

The Mount Olive Baptist Church

Shortly after the end of the Civil War and the (signing of the Emancipation Proclamation), the Colored residents of Plainfield recognized the need to have a Church of their own. This quest for freedom of worship brought into existence The Mount Olive Baptist Church. It was a scion of the First Baptist Church of Plainfield, New Jersey. The Mount Olive Baptist Church remained a mission for a period of time and received aid from the First Baptist Church. The property was purchased for \$2,000.00 from Jeremiah Manning of Plainfield, New Jersey.

The Church has been served by fourteen ministers since it was organized in 1870. The present pastor, Reverend Donald DeWitt Nichols, Sr., was preceded by the following ministers: The Reverends John Cary, John D. Bagwell, William Burch, Robert N. Fairfax, John W. Mitchell, W.W. Warnock, S. Gibson, F.F. Jackson, M.A. Alexander, M.W. Vaughan, Arthur D. Jones, William T.B. Hill and Herman S. Clipper.

In early 1870, a newspaper, The New Jersey State Republican, the Reverend John D. Bagwell editor, was published by the Church and sold for five cents and carried a banner that read, "Equality of Citizenship Must be Maintained Without Distinction of Race or Color."

The Mount Olive Baptist Church remained a mission until Reverend Mitchell's pastorate. He planned for a separate building which would be independent and self-supporting; however, he left before his plans were finalized. His work was carried on by the Reverend Fairfax, Reverend Jackson and Reverend Gibson. These Pastors laid a foundation for an independent Church, but it was under the pastorate of Reverend Vaughan that The Mount Olive Baptist Church became self-supporting. Under his leadership, the present building was remodeled, a pipe organ was installed and reading rooms were dedicated on March 10, 1912.

The Church continued to advance both spiritually and financially. Reverend Vaughn departed this life before the work which he started was completed.

In 1916, the Reverend A.D. Jones was called to pastor The Mount Olive Baptist Church and under his leadership, a central heating system was installed. During the later years of Reverend Jones pastorate, two ministers were trained and sent out in their respective fields of labor: the late Reverend C.G. Wooding of New Brunswick, New Jersey and the Pastor's son, Reverend Arthur W. Jones, of Newark, New Jersey. In 1943, after twenty-seven years of service to this Church and community, Reverend Jones departed this life.

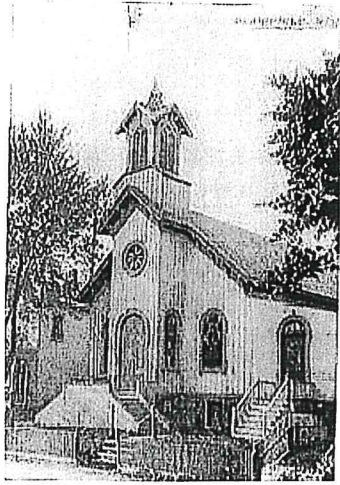
In February 1944, the Reverend William T.B. Hill was called to pastor the Church. He remained for three years and nine months. During his pastorate, the interior of the Church was refurbished. He resigned in July 1947 and his services were terminated in September 1947.

In 1948, the Reverend H.S. Clipper, D.D. was called to pastor The Mount Olive Baptist Church. He succeeded in burning the mortgage and eliminating many of the Church debts. During his pastorate, the membership increased and many clubs and groups were organized under his direction. Reverend William Alston, Reverend Irving Hodge and Reverend Donald DeWitt Nichols, Sr., was licensed to preach under Reverend Dr. Clipper. He remained pastor until he departed this earth in April 1977.

Following a fire in 1963, major renovations included a new lighting system, windows, amplifying system, pews, and an electronic organ and a new cross for the sanctuary were installed. As repairs progressed, the members worshipped in the Seventh Day Baptist Church until the work was completed.

During the 143 years of Mount Olive's existence, she has given birth to three other Baptist Churches in this city, Shiloh, Calvary and Community. Often referred to as, "The Mother Church", The Mount Olive Baptist Church has done commendable work in home and foreign missions, education and religion. The great New England Missionary Baptist Convention held its first Annual Session here in 1874. The first Missionary Circle for Negroes was established at The Mount Olive Baptist Church and was organized by the late Mrs. P.H. Brown and she also founded the Women's Baptist Convention of the State of New Jersey.

The present pastor, the Reverend Donald DeWitt Nichols, Sr., is a native of Plainfield and a son of The Mount Olive Baptist Church. He attended Northern Baptist School of Religion and was ordained as a minister on May 22, 1977.



Reverend Nichols has worked diligently to ensure that persons joining the Church understand the financial as well as the spiritual obligations of being a member. Under his leadership the Church has been remodeled at an estimated cost of \$200, 000.00. Reverend Nichols has instituted Bible Classes which meet three times a week. He has organized the Young Adult Ministry and has established an orientation program for all persons seeking membership in the Church. He has focused on developing the youth of the Church. There have been organizational changes which have been beneficial to the Church. A new system of budgeting had been instituted. Instead of having several collections, the pastor has arranged for members to tithe and to give one general offering that includes the unified budget and pledges.

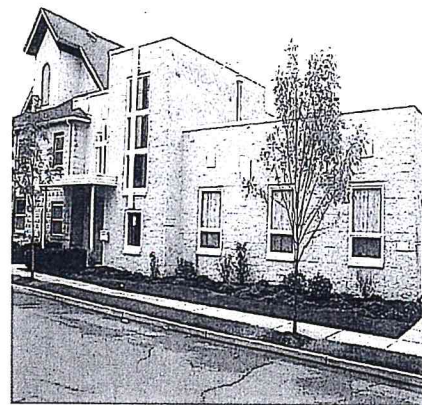
Pastor Nichols saw a tremendous urgency to address the problems harbored within the Plainfield Community. Parishioners were solicited through volunteerism to convene and form a non-profit organization, the Liberty Community Development Corp. (Liberty CDC). In 1998 the Liberty CDC received its Certificate of Incorporation and its IRS Tax Exempt Status 501 (c) 3. Under the leadership of Pastor Nichols the mission of the CDC was to partner with other community groups to improve the quality of life and promote the social and economic welfare of the citizens of the Plainfield community. By 2001, the Liberty CDC, in partnership with The Mount Olive Baptist Church, initiated a Technology Center which provided computer-based training and career counseling designed to enhance job readiness. In 2004 Project PRNT (People Rebuilding Neighborhood Ties) was implemented to provide ex-offenders with computer-based, graphic design training and employment. Over 75 individuals have enrolled in these computer training programs and some have been successful in finding employment. Also, in 2004 the Liberty CDC received a three year grant from the US Dept. of Health & Human Services to provide one-to-one mentoring to children of incarcerated parents, ages 4 – 15. In partnership with the Shiloh Baptist Church of Plainfield, over 30 children were matched to volunteer mentors, and at least 90% of the children experienced a positive change in attitude towards school and their future. Another grant was received in 2007 from the State of NJ Attorney General's office to implement Operation Ceasefire – a campaign to stop the next shooting! Citizens were recruited and employed by the CDC to interact directly with victims of shootings, and their families to assist them in accessing services such as education and employment. Pastor Nichols has been very instrumental in forming many partnerships such as the Plainfield Police Dept., the Plainfield School District, New Jersey Parole Board, the Mayor's Office, surrounding churches, and more, recognizing it takes a whole community to make change.

Through preaching and teaching of the Gospel, it is the intention of Reverend Nichols to achieve a greater spiritual awareness and growth. "... we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." Colossians 1:28

Reverend Nichols licensed to preach, Deacon Norman Miller Nichols, Sr. on April 5, 1992 and Evangelist Mattie Jordan-White on November 12, 2006.

Ground was broken for our new Fellowship Hall on June 15, 2000. The Fellowship Hall and classrooms were completed in 2002. A time capsule was deposited and is to be retrieved and opened in the year 2052. The Mount Olive Baptist Church continues to make a great contribution by teaching her people that religion is not just an emotion displayed within her sanctuary on Sunday, but something that is practiced, lived, and displayed daily in one's life.

Reverend Nichols is married to the former Carrie M. Danner, also a native of Plainfield. They have four children: Donald D. Jr., Karen D. (Madison D.) Trammell, III, Lauri A. and Michael (Teresa); five grandchildren: Nicole L., Corey N. and Kerry J. (Chesney J.) Trammell, Sr., Saquaé and Treasure' Nichols and three great grandchild: Kerry J., Jr., Cameron J. and Kaydenc J. Trammell.



"We Enter to Worship and We Lead to Serve"

2002

MIDDLESEX ASSO. HOLDING 47TH MEET

The Middlesex Central Baptist Association will hold its 47th Annual Session at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Third and Liberty streets in Plainfield, N. J. July 10 to 13, 1951. Rev. H. S. Clipper is the host minister. Rev. G. L. Harris is the moderator.

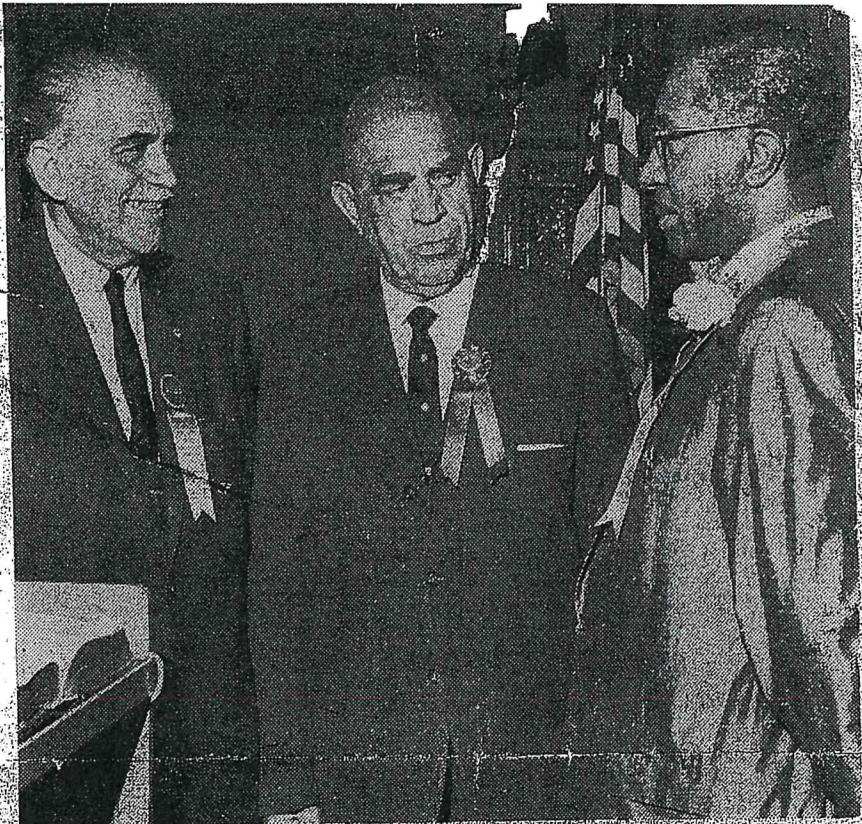
The Women's Auxiliary will hold



MRS. MABEL BRYANT

its session on Thursday, July 12. Mrs. Mabel Bryant will preside. She has served this body for seventeen years. She has been queenly in dignity and Christian in conduct.

Under her leadership the number of Circles representing has risen from 33 to 48 and the amount of finances raised from \$200 to \$1500. The Auxiliary will endeavor to honor her for her faithfulness in this session.



WELCOMING WORDS—The Rev. H. S. Clipper, right, host pastor for the 92nd annual New England Baptist Mission Convention being held at Mt. Olive Baptist Church this week.

greet the Rev. Dr. C. M. Smith, center, president of the group, and Hobson R. Reynolds, grand exalted ruler, Elks Grand Lodge IBPOEW.

New England Baptist Mission Names City Pastor to Office

The Rev. H. S. Clipper, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, yesterday was elected vice president of the New England Baptist Mission, which is holding its 92nd annual convention at Mt. Olive this week.

The 5-day meeting will close today with a missionary sermon at 8 p. m. by the Rev. Charles Adams of the Concord Baptist Church, Boston, Mass.

The Rev. Dr. C. M. Smith, president of the mission, gave the keynote address yesterday on "The Concern and Responsibility of the Church in Contemporary Society."

He was introduced by Hobson R. Reynolds, grand exalted ruler, IBPOEW, and a member of Dr. Smith's church, Wayland Temple Baptist Church, Philadelphia.

Also speaking at yesterday's meeting of the parent body were the Rev. Harmon Dickinson of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, and Mollie C. Faison of

Neighborhood House, Harvey Judkins of the Judkins Colonial Home, who represented the local morticians, Luther Roberts, representing the Plainfield Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Benjamin Brown, exalted ruler of Mohawk Elks, Lodge 307.

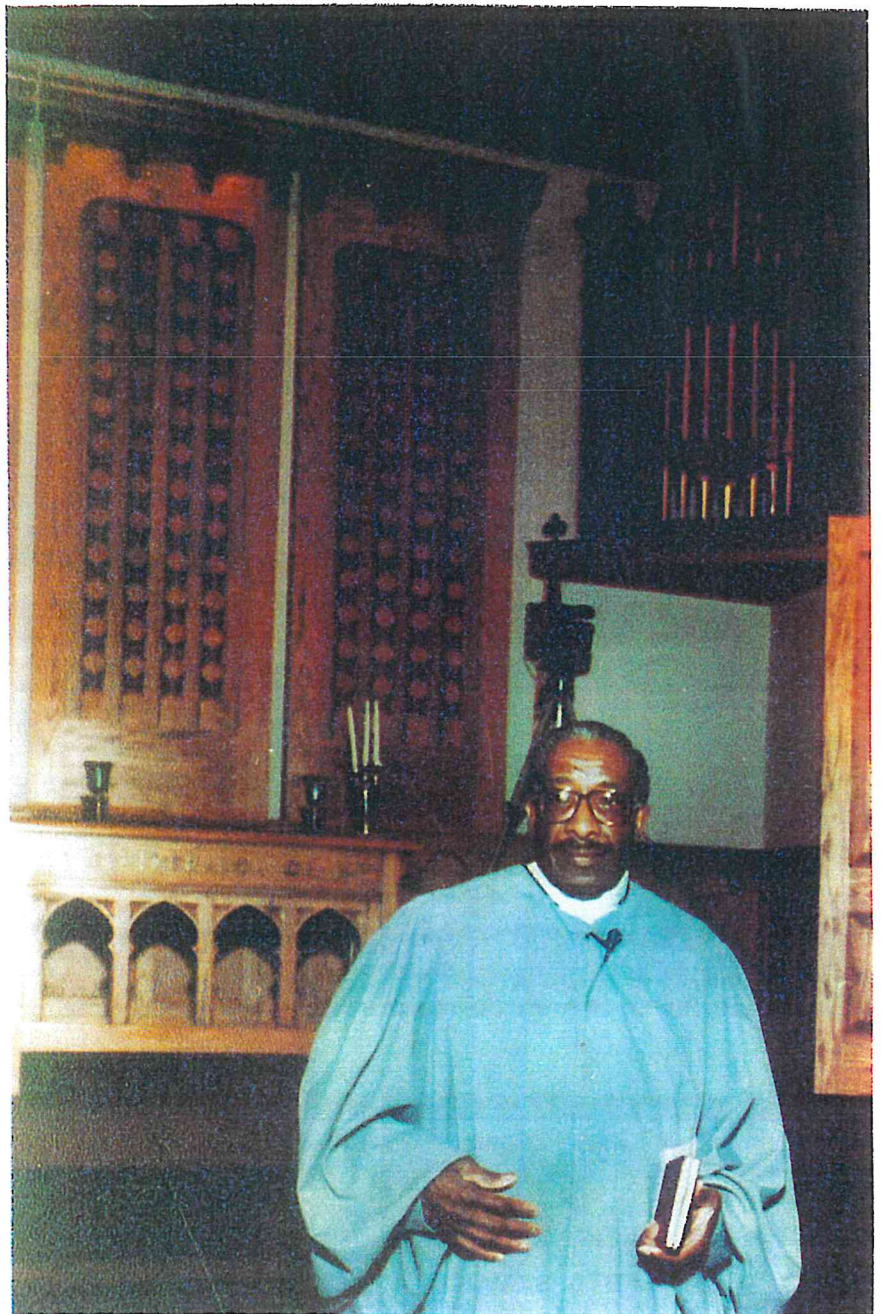
Mrs. Clipper presented flowers to Dr. and Mrs. Smith.

This was the first time in years that Mt. Olive Baptist Church hosted New England Baptist Mission.

The Mt. Olive Church has been a fixture, on 3rd. and Liberty Street, NO, more than a fixture, a fixture being that which is fixed and set firmly in place and as such serves no purpose. Even when the church was set in place in 1870 she was never devoid of purpose. She has withstood the test of time, and now surrounded by new neighbors her mission is still the same, The Saving of Souls and the Preaching of the Gospel. She has stood for social justice and has had a concern for mankind, for mankind is her business.

Much of the history of Mt. Olive has been lost or destroyed by fire. It has been my desire, since becoming Pastor, to put together as comprehensive a history of Mt. Olive as possible. I feel a people can serve better with a sense and knowledge of the past. This work has been difficult because of the passing of so many of the older generation.

Through these pages we have attempted to portray the history of Mt. Olive through photographs, newspaper clippings and records that were made available to us by many caring individuals.



I want to thank the Committee for the countless hours spent compiling these records and to all who contributed to this project.

As you view the Mt. Olive scene may you once again relive the past, appreciate the work being carried on today and the projection for the future.



Rev. Donald D. Nichols, Sr.

1992

**Past
Pastors &
Their Wives**



Rev. M. W. Vaughn, D.D.



Rev. A. D. Jones



Mrs. Bertha P. Jones



Rev. Dr. H. S. & Marie Clipper



Rev. Hodge Receives
License to Preach from Rev. Clipper



Rev. Alston Receives
License to Preach from Rev. Clipper

Know all Men by these Presents, ^{THAT}
The Mount Olive Baptist Church (colored)

of the City of Plainfield in the County of
(Union) and State of New Jersey are held and firmly
bound unto

Jeremiah Manning of the City, County
and State aforesaid.

in the sum of Two Thousand Dollars

lawful money of the United States of America to be paid to the said

Jeremiah Manning
or to his certain Attorney, Executors, Administrators or Assigns: To which payment well
and truly to be made, we bind ourselves our Successors, assigns
Heirs, Executors and Administrators, Jointly & Severally
firmly by these presents. Sealed with our Seal and dated the First
day of August in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred
and Seventy one. —

The Condition of the above Obligation is such, That if the above bounden
The Mount Olive Baptist Church.

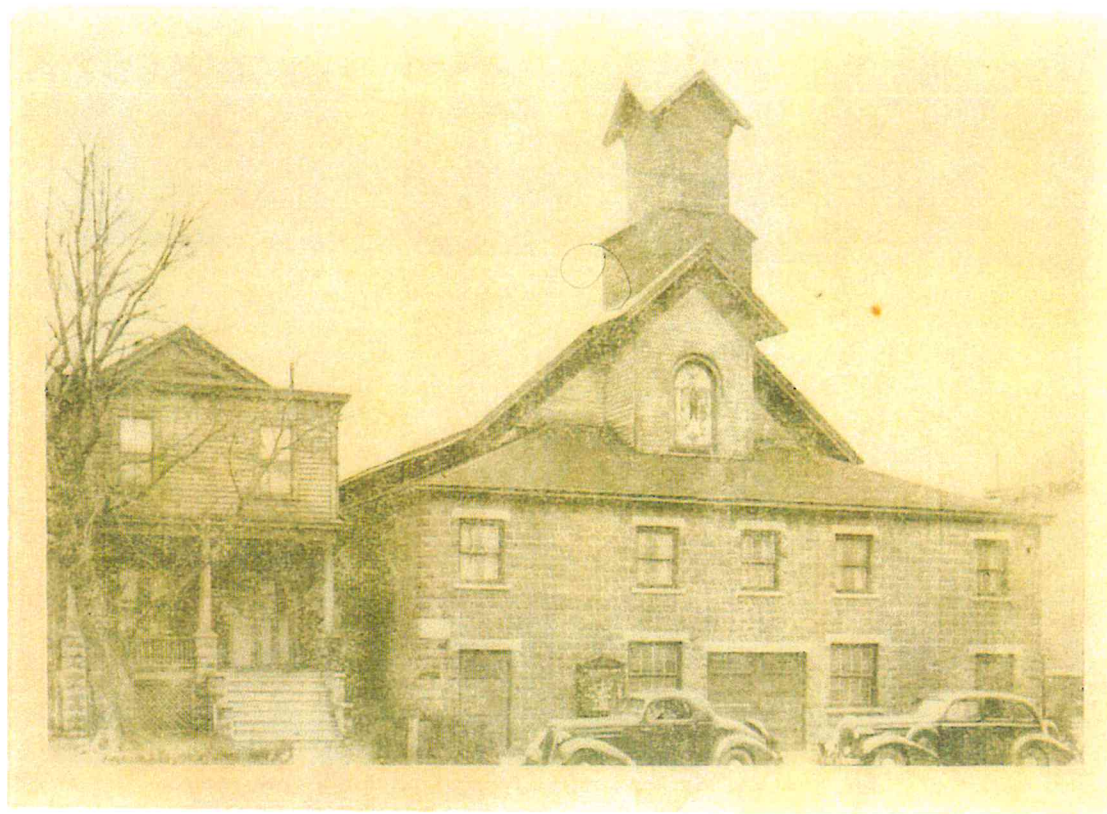
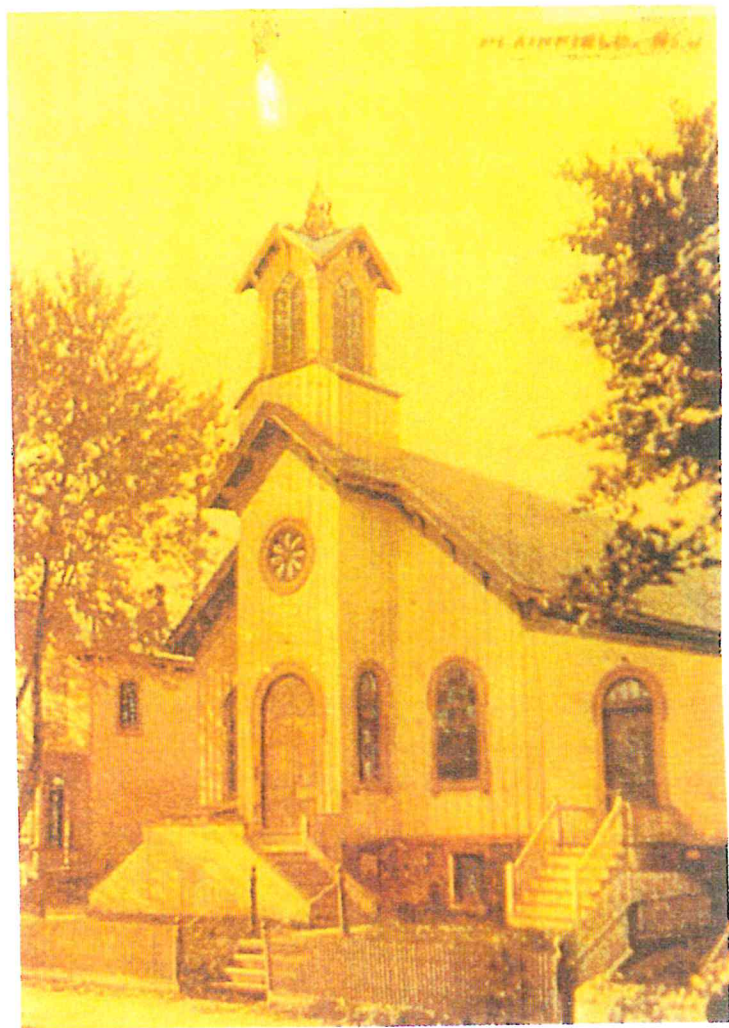
Heirs, Executors and Administrators, shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the
above named

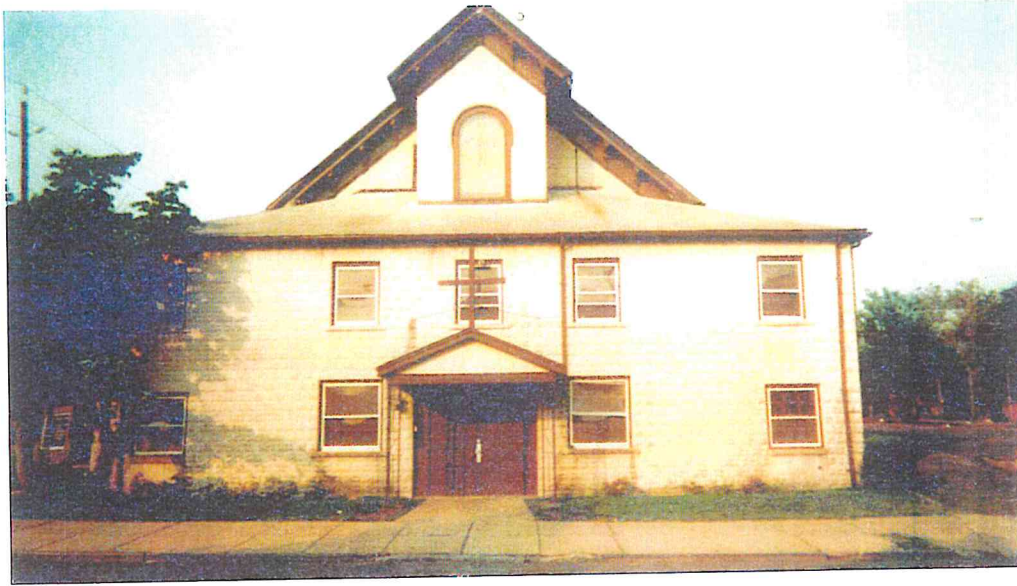
Jeremiah Manning his

Executors, Administrators or Assigns, the just and full sum of

One Thousand Dollars

lawful money aforesaid in one year from the date hereof with
interest for the same at the rate of seven per cent.
per annum, payable semi annually. —





The Mount Olive Baptist Church

Our 143rd Year

216 Liberty Street - Plainfield, New Jersey 07060-1126

E-mail: mobchurch.plfd@yahoo.com

Church Phone: (908) 754-3539 Fax: (908) 754-0644 Pastor: (908) 754-1404

"Let Us Hold Fast the Profession of Our Faith" Hebrews 10:23-25

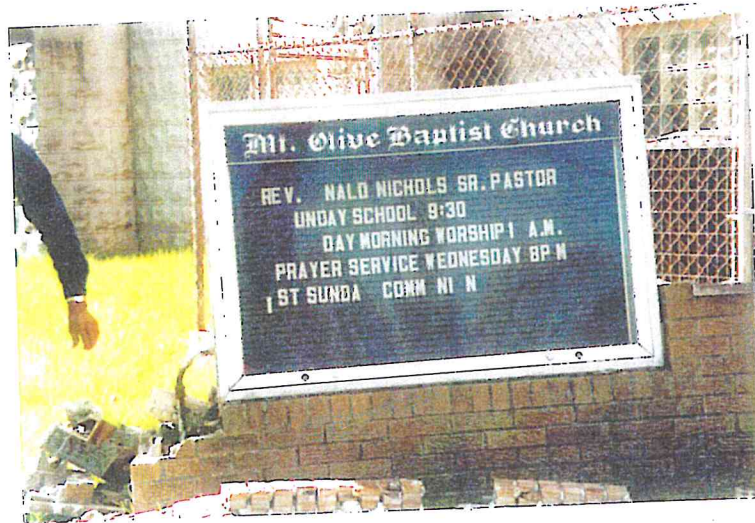


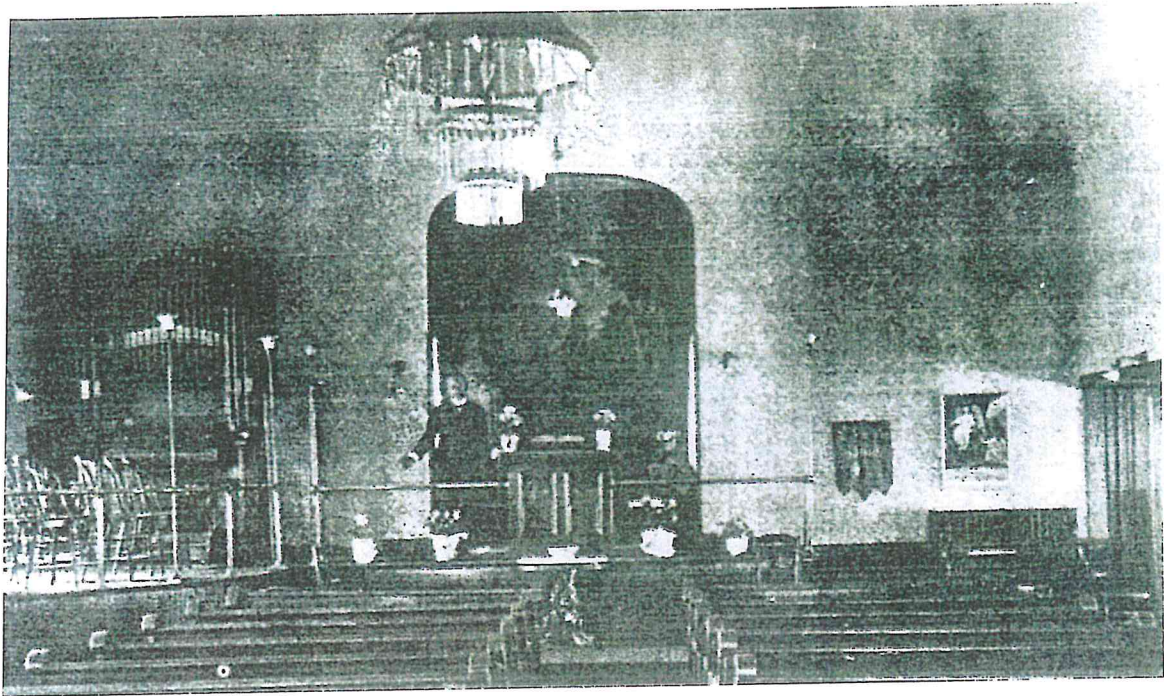
Rev. Donald D. Nichols, Sr., Pastor

Sunday School 9:00 A.M. - Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Mid-Week Service ... 8:00 P.M.

2013





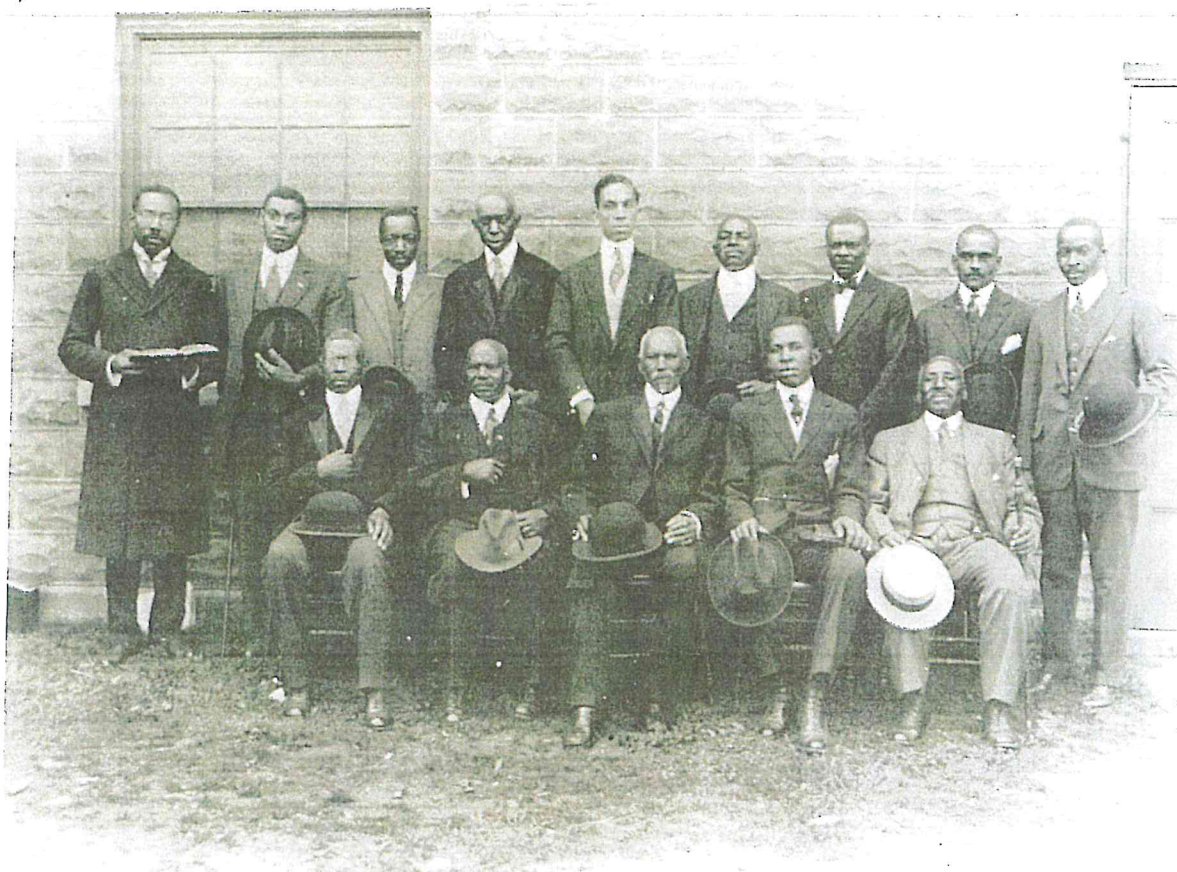
Interior View of Mt. Olive Baptist Church Early 1880



Interior View of Mt. Olive Baptist Church Early 1900



2013



Early Builders of the Church

PLAINFIELD, N. J., APRIL 30, 1903

Mr. _____

Youself and friends are invited to attend our Stocking Party and Musicals at the MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH, Thursday night, April 30th, 1903. Exercises begin at 8 o'clock.

This little sock we give to you
Is not for you to wear,
Please multiply your size by two
And place within, with care,
In peanles or dimes, just twice
The number that you wear.
So if you wear a number ten,
You owe us 20—see?
While dropped within this little sock
Will fill our hearts with glee.
So come ye all, with stockings full
Of pennies and ten cent pieces bright,
To the Reception-Musicals
At 8 o'clock this Spring night

Mrs. MARY PITTMAN,
Mrs. ELLEN WYCOFF,
Mrs. CLARA JOHNSON,
Mrs. _____ JONES,
Mrs. MARY SHELTON,
Mrs. LULU DEMPSEY,
Mrs. PHYLLIS BROWN,
Committee.

Rev. E. E. JACKSON, Pastor.

Admission, at the Door, 10 Cents.

Program
April 1903

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

REV. M. W. VAUGHN, D. D

LATE PASTOR MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
PLAINFIELD, N. J.

—BY—
PROF. J. E. BRIGGS, A. B. B. D.

Program
July 1916

PRICE, 10 CENTS

JOHN B. STUTE, Printer
21 Academy Street
Newark, N. J.

July 1916

Dedication

of

Mount Olive Baptist Church

AND READING ROOMS

PLAINFIELD, N. J.

BEGINNING SUNDAY MARCH 10, 1912



REV. M. W. VAUGHAN, D. D., Pastor

This Church and Reading Room have been in course of construction since July 4, 1911, and is now completed, and is a credit to the citizens of Plainfield in general and the members of the Church in particular. We extend an invitation to all citizens, regardless of creed or race to come and rejoice with us in these services.

Our highest aim in making this sacrifice is to help save men and women, and to point out to them their duty in helping to make the community and world better.

Programme



SUNDAY, MARCH 10

10 a. m. Preaching by Rev. G. E. Morris, D. D., pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Morristown, and Pres. of the Afro-American Baptist State Convention of New Jersey.

M. W. Grant of Morristown, Vice President of Afro-American Sunday-School Convention, presiding

3 p. m. Program in charge of members and friends of 1st Baptist Church; Mr. O. B. Leonard, presiding.

The following are some of whom will make addresses: Messrs. Stephen B. Joseph, Reuben Knox, J. Herbert Case and John G. McLaughlin.

8 p. m. Preaching by Rev. J. K. Brown of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Newark. Singing by the Mt. Zion Choir, under direction of Prof. Dollagal.

Monday Evening, March 11

Address by Rev. Mr. Sturgeson, pastor Mt. Zion A. M. E. Church. Rev. E. W. Roberts, pastor Shiloh Baptist Church, presiding. Singing by Shiloh Baptist Church Choir.

Tuesday Evening, March 12

Address by Rev. Mr. Tilden, pastor Bethel Presbyterian Mission. Rev. G. W. Bailey presiding. Singing by Calvary Baptist Church.

Wednesday Evening, March 13

Address by Rev. D. W. Cannon, pastor of 1st Baptist Church, Cranford. Rev. P. W. Ross, pastor Bethel Baptist Church Westfield, presiding. Singing by Bethel Baptist Church.

Thursday Evening, March 14

Address by Rev. D. Y. Campbell, pastor Ebenezer Baptist Church, New Brunswick. Rev. Jesse Henderson, pastor 2nd Baptist Church, Roselle, presiding. Music by 2nd Baptist Choir.

Friday Evening, March 15

Address by Rev. D. E. Robinson of Newark. Rev. Hawes of Kenilworth, Presiding. Singing by 1st Baptist Church Choir.

Sunday, March 17

11 a. m. Preaching by Rev. W. P. Lawrence, Ph. D., pastor Union Baptist Church, Orange, President of the Afro-American Bapt. Sunday School Convention. Deacon T. C. Woody of Roselle, 2nd V. P. Afro-American Bapt. S. S. Con., presiding.

3.30 p. m. Citizens Meeting. His Honor Mayor George W. V. Moy, presiding. Address by Rev. Gabriel McGulgan, D. D., pastor Park Ave. Baptist Church, followed by addresses by the following city councilmen: Hon. Ralph L. Tolles, Geo. S. Clay, Wm. T. Glick and others.

8 p. m. Preaching by Rev. W. T. Watkins, D. D., pres. of B. Y. P. U. State Convention. C. H. Hunter, Sec'y of Afro-American S. S. Convention, presiding.

Monday Evening, March 18

Address by Rev. E. D. Samuels of N. Clinton Bapt. Church, East Orange. Rev. A. D. Jones of Shiloh Bapt. Church, Elizabeth, presiding. Music by his choir.

Tuesday Evening, March 19

Address by Rev. J. N. Burton, of St. Paul's Church, Atlantic Highlands. Rev. T. T. Tucker, of Union Baptist Church of Newark, presiding.

Wednesday Evening, March 20

Address by the Rev. E. F. Flowers of Mt. Olive Church, Newark. Rev. A. J. Hubbard, B. D., of Bethel Baptist Church, of Ridgewood, presiding.

Thursday Evening, March 21

Address by Rev. W. A. Harris, D. D., of Bethesda Baptist Church of Newark. Rev. J. D. Bolden of 1st Baptist Church of South Orange presiding.

Friday, March 22

Address by Rev. G. W. Krygar, D. D., of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, East Orange. Rev. J. H. Travis, D. D., pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, East Orange, presiding.

Sunday, March 24

11 a. m. Preaching by Rev. D. De Wolf, D. D., editor of New Jersey Baptist Bulletin and General Superintendent of Missions of New Jersey.

3 p. m. Preaching by Rev. R. D. Wynn, D. D., pastor of Bethany Baptist Church of Newark. W. G. McNary, presiding.

8 p. m. Preaching by Rev. E. D. Crawley of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Ashbury Park.

Tuesday Evening, March 26

Address by Rev. W. A. Credit, of Cherry Memorial Bapt. Church, Phila. and President of Downingtown School, also President of New England Convention. Rev. Powell of Abyssinia Baptist Church, New York, presiding.

Friday Evening, March 29

Address by Rev. W. A. Moss, D. D., of Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn. Rev. G. L. P. Telefero, D. D., editor of Christian Banner and Field Secretary to the New England Convention, presiding.

Sunday, March 31

11 a. m. Preaching by Rev. J. C. Live, B. D., of Union Baptist Church, Montclair, chairman Foreign Mission Board of the State. Rev. K. Harris Presiding.

3 p. m. Program by Women's Missionary Society, Mrs. Henderson, Pres. Presiding. Addresses by Mrs. Rhoda Atkins, Cor. Sec'y, Mrs. Crawley, Rev. Sec'y, Mrs. Travis, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. E. L. Eastman, Mrs. R. B. Smith, Mrs. D. E. Robinson, Mrs. G. W. Bailey, Mrs. E. W. Roberts and Mrs. Malinda Carter. Mrs. W. P. Lawrence will preside at the organ.

8 p. m. Preaching by Rev. R. L. Harris, B. D., pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Harkensack, cor. sec'y Afro-American Baptist State Convention. Deacon J. W. Chase of Elizabeth, presiding.

Visitors will be cared for by the Church

Rev. M. W. Vaughan, D. D., Pastor
W. A. Cline, Clerk

Deacons

J. W. Reed T. J. Banks Abner Hancock
Peter Gordon D. W. Brown George Carter

Trustees

G. W. Wright Oscar Greene E. Earkheart
J. D. Whiting W. A. Cline Warren Davis
Richard Yetman

Nathan Pollard, Financial Secretary

Editors: The Plainfield Daily Press.—On the northwest corner of Liberty and West Third streets is the Mount Olive Baptist church; on the southwest corner of those streets is a store which has been fitted up and is used for worship by a Jewish congregation on Saturday and for a school for children on other days. On the other corner is Clark's saloon, about thirty feet, instead of 300 feet from the two places of worship and a school. What are the councilmen going to do about it? Would they grant a license to that saloon if their children attended that school? Would they if their church was only thirty feet from that drinking place? But before they cast their vote to continue that place as an otherwise respectable neighborhood it will be well for them to remember the words of the Saviour, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

MRS. OLFORBEST.

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church was organized in 1870. The original church building was a modest structure which has since been remodeled and enlarged several times.

The New England Baptist Convention held its first annual session in Mt. Olive Church in 1874 and the first Missionary Circle for Negroes was organized here by the late Mrs. P. H. Brown 38 years ago. Mrs. Brown was also the founder of the Women's Baptist Missionary Convention of the State of New Jersey.

On Mar. 12 of this year mortgage-burning ceremonies were conducted in the church. Two of the church's oldest members, Mrs. Linda Johnson and Mrs. Rufus Young, participated in the ceremonies. The Rev. H. E. Clippes, the present pastor, officiated.