

## *South Apalachin Baptist Church Burns Mortgage*

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Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> was a day of Praise and Rejoicing at The South Apalachin Baptist Church. For on that Sunday the church building mortgage was publically burned.

It was in 1962 when plans for a new church building were discussed. How to go about such a project and where to begin was something for which they began to look to the Lord for guidance at that time. Under the ministry of Pastor Gordon Hay (1953-1960) they had enlarged the old building and also put a basement under the auditorium, but now it was time to make a move toward a new building, as there was no more room to expand the old one nor any room for parking.

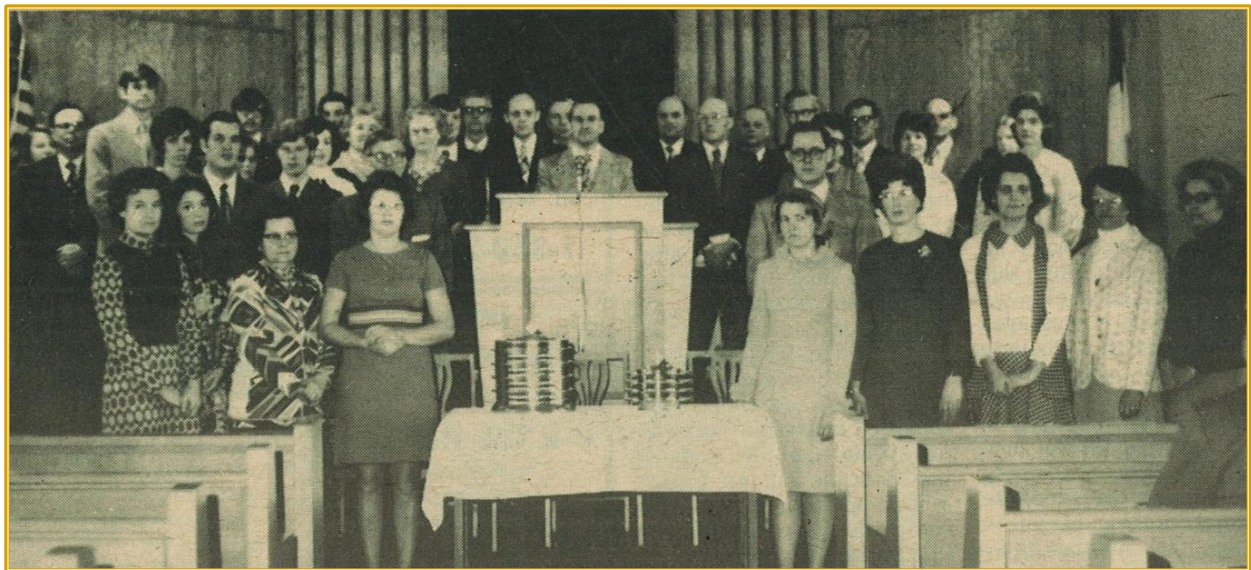


Pictured with the Pastor James Walter are three men who were the trustees last November when the mortgage was paid in full. They were also trustees at the time when the church was erected. They are Albert Welch, Robert Strobe and Bernard Holden. All are professional builders [from the picture in last week's bulletin].

After much prayer and saving some money it was decided to buy 3½ acres across the creek from the old church building where they could eventually build a new one. The work was finally begun in 1964 with as yet no loans. Being blessed with a number of builders in the membership of the church they started on their own. After putting in the foundation, erecting the framework, and enclosing it, their money had run out and

they secured their first money from the bank. The building was completed in 1965 with the men of the church doing most of the work under the direction of Albert Welch. The day of dedication was also a day of rejoicing as God allowed them to have a beautiful brick structure with an auditorium that would seat nearly 300 plus 18 educational rooms and a large fellowship hall. All this with only a \$60,000 twelve year mortgage.

As the Lord blessed financially the church was able to double up on its' payments many times and was able to pay it in full in nine years instead of twelve. Also in 1970 a new parsonage was built. Again the most of the labor was provided by the men of the church. Leland Welch directed the project. Then two years ago seven more acres beside the church building were purchased. At present this will be used as a recreation field with the hopes of eventually erecting a new recreational building upon a part of it. For the last nine years the old church building has been used as a recreation center for basketball and Brigade Boy's activities as well as numerous Young People's parties and get-togethers.



**Officers for the Year**