

# **Orange County African-American Churches**

**Compiled by Ruth Mallory Long**



**Courtesy of:**

**Orange County African-American Historical Society**

**Orange County Historical Society**



# Bethel Baptist

*Orange, VA "Madison Mills"*

**History of Bethel Baptist Church  
Madison Mills, Virginia  
(Established 1898)**

Nestled off of Route 15 sits Bethel Baptist Church, one of the many Black churches located in Orange County. Following the Civil War, many freed slaves stayed in Orange County becoming an integral part of the community. Some became tenant farmer. Others acquired land to farm or to set up their own businesses. Several of the small Black settlements founded during this time period are still in existence today. Some of these settlements are Browntown, Freetown, Jacksontown, and Little Petersburg.

Little Petersburg! It was also known as "Madison Mills" and "Little Skyline Drive". According to tradition, the land, which covered some 200 acres, was conveyed after the emancipation to former slaves of the Clark and Kemper families. Some of the original families were Kemper, Ruffner, Davis, Humes, Dade, Fields, Gordon and Washington. The community had a one-room schoolhouse which served as school, church, lodge, and home. Little Petersburg has been described as a close-knit community where the old folks corrected everyone's children and respect for elders abounded. Bethel Baptist Church grew out of this community.

It was in this community of Little Petersburg in 1897, that religious services were held on the fourth Sunday of each month in a building called Fisherman's Hall. The services were conducted by Reverend Whales. Fisherman's Hall also had a cemetery where many Blacks from the community were buried. Though a number of families in Madison Mills had private family cemeteries, Fisherman's Hall was the main burying location.

Since Reverend Mansfield's death in 1976, five other pastors have served Bethel making a total of eight pastors over 113 years. Their contributions of over the past 40 years have also been instrumental in the spiritual and physical growth of the Bethel family. The origins of Bethel Baptist Church lie with all of the above mentioned families, individuals, and pastors. Reverend Whales and the eight founders had a vision for a church to serve the community of Little Petersburg. Their early sacrifices and efforts have not been in vain as Bethel celebrated 113 years of serving God on August of 2011.

The church uses Westview Cemetery located on Constitution Hwy just past Preddy's Funeral Home

Contributed by Alexis Kemper 2011



# Bethel Baptist

Unionville, VA

History of Bethel Baptist Church  
12108 Marquis Road  
Unionville, VA

As we pause to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Bethel Baptist Church, Unionville, Virginia, we recall the rich history of this 'way station for our Lord.' We recalled as freed *slaves*, many of our first members attended church with white congregations at the Macedonia Christian and at the North Pamunkey Baptist Church. Using a side door, they were allowed to sit in the balcony. Besides hearing the scriptures and interpretations for them, they learned by observation, the organization of a church and how to conduct a church and its services.

We recall that the founders of our church were first members of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church on Rout 629 [Lahore Road]. In 1890 because of political differences, some of the members decided to organize another nearby area. The building in which we now worship is the original building, having been erected after the first meetings were held in a brush harbor. It was under the pastorage of the Reverend McAlister that an acre of land was purchased from George W. Lee and Ann Elizabeth Lee on October 3, 1891. The deed to this land was given to trustees Chester Lewis, Fleet Quarles, and Nathan Green. The first service was held in this building in 1892.

We recall that the next years were a time to molding and keeping the congregation together. Each of the following ministers was helpful in doing just that: The Reverends McAlister, the founder; Brewer, John Ford, James L. Garfield. Joseph Perry and Robert Strother.

We recall that during that time several traditions were established. The revival services, held each year, were a high point of the year. The services during revival week were held nightly and on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday during the day. Fellowship meals were served with joy and pride after the daytime services. On Friday, baptism services were held. Our records show that worship services were "to go on until the people say stop."

We recall another tradition to be served by this congregation. In efforts to take care of the members, a health care medical aid plan was devised, named the 'Children's Circle Lodge #6.' Through this organization, the lodge paid doctor bills, purchased medicine and contributed financially to the funeral expenses of its members. We recall another tradition. The freed slaves believed that education was the "way up from slavery" for their children. School was held in the home of Chester Lewis and his wife, Lucindy in Freetown from all the Negro children in the community. In 1909, Mrs. Isabelle Lightfoot, an educator with high goals, became a member of our church. She was a graduate of Hampton University in Virginia and Oberlin College in Ohio. It was she who was responsible for the first accredited high school for Negro girls and boys. She, herself raised money to help establish and keep the school. It was called "Isabelle Lightfoot Training School." Later when Orange *County* assumed its responsibilities of education for Negro children, it was called "Lightfoot Elementary School."

We recall our later pastors were: the Reverend Dr. Robert F. Bowles-17 years; the Reverend R. L. A Reid; the Reverend William Fuller; the Reverend Charles Smith; the Reverend Raynard Pringle; the Reverend Winston Brock; the Reverend James McIntosh; the Reverend Reginald Williams; the Reverend Norman Gray; the Reverend Anna Allsbury and our current pastor the Reverend Dr. Vernon *Pettus*.

We recall a congregation which at times was numbered 200. Our decline in membership reflects the economic picture for the Negroes of our county. There were few jobs for our children, who subsequently relocated in cities and states elsewhere. As our older people 'crossed over Jordan,' their homes and lands were sold. At this point, much of this richly populated area is devoid of Black people. However, over the years, children who have moved away have remembered their religious roots with financial gifts. This has helped the 'remnant' to carry on and to be here for them when they 'come home.' We do not know what this 'way-station for our Lord' will mean to this community during the coming years. We trust that it will continue; but if that's not to be, we know that the influences of those who go out from here will be a blessing to all whose lives they touch as has been the influence of those we recall who "Dropped a stone into the water; in a moment, it was gone. But there are a hundred ripples;

Circling on and on and on.

These facts have been gleaned from the Orange County Court Records, the old Minute Books of Bethel Baptist Church and by Word of Mouth.

\*The church cemetery located diagonally across road from church.

Excerpts taken from the Homecoming and Centennial Celebration of the Bethel Baptist Church, Unionville, Orange County, Virginia 1890-1990.

Additional information provided by Ruth Lewis Smith



# Blue Run Baptist

Barboursville, VA

History of Blue Run Baptist  
Church 6435 Constitution  
Highway Gordonsville, Virginia  
22942 November 2011

Blue Run Baptist Church is the oldest church in the County of Orange, having derived its name from the small stream that flows at the base of this hill, called Blue Run Creek. The land on which the church was erected was given to the white people by William Crittenden Webb in 1769 that was among the first settlers and owners of the property.

The church from its origin had among its congregation two Negro slaves of Mrs. Jane Webb, who was thrown from a horse and killed. Slave labor erected the vault in the shadow of the church over her grave.

November 3, 1884, George Reedy of Liberty Mills, along with S. D. Henson and Thomas Henshaw, who were trustees of the now called Colored Blue Run Baptist Church, signed the deed with Edgar Brown and Dick Green as witnesses. The Colored (Blacks) people paid \$650 for the one acre of land and the church building on it. The deed was not signed over to the colored congregation until 1885. Though stricken in years, Rev. Tibbs was one in the midst of the colored who heeded the call. He helped set the backs apart and dedicated this place for worship. Rev. Tibbs led the congregation for several years and at the age of 90 departed this life. Other ministers who have served Blue Run are:

Between the years 1866-67, Mr. Reddie, Of Liberty Mills, saw to it that the title was clear and the deed recorded in the Clerk's Office of Orange, he being one of the trustees. Rev. Frank Tibbs led the congregation for nine years. He died at the age of 90.

Ministers who have served Blue Run Baptist Church are:

Rev. Willie Robinson, 1870-1911, 41 years  
Rev. Charles H. Hawkins, 1911-1922, 11 years  
Rev. D. H. Banks, 1922-1947, 25 years  
Rev. J. O. Wright, 1947-1960, 13 years

Rev. F. E. Thompson, 1962-1974, 12 years  
Dr. Westley J. Pittman, 1974-1986, 12 years  
Rev. Winston R. Brock, 1896-1995, 8 years  
Rev. Peggy M. Brice, 1996 - Present

In May of 1963, this church was struck by lightning and one-fourth was burned. Rev. Thompson rallied the officers and members, rebuilt the burned section, and on the fourth Sunday in August, the church was set for service. Upon the death of Rev. Thompson, Rev. Dr. Wesley Pittman was called to pastor this church. Under the leadership of Dr. Pittman, the church went through several changes: service was changed from one to two Sundays each month with Holy Communion each fourth Sunday. A communion table, artifacts, piano and hymn books were purchased. The church was renovated with central heat and air conditioning, pastor's study, dining hall, kitchen, and restroom. Upon its completion, dedication was held at the church's anniversary in June 1983. In addition, the Deacon and Trustee Boards, clubs and choirs of the church were reorganized. We thank God for all Dr Pittman did to help us grow as a church family.

Upon the death of Dr. Pittman, the Blue Run Baptist church family continued to put their trust in God. On March 18, 1986, Rev. Winston Brock was voted lead the flock. On the fourth Sunday in June, 1987, his installation service was held and he officially took office as Pastor. Rev. Brock exemplified his motto: Keep so busy working for the Lord." Through his talent of singing and preaching God's Word, physical changes continued throughout the church with many projects turning into accomplishments. The Lord hath done great things for us, and we give thanks for the blessing of Rev. Winston Brock, who departed this life on June 28, 1995.

Blue Run continues its history with the election of the first female to pastor this church, the Rev. Peggy M. Brice, who became pastor of this branch of Zion on September 22, 1996. Praise God for the spiritual changes and growth that the church has gone through since she has become Pastor. We now have church every Sunday, Sunday School every Sunday (except fifth Sunday), and Bible Study each Thursday night. We have Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry and Children's Ministry now. We also have a Gospel Chorus and in January 2011, the Men' Chorus "The Rising Stars" made their debut on the third Sunday. These are just some of the things we have accomplished since Pastor Brice has been here. We have many ongoing projects. One project that we are very thankful to God for is the completion of the Vestibule. God has been good to us!!

We thank God that He has sent us a powerful, anointed woman of God. He uses her mightily to preach and teach us God's Word. She has taught us that "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." We extend our love and prayers to her as she continues to "Keep us moving on in the Lord."

Through our history of being the oldest church in Orange County, Virginia, Blue Run was pictured in the September 1987 issue of the National Geographic. By the efforts initiated by Dr. Pittman and others, Blue Run was recognized as an historical site. We are indebted to our forefathers who strove and worked so hard that we may have a free, peaceful, and enlightened place to Worship. Let us build upon this heritage so that those who follow after us may have courage, strength, and will to continue working to the glory and honor of God. PRAISE GOD!!!

\*cemetery on church premises





# Calvary Seventh Day Adventist

Gordonsville, VA

Church History of the Calvary S.D.A. Church

200 Charles Street; P. O. Box 534 Gordonsville, Virginia 22942

Organized 1950

In September of 1936, the late Professor Nathaniel E. Ashby came to Orange, Virginia to serve as principal of the Orange Graded School. Professor Ashby had formerly been employed at Oakwood Junior College (now Oakwood University of Seventh Day Adventists) in Huntsville, AL and decided that he would like to have some experience in the rural elementary system. During 1936- 37, he and his wife, Lillian Burgess Ashby, began giving Bible studies on Sabbath afternoons in the home of Sister Ophelia B. Hill in the town of Gordonsville. Sister Hill had accepted the truth in Evanston, Illinois, under Elder G. E. P and Elder C. E. Moseley, Jr. in 1929. Sister Hill was the first African-American Seventh-day Adventist in Gordonsville. From this small beginning, an interest was awakened and others began to inquire about the Bible. Among those who sought information was Mrs. Alberta Bolden, a member of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in the Gordonsville community. She opened her home for Bible studies. In the summer of 1937, Professor Ashby accepted a call to serve as principal of the summer school at Oakwood Junior College in Huntsville, AL. Sisters Hill and Bolden continued meeting for Bible studies until Sister Bolden accepted the truth and was baptized in Washington, DC by the late Elder J. Johnson, pastor of the Ephesus S.D.A. Church (now Dupont Park S. D. A. Church).

In August 1939, the late Elder J. B. Mallory moved to Gordonsville and connected with the company meeting at the home of Sister Alberta Bolden. Soon others joined this group: Brother and Sister Alvin McGhee, Brother and Sister James N. Jackson from the First S.D.A. Church in Washington, DC, Brothers Gleason and Tinsley Thoms with their families, Brother and Sister John Mennifield and family, Sister Mary B. Jackson, Brother and Sister Romeo Williamson, Brother Rudel Holmes, Brother Joseph A. Hill and others. These and some others who joined later became the charter members of the Calvary S.D.A. Church.

On Sabbath, May 27, 1950, the Gordonsville S.D.A. Church was organized at the home of Sister Alberta Bolden by the late Elder I W. Wagner, President of the Allegheny Conference of Seventh Day Adventists. Three *sites* were purchased from time to time by the congregation. The first, at Green Springs in Louisa County, Virginia, was purchased in 1947, but no church was built there, and that property was later sold. The second, a double lot in the town of Gordonsville, was bought in 1951, but again no church was built. Finally, the present location at Charles and Depot Streets was purchased from the Episcopal Diocese in March of 1954. The name was then changed to Calvary Seventh Day Adventist Church. After extensive additions and repairs; the first service was held here on Sabbath, August 7, 1954. The church was dedicated free of debt on Sabbath, October 24 1964 under the pastorate of Dr. D. J. Williams.

The congregation has had twenty pastors since it was organized:



# Chestnut Grove Baptist

Barboursville, VA

## History of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church

3510 Spotswood Trail

Barboursville, VA

1888-2011

These are the words of the late Sister Artrillion E. Fortune, former longtime church clerk, who was a faithful and devoted member of our congregation for over sixty years.

"The members of this congregation known *as* the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church of Eheart, Virginia, as far as our knowledge, wish to give a few highlights on its beginning. We have no definite date or year. We only say *If* had its beginning prior to 1888 in a building on what is known as the Ridge Road, about two miles south of Eheart's Corner; after which a church building was erected just a little way below this one. Services were carried on there until this present building was erected around September 12, 1929. The first elected pastor to serve was the late Rev. Daniel Cave. He served for a number of years until he moved to Altoona, Pennsylvania. At which time he sent us a very fine pastor in the person of the late Rev. Howard Campbell of lower Orange County. He served us seventeen years before his illness and passing, after which there were others on the scene to serve from time to time. They are as follows: the late Rev. U. *John*, the late Rev. R. L. Harrison and the late Rev. Page of Scottsville, Virginia who served us a number of years until his illness, at which time sent to us our present leaders in the person of the late Rev. J. J. Agee of Esmont, Virginia. He was installed one year after the passing of Rev. Page and has been our pastor now for a little over fifteen years."

The above account recorded in 1961 has DOW been accepted as the official history of our congregation, with our founding date being 1888.

Rev. J. E. Page was our eleventh pastor and served from 1937-1952. He worked hard and long hours to put the finishing touches on the church. He organized our Missionary Circle and the Pastor Aid Club. He was a quiet, humble man with joy in his heart. He worked faithful until his health began to fail him. Following the homegoing of the late Rev. J. E. Page in 1952, the Rev. Joseph Jasper Agee, Sr. was call to the pastorate of Second New Hope Baptist Church of Summit, VA. Rev. Agee saved as pastor of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church from 1952- t 976. He reorganized Missionary Circle. His most noteworthy accomplishment at our church was the building of the Fellowship Hall. This was dedicated to the Glory of God and named, the Rev. Joseph Jasper Agee, Sr. Memorial fellowship Hall on March 25, 1986.

Upon the retirement of Pastor Agee in 1976, the late Rev. Reynard Paul Pringle assumed He also established a Junior Choir and introduced and implemented many new programs in the church. He was the builder of the monument at the entrance of our church. He also instituted Mother of Year and Father of the Year Awards. Rev. Pringle also began the Comfort Room Fundraiser Committee. Under his leadership, the Third Sunday Youth Service began.

In 1982. Pastor Pringle was called to the pastorate of the Second New Hope Baptist Church of Summit, Virginia. Soon thereafter in March 1983, Rev. James H. Jones was extended the invitation to come and serve as the interim pastor. He most graciously accepted the invitation to serve. On September 9,1983, a meeting was called by the Evangelist Maynard Jones, presiding, to vote on a minister to be the pastor of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church. Rev. James H. Jones was unanimously voted in as the Pastor-Elect. He was installed as pastor on December 3, 1983. and the installation sermon was delivered by the Honorable Rev. Dr. Walter E. Fauntroy, pastor of the New Bethel Baptist Church, Washington, DC and distinguished United States, retired, Congressman of the District of Columbia.

Under the leadership of Pastor Jones, the most noteworthy accomplishments have been: the aluminum siding placed on the Main Sanctuary. the installing of furnaces in the Main Sanctuary, the renovation of the Fellowship Hall, the construction of a new roof on the church main sanctuary, air conditioning of the Main Sanctuary and the covering of the pews.

Pastor Jones has brought a progressive program of work that has encouraged total commitment of each member to the church ministry. Many new ideas have been introduced and implemented.

After traveling up and down the highway for many years, Rev. Jones retired as pastor of our church in 2003. On October 4, 2004, Rev. James Haywood Louderback, Jr. was installed as Pastor of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church. Under the leadership of Pastor Louderback, the following accomplishments have been achieved: a van for the church, video/tape ministry, four services a month (which includes a youth Sunday Service), implementation/organization of the Chestnut Grove Male Chorus, Communion Service Monthly, new carpet installed, landscaping and the reformation of our parking area, rebuilding of the Pastor's study, church sign and the purchase of new choir chairs. Rev. Louderback: enjoys singing with the Male Chorus, Bible Study, Sunday School and working with the youth of the church. His objective as a minister is to grow as the Lord Jesus Christ will *allow* him in both delivering the Word of God and through gospel music and song.

\*cemetery on church premises

Contributed by Audrey Rucker



# City of Refuge Baptist

True Blue, VA

History of City of Refuge Baptist Church  
4433 True Blue Road  
True Blue, Virginia

The City of Refuge was established on May 18, 2002 under the leadership of Reverend Robert Dyson, with approximately 25 members. Our first service was held at the Culpeper Rescue Squad building, where we took up our first tithes/offerings in a Styrofoam plate. Through much prayer and the leadership of Holy Spirit, Corena Holmes, who lovingly became known as Mother Holmes, was driving past the church on her way home and saw gentleman cutting grass there. At that time the church was the Palmyra Methodist Church. The gentleman turned out to be Brother Jerry Crane, who she knew and had taught his children in school. He also worked with Deacon Vernon Holmes. God is good all the time! Mother Holmes asked about the possibility of using the church and was told that the church was in pretty bad shape and was unsure it was fit to use for church proposes. Being a woman of faith, Mother Holmes was persistent and anxious to see the inside of the church. He obliged, opening the door with a screwdriver. Now a picture of what was on the inside goes beyond what words could describe, Various wild animals had made this their home. At this point, she continued to walk by faith and not by sight. She asked if we could see what we could do with it and hold services here on Sunday, which was five to six days away. With a faithful few, a lot of hard work and a God given vision, the doors of the church were open for Sunday services. Brother Crane was so overwhelmed by the continual work, effects and progress that he witnessed; he became a member of the City of Refuge. The choir sang and they came out of the choir stand so the Pastor would have a congregation to preach to.

There was no running water, so therefore, no kitchen or bathrooms. His and Hers Port-a-Johns were used. Youth Sunday school was in the back of the church during warm months, but had to stop during cold months because if heaters were used in the back, it would throw the breakers. We knew God could do anything.

In October, 2004, due to health, family and job obligations, Reverend Dyson was unable to fulfill the duties as pastor. The dedicated and committed officers and congregation decided to keep the church doors open. Through sincere and fervent prayer, God sent the Reverends David Waller and Ronald Johnson who filled in for several months; helping us through a difficult time. With permission from their pastor. Reverend Jesse Jones, Jr. they brought us the word every Sunday, except second Sunday which was their Communion Sunday at Oak Shade Baptist Church. We had Sunday School on second Sundays. Eventually, Reverend Linwood Smith brought us the Word on second Sundays. Reverend Waller could no longer assist us due to other duties and responsibilities. Reverend Johnson came to us every Sunday except second Sunday. He also started our Bible study up again On Thursday nights.

On the second Sunday in June 2006, Reverend Ronald Johnson, being led by God, informed the City of Refuge church family that we would accept the awesome responsibility of becoming our pastor.

We were surprised because every time something was said to him about becoming our pastor, he would say, "Oh no, God hadn't told him that yet.

Deacon Luther Perkins would say, "Oh, yeah, you the man!"

Mother Hoboes said before going on home to be with the Lord on February 22, 2006, that Reverend Johnson was going to be the pastor of the City of Refuge, she wanted him to preach her eulogy because he was her pastor. On March 24, 2006, Reverend Johnson was officially installed as the pastor of the City of Refuge Baptist Church.

Some accomplishments under his leadership are the following:

1. Three Sunday School Classes: Little Lamps 9 and under with three teachers and two assistants  
Young Adult 10-17 with two teachers and two assistants  
Adult class-18 and up with three teachers
2. Bible Study-awesome Bible study on Thursday nights with youth in the backs with five teachers and five assistants (Both average 65-70 people)
3. New members to date: 45+ new members (all attended The New Members Training Class)
4. Men's ministry-Men of Vision Empowered (MOVE)
5. Women's ministry-Ladies of Vision Empowered (LOVE)
6. Missionary ministry-Charles Stanley outreach ministry, nursing home ministry
7. Music ministry
8. Transportation Ministry (two vans)
9. Youth recognition back to school with scholarships to graduates going to college

10. Choirs-Mass, Adult, Men's Choir, Youth and JLP, voice lessons for all choir members. Piano and drum lessons

In 2010, we were in the process of purchasing this building and the land. Be patient and wait on the Lord and again say wait on the Lord. Since then, we have purchased the building and the land. The old vision has been replaced (which was to add on to this building). Our NEW VISION is to build a new edifice from the ground up, to include classrooms, fellowship hall, Pastor's study and more. We will continue to trust God as we walk by faith and not by sight.

The City of Refuge Family says, "Every Man a Beam to accomplish the Dream!

"cemetery from previous church owner on premises

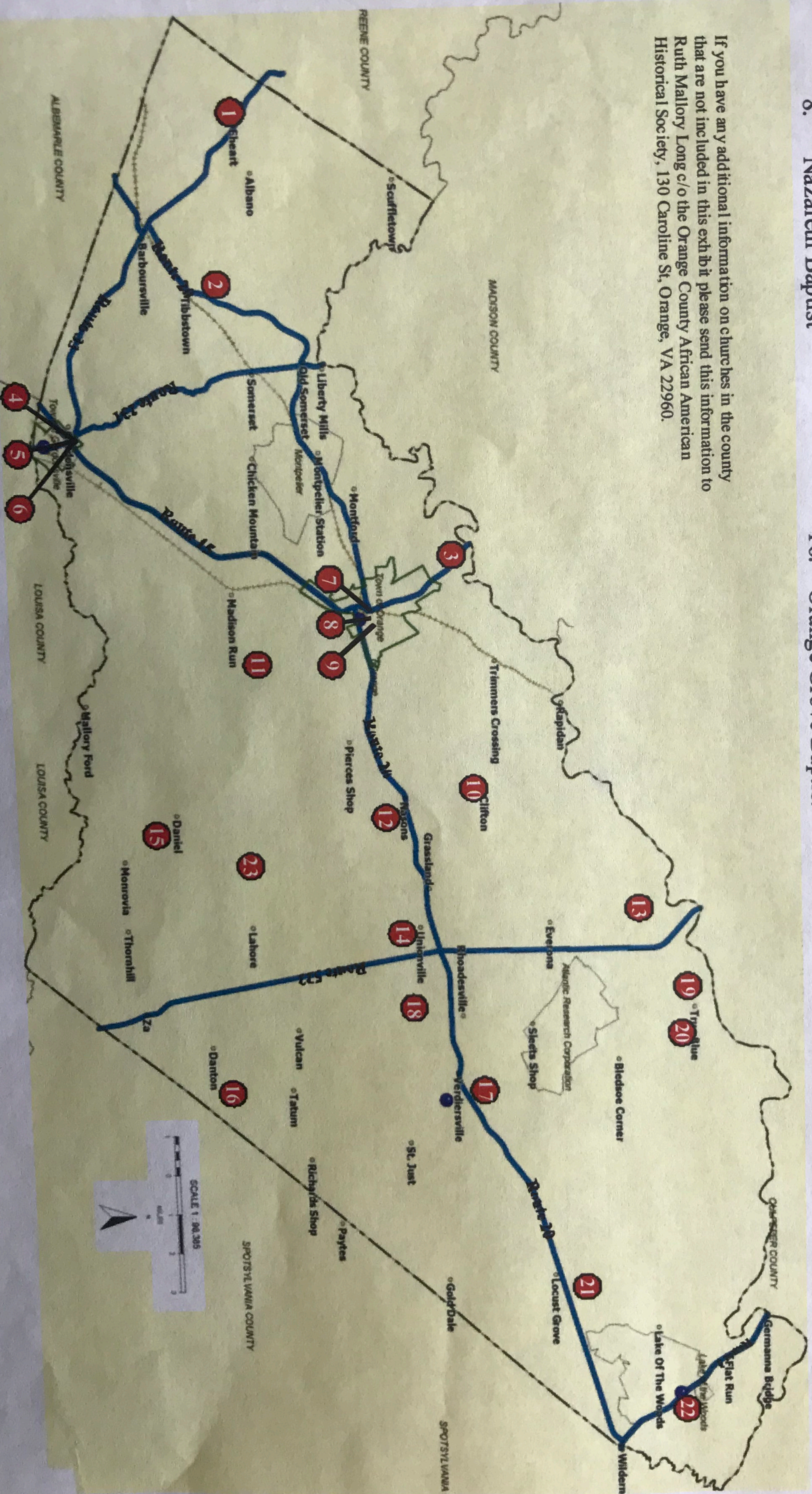
Contributed by Daniella Holmes, Church Clerk



# Orange County African American Churches

- |                                  |                                     |                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Chestnut Grove Baptist        | 9. Faith in Christ Community Church | 17. Mt. Sinai Solid Rock Church of Christ |
| 2. Blue Run Baptist              | 10. Hopewell Baptist                | 18. Mt. Olive Baptist                     |
| 3. Bethel Baptist, Madison Mills | 11. Little Zion Baptist             | 19. City of Refuge Baptist                |
| 4. Calvary S.D.A Church          | 12. Mt. Calvary Baptist             | 20. Mt. Pisgah Baptist                    |
| 5. Gordonsville Bibleway         | 13. Mt. Holy Baptist                | 21. Mt. Zion Baptist                      |
| 6. Union Baptist                 | 14. Bethel Baptist, Unionville      | 22. Pilgrim Baptist                       |
| 7. Emmanuel Baptist              | 15. Shady Grove Baptist             | 23. Mt. Pleasant Baptist                  |
| 8. Nazareth Baptist              | 16. Orange Grove Baptist            |                                           |

If you have any additional information on churches in the county that are not included in this exhibit please send this information to Ruth Mallory Long c/o the Orange County African American Historical Society, 130 Caroline St, Orange, VA 22960.





# Emanuel Baptist

Orange, VA

James Monroe

## History of Emanuel Baptist Church

On January 8, 1908, 38 persons were given letters of dismissal from the Nazareth Baptist Church. They met in the Pythians Hall on Mill Street and were organized.

The first pastor was Reverend J.T. Stran. The land was purchased from the late Horace Scott and John Hughes. The lot was 44 X 100 square feet, costing \$150.00, and paid for in cash. The church was built in May 1910 and paid for in eight years. The deed was drawn up on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1910 in the County Clerk's Office.

The first trustees were Willie Ware, Harrison Nixon, and Oregon Conway. The first deacons were Willie Ware, Willie East, Oregon Conway, Frank Ellis, Price Diggs, George Sheppard, and Harrison Nixon. The first church clerk was Mrs. Sarah Reid; Treasurer, Mrs. Jane Wharton; Sexton, Mrs. Annie Scott, and organist Mrs. Lizzy Galloway. The bondholders were Mrs. Sarah Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Ware, Mrs. Mary Jackson, and Miss Lula Jackson. At this time, membership had grown to 45 members.

During the year between 1927 and 1943 while Reverend George E. Galloway was pastor, an extension was added to the church and paid for. This included a room, restroom for ladies, and a baptismal pool.

During the year 1955-1964, while Reverend Albert Ward was the pastor, the lower auditorium was converted into a dining area and kitchen. A new pulpit set, communion table, chair stand for the juniors, and an electric bulletin board for the outside were purchased, and fluorescent lights were installed in the basement.

Reverend Charles Dunbar Davenport was installed as pastor of Emanuel Baptist Church on December 12, 1965, and remained until January 26, 1997. During those 31 years of service, he accomplished many things for the good of this church. To name a few: two new hymn boards, new hardwood floors, carpet for the floors, additional toilet facilities, a new organ, and piano were purchased. Electricity was upgraded in the main auditorium, new lights in the ceiling, cabinets for the kitchen, public address system, 24 new oak pews with cushions, two new deacon chairs, two flower stands, and a podium all were purchased and installed. The air conditioner was upgraded with an extra unit and a new roof was put on after 85 years of service from the old one. After 40 years of service, the furnace was replaced.

On August 24, 1997, Reverend Anthony Holland was voted unanimously as the 12th pastor of Emanuel Baptist Church. Reverend Holland was installed on July 12, 1998 and served until November 18, 1998. In the short time Reverend Holland was with us, he made upgrades to the Sunday school and started Bible study.

Two new deacons, Brothers Keith and Stanley Nixon were ordained, Mrs. Clara Nixon and Mn. Molly Turner were made deaconesses. Tape Ministry was installed and telephone service was added, all under Reverend Holland's leadership.

While without a pastor, a new stove was purchased, new tile was installed in the kitchen, and new windows in the dining area. The church was led by Deacon Gurvis Bailey who served as moderator of all meetings and business.

Reverend Tommie Lee Bailey was voted pastor-elect in December 2000. Reverend Bailey preached his first sermon on January 14, 2001. A new piano, a computer with color printer, blinds and curtains, a new double sink, and refrigerator have been purchased under the leadership of Reverend Bailey. The driveway has been repaved and new entrance doors have been installed. New carpet was installed in the vestibule

and pastor's study. Most recently, a new handicap ramp and handicap bathroom have been added, the tile on the kitchen and bathroom floors have been replaced, as has the steeple and cross on top of the church. Under Reverend Bailey's leadership, the church also named the mother of the church, Mrs. Margaret Ware, as a deaconess,

We pray that with God's blessing and leadership through the shepherd He has sent to us, we will remain the church that sits on the side of the road as a lighthouse to all people. [We are] still striving for the same purpose as those 38 persons who started this church 100 years ago, to tell men, women, boys and girls that the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is still eternal life,

Taken from the Centennial Anniversary Celebration for Emanuel Baptist Church, 2010



# Hopewell Baptist

Orange, VA

## THE STORY OF THE HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

8566 Clifton Road  
Orange, Virginia

### The Past

After the Emancipation Proclamation when the slaves were set free and they had adjusted to their new found freedom, one thought was upper-most in their minds: a desire for a place to worship God, unlimited and according to the dictates of their consciences. So, the leaders of the prayer groups in the various communities began to make plans for building churches.

During that early period of Reconstruction around the year 1872, Hopewell came into being. For a number of years, she struggled, undergoing changes as to location and permanency. In 1881 one acre of land, on which Hopewell now stands, was purchased from Phillip and Betty Jones. Deed to the same was recorded in the clerk's office of Orange, Virginia. There were three trustees at that time. They began the construction of this building and the little group settled down to worship God under their own vine and fig tree.

Rev. William McIntosh was called as pastor and served for 35 years. Serving under him were many deacons and a church clerk. All have gone home to their reward. After the resignation of Rev. McIntosh, Rev. Clark was called as pastor. He resigned after a brief stay. Then Rev. Willie Williams became pastor and served for 51 years until his retirement in 1984. During his stay, a deed to 578 feet of land was given as a gift to the church by Deacon Major Gaines and his wife Alice, for a parking lot. In 1981, another piece of land in the back of the church was given to the church by Mr. Tinsley Mack. Under Rev. Williams' guidance, the church was able to install the air conditioning and furnace systems, the restrooms and a pastor's study. Hopewell has baptized and sent on three outstanding ministers: Rev. H.M. Chatman, Rev. Hubert Gaines and Rev. George Lambert, all deceased. Hopewell has licensed Rev. Eugene Chessom, Rev. Percy Davis, both deceased, and Rev. Wayne Jolson of Louisa Virginia.

Rev. Howard L Butler Sr. was installed as pastor of the Hopewell Baptist Church. on October 5, 1986. Under his leadership, the Deaconess, Missionary, Usher, Youth and Prison ministries were organized. He has also established annual services for all auxiliaries, Men & Women's Day Service, Christian Education Classes, New Membership Classes, Tuesday Night Prayer: Meeting and Bible Study. Annual Church Picnic with Goodwill Baptist Church and St. John Divine Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia, and Salem Baptist Church of Great Falls, Virginia. Service formerly held on second and fourth Sundays was extended to all Sundays of the month. Under Rev. Butler's leadership the church has been able to purchase two buses, two vans, install vinyl siding, telephone service, remodel the old fellowship hall, the sanctuary and the front entrance, added a baptism pool and installed new stained-glass windows. In March 2001, an addition to the church, which includes a new fellowship hall, enlarged restrooms, a pastor's study and a lower level which houses classrooms and offices, was completed. Rev. Howard L. Butler Sr. retired on March 29, 2009.

### The Present

In July 2009, Pastor Eric A. Henley Sr. answered his calling to lead Hopewell to greater heights. His vision is to prepare the people of Hopewell to enlarge their territory for God and to establish a house of refuge where God can visit His people without denominational barriers. This place is known as Hopewell Baptist Church \_ The City of Hope. Our motto is: There is hope on the hill for you because we are here to make a difference! Under Pastor Henley's tutelage, 9:30am Intercessory Prayer was incorporated, the Praise Team and the Hopewell Divas were formed. Also, under Pastor Henley's tutelage, the mortgage for the church's addition was paid in full with the help of both determined and dedicated members and friends. We thank God for sending us a man with a vision and who is not only appointed; but, also anointed by God.

The current Deacon Ministry is comprised of. Deacon William Locker, Chairman; and Deacon Bing Lambert Jr. Members of the Trustee Ministry are: Henry Rollins, Chairman, Connie Rollins and Mary Green. Members of the Deaconess Ministry are: Mary Green and Pamela Locker. Connie Rollins is the Financial Secretary and Teri Washington is the Pastor's/Church Secretary.

So, "We've come a long way, a mighty long way. We've borne our burdens in the heat of the day, but we know the Lord has made a way. We've come a long way, a mighty, mighty, long way."

"cemetery on church premises

Contributed by Teri Washington



# Little Zion Baptist

Orange, VA



Little Zion Baptist Church Rev.  
John E. Reid, Sr. Pastor 15116  
Tomahawk Creek Road  
Orange, Virginia 22960

February 2012

Prior to the year 1870, church membership in this vicinity was interracial. Our founding fathers worshipped in the Zion Baptist Church. That church still stands less than two miles from us on the Old Gordonsville Road near Madison Run. At least twice a year we have joint worship service.

Desirous of having a church of their own, a few Negro men and women left the Zion Baptist Church and began meeting from house to house in the Lee's Crossing area on Monrovia Road. Feeling a further desire for permanence, the congregation moved down on the Shady Grove Road where services were held under a brush arbor on land owned by Hampton Coleman. One of the ministers, who preached for them during this time, was a Rev. Chilsolm. It was soon decided, however, that this place of worship was too close to Shady Grove Baptist Church, and so the congregation moved back to the present area on Mallory Ford Road (now known as Mountain Track Road).

Records show that the old Little Zion Baptist Church was built in 1870 and was named LITTLE ZION. The land was generously donated by Rev. Allen Banks, who later served the Church as its second pastor. Our first pastor on this site was Rev. Bamie. The tenure of Rev. Allen Banks, who donated the land, is not known either.

The original structure of Little Zion was a small house built of wide boards. There were two windows, one on each side, and the entrance was through a single door in the center. The flooring was of wide boards as were the benches. As time passed, the original structure became too small for the increasing membership. The building was made wider and another row of benches was added. This time, however, these were church benches and not like the original ones of wide boards. Later, the original structure was lengthened, additional windows were installed, weatherboards were placed on the exterior and double doors were hung.

As the membership increased, the church built a separate dining hall. They named it, "Jasper Hall," after one of the founding members. Once again, around 1960 the Banks family gave land to the Church to add an office, choir room, and rest rooms to the rear of the Church. Later, new hardwood floors were installed; heating and air conditioning were installed; aluminum siding was placed over the weatherboards on the exterior of the church, and a new fence was built to enclose the grounds.

On August 22, 1982, The Reverend Marion F. Wilkerson became the Church's new pastor. Within two years, the Church had built a new dining room, a small addition to the church sanctuary and purchased property from the Gilmore Family for additional parking.

Still under the leadership of Pastor Wilkerson, the congregation felt the need for a new Church. Land was donated to the Church by the S. Page Higginbotham family. In March the congregation moved to its present location on Tomahawk Creek Road. And in March of 2010 the congregation was blessed to buy the mortgage of their new Church.

On Sunday, May 23, 2010, The Reverend Marion F. Wilkerson preached his last sermon. And on Sunday, June 6, 2010, Rev. Wilkerson's first son of the ministry, The Reverend John E. Reid, Sr., returned to Little Zion Baptist Church to preach his first sermon as pastor.

As we close the book on this chapter of our heritage, and as we begin the next, let each of us solemnly vow that with God's infinite wisdom and guidance, Little Zion will remain a landmark in this community.

Contributed by Marilyn Johnson Williams





# Mt. Calvary Baptist

Orange, VA

## History of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Nasons  
11229 Kendall Road  
Orange, Virginia

After the Emancipation of Orange County, the Negro had no place to worship and no land on which to build a place to praise God. The first place of which we have any record was a tobacco barn on old Dr. Johnson's farm, better known as the Swollbe Farm. The pastor was Rev. Phillip Johnson, called Old man Phil, to distinguish him from Little Phil, who later became a minister. Rev. Phillip Johnson by some means came in possession of a large tract of land, beginning at the bend of the Clifton Road and Hawfield Farm. This tract of land runs to a point above where Hopewell Baptist Church now stands, then owned by the Tylers. The Negroes began to settle on the Tyler's land and built the first of the communities somewhere near the present site of Hopewell Baptist Church.

After much debate with their parent church, Hopewell, in the month of June, the year uncertain, Rev. Barnett and about sixty persons marched down the mountain to build their first church in what was then Nason's Post Office. This soon became too small, therefore, they built another directly across from where Tucker' Store use to stand.

By this time the community had grown so large, the second church would not hold them, so they began to look for another site on which to build. The trustees were instructed to purchase an acre of land from Douglas Carter. The record shows that the sale price was \$8.00.

They soon began building the present church led by Thomas McIntosh, who became the second pastor. This church has had seventeen pastors. Their names in order of service are: Rev. W.M. Barnett, Rev. Thomas McIntosh, Rev. W.M. Grandson, Rev. Phillip Johnson, Rev. J.H. Willis, Rev. O.H. Woods, Rev. Joseph Perry, Rev. W.M. Jackson, Rev. H. M. Chapman, Rev. W.M. Harris, Rev. Ellis Turner, Rev. William Brown, Rev. William Fuller, Rev. Henry E. Johnson, Rev. Herbert Johnson, Rev. Gregory Baldwin and our present pastor, Rev. Willie D. Crenshaw, Jr.

This church has ordained seven ministers: Rev. Thomas McIntosh, Rev. Haywood Campbell, Rev. Charlie Talaferro, Rev. Scott Talaferro, Rev. Henry Stewart, Rev. James McIntosh and Rev. Kenneth Williams. This church has licensed two ministers: Rev. William Poindexter and Rev. James H. McIntosh, Jr. Rev. J.E. Willis also came out of this church. The church has never split nor discharged a minister. All ministers either resigned or died at their post.

Under the pastorate of Rev. Chapman, the church was remodeled, inside and out, and added stained glass windows. Under Rev. Turner, the dining room was added. Under the leadership of Rev. Henry Johnson, a youth choir was organized and the pews and communion set were dedicated. Under the leadership of Rev. Herbert Johnson, central heat and air was installed, improvements were made to the inside structure of the church, two deacons were ordained and a number of candidates accepted Christ as their personal Savior and were baptized. In June of 1998, Rev. Herbert Johnson resigned as Pastor of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

A pulpit committee was formed to find and invite prospective preachers with the hope of finding a candidate for Pastor among them. In December 1999, Rev. Gregory Baldwin accepted the position of Pastor-Elect and was installed as Pastor on July 15, 2000.

Under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Gregory Baldwin, Bible Study classes were reinstated, the missionary society with free clothes giveaway to clothe the less fortunate, the usher ministry was restarted, and pew cushions were installed in the pew benches. In December 2001, the church voted to hold worship service 1 st - 4th Sunday each month, starting January 6, 2002. A fellowship ministry was started and a building renovation committee was formed. On April 28, 2002, Rev. Baldwin and the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church started Sunday morning worship services on WCVE - 1340 radio in Orange. On July 20, 2003, Rev Baldwin resigned as pastor. A pulpit committee was formed again to find and invite prospective preachers with the hope of finding a candidate for pastor among them.

In June 2005, Rev. Willie D. Crenshaw, Jr. accepted the position of Pastor-Elect was installed as Pastor on Nov. 13, 2005. Under the leadership of Rev. Willie D. Crenshaw, Jr., groundbreaking services were celebrated October 21, 2006 for the new church building project.

There have been many improvements to the church yard with the planting of flowers and shrubbery, new ministries added (Christian Education and Transportation) and others. The church has a website and we are members of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Under the pastorate of Rev. Crenshaw, several members have renewed their walk with Christ and others have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and were baptized. One minister received his license.

Truly God has blessed and led his children these 133 years for which we are truly thankful. We pledge our vows to continue praising and serving Him until he says, "Well done thou has been faithful, enter thou Into thy eternal peace."

Submitted by Irene  
Spotswood



# Mt. Holy Baptist

Unionville, VA

History of Mt. Holy Baptist Church  
24035 Church Hill Road Unionville,  
Virginia  
July 2011

Being led by God, in 1866 the Rev. J. J. Robinson of Loudon County and other faithful members organized Mt. Holy Baptist Church. The members were Judgefield Green, William Hopkins, Armstead Fortune, Newman Murphy, Jeremiah Washington, Emily Murphy, and Fannie Milton. These were the Founders of Mt. Holy. Having no building to worship in, they were permitted to meet in a log cabin about one and a half miles from the Hall Farm. For services, they worshiped there until 1871. Mr. Stem Coleman deeded those few members a half-acre of land on which the old Church use to stand. Between 1883 and 1884, the building was destroyed by a mysterious fire. In 1885, a second building was erected. Rev. Robinson was no longer the Pastor. In 1902-1912 the building was remodeled by Rev. A. Hobbs, by removing the gallery, extending the front and adding a vestibule. For 91 years, the congregation worshipped in that building where they carried on the work of the Lord to the best of their ability. During the 91 years in the old building, many people came to Christ. The church has had 145 years of service under the following pastors.

Rev. J. I. Robinson *	Rev. S. P. Robinson*	Dr. Westley J. Pitman*
Rev. Phillip Johnson *	Rev. I. T. Crump*	Rev. Frank Lewis
Rev. A. Hobbs *	Rev. O. L. Davis*	Rev. Everette Pierson
Rev. Woodson *	Rev. D. L. Dudley*	Rev. Robert Dyson

\*deceased

\*\*cemetery on premises

Present Pastor:

Since 2002, under the leadership of Pastor Leon H. Easterling, he was instrumental in remodeling the church steeple and painting of the church. He organized the new member's class and the Diaconate Board. The storage area was remodeled to become a finance room. Also, under his direction we have a new piano, pavilion, church bus, playground equipment and nursery for the children. Many members have grown in Christ. In 2011, we organized our youth choir, implemented a scholarship fund for your youth and began the first Vacation Bible School at Mt. Holy. Our church bus is now used every Sunday to pick up youth and adults for church services. An air conditioner unit and new furnace were installed with the help of volunteer funds. The new furnace unit was much needed and volunteer funds were received within three months. Many projects around the church were completed by the men of the church.

Past and Present:

James Dance*	Judgefield Green*
Booker T. Washington*	Benjamin Starks*
James Hopkins*	P. A. Thompson*
Lewis Washington*	Kenneth Galimore
Winston Brock*	Joseph Perkins Karl
Ernest Holmes, Jr. *	Turner
Anthony Duncan	

Trustees Past & Present:

Edward Williams*	Isaiah Perkins
Isaiah Gentry	James Hopkins*
Luther Perkins	Karl Turner
Kenneth Galimore	Robert Carter, Sr.
Lavell Perkins Julie	Carolyn Carter
Turner Anthony	Sheena Holmes
Duncan	

Church Clerks Past and Present:

Mrs. Edvinia Holmes\* ..... Served for 46 years  
Sister Carolyn Carter ..... Served for 7 years  
Sister Sheena Holmes ..... Served for 4 years  
Sister Julie Turner ..... Served for 9 years

Present Officers:

Deacon Joseph Perkins (Emeritus) Deacon Karl Turner  
Deaconess Mae Leann Easterling Deacon Anthony Duncan Deaconess Charity Duncan \*Denotes deceased  
Deaconess Rosetta Lewis Deaconess Edna M. Perkins Church Clerk, Julie Turner Treasurer, Carolyn Carter  
Deaconess Clara Jackson



# Mt. Olive Baptist

Rhoadesville, VA

Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
11251 Tower Road  
Rhoadesville, Virginia

Mt. Olive Baptist Church traces its roots back to Antioch Baptist Church, which is located in St. Just, Orange County, V A. Harriett, a slave belonging to Edward Hobday, became the first Black member. She was received into the church on August 31, 1833. On August 7, 1834, seven more Black members were accepted into the church. All Black members were slaves and were listed on the roll only by their first name and the name of their owner. In August 1857, Sidney Bell, a free woman, became the first free Black to belong to Antioch Church. After the end of the Civil War, Blacks continued to be added to the church roll. In August 1871, charges were launched against a Black member of the church. It is believed that this incident prompted the exodus of Black members from Antioch.

On December 12, 1871, Larkin Herndon, one of the original founders of Antioch Church, deeded one acre of land to George Brooks {trustee for a colored church}. It was on this land that the church was built. Mt. Olive (originally known as Mt. Oliver) was organized on October 4, 1872. Although there are no written records of the initial years of the church, information handed down by word-of-mouth indicates that the majority, if not all, of the Black members of Antioch Church became the founding fathers of Mt. Oliver. At that time, this area was known as Rocky Run. For over a year, worship services were held in a brush arbor (four poles covered with pine brushes). The original structure was located across the street from the current church. Once the members raised enough money, a log church was built. The log church was replaced by a small frame church. The frame church was replaced by the present church, and the cornerstone was placed on October 3, 1937. Ministers who served from the inception to the time the cornerstone was laid were: Reverends Warren Tibbs, John Robinson, Mosley Scott and W. F. Smith. Deacons who served were Israel Towns, Billy Pryor, Minor Scott, Billy Towns, John Brooks, Joseph A. Scott, Sr., Edward A. Scott, Sr., John A. Towns, Sr., and John A. Towns, Jr.

It is said that Mt. Olive is the oldest Black church in this area and is the parent church of several other churches in the surrounding area, including Mt. Sinai which is located on Rt. 20 [Constitution Highway].

Since 1937, Reverends William Raglin, William Bowman, Richard Strother, James Jackson, and Kevin D. McDowney have served as Pastors. Deacons who served under these pastors were Minor Scott, John Brooks, Reuben Carpenter, James Braxton, John H. Towns, John Franklin, Raymond Offer, Carlton Mclfaniel, Otto Beasley, Edward Scott, and Minor Scott.

Reverend Richard Strother and Reverend William Raglin have been the longest serving pastors. They dedicated twenty- five and twenty-one years respectively of leadership to Mt, Olive.

Reverend Willie Glaspie is currently the Pastor of Mt. Olive. Reverend Glaspie first served as Interim Pastor and was installed as Pastor in 2008. Otto Beasley, Edward James, Edward Scott and Minor Scott currently serve as Deacons.

\*old cemetery on church premises; new cemetery across the road diagonally from church

Contributed by Debra Berry and Barbara Scott





# Mt. Pleasant Baptist

Orange, VA

## History of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

21227 Lahore Road  
Orange, Virginia 22960

In the year 1868, the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church had its beginning with the following founders: George Chandler, Willis Chandler, Abson Gallaway, Jennie Graves, Elijah James, Minor Lindsay, Reuben Mansfield, Armstead White and others.

The first worship services were held under a brush arbor. After several months, Reverend Cornelius Johnson was called as pastor. Under Rev. Johnson's leadership the first building was erected in 1870. Rev. Johnson served until his death. Rev. Daniel Cave was elected pastor after Rev. Johnson's death. Under Rev. Cave's leadership an addition was added to accommodate a growing and faithful congregation. Rev. Cave resigned after fifteen years of service. He moved to Pennsylvania to pastor a church in Altoona, Pennsylvania. After Rev. Cave's resignation, Rev. Carter of Richmond, Virginia, served as pastor for a short time. After Rev. Carter's resignation, Rev. Adolphus Hobbs of Richmond, Virginia, was elected pastor. Under Rev. Hobbs' leadership a second addition was added to this building. In 1910, Rev. Hobbs resigned as pastor and Rev. Daniel Cave was re-elected as pastor.

After Rev. Cave's re-election as pastor, certain members left Mt. Pleasant to form Bethel Baptist Church in Unionville, Virginia. Rev. Cave worked diligently with the remaining members and as the church's membership began to grow, another addition was added to the present building. The church purchased its first organ and a choir was organized with Mrs. Magnolia White as organist. Mrs. White served faithfully until 1930. Mrs. Regina Terrell accepted the position of organist and remained the church organist until her death.

After twenty-nine years of service, Rev. Cave's health began to fail and George Blakey was called to pastor the church. Rev. Blakey served for twenty years. Under Rev. Blakey's leadership the church was remodeled on the inside and a piano was purchased.

Rev. William Bowman of Washington, DC, accepted the call to pastor after Rev. Blakey resigned. Under Rev. Bowman's leadership, the dining room and bathrooms were added. Due to his failing health, Bowman retired and God sent Rev. Yancey Warren to pastor the church. Rev. Warren served faithfully until God called him to start his own church in Woodland Village, Maryland.

Rev. Gary Ingram of Washington, DC was called to pastor after Rev. Warren resigned. Rev. Ingram was pastor for six years before Rev. Frederick O. Jones was called to pastor the church. Under the leadership of Rev. Jones, the interior portion of the church was renovated, i.e., a new steeple, new pews, carpet, windows and a handicap ramp were added. The church's membership began to grow and the church began its outreach missions. After six years of service, Pastor Jones resigned and the church was without a pastor for three years. During this time, the members continued to worship God and were blessed with a messenger to preach the Gospel every Sunday. And with the help of faithful members, the church acquired a new set of steps for the front of the building.

On January 3, 1999, Rev. Rippert Roberts, Jr. was called to Mt. Pleasant as Pastor-Elect. Rev. Roberts was ordained on May 8, 1999 at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Spotsylvania, Virginia, under the pastorate of Rev. Charles Wormley. While at Mt. Zion, Rev. Roberts served as an Associate Minister and Youth Minister. Rev. Roberts was installed as Pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church on August 14, 1999. Under Rev. Roberts' leadership, Mt. Pleasant provided toys and gifts to children in the community during the holiday season due to the partnership formed with the Toys for Tots organization. The church was blessed each summer with Vacation Bible School through the efforts of First Lady Roberts. Mt. Pleasant enjoyed being part of several outreach ministries and continued to flourish with the institution of a Women's Fellowship, Men's Ministry, Prayer Line, Couple's Ministry, New Members' classes, The Boys and Girls Club, and joint Bible study with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Orange, Virginia. The church was blessed with a paved parking lot, new church sign, vinyl siding, and new audio equipment. More important than the renovations to the church building is the tremendous spiritual growth that the Lord produced as demonstrated by lives changed because of the love of Jesus Christ. After the resignation of Rev. Roberts, Mt. Pleasant was in search of a new pastor.

God sent us Rev. Harold Arrington, Jr. He is the son of Main Uno Baptist Church, Madison, Virginia. Rev. Arrington was installed as pastor of Mt. Pleasant on February 28, 2009. Since his coming, Mt. Pleasant has truly been blessed by God through him. His ministry is of Love, Trust, Unity and Rebuilding.

In the short time that Rev. Arrington has been at Mt. Pleasant, he has performed a wedding, funeralized several members, ordained one Deacon and added new members by baptism, Christian experience and restoration. The choir stand has been rebuilt, the podium replaced, and our most prized blessing established is the new Fellowship Hall.

All Glory, Honor and Praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "Without A Vision, The People Perish"

\*cemetery on church premises

Taken from Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church's 142<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration Booklet, dated Oct. 24, 2010

Contribute by  
Daisy Humes



# Mt. Sinai Solid Rock Church of Christ

Rhoadesville, VA

History of Mt Sinai [Baptist] Solid Rock Church of Christ  
26389 Constitution Highway  
Rhoadesville, Virginia  
November 2011

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church was built in 1870 and remodeled in 1941.

Pastors: Reverends William Jackson, R. F. Bowles, Ferguson, Elmore Jones, William Rudd, Evelyn Thurston, Kenneth Williams, and Elder Linwood Sawyer

Clerks: Sisters Annie Scarver, Fannie Porter, Anna Carter, Sara Bums-Jones, and Mary E. Carter

Deacons: Herman Jackson, Robert Porter, Charles Dean, Randolph McIntosh, John Thurston, Jasper Carter, Wilmore Coleman, Roger Woolfork, Jose Brown

Families of Mt. Sinai: Burrell, Carter, Comfort, Dean, Ellis, Gipson, Gray, Green, Humphrey, Johnson, Lucas, McIntosh, Poindexter, Porter, Rivas, Simpson, Strother, Thomas, Thurston, Tibbs, Towns, Turner, Waddy

The church's name was changed to Mt. Sinai Solid Rock Church in August 2000.

\*cemetery on church premises

Contributed by Mary E. Carter and Anna Carter



# Nazareth Baptist

Orange, VA

## **History of Nazareth Baptist Church**

115 East Church Street  
P. O. Box 1043  
Orange, Virginia

This church had its beginning in 1861, while slavery was a major concern of the United States. A band of slaves was given permission to conduct religious services on the plantation. This group continued their services until the Civil War ended in 1865. Six years later in 1871, they formally organized as the Nazareth Baptist Church in the village of Orange, VA.

A parcel of land was donated by W. Watts Jones in a section known as Sandy Bottom, where the first church was erected. The Rev. Barnett served as the first minister. Growth was rapid, and it was not long before a larger edifice was needed. As a result of such rapid growth, the parcel of land on Church Street, the present site, was purchased on December 31, 1872 from William G. and Roberta B. Williams.

Two hundred dollars, in cash, was paid down with a balance of three hundred dollars to be paid in installments. The Trustees were Nathaniel H. Anderson, Benjamin McDaniel, and Edmund Coleman. The balance was paid in full and recorded May 8, 1876. By April 18, 1874, a crude frame building with vertical boards existed.

On May 1, 1874, the Trustees borrowed nine hundred and fifty dollars from C. M. Craven. It was to improve the church structure. One improvement was to cover the existing vertical boards with horizontal weather boards. The method of repayment was to be done in installments with six per cent interest. The balance was paid in full and recorded June 13, 1879.

On December 5, 1914, the Trustees borrowed seven hundred dollars from G. A. Gaines, Esq., and George S. Shackelford. It was used to improve the church structure through bricking.

Since its conception, Nazareth has had eighteen Pastors. They include the Reverends Barnett, Gibson, Robinson, Albert Thurston, Callis, Harrison, Brown, Pressley, Carter, Taylor, Johnson, Ross, Spurgeon, Thurston, Catlett, Dr. N. Howard Stanton, Joseph A. Moore, James Gafford, and our present pastor, Dr. Gene T. Lee.

Contributed by Mary E. Ford-Smith, Clerk



# Orange Grove Baptist

Orange, VA

History of Orange Grove Baptist Church  
27383 Orange Spring Road  
Orange, Virginia

Orange Grove Baptist Church was founded in an area when Afro-Americans were striving to put behind them the last vestiges of a slave heritage. The church was organized in the early 1890's by a band of determined souls who first assembled, according to traditional lore, in a "Brush Arbor."

The details of those early years, like much of the documentation for Orange Grove's history have been lost. The family names of Williams, Daniels, Jackson, Poindexter, and Woolfolk are documented as founders and first members. The original church building stood on land that was deeded in 1895 by Issac Graves and his wife.

Rev. William Jackson was the first pastor. He was followed by Rev. George E. Galloway. During the tenure of Rev. Jackson and Rev. Galloway, a Sunday Service, Prayer Meeting and an Annual Revival were established. The Poor Saints Fund was the only organized church program during this era. Those early pioneers in church building laid the foundation of a church community that would last over a hundred years. They represented an era of self-reliant and self-sufficient church building. They cut trees, sawed the logs, shaped the boards and pegs and white-washed the sideboards. The church, like a beacon, could be seen from a distance gleaming through the dense strand of trees. The church was a religious and social center. It provided for the basic spiritual needs of its communicants.

Rev. F. F. Terrell was pastor following Rev. Galloway. Under Rev. Terrell, the church's organization and programs expanded. A Sunday School and choir were added. The Poor Saints organized into the Mission Union and ushers were added to the service. Sister Alberta Daniel set up a building fund. Rev. Terrell also maintained close ties to the community organization, fighting for social justice and encouraged the members to support the NAACP. His pastorage lasted from the 1940's until 1979.

Our current pastor, Rev. Perry Moore was acting pastor when Rev. Terrell retired in 1979. Rev. Moore was officially installed as the pastor in 1980. In approximately 1980, the Junior Youth Choir then called the "Junior Lights" was organized. When Rev. Moore assumed the leadership of Orange Grove, the church retained much of its original country character. The time required vision and decisive actions. New programs and better facilities were necessary. Rev. Moore oversaw the extension of the building fund and the modernization of the church with the addition of indoor plumbing, bathrooms and a new dining facility. Even while this modernization was in progress, plans were being considered for changing, enlarging or eliminating the old church structure.

By August 1989, plans were drafted. It was time to build! In September 1989, the original structure which had served Orange Grove for almost a century was razed. The construction of the new edifice was begun in October 1989.

By May, 1990, the work had reached a stage where the structure was serviceable. The first worship service was held in May, 1990, conducted by our pastor Rev. Perry Moore, Jr. Through the help of God, we have made many accomplishments with Rev. Moore as our pastor.

In August 1996, the church parking lot was paved. The steeple was erected in July 1997. Our Women's Fellowship was organized in October 1997.

In July 1999, we were able to purchase five acres of land. Our dining facility was expanded to include a computer room in 2002, and the Heavenly Angels Choir was established.

We installed a PA system in 2003, purchased a copy machine, established the Ernest and Nolie Terrell Scholarship Fund, and purchased a baptismal pool.

In 2004, the front of the church refaced to include a wheel chair ramp. During 2004, we changed our worship service from 11:30am to 1 1:00am and Sunday School from 10:15am to 10:00am. The Children's Church Curriculum was also implemented in 2004.

In 2005, God blessed us to purchase two heating/air conditioning units.

In 2007, we were able to purchase a 10' X 12' storage shed, have a 28' X 60' pavilion built and completed in August 2007. In 2010, God is still blessing us. What a might God we serve!!

The congregation pledges to work in order that the church's pews would never be empty and to make sure that Orange Grove's light would always shine. In remembrance of those who have gone before, the present church will continue to leave a legacy equal to the legacy from the past on which the new church was built.

\*cemetery on church premises

Contributed by Mary S. Turner





# Pilgrim Baptist

True Blue, VA

Pilgrim Baptist Church

True Blue, VA

History not available



# Pilgrim Baptist

Locust Grove, VA

**History of Pilgrim Baptist Church**  
4189 Pilgrim Church Road; P. O. Box 924  
Locust Grove, Virginia

A group of Black people were led by Rev. Alfred Goffney to a little wooded spot just above the place where the Battle of the Wilderness was fought. Before building a brush arbor on land given for that purpose, these people worshipped with their White Christian friends at the Wilderness Baptist Church because they had no facilities of their own.

During the period of reconstruction, there was very little money to be had by this band of Christian followers so building of a new church seemed but a hopeful dream. With a powerful hope, they decided to build a log church which would be more comfortable. Such leaders as Ned Scott, Isaac Smith and Peter Armstead directed the building of the first permanent church. The congregation decided to name it Pilgrim because they were only sojourners here. As they marched in, they joyfully sang, "I'm a pilgrim, I'm a stranger; I can tarry I can tarry but a night; Do not detain me, for I am going to where the fountains are ever-flowing." Their voices could be heard a long way off as they sang and worshipped God in their first protected sanctuary.

After many years of leadership and fellowship, Ned Scott and Isaac Smith passed away and were the first persons to be laid to rest in the church cemetery.

In the early 1900's, Rev. James Robinson was called to pastor the church, and the church continued to grow in numbers and in strength. God blessed them and added many sheep to the fold.

When Rev. B. I. Davis of Partlow, Virginia, was called to pastor the church, the members expressed the desire to build a new church. The group worked long and hard to build an edifice of which they could be proud. Rev. Davis pastored during the late 1920's and 1930's, during which time the foundation for the new church was laid. The next pastor to be called to the church was Rev. William Jackson, who served until he was forced to resign because of ill health. The church was completed during this time. This was a controversial period which caused the church to be closed for two years.

With the help of Deacon Charlie Coleman, now deceased, and a committee from the Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association, the church doors were opened once again with Rev. Frank E. Thompson acting as pastor until God sent Rev. Mackie McQueen to be our leader. He served us faithfully for thirteen years, until he died suddenly as a result of an automobile accident. Under Rev. McQueen's pastor ship, the Sunday School was organized with Deacon K. R. Lawson as Superintendent, a senior choir was formed, and a church wide chorus came into being. The pastor often boasted of the fact that eight public school teachers were members of the senior choir. They were from Orange and Culpeper Counties. He was instrumental in winning fourteen souls for Christ during the first year of his pastorate.

Rev. Harold King came to the church in 1968 and remained until 1971, at which time he was called to full time pastor in Washington, DC, where he still serves. He was instrumental in installing a complete water system for the restrooms and kitchen and in putting aluminum siding on the outside of the church.

Rev. Earl Bledsoe accepted the call to the church in August of 1972. He organized the Junior Deacon Board and the Junior Trustee Board which are still working. The Sunday School purchased a smaller, more modern van for its traveling purposes. Memorial stained-glass windows were purchased for the sanctuary. During this time, the church service was held two Sundays a month and other activities were carried on in keeping up with the church code of ethics. He was instrumental in winning more souls for Christ and ordaining two deacons. The church drew up its first constitution. Rev. Bledsoe was called to Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Catharpin, Virginia, when that church was gutted by fire, and they were being squandered. He accepted the call in 1975, which left Pilgrim without a shepherd again.

After much prayer and meditation for Divine Grace, God sent us Rev. Charles F. Gee. On March 27, 1977 he was duly installed as our Pastor. During his Pastorate, the following improvements were made: 1) Pews with dedication on them were installed, 2) Doors were installed, and 3) A furnace was purchased. Rev. Gee resigned as Pastor in December of 1980.

Rev. Donahue Scott, Jr. was installed as our Pastor on June 28, 1981. During his pastorate, many improvements were made to the church. Under Rev. Scott's pastor ship, Bro. Robert Broadus, Sr. was ordained as a Deacon, enriching the church with two deacons. In 1986, an annex multipurpose room was added to the church and dedicated to Bro. James Washington who was a faithful member. While pastoring at Pilgrim, Rev. Donahue was the Moderator of the Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association, Inc. from 1988-1993. Serving for eleven years, Rev. Donahue resigned in October of 1992 to be the Associate Pastor and Financial Director at another church.

With much prayer and guidance, God sent us Rev. Marvin E. Jackson. He served as Pastor-Elect from December 1993 until he was duly installed as Pastor on March 19, 1994. He promoted Love, Unity and Fellowship in the Church and community. Many improvements have been made since Rev. Jackson's arrival. Under Rev. Jackson's leadership, Bible Study was started again. Bro. Donald Brooks was ordained as Deacon on November 2, 1997, enriching the church with three deacons. On April 7, 2002, we began having early morning service on first and third Sundays at 8:30am. Pilgrim now has services four Sundays a month. With Rev. Jackson as pastor, we continue to press forward doing God's will spiritually and physically. \*cemetery on church premises

Excerpts of history taken from Pilgrim Baptist Church's 125th Anniversary (1877-2002)

Booklet donated by Donald Brooks



# Shady Grove Baptist

Orange, VA

## Shady Grove Baptist Church

Shady Grove Baptist Church was established in 1871 by a group of 36 former slaves, who had recognized their freedom in Christ long before that time, left the balconies of two local "white churches" and organized the Shady Grove Baptist Church. This small band of people built a bush-harbor under the black oak, which is no longer standing in our churchyard, as their first place of worship. This bush-harbor served as our first church for nearly a year. A growing membership soon enabled them to construct a building. This first building faced the road, now Route 677.

The group of founders included the following persons: Deacon William and Mrs. Martha White, Mr. Ben and Mrs. Malinda White, Mr. Henry and Mrs. Margaret Frye, Mrs. Harriet Crutchfield, Mr. Reuben Mansfield, Mr. George and Mrs. Ann Jackson, Mr. Jessie Henderson and Mrs. Henriette Henderson, Mrs. Rachel Jackson, Mr. David White, Mr. Jake and Mrs. Emma White, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Katherine Richards, Mr. Jake and Mrs. Millie Jackson, Deacon Harrison and Lucy Ellis, Mr. Westly and Mrs. Courtney Coleman and Mrs. Polly Hicks.

Shady Grove has had fifteen pastors throughout its history. The first of whom was the Rev. Coleman Gillum. He was followed by the Reverends C. Johnson, Robert Quarles, Z.D. Lewis, J.H. Priestley, Jessie Paterson, and Edward Lewis. Rev. Priestley, our fifth pastor, was sent on a missionary trip to Africa for several years. Upon his return, he continued his pastorage. Rev. Lee Davis, our eighth pastor, served for thirty-three years. During his years of service, we were able, among other things, to extend the church building and change the lighting from carbon to electricity. Rev. George E. Galloway was our pastor from 1946 until his death on January 1, 1951. Rev. Galloway proved to be a monumental organizer. During his years of leadership, he reorganized the official boards of the church, organized the ushers into a junior and senior board, raised money for the purchase of the school building, bought the cemetery plot and started the installation of memorial windows. Most of all, he gave the church a sense of unity and fellowship. Our next pastors were Rev. Frank Thompson and Rev. Ronald Hart who served for 20 years. In 1995, the Rev. Edward White was elected pastor of our church. 1995 was a pivotal year for our congregation. We decided, with his leadership, to build another church with the goal of extending the ministry to benefit the whole community. The first two phases of this building project were completed in 1998. First Sunday weekend in September 1998, the dedication service was held and Homecoming was held in this place on that Sunday. Phase three of the building project will be the sanctuary. Under Pastor White's leadership, other changes occurred. New ministries were established such as the Men's Fellowship, the Women's Fellowship now known as the Women's Ministry, the Men's Chorus and the Outreach Ministry. Membership increased and the church grew in numbers and spiritually.

Because of health issues, Pastor White felt that he could no longer serve as pastor and fulfill the duties of a good pastor. We were deeply saddened when he gave his resignation as pastor of this "Branch of Zion". New to our worship service in 1997 was the "Children's Church" held each Sunday. On October 5, 2002, the church family installed a new pastor, the Reverend Joseph A. Moore. Currently, Pastor Moore wears two hats as our pastor and of our musician. Under Pastor Moore, the Christian Education Department was established. Pastor Moore sees the need to get more members actively involved in church ministries. To this resolve, some members who previously were not actively involved have been placed in leadership positions of these ministries.

In June 2005 husband and wife, Reverend Sammie Yates and the Reverend Annette Yates joined the church family and were associate ministers. Reverend Sammie Yates briefly pastored Bethel Baptist Church, Mitchell, Virginia, before returning to Shady Grove to continue to do God's will.

God has truly blessed us with paved parking, a nearly completed commercial kitchen, with a sheltered type pavilion, commercial stove, refrigerator, freezer, and dishwasher; with a screen monitor in the fellowship hall so that the overflow of worshipers can see the service; with new lighting in the parking light which provides safety for our worshippers; and new commercial floor covering for the kitchen hallway.

We have supported foreign missions by financially and prayerfully blessing the Reverend Fred Sales and Minister Benjamin Tyler on their mission trips to South Africa and Peru, respectively.

In 2009, our church family mourned with our associate minister, the Reverend Annette Yates, in the passing in October of her husband, the Reverend Sammie Yates, who also was one of our associate ministers. Earth truly has no sorrow that God cannot heal. "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2 Corinthians 5: 1) Since our last church anniversary the following has occurred: Pastor Moore celebrated his 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as pastor of Shady Grove in October 2010. New members have joined by baptism and Christian experience. Babies have been dedicated. The position of Christian Education Director has been filled by Deacon James (Eddie) Lewis. Pastor Moore has recently resumed the position of musician for our Sunday Worship Services. Third Sundays in each month have truly become 'Youth Sunday' in that the youth do all of the devotional parts of the service and offering as well as provides the music.

Our church consists of the following ministries: Men's Choir, Women's Ministry, Ushers Ministry, Mass Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Church, Flower Club, Happy Hearts, Deacons, Deaconess, Trustees, Sunday School, Outreach, Weekly Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.

There perhaps are other names and deeds which may not have been mentioned that have been crucial in the

growth of our church, but those names and deeds will not be forgotten when the Book of Life is opened and the roll is called in glory. We never cease to thank God for the great things that He has done through those who came before us, and we pray that we will allow him to use us in His blessing to future generations. We are confident at Shady Grove that "he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ".

\*cemetery across the road from church

Compiled by Phyllis A Highland





# Union Baptist

Gordonsville, VA

## History of Union Baptist

Cobb Street Gordonsville, Virginia

It can be said the history of the Union Baptist Church dates back to the organizing of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in 1865, the organizing of the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in 1868, and the organizing of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in 1917. Whereas all of these dates are significant to the church's history, its origin is best dated from 1953, when a committee made up of officers and members from these three congregations met to merge three

In 1953, a committee was formed to merge the Sunday Schools of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, all of the town of Gordonsville. On the first Sunday in January 1954, the three Sunday Schools consolidated into one. Deacon C. H. Carey served as the superintendent and Sister Mattie Hill as secretary of the newly formed united Sunday School. The Sunday School meeting site was rotated to coincide with the Sundays that worship services were held at the respective churches, meeting at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church on the second and fourth Sundays, at Mt. Carmel and Mt. Pisgah Churches on first, third and fifth Sundays. This unified Sunday School continued at alternating sites with positive comments from the three congregations.

In 1954, the spirit of unity continued to emerge and moved many to consider the possibility of a "United Church." The Sunday School and church members of the congregations formalize plans to merge the congregations. However, before the end of 1954, death claimed the Rev. J. H. Ford, who had been the pastor of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, and the Rev. E. D. Stewart resigned as pastor of the Mt. Carmel Church.

Each of the churches assigned members to serve on the church merger committee with the ultimate goal of combining the three congregations. The three committees united as a single action body. The committee convened a meeting at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in December 1954. It was decided "that the body, without further delay, would consolidate, use Mt. Carmel Baptist Church building as the House of Worship, and begin their united worship on the first Sunday in January 1955." The committee from Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church declined to join the affirmative vote to merge and thus through mutual understanding remained as a separate congregation and continued to be recognized as Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church under the pastorate of the Rev. N. H. Stanton.

The merged congregations adopted the name, "Union Baptist Church." Deacon C. H. Carey was elected by the new body as Chairman of the Board of Deacons with the following brethren serving: Deacons John Avery, Edward Burley, George Gray, Fred Thompson, Alfred Verdier, Frank Winkey and Sidney Winkey. Sister Mildred Avery was elected as the first Church Clerk and Brother Morris Avery as the first treasurer. The Board of Trustees was comprised of Brothers Cecil Thompson (Chair), Roscoe Brown and Robert Hill. While the trustees were initiating the legal proceedings at the Orange County Court House and the Gordonsville National Bank, the deacons were arranging with the Rev. C. B. Valentine, Moderator of the Piedmont Baptist Association to have the church properly recognized as Union Baptist Church.

The Rev. Benjamin F. Bunn, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, rendered the first sermon at worship service held on the first Sunday in January 1955. In May of that year, the Rev. E. T. Wheeler was voted as the first pastor and official recognition was granted to the Union Baptist Church from the Piedmont District Baptist Association on the first Sunday night in July 1955.

Rev. E. T. Wheeler stressed the importance of study and moved the congregation to learn and to commit themselves to Bible study. Vacation Bible school was invigorated that summer with an increase in youth attendance. Rev. Wheeler tendered his resignation, which was accepted in November 1956.

After sermons by visiting and interested candidates, the congregation voted the Rev. Frederick Smith of Washington, DC, as the second pastor in May 1957. Installation service was held on the third Sunday in July, and he served through his resignation in March 1962.

The Rev. Arthur R. Preston of Alexandria, Virginia was called to serve at Union Baptist as its third pastor. He was installed on October 31, 1962 and served as pastor for ten years. During his leadership, the membership increased and the church was actively involved in the Piedmont District Baptist Association. Numerous church improvements and renovation projects were completed. Rev. Preston became involved in civic issues in the Gordonsville community and encouraged the congregation to attend town council meetings, to exercise their right to vote,

and to get involved in local, county and state venues. His resignation was given, sadly received, and effected on the first Sunday in Jan. 1973.

Union Baptist installed the Rev. Moses Anderson as its fourth pastor on October 21, 1973. He continued strong religious leadership of the former pastor, Rev. Preston. Union celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary in 1980. Under the leadership of Rev. Anderson, The Rev. Robin Brown accepted her call to the ministry, was ordained and installed as Assistant Pastor. With great sorrow, the church mourned the passing of Rev. Anderson on May 18, 1984 and later renamed its lower fellowship hall in his honor. The Rev. Robin Brown served as Interim Pastor during the search period for a new pastor. She served as revival speaker that year: but she resigned on October 23, 1984 to pursue other goals.

The Rev. Williams S. Wilson was chosen as pastor of Union Baptist in December 1984. He met with the assembly, presented his projected program, but was called, and accepted the pastorate of a larger congregation before being installed as pastor.

The Rev. Leonard Smith was installed on April 21, 1985, as the fifth pastor of the Union Baptist Church. During his pastorate, the membership grew by leaps and bounds. The Mass Choir of 40 plus voices was organized. The Youth Choir increased with over 100 members. A church parsonage was purchased and occupied by the pastor and his family. Church renovations were initiated and completed and church auxiliary ministries were organized and functional. Rev. Robert Trice accepted his calling to the ministry. He and the Rev. James T. Jackson were ordained and served the church. Rev. Smith was called to pastor a larger church in Lynchburg, Virginia, and submitted his resignation effective August 29, 1989.

The sixth pastor of the Union Baptist Church was Rev. James T. Jackson, who was voted as pastor in September

1989. Rev. Jackson was ordained as a Baptist minister on December 16, 1989 and was installed as pastor on January 21, 1990. Under his leadership, the church's auxiliary ministries and support teams have been reconstituted. Wednesday night Bible Study and Monday thru Friday noon day prayer are ongoing ministries. There have been additions and renovations to the church building. Members and the community have been provided opportunities for computer classes and Christian growth. The Rev. Sherman Collins accepted his calling to the ministry and was licensed to preach after his initial sermon and served as associate minister to the church and congregation. Rev. Collins was called by the Wake Forest Baptist Church in Scottsville, Virginia, and was ordained and installed as their pastor on July 29, 2000. Ministers Christopher and Wendy Cooper preached their initial sermons and were licensed by Union Baptist Church in November 2003. Minister Virginia Ford returned to the Gordonsville community also in 2003. She and Minister Danny Brewster united with Union Baptist Church in November 2003.

From its inception some 50 years ago, the Union Baptist Church in Gordonsville has served the community as a beacon light for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Excerpts of the church's history taken from the Union Baptist Church's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet dated April



# Union Baptist

Gordonsville, VA

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