

3/12/03

<http://www.mt-olivebc.org/> History:

The History of Mount Olive Baptist Church (MOBC) dates backs to the dawn of the twentieth century when a small group of dedicated and like-minded Christians, influenced by the burning desire to provide a local place for their children to attend Sunday School, organized themselves into a mission to do the work of kingdom building. The children of this group's parents and others in the community were organized under the leadership of Sister Florence Chinn and Reverend Bras Clark. They started having Sunday School in the small lamp-lit home of John and Annie Scott. The parents and other members of this community were members of Neabsco and Ebenezer Baptist Church since there was no church in Agnewville at that time.

On a God-touched moment on July 3, 1902, William Chinn gave the land for the Baptist Mission Sunday School and started us on our way. These consecrated servants of God were confronted with many problems, but through faith and determination these obstacles began to disappear and building of the church began. Brother George W. Ray, Brother George Thomas of Neabsco, and Brother William Chinn were the carpenters who toiled hard and built the new building that we now occupy. Deacons and other men in the community assisted them. It wasn't until years later that the name of Agnewville Mission Sunday School was changed to Mount Olive Baptist Church (MOBC). We thank God for all of those saints of yesteryear who labored in the heat of the day and upon whose shoulders we stand today.

The MOBC cornerstone was laid in October 1915. Across the sleeping century God has blessed us with six of his ablest Servants. The following is al list of pastors in their order of services:

Reverend William Davis was the first pastor to be ordained at MOBC in 1915. During the first few years of the church under his leadership, service was held in the old mission. Reverend Davis stayed with MOBC until 1920, when his health began to fail.

Reverend George W. Pratt was called to the pastorate of MOBC in 1926. For twenty-three years, he stood at the helm, guided the church, built its membership and ministered to the spiritual need of the community. He was truly a God-sent man of vision, great wisdom and influence. We progressed spiritually and materially during these years.

Reverend Edward W. Burrell arrived at MOBC in 1949. He was the MOBC pastor for twenty-three years. It was under his leadership that Brother George



W. Ray was ordained into the ministry. Reverend Burrell was a diligent worker, always ready to aid his congregation and other churches. Only a man motivated by a love for God and his fellow man could have accomplished so much. He left us January 1976 in order to devote all of his time to his church in Washington DC.

Regretfully much of MOBC History was destroyed by fire. We have come through rough seas and darkest night, we've faced the storm, but as a church we have come a long way

**Reverend Frederick L. Ray.** On February 6, 1966, Reverend Frederick L. Ray preached his initial sermon and was ordained in December of the same year. Using the Holy Spirit as his guide, he immediately sought knowledge and advice from notable, long time obedient servants of God such as the late Reverend Burrell and Reverend Morris. He continued to study by taking courses in Ancient History. During the 1980's, he accepted the challenge to go to India, along with other ministers to preach. This journey to India changed the life of Rev. Ray. He implemented "The African Presence in the Bible" at MOBC to bring to light the contribution of people of color in the Bible. Under the spiritual leadership of Reverend Ray, the church membership increased both spiritually and financially. Our Sunday School and Bible Study classes grew into a spiritual education pool of knowledge for the Lord. Over sixty members have graduated from the Frederick L. Ray Bible School. The school was accredited by the state of Virginia in 1998. Under Reverend Ray's spiritual leadership, the Maple Tree Ministry was formed. The Maple Tree Ministry graduated four classes. The first group of Ministers graduated under the teaching of Rev Ray in 1989. Since then, each class has been entitled the Sons of MOBC. Our beloved Pastor passed away in June 2000. He made a difference in many lives within the community through his In-Reach and Out-Reach program. To the MOBC family he was the Great Shepherd who loved his sheep.