

Church History

The Mount Olive #2 Baptist Church drew out from the Mount Olive #1 Baptist Church in the early twenties. For some time meeting was held in the East Dallas Academy School building.

*In the year 1924, the first Mount Olive #2 Baptist Church was erected, with the **Rev. W. Green, Jr** as pastor.*

*The second pastor was **Rev. T. M. Robinson**. During his administration the church was burned and services were held in the Shady Grove M. P. Church. During this time, Rev. Robinson resigned.*

***Rev. W. Green, Jr** was called upon a second time. During this time, a second church was erected. During his pastorage, many converts were added to the church. His church son, Rev. P. Crawford was ordained into the ministry. Rev. Green served faithfully until he was called to the great beyond.*

***Rev. Mitchell Smith** was elected as the fourth pastor. He worked hard to make the church grow. After a limited time, he resigned.*

***Rev. J. H. Boykin** came as the fifth pastor. He was responsible for the outdoor baptismal pool. Because of poor health, he resigned.*

***Rev. F. H. Tolbert** succeeded Rev. Boykin as the sixth pastor. He was instrumental in purchasing new pews for the church. He served faithfully until his health failed.*

***Rev. A. R. Smith** was elected at the seventh pastor. He too, was a dedicated leader who brought inspiration to the church.*

***Rev. C. C. Williams** accepted the call as the eighth pastor. A spiritual and progressive leader, he is credited with the purchasing of new pulpit furniture. After some time, he accepted work in a different city.*

***Rev. J. Jackson** came as the ninth pastor of the Mount Olive #2 Church. Under his leadership, John "Jake" Willoughby was ordained to preach and the first indoor bathrooms were installed by Dea. James Hale and Dea. Lewis Davis. Rev. Jackson was a dynamic builder. In 1973, the trustees of the East Dallas District Association: Marion Green, A.C. Crosby, C.A. Shorts, G.H. Thomas, H.O. Walker, Archie Thomas, Collins Pettaway, and E.T. Slater, with the approval from East Dallas District Baptist Association, granted to the Mt. Olive #2 Baptist Church one acre of land for \$1.00. Rev. Jackson saw the need for a more spacious church for worship. It was discovered that carpenters (Dea. James Hale and Dea. Willie Brown) were in our midst. Under Pastor Jackson's leadership, the old church was demolished and plans were soon underway for the new church. The building of the church was headed by Dea. James Hale, with the help of members and friends: Dea. Lewis Davis, Dea. Archie Thomas, Dea. Willie Willoughby, Dea. Willie Brown, Dea. George Edwards, Bro. Ed Grayson, Bro. Mose Wilson Sr., Bro. Melvin Bell, Bro. John Craig, Bro. Burrell Porter, Bro. Reynolds Wesley, and others. The new church was dedicated on Oct. 5, 1975. It consisted of a spacious edifice, a pastor's study,*

an usher's room, men and women restrooms, an indoor baptismal pool, and carpet floors. Later, the mortgage was burned. It was a glorious time for all.

Later, Mrs. Annie Thomas introduced the idea of building a kitchen. The members all agreed and it was suggested three classrooms and a nursery be added also. The addition was built by our own members, Hale and Brown Construction Co. With the completion of this addition, the kitchen was equipped with tables, chairs, and appliances.

On January 31, 1987, the Executive Board of the East Dallas District Missionary Baptist Association gave Dea. James Hale (for the church) permission to cut the grass and bushes around the church for the purpose of parking. We loved Rev. J. Jackson, he served us well.

*Almighty God saw fit to send **Rev. R.T. Morton** as our tenth pastor in 1989. He came to us with enthusiasm, inspiration, and leadership ability. In a very short time we acknowledged improvement in several capacities. This was partly due to his encouragement of regular attendance in all church activities. Not only did he visit our sick, but visited the sick of non-members in the community. Under the leadership of Rev. Morton, the second mortgage was burned, Lewis J. Davis was ordained to preach, new pulpit furniture and carpet were purchased, P.A. system installed, parking area paved, church sign and new church van were purchased, and a church newsletter started. Also, while Rev. Morton was pastor, the Executive Board of the East Dallas District Association: Dea. James Hale (chairman), Dea. Alvin Hunter, Dea. Alex Summers, Dea. Sammy Towns, Dea. J.C. Davis, Sis. Louis Colby, and Sis. Amanda Jones recommended to the East Dallas District Association that the remaining portion of the land around Mount Olive #2 Baptist Church be sold to the church for \$1.00, that the timber be cut and sold, moneys be given to the Association, and that the church will continue to allow the Association to hold their meetings at their facilities. It was motioned by Dea. Willie Brown and seconded by Dea. Sammy Towns that the land be sold to Mt. Olive #2 Baptist Church for \$1.00. The motion was carried.*

In the early 1990's, Dea. James Hale and Dea. Lewis Davis began a discussion with Mr. Val Hain about the idea of the Hain Family donating a portion of the land they owned adjoining the church's property for the establishment of a cemetery. Mr. Hain's family has lived and farmed in the Sardis Community for over one hundred years. After agreeing on the size of the parcel needed and engaging a surveyor, the Hain family donated the two acres that now serves as the church's cemetery. Dea. Hale also worked with Mr. Will Goodwyn and Mr. Ben Beers who provided, through J.B. Hain Company, assistance with some of the supplies needed for the improvements that have been made to the church over the last several years. Dirt was also given by Mr. Harold Watts for the upgrade. Dirt was also hauled in and spread by our own Dea. Charles Davis (Davis Trucking). Rev. Morton was a progressive leader, he inspired us to reach for the stars.

*Our eleventh pastor was **Rev. E.D. Jones**. He was a dynamic preacher. Pastor Jones would visit sick members wherever they were. A new roof was put on the church due to Hurricane Katrina. The top was put on by members Dea. James Hale, Dea. William Bell, Dea. Thomas Willoughby, and Bro. Rodney Brown. Four deacons were ordained: Dea. William Bell, Dea. Charles Davis, Dea. Thomas Willoughby and Dea. Derrick Cole.*

*After Rev. Jones left, Associate Pastor, **Minister Alex Perkins** took over as interim pastor. Minister Perkins served faithfully in all areas until a pastor was elected.*

*Our twelfth pastor, **Rev. C. L. Phillips**, was with us two years. He was an awesome pastor, preacher, and teacher. He increased the membership by preaching the word of God.*

*Our thirteenth pastor was the dynamic and powerful **Rev. Anthony B. Shears**. He was a great pastor, preacher, and teacher. Rev. Shears was a pastor on the move for God and has a heart for the youth. He revitalized dying ministries and also started new ones. Under his leadership new church furniture, lighting, carpet, and tile were installed, as well as renovation of the lady's restroom. A new finance room and kitchen pantry were installed, the church parking lot restriped, and work was done inside and out to the church van. The church implemented a Food Bank, and Thanksgiving and Clothing giveaways. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Pastor Shears kept the church engaged by having bible study and church service over Zoom and eventually started drive-up service on Sundays until it was safe to return inside the building. Through his preaching of the gospel, many souls have given their life to Christ.*

*Our fourteenth pastor, the **Rev. Dr. Woodrow Johnson, Jr.**, was elected November 5, 2022.*

The Mount Olive #2 Baptist Church family has a past to cherish and a future to fulfill. We must always strive to do the will of God. The compilation of this history was gathered from the memory of members, legal documents, letters, and other sources.