasized the fact that the church is the one institution which brings men together in love on the basis of a common relationship as children of God. He expressed appreciation for the interest and efforts which made the Chapel of Hope possible.

C. M. Tucker, Jr., of Pageland, Chairman, S. C. Mental Health Commission, presided over the services.

He presented the honored guests, including Governor and Mrs. Donald S. Russell;

(Continued from page 12a)

Mrs. J. Obert Kempson and children, Misses Rachel Ann and Cynthia and James O. Kempson, Jr.

Also Robert S. Lafaye and Walter F. Petty of the firm of Lafaye, Lafaye and Associates; W. Lucas Lafaye and T. H. Frick of the Lafaye-Tarrant Construction Co., Columbia; and Frank M. Brown, interior designer and the artist of Rev. Elias B. Hort's portrait.

Recognized was Colonel John G. Morris, Jr., Deputy Commissioner, Administrative Services, Department of Mental Health. Other members of the S. C. Mental Health Commission are: G. Werber Bryan of Sumter; W. G. Edwards, Sr., Columbia and Dr. J. M. Fewell of Greenville.

Chaplaincy Staff

The Rev. J. Obert Kempson, L.H.D.
Consultant, Pastoral Services
Department of Mental Health

William M. Major, B.D.
Chaplain

Burton J. Newman, B.D.
Asst. Chaplain Supervisor

Chaplain Residents

Roy A. Bradley, B.D.
Carl J. Olson, B.A.

John F. Stephenson, Jr., B.D.
Finley B. Brown, B.D.

Chaplains - Part-time

Robert F. Cherry, B.D.
Wiley R. Deal, D.D.

Joe L. Tyler, B.D.
Robert W. Duvall, B.D.

Visiting Chaplains

Cyrus B. Dawsey, D.D.
Wiley R. Deal, D.D.

Charles J. Shealy, D.D.
Paul Wheeler, D.D.

THE REVEREND ELIAS B. HORT
First Chaplain
South Carolina State Hospital
1844-1863

The Rev. Elias B. Hort, Pastor, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Columbia, S. C. on December 1, 1844, assumed his office as the first chaplain of the South Carolina State Hospital in addition to his pastoral activities.

Until his passing away on January 14, 1863, The Rev. Hort was the beloved chaplain with an inspiring dedication to the spiritual well-being of the patients. He was a friend in whom the patients had confidence and whose influence for good was widespread not only among the patients and the personnel of the hospital, but with his congregation and others in the community. The Rev. Hort possessed a remarkable insight, understanding and awareness of the mentally disabled which are revealed in his handwritten reports to the hospital governing body, the Board of Regents. Of interest is the fact that he was secretary of the Board of Regents from May 3, 1856 and secretary-treasurer from November 5, 1859 until he passed away.

(Continued on page 14a)

(Continued from page 13a)

He was the son of Elias Hort, who during the Revolutionary War and for many years afterward, was treasurer of the State of South Carolina, and was commended by the Legislature for the fidelity with which his public duties were performed.

The Rev. Hort was born in Christ Church Parish in the vicinity of Charleston where he received a good English and classical but not a collegiate education.

A mechanic and machinist by profession, he, after a series of unhappy family situations in which there was no personal censure, sought the advice and consolation of his pastor, The Rev. Dr. J. Bachman, President, Lutheran Synod. Religion was paramount in all of his thoughts and desires. He united with the Lutheran Church and sought to impart to others the peace he had obtained. Under the care and instruction of The Rev. Dr. Bachman he became a student of theology. He was licensed by the Synod in 1842, ordained the next year and on November 19, 1843, became the pastor of the Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia.

He was a prominent member of the South Carolina Lutheran Synod, was on the Board of Directors, was secretary of the Synod and was president for two terms.

J. OBERT KEMPSON, L.H.D.

The Rev. Dr. James Obert Kempson has been chaplain about thirty years of the more than one hundred years of chaplaincy service at the South Carolina State Hospital and he is a pioneer in clinical pastoral training in the Southeastern States.

He became chaplain on October 1, 1933; left for pastoral work on May 15, 1938 and returned to the hospital on June 10, 1940.

He was chief chaplain from July 15, 1953, until his appointment on February 1, 1965, as consultant, pastoral services, South Carolina Department of Mental Health.

A native of Little Mountain, S. C., he is the son of James Mangus and Blanche Setzler Kempson. He attended the local schools and received degrees from these South Carolina colleges: A.B., Newberry College, Newberry; B.D., Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and M.A., University of South Carolina, Columbia. He did graduate work at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York; Intensive Clinical Pastoral Training, New Jersey State Hospital, Greystone Park, N.J.; Federal Detention Headquarters, New York and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D. C. The Doctor of Humanities Degree was conferred by Newberry College.

After parish experience as assistant pastor, St. John's and St. Andrew's Lutheran Churches, Charleston, S. C., he was chaplain, S. C. State Hospital 1933-1938. Then he was pastor of St. Mark's and St. Andrew's Churches, Blythewood, S. C., until 1940 when he returned to the hospital as chaplain.

In 1948 as supervisor of clinical pastoral training, he was the pioneer of this program in the Southeastern States. His dynamic enthusiasm, deep concern and earnest efforts have expanded this program to continuous activity with ministers and theologians students at the hospital from throughout the United States and from many other countries including Australia.

On November 7, 1961, the South Carolina Mental Health Association recognized his achievements by the presentation of the bronze plaque for distinguished service to the mental health cause.

(Continued on page 15a)

(Continued from page 14a)

The Rev. Dr. Kempson has been president, National Association of Mental Hospital Chaplains; member, Board of Governors, Council for Clinical Training, Inc.

He holds offices in local, state and national clinical pastoral education groups; Lutheran Church association; in the realm of mental health; and in civic affairs, having been president of many.

The Rev. Dr. Kempson and Mrs. Kempson (Rachel Muller of Blythewood, S. C.) with their three children, Rachel Ann, Cynthia and James Obert, Jr., reside at 111 South Edisto Avenue, Columbia.

The Chapel of Hope, South Carolina State Hospital, Columbia, a stately Georgian edifice with Greek revival details, is located on a tree shaded knoll directly across Pickens Drive from the Benet Auditorium and the Horger Library.

The entrance is impressive, and the sanctuary with a seating capacity of about 600 is imposing and dignified, with an atmosphere of reverence conducive to worship.

There are several entrances, one with a ramp for wheelchair patients.

White woodwork and mahogany pews with white ends, and the crimson carpet throughout are further beautified by effect of candelight from the very large, graceful Georgian-type chandeliers. Imbedded lights in the lofty ceiling furnish most of the usable illumination.

The chancel is provided with a divided choir; an altar and a communion rail. The altar is moveable to accommodate the liturgical forms of the major faiths - Jewish, Catholic and Protestant.

The chapel has brick masonry with steel columns. The exterior walls and the steeple are of the handmade brick from the original massive hospital wall of 1827 which formerly bordered much of the older part of the hospital campus. This formidable barrier was lowered in 1962 as a symbol of the new "open hospital" concept and the hopeful treatment aspects of the hospital. Aptly expressed is the statement that the "wall of separation" now rises as "the spire of the spirit".

The floor is concrete slab on earth fill. The roof is gypsum plank with asphalt shingles. Vinyl asbestos tile is used in service and activity rooms, with wall to wall carpet in certain areas.

In the steeple, which rises 105 feet above ground level, is the now electrified hospital bell of 1896, and an electric carillon. Once more, the old hospital bell of 1896 announces the time from the Chapel of Hope.

Completely air conditioned, the chapel is cooled by a 40 ton package unit; the offices and activity center by a 20 ton water chiller unit serving fan units in each room.

In the chapel are choir rooms, office for the choirmaster and the sacristy for the chaplains.

A part of the chapel to the north is the Kempson Center, a unified focus for the hospital chaplaincy programs, pastoral clinical training courses and small group religious activities. Appropriately, this is the Kempson Center honoring the Rev. J. Obert

(Continued on page 16a)

(Continued from page 15a)

Kempson, L.H.D., hospital chaplain for nearly 30 years and recently appointed consultant, pastoral services, for the State Department of Mental Health.

The north end of the Kempson Center is an all-purpose conference room, quite like a church parlor, named for the first chaplain of the hospital, the Rev. Elias B. Hort, who served from 1844 until his death in 1863.

The chapel and activity center have a total of 13,138 square feet of floor space.

The chapel nave is forty-six feet wide and seventy-eight feet long, and rises thirty-two feet to the high point of the ceiling. The choir area is thirty feet wide and thirty-four feet deep from the front to the altar.

Designed by Lafaye, Lafaye and Associates, Architects, of Columbia, the facility was constructed by Lafaye-Tarrant Construction Company of Columbia, at a total cost of \$294,800.00. This amount includes the three principal sub-contracts performed by Columbia firms:

Heating and air conditioning - Clark Heating Co. Plumbing - W. B. Guimarin and Co. Electrical - Roy Huffstetler.

Interior design and furnishings were planned by Frank M. Brown, State Department of Mental Health, who also painted the portrait of Chaplain Hort in the Kempson Center Hort Room.

The approximate cost of the furnishings was \$53,000.00 with slightly over \$42,000.00 of this amount secured by individual gifts and the efforts of the two Committees for the Chapel Fund.

A colonial garden to be on part of the chapel grounds as the gift of the South Carolina Garden Club, is being designed by Kenneth B. Simmons, Columbia landscape architect, who is contributing his services.

In the narthex of the chapel is a Book of Remembrance for a permanent record of memorials and other gifts.

The Chapel of Hope is designed for an adequate organ, but funds at present are insufficient for the purchase. Meanwhile, a small electronic console is being used. To the present organ fund has been added a bequest of \$3,333.00 toward the purchase of an organ at an estimated cost of \$25,000.00.

GROUND BREAKING SERVICE FOR THE CHAPEL

December 8, 1963

A groundbreaking service was held at 3:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon, December 8, 1963, at the Columbia Facility for the first permanent separate house of worship for the South Carolina State Hospital.

Heavy rain necessitated having most of the ceremonies in the Benet Auditorium rather than at the chapel site, a tree shaded knoll directly across the Pickens Drive.

In his brief talk on "The Chapel in the Hospital Community", Dr. Hall stated that the chapel is a requisite both spiritually and professionally; that since religion is the anchor in the life of most people, it is only natural that their thinking along spiritual lines would be involved in the overall emotional illness, and those who are disturbed mentally are in need of the support spiritually which is vitally

(Continued on page 17a)

(Continued from page 16a)

important for everyone. The chaplain is therefore a member of the treatment team. The sanctuary will serve not only for worship experiences for the patients, but will provide chaplains' offices and seminar rooms for the hospital's extensive clinical pastoral training program which has been carried on here for years.

PROGRAM

- Presiding-----Hon. C. M. Tucker, Jr., Pageland
Chairman, S. C. Mental Health Commission
- Invocation-----Rabbi David S. Gruber, Tree of Life Synagogue
Columbia, S. C.
- Responsive Reading, Psalm 100 -----Chaplain G. Jarvis McMillan, S. C. State
Minister and People Hospital
- Scripture Lessons-----A. P. Smith, Vice Chairman, Patients'
Hebrews 11:10-12 Religious Council, Columbia Facility,
Luke 6:47-49 S. C. State Hospital
- "The Contribution of a Chapel"-----The Rev. J. Rupert McGregor, Th.D.
Columbia, Chairman, Committee for the
Chapel Fund.
- "The Chapel in the Hospital Community"----Dr. William S. Hall, State Director of
Mental Health and Superintendent,
S. C. State Hospital
- Anthem - "God Himself Is Present"-----Benet Auditorium Patient Choir
Neander Mrs. Evangeline Embler
Choirmaster and Organist

BREAKING OF THE GROUND

- Responsive Reading-----Chief Chaplain J. Obert Kempson and
Ministers and People Chaplain William M. Major
S. C. State Hospital
- Benediction-----Monsignor Martin C. Murphy
Pastor, St. Peter's Catholic Church
Columbia, S. C.

Others participating in the Ceremonies:

Dr. W. P. Beckman, Deputy Director
Community Mental Health Services

Dr. Lawson H. Bowling, Director of Professional Services
Columbia Facility, S. C. State Hospital

Robert S. Lafaye and W. F. Petty
Lafaye, Fair, Lafaye and Associates, Architects, Columbia

W. Lucas Lafaye
Lafaye-Tarrant Construction Co., Columbia

Dan F. Frick, Construction Engineer, Finance Division
S. C. Budget and Control Board

March, 1965

THE HOSPITAL BELL

The large metal bell at the Elmwood Avenue-Bull Street main entrance to the Columbia Unit, S. C. State Hospital, was hand-operated to announce the time on the hour from 1896 until 1952, when it was discontinued.

When the four lane entrance to the Columbia Unit was constructed in 1958, the bell was removed and remained in storage until January 23, 1959.

Then it was loaned to the S. C. Mental Health Association and mounted at the headquarters office, 3000 Devine Street, Columbia, as a symbol of the official slogan, "Ring the Bell for Mental Health".

When the SCMHA moved to 2739 Devine Street, Columbia, in 1960, the bell was returned to the hospital.

In January 1965, the hospital bell of 1896 was placed in the spire of the Chapel of Hope, South Carolina State Hospital, and electrified to again announce the time.

On the bell appears - The Meneely Bell Foundry, Meneely Co., West Troy, N. Y., 1878.

HISTORICAL SKETCH - PLACES OF WORSHIP

S. C. STATE HOSPITAL

CHAPEL BUILDING FUND

Mrs. Inez Nolan Fripp

The dedication of the Chapel of Hope, South Carolina State Hospital, Columbia, S. C. on Sunday, February 14, 1965, was indeed a momentous occasion, the fulfillment of a vision, the reality of a dream of many individuals over a period of years.

This was the culmination of the initial effort of a few white patients at the Columbia Unit, South Carolina State Hospital, who, with the encouragement of Chaplain J. Obert Kempson, made the first contribution for a chapel here.

This small beginning with the persistent earnest, prayerful endeavors of literally thousands of individuals, groups of various types, and the General Assembly of South Carolina, made possible the beautiful Chapel of Hope. Sunday, February 14, 1965, was a great day at the S. C. State Hospital.

First Chaplain

On December 1, 1844, 121 years ago, the first definitely assigned chaplain, the Rev. Elias Bail Hort, Pastor of Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia, assumed his duties at the hospital; remaining until his death on January 14, 1863.

Interesting is the fact that the Consultant, Pastoral Services, Department of Mental Health, until recently the Chief Chaplain, S. C. State Hospital, is the Rev. Dr. J. Obert Kempson, a member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia. He has been associated with the hospital Chaplaincy Service since October 1, 1933, with the exception of two years in community pastoral work.

Religious Services for Patients

Since the Mills Building, the original facility of the S. C. State Hospital completed December 18, 1827, was occupied by the first patient, a young white woman from Barnwell County, on December 12, 1828, religious services have been provided for the patients. This phase of their lives has never been overlooked.

During all the years there has not heretofore been a permanent chapel devoted exclusively to religious activities.

Medical Superintendent Held Services

Hospital records reveal that prior to securing the first chaplain, the Rev. Hort, in 1844, worship services were conducted in the Mills Building parlors by the hospital's first medical superintendent, Dr. John Waring Parker (1837-1870).

First "Chapel"

Later, an old map in the annual report of the superintendent, Dr. Peter E. Griffin for the year ending October 31, 1881, shows a small building on the campus at the east end of the south wing of the Administration Building designated as the "Chapel". This was an old wooden structure formerly occupied by Negro patients.

Place for Worship - Administration Building

Chaplain Abiel Bolles, annual report for year ending October 31, 1885, describes the consecration as a "House of God" the third floor auditorium of the Administration Building. This spacious area with a large platform or stage with beautiful appointments and tall windows containing many small panes of colored glass, was for many years used for worship services. (Not accessible for physically feeble and aged patients). The auditorium was utilized for all types of activities, as well as for church services.

Chapel Fund Started by Patients

The urgent need for a chapel, a definite place for worship services, was of prime interest to patients; and with the encouragement of Chaplain J. Obert Kempson, a small group wholeheartedly endorsed the idea of initiating a chapel fund.

In November, 1943, the small group of patients made the initial contribution of funds for that purpose. The project was submitted to the Board of Regents - now the South Carolina Mental Health Commission - and approval was immediately given.

The hospital superintendent, Dr. C. Fred Williams (1915-1945) was fully in accord.

Through appeals to relatives and groups by correspondence, and through the cooperation of the news media, together with Dr. Williams sympathetic enthusiasm and efforts, the fund increased encouragingly. Ministers of various denominations throughout the state were requested to present the need to their congregation to afford opportunities for gifts.

Other superintendents, Dr. Coyt Ham, Dr. W. P. Beckman and Dr. Cleve C. Odom, were all interested and continued to strive toward securing the chapel.

(Continued on page 29a)

Variety
(Continued f

Dr. Wil
C. State Hos

The 194
total was \$3
brought dela

In Febru
synagogue lea
The Columbia
top professio
financial res

The comm
McGregor, Th.
interest in h
State Hospi

The comm
an extension
chapel. The
with the enac
of bonds in t
able in the c

Another
Health, grante
(formerly the

Through t
Lafaye and Ass
ing costs of c
Pickens Drive

Lafaye, F
in conformity
was in readine
worship devote

Groundbrea
Constructi
scheduled for o
Cornerston
Dedication

Edward Wehman
Werber Bryan,

(Continued from page 28a)

Dr. William S. Hall, now State Commissioner of Mental Health and Superintendent, S. C. State Hospital (1952 --) worked diligently to attain this goal.

The 1946 General Assembly of S. C. agreed to match the chapel fund as soon as the total was \$30,000. This was done in 1952, but rising building costs and other problems brought delays.

In February, 1961, a volunteer Chapel Fund Committee was organized by church and synagogue leaders, with Tom McMahan, former religion editor of The State and later with The Columbia Record, as chairman. One project was a benefit challenge golf match between top professionals, Sam Snead and Mike Souchak, at the Camden Country Club, without large financial results.

The committee was reorganized in 1962 under the leadership of the Rev. J. Rupert McGregor, Th.D., of Columbia. A survey, financed by committee members, indicated keen interest in having a chapel built at both state hospitals (South Carolina and Palmetto State Hospitals).

The committee conducted an educational campaign in the Legislature. The outcome was an extension of the hospital's borrowing power with part of the money earmarked for the chapel. The project for the chapel at the S. C. State Hospital gained renewed impetus with the enactment of legislation by the 1962 General Assembly of S. C. for the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$140,000. This to supplement the approximately \$68,000 available in the chapel fund.

Another Legislative extension of the borrowing power of the Department of Mental Health, granted in 1964, will make possible a chapel at the Palmetto State Hospital (formerly the State Park Unit of the S. C. State Hospital).

Through the years several different sets of plans were prepared by Lafaye, Fair, Lafaye and Associates, Architects of Columbia, adapted to changing conditions and increasing costs of construction; and for more than ten years a site for the chapel on the Wickens Drive opposite the Benet Auditorium-Horger Library had been designated.

Lafaye, Fair, Lafaye and Associates, Architects, in 1963 developed additional plans in conformity with changing concepts of the building's appearance and usage, everything as in readiness for the construction of this direly needed and long awaited place for worship devoted solely to religious activities.

Groundbreaking Ceremonies

Construction began

Scheduled for one year later.

Cornerstone Laying

Dedication

Sunday afternoon, December 8, 1963

Monday, December 9, 1963 with completion

Contractors, Lafaye-Tarrant Construction Co., Columbia

Sunday morning, September 20, 1964

Two ceremonies, morning and afternoon

February 14, 1965

SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

C. M. Tucker, Jr., Chairman, Pageland

Edward Wehman, Jr., (deceased) Charleston
Werber Bryan, Sumter

John M. Fewell, M.D., Greenville
W. G. Edwards, Sr., Columbia

William S. Hall, M. D.
State Commissioner of Mental Health
and Superintendent, South Carolina State Hospital