

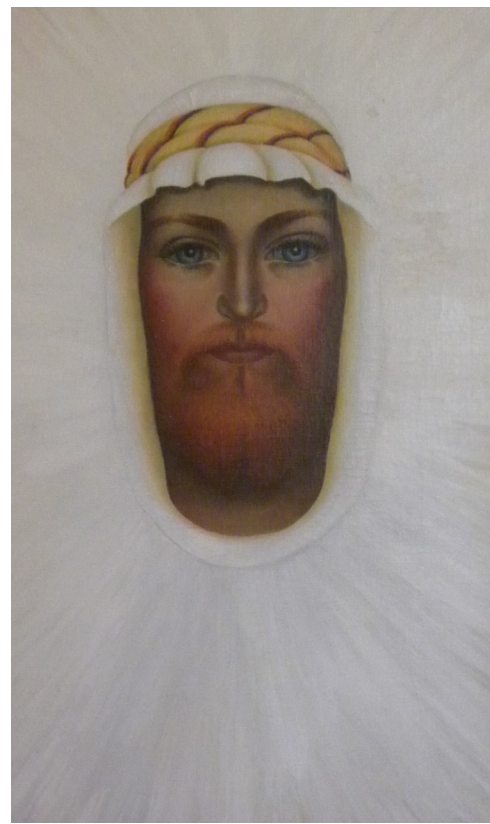
The chapel of
PI TAU CHI

&

**THE ALTAR
OF THE NEW
TESTAMENT**

Athens State University
Athens Alabama





Located in the historic Founders Hall of Athens State University, the Chapel of Pi Tau Chi and the Altar of the New Testament serve as an important religious tribute to the Institution's Methodist roots.

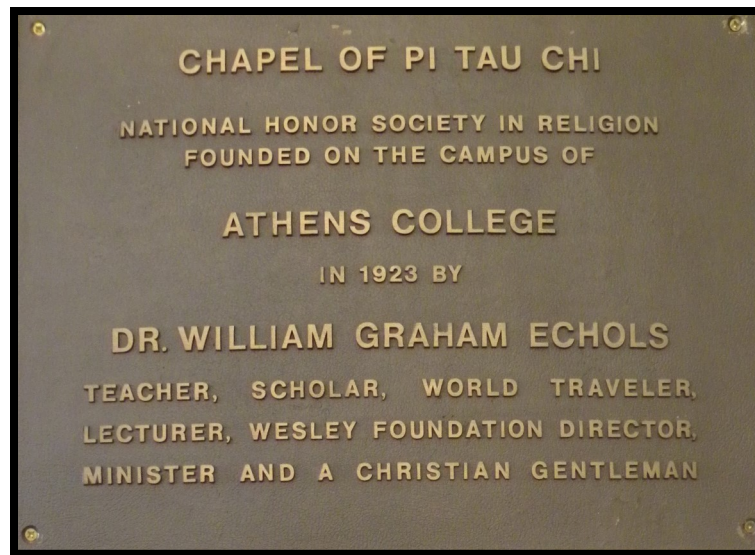
Athens State University is the oldest institution of higher education in Alabama's state educational system. The Institution, founded in 1822, was established by local citizens who purchased five acres of land, erected a building, and opened Athens Female Academy. Twenty years later, the school was offered to the governance of the United Methodist Church.

The Institution's name has changed several times in its almost 200-year history, following adjustments in purpose and governance. Upon its transfer to the Methodist Church in 1842, Athens Female Academy became Athens Female Institute. Then in 1889, the Institution was known as Athens Female College. In 1931, the College became co-educational and was known as Athens College.

In 1974, the Board of Trustees of Athens College requested and received permission from the Methodist Church to seek affiliation with the State of Alabama. In 1975, the Institution was accepted by the Alabama State Board of Education and named Athens State College. The mission of the Institution was then declared to serve the graduates of state junior, community, and technical colleges/institutes. In 1998, a bill was passed by the legislature to establish Athens State University.

The modern-day Athens State University is a thriving institution that offers junior-level and senior-level coursework for students pursuing a bachelor's degree and graduate coursework for students pursuing a master's degree. Within the University's three colleges of study - Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education - a curriculum is offered to fit any student's interest and schedule.



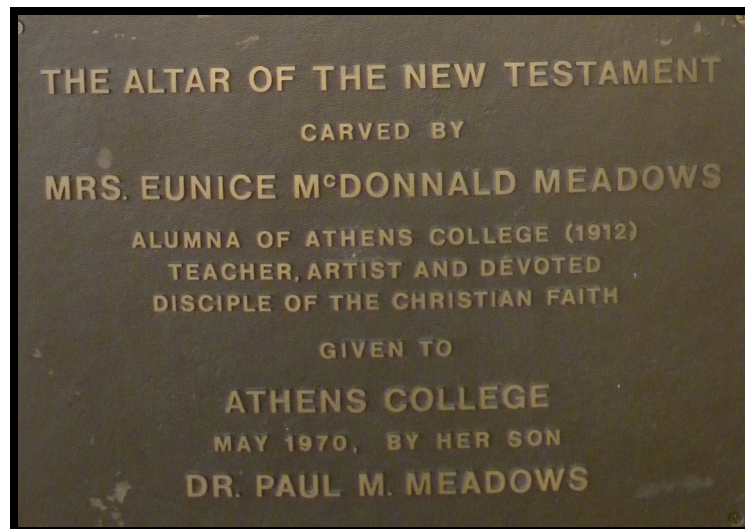


The Chapel of Pi Tau Chi occupies a large, central room on the second floor of Founders Hall that has had many uses since the building's construction in 1842. It has been a classroom, a study hall, and in 1923, it was designated as the institution's Chapel for the honor society in religion, Pi Tau Chi.

Today, the Chapel serves as one of the University's most sought-after meeting rooms and is the main conference rooms for the Department of Religion and Ethics.

The Chapel of Pi Tau Chi is also the home to the Altar of the New Testament, which was dedicated in 1970.

Pi Tau Chi, a national honorary religious society founded at Athens College, is still an active student organization. Membership is by invitation for outstanding service in religious activities. Requirements for membership are that the inductee must hold a 2.0 GPA, exhibit leadership in home, church, or community, and be active on campus.



The Altar of the New Testament has occupied the Chapel since its completion in 1970.

Eunice McDonnald Meadows (Class of 1912) completed the carvings in tulip poplar wood acquired during her years of teaching art in the East. She returned to the then Athens College and lived in a Founders Hall apartment until well into her nineties.

It took twelve years for Mrs. Meadows to complete the carvings, as she did them in her spare time during a period when she was alone in life and without transportation.

The carvings were a panacea to her loneliness. Her only

wish was that the carvings would be placed where they would be appreciated and valued as works of art and would encourage people to read the Bible to find out more about the carved figures.



Remarks by Mrs. Meadows about the carvings:

"On the front Altar are the heads of the Evangelists who wrote the four Gospels which tell us the story of the life of Christ."

"The right panel of the Reredos shows Isaiah writing his prophecy on the coming of Christ. He is the only Old Testament character represented. St. Mark is reading the parchment scroll of Isaiah's prophecy. St. Luke is pointing upward to the ascending Christ, which is the final fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. The young St. John completes the front of the Altar; the left panel of the Reredos shows St. John on Patmos just after completing his scroll of the Revelation."

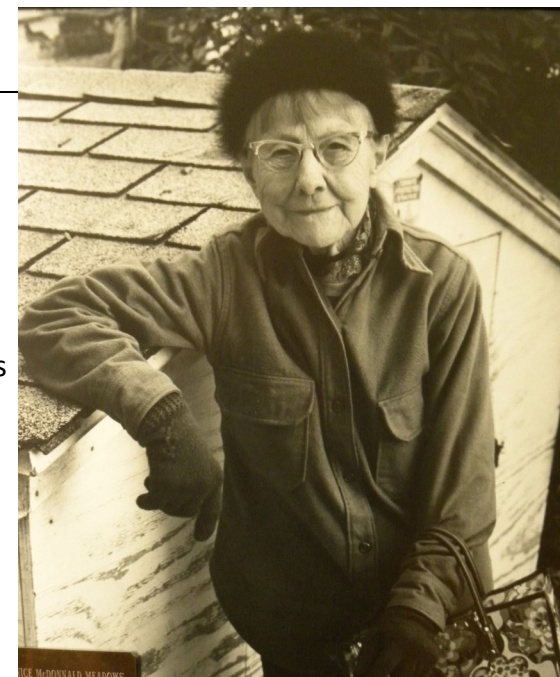
"Sts. Paul and Peter are usually considered the two great preachers of the New Testament. St. Paul holding a staff is on the pulpit panel and St. Peter with the keys is on the lectern."

"In the central panel of the Reredos surrounding The Christ are twelve stars representing the twelve apostles. Above his left shoulder is the new moon, symbol of the ever renewing hope of the Christian. The trefoil braid around the neck of his robe and the three keys represent the Trinity."

"As time passed I decided to carve the heads of the five ethnic groups of Earth, all of whom Christ said he would draw to Him. I decided to use a man and a woman, or a boy and a girl of each group."

"All of the heads are wholly imaginary, except for those on the Baptismal front which are people of our era."

In the dedication speech in which Mrs. Meadows's son, Paul, donated the carvings to Athens College, he said, "If but one student is helped by these carvings, her work will not have been in vain."



EUNICE MCDONNARD MEADOWS

1888-1983

THE CARVER

Mrs. Meadows was the daughter of a Methodist clergyman whose thirty-eight year record in the ministry she matched with her own thirty-eight years of teaching classes in almost all subjects, on all levels from kindergarten through college.

Receiving a degree and certificate of proficiency in Art from Athens College in 1912, she continued her education at Peabody College where she earned a degree in education with a major in fine arts.

In September of 1925 with her husband, Dr. Thomas B. Meadows and their three children, Burton, Louise, and Paul, Mrs. Meadows moved to New York and attended Columbia University, receiving a masters in Fine Arts.



Mrs. Meadow is pictured below as a member of the 1912 Athens College Tennis Team.

