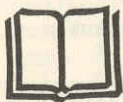


A SHORT HISTORY OF THE
MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

1959



By

REV. JEROME S. ROBINSON

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Preface

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church, located about eight miles northeast of Northport, Alabama, on the old Eutaw road, was constituted in 1882. The following men have served as pastors: J. H. M. Anders, S. E. Hodge, J. Barnett, F. Mills, C. R. Miller, L. R. Spencer, S. W. Clements, J. M. Mills, C. Jackson, J. L. Clements, J. A. Kyzer, J. F. Yancy, J. F. Goree, Charles Thomas, Robert Brown, J. E. Donahue, L. D. Brookshire, and Jerome Robinson.

Since 1953, when I became the pastor of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, I have constantly searched old records to know more about the church. I have thought for a long time I would like to write the history of the church, but was always a little reluctant to attempt it. I think every member of every church would respect their church more if they knew the fight that had been staged with the devil to make their church what it is today; and for this reason I have attempted to search out all facts I could about Mt. Olive. Since I have written this short history I have more than ever been made proud that I can say I am the pastor of the greatest church anywhere. Remember—great churches are not always big churches with thousands of members, therefore, I count it a great privilege to be the pastor of a great country church.

I wish to thank all of the people who have helped me with the writing of this book. I am most grateful to the Improvement Committee of the church for their invaluable assistance. I also wish to thank my family for making it possible for me to do much of this work at home. I wish to thank my wife for helping type and take down records while her house work was neglected. I do not know what I would have done if it had not been for the assistance of Mrs. Lee Hodo and Miss Betty Bailey, as they typed all the final work. Bro. O. L. Bryant, the oldest living member of the Mt. Olive Church, gave me information and history that was not obtainable from the church records. I wish to thank Bro. Lando Montgomery and Judge E. L. Dodson for permitting me to use their associational minutes that they have preserved through the years.

As you read this book remember it is a short incomplete history of the church. May I also remind you that the author is not a noted historian or writer.

JEROME ROBINSON, *Pastor.*

*Mamma
Minnie
Roycroft
12th
Cousen*

Preface

The first volume of this series... The second volume... The third volume... The fourth volume... The fifth volume... The sixth volume... The seventh volume... The eighth volume... The ninth volume... The tenth volume... The eleventh volume... The twelfth volume... The thirteenth volume... The fourteenth volume... The fifteenth volume... The sixteenth volume... The seventeenth volume... The eighteenth volume... The nineteenth volume... The twentieth volume... The twenty-first volume... The twenty-second volume... The twenty-third volume... The twenty-fourth volume... The twenty-fifth volume... The twenty-sixth volume... The twenty-seventh volume... The twenty-eighth volume... The twenty-ninth volume... The thirtieth volume... The thirty-first volume... The thirty-second volume... The thirty-third volume... The thirty-fourth volume... The thirty-fifth volume... The thirty-sixth volume... The thirty-seventh volume... The thirty-eighth volume... The thirty-ninth volume... The fortieth volume... The forty-first volume... The forty-second volume... The forty-third volume... The forty-fourth volume... The forty-fifth volume... The forty-sixth volume... The forty-seventh volume... The forty-eighth volume... The forty-ninth volume... The fiftieth volume... The fifty-first volume... The fifty-second volume... The fifty-third volume... The fifty-fourth volume... The fifty-fifth volume... The fifty-sixth volume... The fifty-seventh volume... The fifty-eighth volume... The fifty-ninth volume... The sixtieth volume... The sixty-first volume... The sixty-second volume... The sixty-third volume... The sixty-fourth volume... The sixty-fifth volume... The sixty-sixth volume... The sixty-seventh volume... The sixty-eighth volume... The sixty-ninth volume... The seventieth volume... The seventy-first volume... The seventy-second volume... The seventy-third volume... The seventy-fourth volume... The seventy-fifth volume... The seventy-sixth volume... The seventy-seventh volume... The seventy-eighth volume... The seventy-ninth volume... The eightieth volume... The eighty-first volume... The eighty-second volume... The eighty-third volume... The eighty-fourth volume... The eighty-fifth volume... The eighty-sixth volume... The eighty-seventh volume... The eighty-eighth volume... The eighty-ninth volume... The ninetieth volume... The ninety-first volume... The ninety-second volume... The ninety-third volume... The ninety-fourth volume... The ninety-fifth volume... The ninety-sixth volume... The ninety-seventh volume... The ninety-eighth volume... The ninety-ninth volume... The hundredth volume...

CHAPTER ONE

Church Minute Reports



According to the records Mt. Olive Baptist Church will be 77 years old on one of two dates. The church was organized on the 19th. day of August 1882. They were admitted to the Tuscaloosa Association on September 16, 1882; however, according to some records the church was actually meeting before 1882.

The Tuscaloosa Baptist Association met at Mt. Olive in 1877. At this meeting Mt. Olive requested membership in the association, but they were advised to unite with another association. Probably the reason for not entering the Tuscaloosa Association at this time was due to the distance to Mt. Olive from Tuscaloosa and the distance from other Baptist churches.

For the next five years no records are available. In 1882 the Mt. Olive Church applied for membership in the association again and was accepted.

The following reports come from the church minutes: The covenant, articles of faith, and rules of decorum that the church approved before they were constituted as a church in the Tuscaloosa Association.

CHURCH COVENANT

We whose names are here to subscribe concerning it will be for the glory of God and our united edification to be constituted into a regular gospel church and having received letters of dismission from the churches to which we respectfully belonged have called our beloved breatheren J. H. M. Anders and W. L. Ray ministers, and Wily Marcum a Deacon, to officiate to set us apart and constitute us agreeably to a gospel order on this 19th. day of August, 1882, near the nine mile rock on the Eutaw Road in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. And we do mutually unite the following solemn covenant.

- I. We do solemnly profess to believe and support those doctrines and principals contained in Gods word and set forth in the Articles of Faith of the Tuscaloosa Baptist Association.
- II. We so solemnly agree to give ourselves to the Lord and to one another in the Lord. Submitting to the Government of Christ in His Church as in 2nd. Cor. 8-5—Romans 15-7.
- III. That we each one do agree to pray for our ministers, deacons, and fellow members and watch over one another in the Lord, and if need be, reprove and admonish each other agreeably to our Lords direction, Matt. 18:15-18.
- IV. We do solemnly engage to receive the christian admonition of our Brethren in spirit of meekness and love.
- V. That we will endeavor to keep the union of the Spirit in the Bonds of peace as recorded in Gods word, avoiding all discord and divisions.
- VI. Not legible due to wear and tear of paper.

VII. We do agree that if in the cause of providence we should be removed at a distance from this church and into the vicinity of some other of the same faith and gospel order to take letters of dismission to the end that we under their care and partake of their church privileges—Acts 18:27.

VIII. We also engage as for our temperal circumstances will admit to contribute of our worldly substance to the support of him whom God may place over us in the gospel or who may administer to us in spiritual things—1st. Cor. 9:13-14.

IX. We solemnly agree in cases of differences with each other in secular matters if we cannot settle it ourselves we will refer the matter in dispute to a committee chosen from among ourselves agreeably. 1st. Cor. 6:1-4.

X. And lastly we do in the presence of God solemnly agree to the above specified articles as God shall enable us and that shall be deemed worthy of church censor and dealt with accordingly.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order and have a discentionary right to call order at any time.
3. A member not satisfied with his decision may appeal to the moderator on the day but at no other time.
4. But one member shall speak at a time. Who shall rise to his feet and on obtaining permission proceed.
5. The moderator when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person or otherwise.
6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject or uses words of personal reflection. Every motion and second shall come under the consideration of the church unless withdrawn by him who made it.
7. Every case taken up by the church shall be decided on or withdrawn before another is offered.
8. When a question is taken up after allowing time for the debates the moderator shall take the voice of the church on the subject in such mode as he may determine.
9. The moderator shall announce the decision to the body.
10. Any member wishing to speak shall obtain permission of the moderator.
11. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition without permission of the church. Not more than once till every member wishing to speak shall have spoken, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debate shall have been carried through.
12. The appreciation of other shall be used in the church by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the church may direct.
14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tend to interrump public speaking.
15. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any of their members, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time but he shall not vote on any question unless the church be equally divided.
16. Any member violating these rules shall be reprovved by the moderator at his decision but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

II. OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the God-head there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

IV. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the Mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting

in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

V. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept then by cordial penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner of earth, but his inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

VIII. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

IX. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it en-

courages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X. OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially, the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

XI. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment of Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII. OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love to sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XIV. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost: to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, or faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.

XVII. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. OF THE WORLD TO COME

We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the Last Day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

These are the articles of Faith for all Baptist Churches. If you desire to know where the scripture references can be found to support these doctrines, then look on pages 43-60 of the church Manual by J. M. Pendleton, printed by Judson Press of Philadelphia, Pa.

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church's history began in 1882, but there was a Mt. Olive Baptist Church long before 1882. The associational meeting was held from the Mt. Olive meeting house in 1877. The Mt. Olive Church was asked by the Tuscaloosa Baptist Association, in the 1877 minutes, to apply for membership in another association, (not named). For the next five years there is no history of Mt. Olive activities. In 1882 they applied for membership again in the Tuscaloosa Association at Northport. They were admitted into the association in September of 1882.

The charter members of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Christ were: Walter E. Watkins, W. Z. Watkins, Unity E. Watkins, Emily E. Watkins, G. L. Parson, Sarah Parson, J. T. Doughty, P. T. Watkins and M. A. Glover.

All chartered members united with the church by letter except P. W. Watkins and M. A. Glover. They were united with the church by baptism.

One of the chartered members was later excluded from the church, restored and then dismissed by letter in May of 1900.

From 1882 until 1895 there are no recorded minutes available for reference, but 1895 we have the records of the first business meeting. It is printed below in full content.

* * *

"November, 1885, the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church of Christ of the Tuscaloosa Association met in conference after preaching by Bro. J. H. M. Anders, on Saturday before the second Sunday in November, 1895. Invited visiting brethren to be seated with them. Opened the doors of the church for the reception of members, none. Called for reference. The minutes of the last meeting read and adopted. New business called for. W. W. Bryant, M. M. Watkins, R. L. Shamblin, G. W. Brown and J. E. Kyzer were appointed as a committee to revise the church register. Done by order of the church. J. H. Anders, Moderator, J. E. Kyzer, church clerk."

(Many of these meetings do not list the business carried on. One will be listed below as an example. No others will be listed except those of importance.)

"On December 8, 1895, the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church of Christ of the Tuscaloosa Association met in regular conference. After preaching by Bro. J. H. M. Anders they met in conference and invited the visiting brethren to be seated. Opened the doors of the church for the reception of members, none. Called for reference. The minutes of the last meeting read and approved. A move to adjourn conference, done by order of the church. J. H. M. Anders, moderator. J. E. Kyzer, church clerk."

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church met in regular conference January, 1896. The only business taken care of was a committee appointed to go and see a certain sister. The reason was not stated. It seems that it was a matter for the church to settle, for in the April meeting the same committee asked for more time before their report was made. Time was granted. In the June meeting it was revealed that two of the ladies in the church had had some trouble and the committee finally reported that each had forgiven the other and the committee was discharged.

In April, 1896, a committee was appointed to settle an issue between two of the brethren. One of the two brethren brought up the matter and a committee was appointed to help settle the issue. In the May business meeting it was reported that the differences had been settled and the church was again in full fellowship.

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church (called Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Christ) met in regular business meeting August, 1896. In this meeting the church called J. H. M. Anders as their pastor and elected J. C. Shamblin as church clerk. The doors of the church were opened and several united with the church. (It would be wonderful if space was available to print the names of those uniting with the church, but it would not be fair unless all names could be included.)

The monthly business meeting of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church met in March, 1897. The church voted to have written rules for the church. The committee appointed were W. U. Bryant, M. M. Watkins, R. L. Shamblin, W. Z. Watkins and J. C. Shamblin.

There is one comment needed here. The minutes of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church are a wonder to the eye as far as penmanship. Brother J. C. Shamblin had the most beautiful handwriting you will ever see. Please see your church clerk and check the old minutes and notice the neatness of the writing.

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church met in regular conference April, 1897. The rules committee reported and the rules were accepted. (We have no records of the rules or to what they pertained.)

In November of 1897 the Mt. Olive Church met in conference. Three men were appointed to examine the church book. In the December meeting the committee asked for future time. In the January meeting the committee asked for future time. In the March meeting future time was granted. In April the committee was granted future time, but a new man was added to the committee. In May the committee was discharged by an act of the church.

In the regular business meeting of March, 1899, one of the brethren sent his acknowledgment to the church. He had been dancing. The church accepted his acknowledgment and he was restored to full fellowship.

In the May business meeting from a motion three members were excluded from the church for fornication.

It seems during these months the devil was certainly after Mt. Olive, but because of concerned people the church stayed together. Many members were dismissed and others asked for letters of dismission. Many were restored to fellowship as they made restoration. In the following business meeting in November a new preacher was called. The church treasurer resigned and according to the minutes the pastor, Bro. Anders, served for five more months, before Bro. S. E. Hodge accepted the duties of pastor.

May, 1900, there were continued storm clouds at Mt. Olive. Some of the leading laymen were making acknowledgment and then asking for letters of dismission.

January, 1902, the church met in regular conference with Bro. C. R. Mills as moderator and J. C. Shamblin as clerk. A motion was made to ask the clerk to write a letter to a certain member

in regards to his way of living. In February of 1902 the case for the erring brother was granted future time. In the March meeting the pastor, C. R. Miller, was appointed by the church to go and see the erring brother. In the April meeting future time was granted on the erring brother. In the June meeting a committee was appointed to go and see the erring brother. In the same meeting the pastor resigned, but his resignation was voted down by the church. It seems again here there were still storm clouds arising, for it had taken the church over six months and several committees to contact an erring brother. How the story ends we do not know because the church minutes are missing until the October meeting. But the October minutes show that a new preacher had been called. He was J. H. M. Anders.

The monthly meeting of March, 1903, indicates the former pastor that had resigned now calls for his letter and it was granted. The erring brother requested his letter and it was granted.

From 1903 until 1912 there are no recorded motions in the minutes. The church did have business meetings but no motions are recorded. In May of 1912 there had been a committee appointed beforehand to decide what to do about the fence around the cemetery. The committee made a motion to tear down the fence and sell it to the highest bidder. The fence was sold and the church voted to use the money to buy lamps for the church.

In June, 1913, the following men were appointed on the building committee: J. C. Shamblin, M. M. Watkins, W. Z. Watkins, R. L. Shamblin and J. M. Harrold.

In March, 1914, a committee was appointed to investigate the conditions of the graveyard and also lay it off in family lots as much as possible.

November, 1914, a committee was appointed to study the church roll book and report at the next meeting. At the next meeting the committee asked for future time. In December the committee reported and asked for the church to buy a new book to transfer the present membership into. A new committee was appointed to transfer the names. In the February meeting the committee asked for future time. In the March meeting the committee was given more time. In April the committee again asked for more time. In May the committee again asked for more time. In June, 1915, the committee reported the work was completed. The committee was discharged from their duties.

The following remarks are all taken from the book that you have just been reading about.

The monthly meeting of April, 1916, reported that a committee was appointed to purchase new church benches. When the church met in conference in May the committee had no report. Again in June the committee had no report for the church. July, no report. In the August meeting the committee reported the benches had been made but no money to pay for them was available.

The September minutes reported the benches were almost

paid for and the committee was given one more month to collect funds to complete payment.

March, 1917, the church refused to grant a letter to one of her members due to the condition of his life. No other report is given in the minutes until August, 1917, concerning this particular matter. The member said he would make things right with the church, but according to the minutes he never did.

The third Sunday in July, 1917, the church met to decide when to have a revival. The date was set as the beginning of the revivals we now hold each summer beginning on the second Sunday in August.

The results of the revival were five for Baptism. They were Mrs. Effie Prince, J. M. Pierce, Harrison Brown, Patton Brown, and James Smelly. There is a picture in the book of the baptizing service.

April, 1918, a committee was appointed to fix some shutters for the church and a committee was appointed to keep them shut. The committee to keep the shutters closed were all deacons. At the following meeting in May the shutter committee was released. Job was well done in record time.

June, 1918, a committee was appointed to help Brother J. L. Brown gather fresh eggs and sell them so that lights could be furnished for the church. There is another story in this book concerning the gathering of eggs. In July, 1918, another committee was appointed to buy the lamps. So it appears enough eggs were gathered in one month to pay for the lamps. In November this committee was discharged. Another job was well done.

September, 1918, a committee was appointed to make arrangements to paint the building. In November no report was given. In December no report was given from this committee. The same report was given until September, 1919, when it was reported that \$33.15 was on hand for the painting of the church. February, 1920, the committee reported the outside of the church had been painted and they were working toward the painting of the inside. For several months the committee failed to report the progress toward painting the inside. No more is mentioned of the painting of the inside of the church.

September, 1925, the church minutes record that Brothers Lando Montgomery, J. H. Grey and S. A. Watkins were ordained as deacons of the Mt. Olive Church.

Some very interesting facts were recorded in the back pages of the old church minutes. It gave the month by month report of the amount paid the preachers. These facts are all in the tables in the back of this book, except they are on a yearly basis. On one occasion in September, 1935, the preacher, J. F. Yancy, was paid with chickens and produce amounting to \$16.00. One bushel of corn (on the cob) valued at \$.80 was given to the preacher. In 1937 stove wood amounting to \$10.00 was given the pastor.

In August, 1928, Henry W. Lyons was the preacher for the revival. The important thing here is that today Henry Lyons is Dr. Henry Lyons, pastor of one of the largest Baptist churches in

Montgomery, Ala. The following reports come from church book number three.

With much regret at this point there are no available church minutes from 1928 until 1942. A thorough search has been made for these, but it seems there were probably no minutes kept during this period, as the church had discontinued regular business meetings.

The first meeting recorded in 1942 was in February. Rev. J. F. Goree was the pastor and Mrs. S. A. Johnson the church clerk. In this meeting only two pieces of business was considered. First, a motion was made for the church to adopt the Ministers Retirement Plan. The minutes do not show when the plan was discontinued but it was somewhere along the way. The second motion was for the church to continue on central standard time instead of central daylight saving time.

April, 1942, was the next business meeting for the church. The church voted to continue the homecoming day on the second Sunday of May. The church voted to send the pastor to the Southern Baptist Convention if enough money could be collected on the second Sunday in May to send him. No other report is given as to whether enough money was received for the trip.

February, 1943, the church voted to go from one to two preaching Sundays a month. First and Third Sundays were the ones for preaching.

July, 1943, a committee was appointed by the moderator, Rev. J. F. Goree, to improve the church ground, and building. The committee was: J. C. Shamblin, Sam Watkins, Monroe Montgomery, Horace Brown and Lando Montgomery. The next month this committee was discharged, job well done.

December, 1943, the pastor, Rev. J. F. Goree, resigned the Mt. Olive Church to take up new work in Tennessee. The church voted to accept his resignation and to write a letter of recommendation to the Alabama Baptist, one to the pastor and one to be kept in the church file.

Only two meetings were held in 1944, J. L. Brown was the moderator. Rev. J. L. Brown was a member of Mt. Olive. The church called Rev. J. T. Swann to serve the unexpired time of Rev. J. F. Goree.

Only two meetings were held in 1945. The first in January with Rev. Charles Thomas, the new pastor, as moderator. The church voted to create a new department in the church, the extension Sunday school department. Those appointed to serve were Rev. C. W. Johnson, Lando Montgomery and Sam Watkins. Two new classes were organized, the young men's class with Jim Montgomery as teacher, and the young ladies class with Miss Evelyn Bailey as teacher.

In February of 1946 the Mt. Olive Church met in business for the purpose of electing new deacons. I quote from the church minutes; "the board of deacons appointed Patton Brown and Monroe Montgomery as new deacons." Two things were wrong in this meeting. First, the board indicates authority and the deacons

are servants of the church. The church has the authority, not the deacons. The second thing wrong in this meeting was the deacons appointed new deacons. The book of Acts says the congregation chose the deacons. The final authority is always in the local church body, and not pastor or deacons.

October, 1946, a building committee was elected. They were O. R. Grimes, Lando Montgomery, E. H. Brown, S. A. Johnson and Sam Watkins. In April of the same year the church voted to borrow \$1,000.00 to finish the building.

September, 1947, the Mt. Olive Church met in conference to ordain the following men as deacons, O. R. Grimes, E. H. Brown, Monroe Montgomery, and Dewey Richardson. The Rev. Foster Mills preached the ordination service. Rev. J. L. Brown charged the deacons and Rev. Thomas charged the church.

September, 1948, a motion was made that a model bench be built for inspection to determine what kind of pews would be used. The church voted to have two rows of pews in the church. A committee was appointed to determine the width of the isles and plan the number of pews to be built. Those appointed were E. H. Brown, James Sullivan, Sam Watkins, Lando Montgomery and O. R. Grimes. In 1948 only one business meeting was reported and in 1949 only two. January of 1949 the church met and the church called Rev. Robert L. Brown as pastor. The deacons recommended that the church have a re-election concerning the number of rows of pews for the church. The deacons recommended three rows. We still have those three rows today. The church elected in the September business meeting Rev. Robert L. Brown as pastor for another year.

January, 1950, a motion was made that the bench committee be given the authority to raise or borrow the money to pay for the benches and the church would stand behind the committee. The bench committee was dismissed April 6, 1950. A motion was made in the same meeting to remove the power pole that stood in the front yard. The revival was changed from the second Sunday until the third Sunday in August.

The September third meeting of 1950 resulted in the election of Rev. R. L. Brown as the pastor for another year. A committee was appointed to investigate the life of one of the members. The names are withheld due to all persons still living. Just 14 days later the pastor informed the church that he would be unable to serve them another year. Rev. J. E. Donahue was elected as pastor. The pastor was called indefinitely. (This was the first time the church had called a pastor indefinitely, as recorded in the minutes.)

September 3, 1951, the church voted to go full time, leaving the fifth Sunday open. The church for the second time in one year voted to go on indefinitely call. The minutes do not give the reason for this duplicated action.

April's business meeting of 1952 resulted in a new building committee being elected, no reason given as to why. The committee consisted of Jim Montgomery, chairman, Lando Montgomery,

ery and Frank Prewitt. Pledges were made for the repairing of the church. A motion was made and carried that the July 4th. singing be discontinued. Another motion stated that the church consider the unified budget system.

August, 1952, the church again voted concerning the indefinite call. This being the third time in two years. The new motion stated that another vote be taken concerning the annual or indefinite call. The vote was 38 to 2 in favor of the annual call. This meant the church would vote each year whether to keep the present pastor or call a new one if the church so desired. Another motion was made that the church vote again to know if the people wanted full time or part time preaching. The vote was 14 to 11 in favor of full time. At this time it was voted that the church hold a regular monthly business meeting on Monday following the first Sunday.

September, 1952, the church voted to call Rev. L. D. Brookshire as pastor. No mention was made in the minutes as to Rev. J. L. Donahue's resignation. The pulpit committee recommended Rev. Brookshire and he was elected. The church also voted that the associational and cooperative program contributions be sent quarterly. The church also voted to erect church signs on the Moore's Bridge road and Columbus highway and a name plate be placed over the front door of the church. Mrs. William Smith was elected as church reporter to send all church announcements to the newspaper office.

January, 1953, the church voted to sell the old coal heater since the church had installed new gas heaters. The church steps and walk were reported as needing more funds to finish them and the church voted to pay for the remaining work. A request was made for all able bodied men to meet at the church to help paint the inside of the church.

February, 1953, the church voted to have two revivals a year, Spring and Fall. The second Sunday in August designated for the Fall revival. This date had already been in effect since 1917. The church voted to organize a choir. Another motion was made to remove the partitions in the church so that the material could be used to make folding doors for a temporary division of boys Sunday school room. A committee was appointed to remove these curtains. Another motion was made that a committee be appointed to decide on the color of the new auditorium.

March, 1953, the church again voted to organize a choir. The committee on selecting the color for the inside of the church reported the color selected was light green. A motion was made by the pastor, Rev. L. D. Brookshire, that the church postpone painting the inside of the church until the following business meeting. A motion was made that the church take immediate steps in the building of new Sunday school rooms.

May, 1953, the church voted on the color to be used for the inside of the church, the vote was white 9, ivory 3, and light green 10.

August, 1953, the church voted to use the nominating committee for the selecting of the church officers. A motion was made to nominate a new deacon to fill a vacancy, but the motion was defeated. The church discussed a cooling system for the church and W. L. Smith was appointed to check on a cooling system.

September, 1953, the church voted to put up a hand rail for the steps leading up to the church. A motion was made to request every one to pay the price of one cement block each Sunday to the building fund. The church called Rev. Jerome Robinson as pastor. No report was given as to Rev. Brookshire's resignation.

December, 1953, the church voted to go full time in the preaching service. The church was having preaching every Sunday except the fifth and the motion was to have preaching on the fifth Sunday. One interesting thing here is to be noted that the past fifth Sunday, the Sunday school had only 36 in Sunday school and even less in training union. The next fifth Sunday, Sunday school reported 136 in Sunday school, a gain of 100.

January, 1954, the church voted for the building committee to proceed with the new Sunday school rooms. A motion was made and a committee was appointed to work out plans for a remodeling of the pulpit, and the building of a choir loft.

February, 1954, the church voted to organize a choir and plan for a singing school sometime in the future. The church voted to frame the church covenant that had been purchased.

March, 1954, the church voted for the building committee to proceed with the building of the Sunday school rooms. The church also voted that the church hire someone to remodel the pulpit and choir loft. A motion was made for the church to buy a lawn mower.

April, 1954, the church voted to investigate on a missionary scholarship for young people that might go into missionary work. No report was ever given to the church on this matter. The church voted that the pastor be given the authority to select the evangelist as he so desired for each revival. Some explanation is needed here. The reason for this motion was that several people were already asking or in some cases had personally extended an invitation to other preachers to come and preach the Summer revival. The pastor asked for the right so as to eliminate any trouble that might arise over who would be the evangelist. The motion was passed.

May, 1954, the church voted to adopt the unified budget system and the committee drew up a budget. Brother Carol T. Hatchell, associational missionary, was invited in to help the church work out a budget. The budget was presented to the church in July of 1954. The church voted to accept the budget on a trial basis only. The budget committee was advised to be ready to make any changes that were needed. A word of explanation is needed here. When the church voted to adopt the budget the income of the church was \$3,806.00 for the past year. This was less than \$80.00 per week. In 1954 the church's income increased to \$6,661.00, 1955 it increased to \$8,097.00, 1956 it increased to

\$9,505.00, in 1957 it increased to \$11,642.00 and in 1958 it was \$13,048.00. Someone would say more people joined the church and this was the cause, but Mt. Olive being a rural church loses almost as many members of their moving away as they gain by baptism and letter. In 1953 Mt. Olive's membership was 219. In five years the church had 179 additions and at the end of that five years the membership stood at 279. Practically the same number of people have more than tripled the offerings. The church also had voted to discontinue any kind of church selling and depend on nothing but tithes and offering for the work of the church. Another noticeable thing was that the church voted the budget in on a trial basis, but from the day it was adopted there has never been any reason to doubt its worthiness.

June, 1954, the church voted to put in an attic fan, and keep the two large window fans for the cooling of the building. The cooling of the church has been a problem for many years. The church on one occasion attempted to air-condition the building, but enough current was not available to operate the right size unit and the church purchased an organ instead.

February 7, 1955, the church voted to discontinue the church bulletins. The church for the first time voted to spend \$10.00 toward advertising our revival with posters. Some explanation is due here. Prior to this revival the pastor was doing outside work and had paid for all advertising purposes unknown to the congregation and with such a noticeable increase in the number attending our revival the church learned the importance of advertising the revival meetings. The church also voted to have the two old church books rebound. These were the books that were used to secure information from in the writing of this book.

February 28, 1955, the church voted to put carpeting on the church floor. Mrs. G. B. Aikens was elected as the Vacation Bible School principal. The church also voted that in revivals, offerings only be taken every other night. The reason for this was it seemed to some that we, the church would offend many if we received an offering every night. The church also voted from a recommendation of the pastor and deacons that the church nor any organization of the church do any selling of any kind on a profitable basis. Since this time the church has never had to ask a penny from anyone except to encourage tithing on the part of its members. In the same meeting a motion was made to remove from the church roll all names of those who had departed from the faith. It was at this time work was being done on the church roll. This work covered a period of some two years. Many names were found to have been deceased many years ago, some had departed from the faith, and others had joined other Baptist churches upon a profession of faith. More reports are given in the minutes concerning this matter but I shall attempt to cover all material here. During this period of two years the church excluded 22 members from its roll. Each person that was excluded received two personal letters from the church only asking them for information concerning their membership. Those that would

not correspond in any way were removed from the roll. This was not a hurried up matter, but a long drawn out process. During this time many inactive members moved their membership to the church where they were living. This move on the part of the church proved profitable to all because many of the inactive and non-resident members are now active in a Baptist church. The church also voted in the same meeting to buy choir robes for the junior choir and Mrs. W. L. Smith would be the director. Another motion passed was that the church buy 12 new sword drill Bibles for the juniors and intermediates. This proved to be one of the most important motions that was ever passed by the church, for since that time Mt. Olive has had participants in the associational eliminations for training union, and has had from one to three winners each year since. Our young people are recognized as being among the best in the association in Bible drills. The church also voted in the same meeting that the church would build a baptistery. We were thankful to the Northport church for the use of their baptistery, but we needed one of our own, and we built it.

April, 1955, the church voted to send a committee before the Board of Revenue to ask for a black top road. This resulted from a special called pastor and deacons meeting, because the pastor had gotten stuck and had to walk several hundred yards with all his family. Several more of the members were behind him in their cars, training union director and superintendent of Sunday school. The pastor's car remained in the ditch over until the next day. The first try did not prove successful before the Board of Revenue, but in 1956 the church started a weekly meeting at the Tuscaloosa Court House and met with the Board of Revenue until the board assured the church and community of a black top road. A book could be written on all the members that showed up each Tuesday morning and did not give up until we were assured of a road. Much credit should be given to various members, but for fear some would be overlooked we will omit all, except Mr. E. M. Moore who was the manager of the State Lake. Mr. Moore went to work for us in getting the road brought by the church and school instead of another way that was being considered.

July, 1955, the church voted to begin a nursery for the church. A committee was appointed and in a short time a room and beds were provided. The church voted at this time \$20.00 to be spent on revival advertisement expenditures. In the same meeting the church took a vote as to the method of calling of a pastor. The church voted 17 to 15 on the indefinite call, this meaning no more yearly voting taking place for the pastor. The motion also provided that the pastor must give not less than a 30 day notice and not more than 90 days notice if he desired to resign. The church was to give the pastor not less than 30 day notice and not more than 90 days notice if they desired his resignation. This motion has not been contested or discussed since. The church voted to start using the nominating committee. This method has

proved most effective and provided the best of leadership for the classes.

September, 1955, the church voted back the church bulletins. They have been in constant use since with no interruption or discussion. The church also voted to buy a mimeograph machine, and erect a church sign on the Fayette highway. The church also voted to organize an extension department. This department has provided the home life magazine and monthly visits to the aged members.

In a special called business meeting on October 24, 1955, the brotherhood recommended that the church help the pastor financially. The motion was to pay the pastor \$100.00 to help him in his schooling and \$5.00 a month raise. The vote was 9 for the motion and 9 against. In November the church met in conference and voted to give the pastor \$100.00 bonus and a \$5.00 a week raise.

The church voted in December to adopt the 6 point record system for Sunday school. The church had studied the study course book on the 6 point record system. The church also voted to donate some of the old benches to the Rue school for worship services. A committee was appointed to find a lot for the erection of a pastorum, but in the December meeting of 1955 the same committee asked for more time. In the January meeting of 1956 the church made a motion that a petition be passed over the community for the building of a black top road. Mr. Al Essary and the pastor were requested to carry the petition. The church voted to ordain Brother's Woodrow Prewitt, James Battle and W. L. Smith as deacons. They were to be ordained January 15, 1956. In a special meeting the church met to ordain new deacons for the Mt. Olive Church. They were Bro. James Battle, Bro. Woodrow Prewitt and Bro. W. L. Smith. A report was given by Bro. Patton Brown of the examining of the new deacons. The church voted to continue with the meeting. Rev. C. B. McGee, pastor of Elrod Baptist Church, read the scripture, Rev. Willie Crawford, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, charged the deacons. Rev. B. W. Allen, the pastor of South Highlands Baptist Church, charged the church, and Bro. Grover Berry led the ordainery prayer.

April, 1956, the church voted to pay part of the social security for the pastor. The church also voted to build a new wing to the church and provide bathroom facilities. This resulted in the final plan of building 10 new rooms, of which 2 bathrooms, one office, six Sunday school rooms, a water cooler and a deep well to be drilled. The total cost was approximately \$12,000.00. The church elected five trustees to be responsible for the borrowing of the money to pay for the building. They were Bros. Frank Prewitt, W. L. Smith, Joe Shelby, James Battle and Clyde Channell.

June, 1956, the church voted to give all those graduating from high school a special book on the home and a gift for each senior each year thereafter.

September, 1956, the church discussed the rotating system for the deacons. It was decided for the time being that the rotating system was not necessary.

December, 1956, the church voted to place a bronze plaque over one of the windows in memory of Bro. and Mrs. R. L. Shamblin. The church voted to begin a church library. The room was designated and shelves built. The library has continued to grow with readers and new books.

April, 1957, the church voted to buy the first black board for the downstairs room. From that time additional black boards have been purchased for all Sunday school rooms.

July, 1957, the church voted to send the brotherhood officers to the brotherhood retreat at Shocco Springs.

September, 1957, the church voted to buy a new Baldwin electric organ.

February, 1958, the church voted to send the pastor to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, Texas.

March, 1958, the church appointed a new lot committee for the building of a pastorum. The reason for the discontinuing of the plan to build a pastorum as mentioned before in the church minutes was because Sunday school rooms were needed so badly that the pastorum was postponed. As of March, 1959, a lot has been selected and temporary plans call for the building of a pastorum on the Moores Bridge road by late Summer or Fall. The church also elected Bro. Ellis Hall, Bro. James Holloway, Bro. Sam Sutton, Bro. Vernard Brown, Bro. Lee Hodo, Bro. John Richardson, Bro. S. A. Johnson as trustees.

June, 1958, the church voted to permit the brotherhood to finish the job of sewing grass in the cemetery. The brotherhood also requested that they be permitted to lower all block walls in the cemetery and ask all members to remove all block walls or lower them so that a lawn mower could pass over the wall and cut the grass properly.

September, 1958, the church voted to buy 100 new Baptist Hymnals. In October of 1958 the church voted to enter the program for 6 star churches in Tuscaloosa County known as Six Star Church Improvement Program. A scrap book was to be kept of the church with pictures, and a write up on the church improvement.

December, 1959, the church approved the expenses of all the fruit baskets that were prepared for the needy and elderly people of the community. The church voted to send some of the surplus Broadman Hymnals to the T.B. Sanitorium in Tuscaloosa. The pastor offered to the Mt. Olive Baptist Church his resignation effective on or before October 1, 1959. The church never accepted the resignation and the pastor later withdrew it.

CHAPTER TWO

Associational Reports of Mt. Olive



The following remarks were all taken from the minutes of the Tuscaloosa County Baptist Association. When the names of Mt. Olive's members or the Mt. Olive Church appeared in the minutes they were used in this report. If anything was left out it was through an oversight on my part. As you can well see only a few of the years are missing and the reason for this is due to not being able to find the minutes for that particular year. There are two important things to remember in this history concerning the traveling conditions in the early life of the church. First, horses and wagons were the most dependable means of transportation other than a man's two feet. Sometimes it would be a full days travel from the Dewdrop or what is now the Mt. Olive community to the church where the associational meeting was to be held. Sleeping arrangement was another problem because a person could not make but one trip. So many times the community would have to furnish food and sleeping quarters for the delegates. As means of transportation improved, more and more could go and come back home during the same day. We as members of the Mt. Olive Church owe much more than pen could tell to those men and women who, despite transportation, weather, food and other handicaps, helped to grow a great church and a great Baptist Association that we can enjoy today. Let us give as much if not more to our present church and association, that will be helpful during the coming years. With all of our conveniences we should never try to think of any excuses.

"FORWARD MARCH."

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM OLD RECORDS

September 15, 1877, the Tuscaloosa Baptist Association met at the Mt. Olive Meeting-House. This was the forty-fifth annual session of the Tuscaloosa Baptist Association. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder T. M. Barbour, from 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. "Now concerning the collection for the Saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." The committee on Documents reported Mt. Olive Church applied for a Letter of Dismissal, that they may unite with another association. The association recommended that the Letter be granted. No other information seems to be available as to why this action was taken. It does leave us in the dark just a little.

September 16, 1882, the Tuscaloosa Baptist Association met at Northport, Alabama. The Mt. Olive Church was received into the association and was attached to the fourth district. On this date Mt. Olive gave \$3.00 to all missions. This amount is not included in the associational letter of 1882. The reason probably due to the fact it was given by the delegates at the association meeting.

September 18, 1883, Mt. Olive had two delegates present at the associational meeting: T. D. Parsons and J. H. Watkins.

1884, 1885, 1886, no associational records available. Therefore unable to give a report here.

September 6, 1887, Mt. Olive reported no Sunday school and no prayer-meeting in the associational minutes.

September 4, 1888, Mt. Olive attended the associational meeting at Dunn's Creek with three delegates present; William Brittain, M. Watkins and J. T. Doughty.

September 3, 1889, Mt. Olive sent one delegate to the associational meeting; Brother J. L. Glover. Mt. Olive was asked to give \$5.00 to mission the following year.

September 11, 1890, Mt. Olive delegates attended the associational annual session at Northport, Alabama. C. R. Brittain being the only delegate present. One thing very noticeable up to now in all of the meetings was the fight against king alcohol. The sermon is in print in the 1890 associational minutes, and a very blistering attack on alcohol.

September 8, 1891, Mt. Olive sent H. T. Sturdivant, W. S. Brittain and W. Z. Watkins to the associational meeting at Shultz Creek Baptist Church. Mt. Olive was asked for \$5.00 to missions the following year.

September 6, 1892, Mt. Olive sent J. C. Shamblin, W. N. Bryant and W. M. Watkins as delegates to the associational meeting at Bethany Baptist Church. William Bryant was appointed from Mt. Olive to solicit subscription for the foreign mission journal at Mt. Olive. Mt. Olive again was asked to give \$5.00 to mission the following year.

September 6, 1893, Mt. Olive sent W. M. Watkins, J. C. Shamblin and W. A. Roycroft to the associational meeting at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Mt. Olive was asked \$5.00 for missions. The following query was sent in by the Mt. Olive Church. Query: "Is it necessary that a church shall have written rules for the transaction of its own business?" The association gave the following answer: "It is not necessary to have written rules for a church of Christ, for many exist without anything of the sort. Sometimes it may be advisable."

September 7, 1894, Mt. Olive sent W. N. Bryant, J. C. Shamblin, J. M. Wheat and W. A. Roycroft to the associational meeting at Cottondale, Alabama. Mt. Olive was asked to give \$7.00 to mission the following year.

September 4, 1895, Mt. Olive sent W. N. Bryant, W. M. Watkins to the associational meeting at Flatwoods Baptist Church. W. N. Bryant was appointed by the moderator of the association on the orphanage committee. Mt. Olive was asked for \$10.00 for mission.

September 9, 1896, Mt. Olive sent J. C. Shamblin to the associational meeting at First Baptist Church at Blocton, Alabama. Mt. Olive was asked for \$10.00 for missions.

October 20, 1897, Mt. Olive sent no letter or delegates to the associational meeting.

October 5, 1898, Mt. Olive sent W. M. Watkins and J. M. Wheat to the associational meeting at Mt. Paran Baptist Church.

J. M. Wheat was appointed on a committee for aged ministers. Mt. Olive was asked for \$10.00 for missions the following year.

October 4, 1899, Mt. Olive sent J. F. Hysaw and M. M. Watkins to the associational meeting at Hopewell Baptist Church. M. M. Watkins was appointed on the state mission committee.

October 10, 1900, Mt. Olive sent no letter or delegates to the associational meeting.

1901, no records available.

September 10, 1902, Mt. Olive sent W. M. Watkins and W. N. Bryant to the associational meeting at Brookwood Baptist Church. Mt. Olive was asked for \$10.00 the following year for missions.

September 9, 1903, Mt. Olive sent J. M. Wheat, M. M. Watkins and J. L. Glover to the associational meeting at the Gilgal Baptist Church. Mt. Olive was asked for \$2.50 for the orphans home and to be paid in 90 days if possible. Mt. Olive was asked for \$10.00 for missions for the coming year.

August 31, 1904, Mt. Olive sent S. N. Smelly and J. M. Wheat to the associational meeting at Northport Baptist Church. Mt. Olive agreed to try to raise \$10.00 for missions. A third district Sunday school meeting was planned for Mt. Olive during the year with Brother J. R. Bell acting as Superintendent.

August 30, 1905, Mt. Olive sent J. J. Wheat and M. M. Watkins to the associational meeting at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Mt. Olive was asked to contribute \$15.00 for missions for the coming year.

August 29, 1906, Mt. Olive sent M. M. Watkins and J. L. Glover to the associational meeting at Big Hurricane Baptist Church. Brother W. M. Watkins of Dewdrop (Mt. Olive) was nominated as Executive Committeeman.

August 28, 1907, Mt. Olive sent S. N. Smelly, M. M. Watkins and O. L. Bryant as messengers to the associational meeting at Bethany Baptist Church. Mt. Olive was asked to give \$40.00 to missions for the coming year. M. M. Watkins was appointed as a member of the executive committee.

1908—No record available.

1909—No record available.

August 31, 1910, Mt. Olive was the host church for the associational meeting. W. N. Bryant, R. L. Shamblin, M. M. Watkins and J. L. Wheat were the messengers.

August 30, 1911, Mt. Olive sent as messengers to the associational meeting, W. Z. Watkins, J. W. Shamblin, S. N. Smelley, W. G. Shamblin, J. M. Harrald and M. M. Watkins. Mt. Olive was asked to send \$40.00 for missions the next year.

1912—No record available.

September 3, 1913, Mt. Olive sent as messenger, Brother M. M. Watkins. Mt. Olive was asked to send \$50.00 for missions. Listed below is a month by month of various organizations that were to be contributed to:

January	Orphanage
February	Home Missions
March	Denominational Education
April	State Missions
May	Associational Missions
June	Foreign Missions
July	Sunday School
August	Home Missions
September	Aged Ministers
October	State Missions
November	Ministerial Education
December	Foreign Missions

September 1, 1915, Mt. Olive sent as messengers, M. M. Watkins, Clifton Wheat, F. L. Brown, J. W. Roberts, and J. J. Wheat to the associational meeting at Hopewell Baptist Church. Rev. L. R. Spencer of Mt. Olive led the opening devotional. Mt. Olive was asked to send \$53.00 for missions the next year.

August 30, 1916, Mt. Olive sent as delegates J. L. Wheat, J. J. Wheat, J. L. Brown, M. M. Watkins and S. A. Watkins to the associational meeting at Big Creek Baptist Church. Mt. Olive was asked for \$60.00 for the following year for missions.

August 29, 1917, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting; Brothers J. W. Brown and J. L. Brown. Mt. Olive was asked to raise \$10.00 for the building of a new church at Windham Springs which had burned. Mt. Olive was asked to send \$95.00 for missions the next year.

August 28, 1918, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting; Brother J. L. Brown, J. C. Wheat and J. C. Shamblin at Gilgal Baptist Church. Mt. Olive was asked to send \$105.00 for missions for the following year. Brother J. C. Shamblin was made a member of the Standing Committee for womens work.

September 3, 1919, Mt. Olive sent as delegate, J. L. Brown to the associational meeting at Northport, Alabama. Mt. Olive was asked to subscribe to not less than 17 issues of the Alabama Baptist and send them to her members. S. T. Palmer, associational missionary, credited Mt. Olive with \$24.75 during the past year for missions. The Second District was to meet at Mt. Olive the third Sunday in August. Brother M. M. Watkins of Mt. Olive was to speak on qualifications of Soul Winning.

September 1, 1920, Mt. Olive sent Brother M. M. Watkins as a delegate to the associational meeting at Vance Baptist Church. Mt. Olive was asked for \$10.00 to help buy an automobile for Brother W. M. Olive, the enlistment worker. It was reported the second district meeting had been held at Mt. Olive with Brother M. M. Watkins, Festus Shamblin, R. L. Spencer, R. L. Shamblin, J. C. Shamblin of Mt. Olive having a part on the program.

August 31, 1921, Mt. Olive sent as delegate to the associational meeting, M. Reed. Mt. Olive gave \$6.55 to the associational expenditures.

August 30, 1922, Mt. Olive's delegates attended the associa-

tional meeting at Flat Woods Baptist Church. The minutes did not list the delegates.

August 29, 1923, Mt. Olive sent Brother T. H. Gray, S. A. Watkins, Jimmie Brown and Trudia Montgomery to the associational meeting at Big Sandy Baptist Church.

September 3, 1924, Mt. Olive sent delegates to Bethel Baptist Church. No names were reported as to whom the delegates were. Mt. Olive was asked to help raise \$35,000.00 for missions during the coming year. Mt. Olive apportioned \$650.00.

September 2, 1925, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Duncanville; Brother J. C. Shamblin, J. L. Brown, J. F. Montgomery, S. A. Watkins and J. M. Gray. Mt. Olive was asked to contribute \$500.00 for missions the next year.

September 1, 1926, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Big Hurricane Baptist Church; Brother Lando Montgomery, J. L. Brown, Roscoe Shamblin, T. H. Gray and S. A. Watkins. Brother J. L. Brown was appointed a member of the executive committee. Mt. Olive was requested by the association to contribute \$300.00 to missions. The following motion was made, a motion was made to amend the report of committee on nominations by substituting "Mt. Olive Church," in the place of "Calvary Church," as the place for the next associational meeting. A rising vote called for, and upon a count by the clerk it was announced that there were 24 votes for Mt. Olive Church, and 24 votes for Calvary Church. The moderator then cast his vote for Mt. Olive, and the report was amended as adopted. Roscoe Shamblin and J. L. Brown were appointed on the standing committee.

August 31, 1927, Mt. Olive's delegates to the associational meeting at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church were Lando Montgomery, J. C. Shamblin, T. H. Gray, S. A. Watkins, J. S. Brown, R. L. Shamblin, Trilla Randolph and J. L. Brown. J. L. Brown was appointed on the executive committee and R. L. Shamblin on the standing committee. This meeting at Mt. Olive was the ninety-fifth session of the association. Mt. Olive was asked for \$144.00 for missions the next year. Rev. J. M. Mills announced the Mt. Olive community had prepared the dinner and for all to eat. From the report in the minutes there was feared there would not be enough food. There was enough food with abundance to spare.

August 29, 1928, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Gilgal Baptist Church; Mrs. Trilla Randolph, Dawson Shamblin, T. H. Gray, S. A. Watkins and Lando Montgomery. J. L. Brown was Mt. Olive's representative on the executive committee. Mt. Olive was asked to send \$48.00 to associational mission and \$84.00 to the cooperative program. Here there was a discussion on the mission report of which J. L. Brown took part in the discussion. The report was adopted.

August 28, 1929, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Hopewell Baptist Church; R. D. Shamblin, Florence Shamblin, Trilla Randolph, T. H. Gray, Lando Montgomery, John C. Shamblin and J. L. Brown. J. L. Brown was Mt.

Olive's executive member. Mt. Olive was asked for \$60.00 for associational missions and \$120.00 for cooperative program.

September 3, 1930, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Grants Creek Baptist Church; J. L. Brown, T. H. Gray, John C. Shamblin, Mrs. Trilla Randolph and Mrs. Florence Manly. J. L. Brown was Mt. Olive's executive member. A motion was made by R. L. Shamblin to appoint a committee to raise by private subscription \$75.00 for Little Hurricane Baptist Church, and \$30.00 for Mt. Moriah Church to finish the work on the church. The motion was passed and R. L. Shamblin was appointed as one of the committeemen. Mt. Olive was asked to contribute \$48.00 for associational missions and \$120.00 for the cooperative program.

September 2, 1931, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at the First Baptist Church; T. H. Gray, S. A. Watkins, John C. Shamblin, Mrs. Trilla Randolph and J. B. Brown. J. C. Shamblin was Mt. Olive's executive member. Mrs. Randolph was appointed on the standing committee of women's work. Mt. Olive was asked to contribute \$48.00 for associational missions and \$120.00 for the cooperative program.

August 31, 1932, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Bethany Baptist Church; Brother S. A. Watkins, Trilla Randolph, J. C. Shamblin, T. H. Gray, J. L. Brown and Lando Montgomery. J. C. Shamblin was Mt. Olive's executive member to the association. Rev. J. A. Kyzer, Pastor of Mt. Olive, was to be the alternate to Rev. J. M. Shultz for the introductory sermon in 1933. Rev. J. A. Kyzer was appointed as one of two delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Rev. J. A. Kyzer brought the State Mission report to the associational meeting at 11:10 on September 1st. Mt. Olive was requested to give \$24.00 for associational missions and \$60.00 for the cooperative program. A special session of the Tuscaloosa Baptist Convention was called March 15, 1932, and Mt. Olive sent as delegates to Elrod Baptist Church T. H. Gray and Mrs. Trilla Randolph.

August 30, 1933, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at First Baptist Church; J. L. Brown, S. A. Watkins, Mrs. Author Hitt, Lola Shamblin and Marvin Randolph. J. L. Brown was Mt. Olive's executive member to the association. Rev. J. A. Kyzer was the first pastor from Mt. Olive up until this time to bring the introductory sermon for the association, his text: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

August 29, 1934, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at New Hope; J. L. Brown, J. C. Shamblin, T. H. Gray, S. A. Watkins and Lando Montgomery. Brother J. L. Brown was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. J. C. Shamblin was appointed on the educational committee. Rev. J. A. Kyzer, pastor of Mt. Olive, brought the devotional Thursday, August 30, 1934. Rev. J. A. Kyzer and R. L. Shamblin were appointed on the promotion committee.

August 28, 1935, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Big Sandy Baptist Church; J. C. Shamblin, J. L. Brown, Miss Lola Shamblin, T. H. Gray and Mrs. T. A. Randolph. R. L. Shamblin was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. Rev. J. F. Yancy, Pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist, brought the introductory message. According to the associational minutes Brother Yancy had resigned Alberta Baptist Church, to accept the pastorate of Mt. Olive Baptist. His message was "Excellencies of Christian Religion." His text was taken from 2 Corinthians, fourth chapter, seventh verse.

September 2, 1936, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Brownville; J. C. Shamblin, S. A. Watkins, J. L. Brown, Leroy Gray, Lola Shamblin, Lando Montgomery, Vernard Brown, J. F. Raglar, Florence Shamblin and Mary Lou Wheat. R. L. Shamblin was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman.

September 1, 1937, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Holt Baptist Church; J. L. Brown, S. A. Watkins, J. C. Shamblin, Harrison Brown and Lando Montgomery. J. L. Brown was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. Rev. J. F. Yancy, pastor of Mt. Olive, gave the report on Benevolence. J. C. Shamblin was appointed on the nomination's committee. R. L. Shamblin along with five other men made contributions to eliminate the associational debt. Bro. J. C. Shamblin gave \$5.00.

August 31, 1938, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Northport Baptist Church; J. L. Brown, Mrs. Horace Brown, Lando Montgomery, Miss Florence Montgomery, J. C. Shamblin and S. A. Watkins. J. L. Brown was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. A motion was made in the meeting to raise enough money to pay off the associational debt. Mt. Olive gave \$5.00 and R. L. Shamblin gave a personal gift of \$10.00.

September 13, 1939, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Dunn's Creek; J. L. Brown, Lando Montgomery, Horace Brown, E. H. Brown and J. D. Richardson. Brother Lando Montgomery was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman and also on the finance committee.

September 11, 1940, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Big Sandy Baptist Church; J. L. Brown, J. C. Shamblin, Horace Brown, Mrs. S. A. Johnson and Lando Montgomery. J. L. Brown was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. Rev. J. F. Yancy, Pastor, led the opening devotion.

September 17, 1941, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Calvary Baptist Church; S. A. Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Shamblin, E. H. Brown, J. L. Brown, Lando Montgomery and Steve Wedgeworth. Lando Montgomery was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman.

September 16, 1942, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at First Baptist Church; Lando Montgomery, R. C. Waldrop, R. L. Shamblin, Miss Mable D. Watkins, Dewey Richardson and E. H. Brown. Lando Montgomery was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. Mt. Olive was asked to contribute \$12.00 toward the associational budget.

September 13, 1943, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Northport Baptist Church; R. C. Waldrop, Lando Montgomery, Mrs. O. D. Morris, Mrs. S. A. Watkins, J. C. Shamblin, E. H. Brown and Horace Brown. Mt. Olive was asked to contribute \$20.00 for associational budget.

September 13, 1944, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Mt. Olive Baptist Church; Horace Brown, S. A. Watkins, Vernard Brown, E. H. Brown, Mrs. S. A. Johnson, R. L. Shamblin and Patton Brown. Lando Montgomery was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman and appointed to serve as the standing committee for the children's home. Just before the lunch hour a motion was made and passed that an offering be taken and left in the treasury of Mt. Olive Church. This offering amounted to \$26.88 and was divided, giving one half to associational missions and the other half to the cooperative program. Several churches including Mt. Olive were commended by Mr. C. W. Gross on increased membership. Mt. Olive was asked for \$20.00 for the associational year. A motion was made as follows, "We, your committee on resolution, desire to express the thanks of the entire association to the Mt. Olive Church and the other people of this community for the gracious and generous hospitality shown us all on this day, September 13, 1944."

September 12, 1945, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at First Baptist Church; Lando Montgomery, R. L. Shamblin, Mrs. R. L. Shamblin, Patton Brown, Sam Watkins and Mrs. Erma Montgomery. Lando Montgomery was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman, and on the committee for the orphans home. Mt. Olive was asked to contribute \$20.00 to the associational budget.

September 11, 1946, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Calvary Baptist Church; Miss Evelyn Bailey, Sam Watkins, Miss Era Mae Brown, Patton Brown, Jim Montgomery, Harrison Brown, Monroe Montgomery, Dewey Richardson, Miss Sara Emma Smith and O. R. Grimes. Mt. Olive's executive committeeman was O. R. Grimes. Lando Montgomery was a member of nominations committee. The afternoon devotional was brought by Rev. Charles Thomas, pastor of the Mt. Olive Church. Mt. Olive was asked to contribute \$24.00 for associational budget. Rev. Charles Thomas, pastor, was appointed a member of the Evangelism Committee.

September 17, 1947, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Northport Baptist Church; Lando Montgomery, Mrs. S. A. Johnson, Patton Brown, S. A. Watkins, J. C. Shamblin, E. H. Brown, O. R. Grimes and Mrs. Dorothy Essary. D. P. Brown was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. Rev. Charles Thomas was appointed as a member of the Evangelism Committee. Lando Montgomery was appointed to be a member of the orphans home committee. Rev. Charles Thomas was appointed as the nominations committee and preached the introductory sermon entitled, "Christian Influence." His message was taken from Matthew 5:13-16.

September 8, 1949, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Chapel Hill; Miss Anita Smith, Miss Evelyn Bailey, Mrs. E. H. Brown, Mr. Patton Brown, Mr. O. R. Grimes, Mr. Monroe Montgomery, Mrs. Dorothy Essary, Mrs. Woodrow Prewitt, Mrs. Deskie Wedgeworth and Mr. Jim Montgomery. O. R. Grimes was Mt. Olive's committeeman. Lando Montgomery was appointed to the committee on the orphans home. Mt. Olive was asked to contribute for the next year to the cooperative program \$50.00 and \$36.00 for associational missions.

September 6, 1949, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at First Baptist Church and Bibbville Church; Lando Montgomery, Mrs. Lando Montgomery, Mrs. S. A. Johnson, E. H. Brown, Mrs. E. H. Brown, Patton Brown, A. T. Essary, Mrs. A. T. Essary, and Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Grimes. Mt. Olive's executive committeeman was O. R. Grimes. Lando Montgomery was again appointed to the orphans home committee.

September 6, 1950, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at West End Church; O. R. Grimes, Mr. and Mrs. Lando Montgomery, Mrs. Trilla Randolph, Patton Brown, James Montgomery, Mrs. S. A. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Brown and Joe Shelby. Mt. Olive's executive committeeman was O. R. Grimes.

September 5, 1951, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Alberta; Patton Brown, Joe Shelby, H. B. Walker, Mrs. Montgomery, Louise Smith, Bessie Lou Gray, Barbara Spencer, Mrs. Helen Snider, Betty Bailey and Monroe Montgomery. Mt. Olive's executive committeeman was Patton Brown.

October 14, 1952, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Calvary Church; Mrs. E. H. Brown, Lando Montgomery, Mrs. S. A. Johnson, Joe Shelby, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Grimes. Mt. Olive's executive committeeman was O. R. Grimes. Rev. L. D. Brookshire was introduced as the new pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

October 13, 1953, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Southside; Mr. and Mrs. Lando Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Montgomery, Clyde Channell, Mrs. Dewey Richardson, Mrs. E. H. Brown, Mrs. S. A. Johnson, William Smith and Patton Brown.

October 12, 1954, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at the First Baptist Church; Patton Brown, S. A. Watkins, Lando Montgomery, Clyde Channell and Mrs. Joe Shelby. Joe Shelby was executive committeeman. Rev. Jerome Robinson, pastor, was appointed on the resolution committee. Mt. Olive was recognized as one of the top five churches in the association during the past year in baptisms, with 60. Mt. Olive was recognized as a Six Star Church.

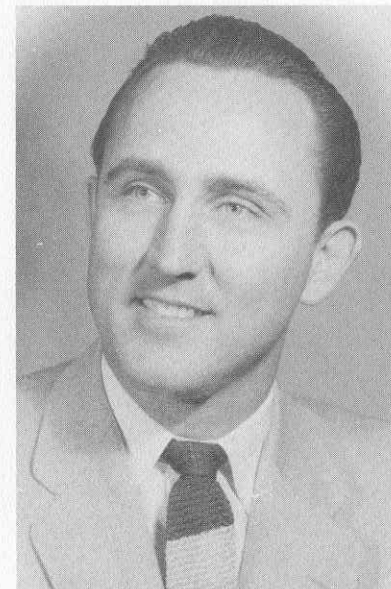
October 11, 1955, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Forrest Lake; Mr. and Mrs. Lando Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Brown and Mrs. S. A. Johnson. Joe Shelby was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. Rev. Jerome S. Robin-

son, pastor of Mt. Olive, was appointed on the evangelism committee and nominated to preach the introductory sermon in 1956.

October 16, 1956, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Northport; W. L. Smith, Patton Brown, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Brown. S. A. Johnson was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman for the year. Rev. Jerome Robinson was appointed on the public relations committee. W. L. Smith was appointed on the standing committee. Rev. Jerome Robinson, pastor of Mt. Olive, spoke on, "These Issues We Baptist Must Face." Scripture reference was Acts 8:1-3. In reporting on the Six Star Program in the churches, Rev. Carol Hatchel recognized eight churches of which Mt. Olive was one as being Six Star. In a discussion with the pastor of the Mt. Olive Church the following facts were revealed. Since Mt. Olive Church had adopted a unified budget less than three years ago, the offerings had tripled, the number of tithers had more than doubled, the budget had increased each year, and the members were satisfied with the budget.

October 15, 1957, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at Calvary; Mrs. E. H. Brown, Clyde Channell, Mrs. Lando Montgomery, Mrs. Ellis Hall and Mrs. Clytee Holloway. Woodrow Prewitt was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. Rev. Jerome Robinson was appointed on the social service committee. Mrs. S. A. Johnson was appointed as young peoples leader in Training Union work. Rev. Jerome Robinson was appointed pastor advisor for Brotherhood work. Fifteen churches were recognized as Six Star Churches and Mt. Olive being one of these.

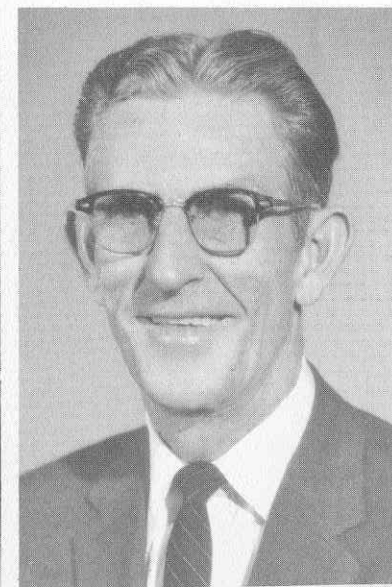
October 14, 1958, Mt. Olive sent as delegates to the associational meeting at the Alberta Baptist Church; Mrs. E. H. Brown, Frank Prewitt, Patton Brown, Mrs. Joe Shelby and Lando Montgomery. W. W. Prewitt was Mt. Olive's executive committeeman. Rev. Jerome Robinson was appointed on the memorials committee, Woodrow Prewitt, associate Training Union director, Mrs. S. A. Johnson, Young Peoples Leader, and Miss Louise Smith, Beginners Leader. Mt. Olive was recognized as a Six Star Church. Mt. Olive's church clerk, Mrs. S. A. Johnson, received a grade of 99 on the church letter. Mt. Olive and First Baptist were selected as the churches for the next associational meeting in 1959.



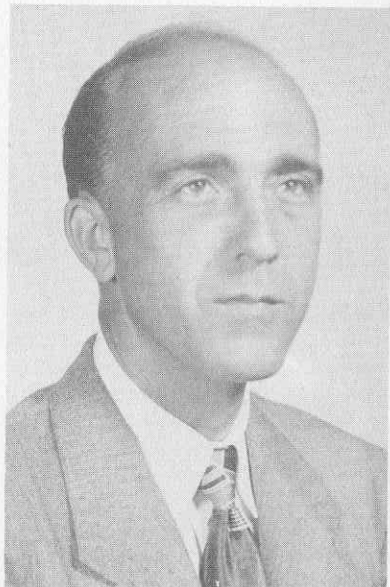
JEROME ROBINSON



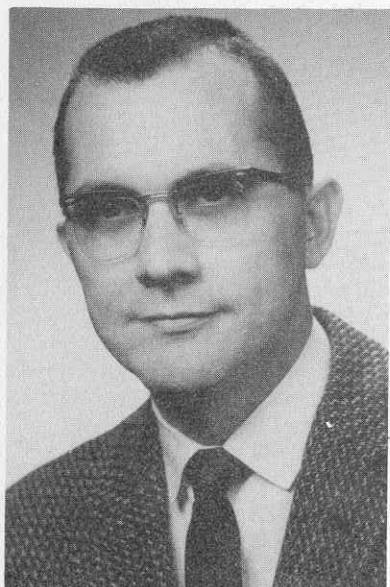
J. C. KYZER



J. E. DONAHUE



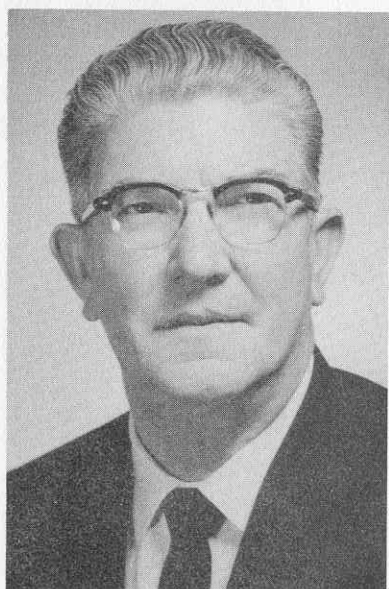
CHARLES THOMAS



ROBERT BROWN



J. F. GOREE



J. T. SWANN



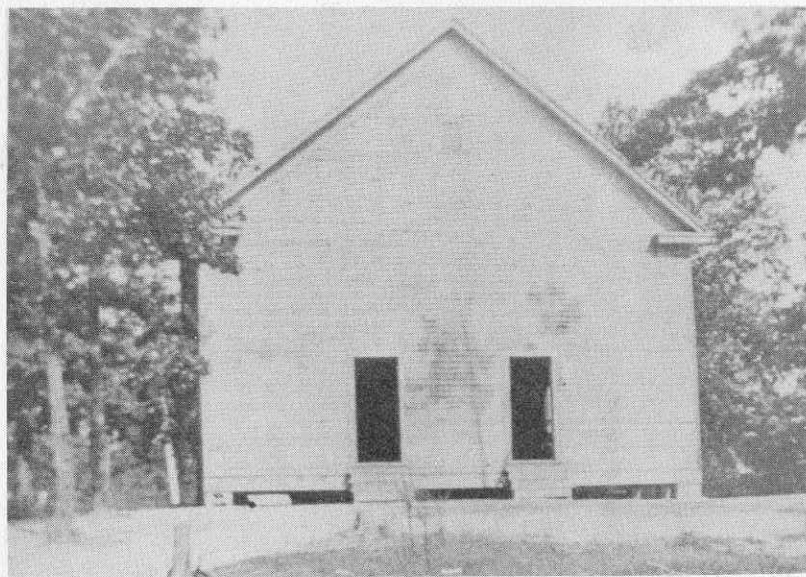
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PICTURE NO. 2



PICTURE NO. 3



PICTURE NO. 4



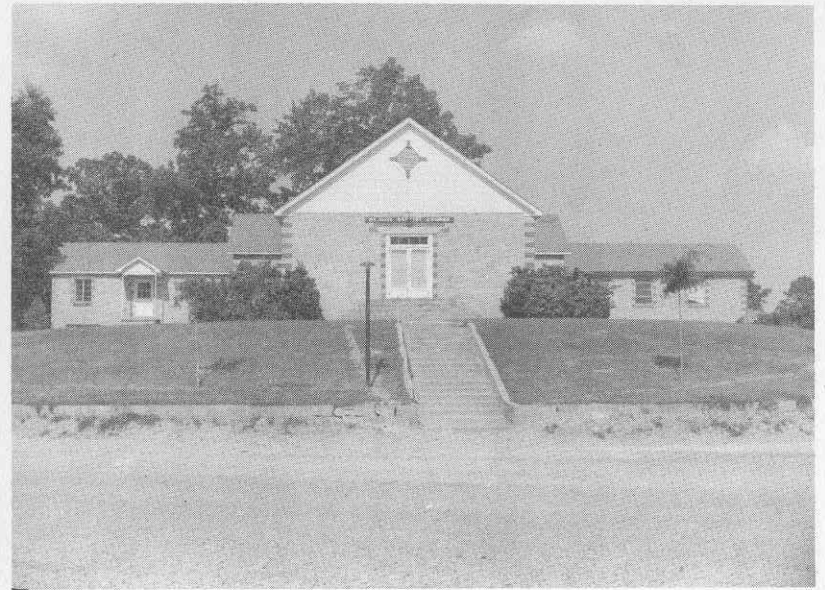
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PICTURE NO. 7



PICTURE NO. 9



PICTURE NO. 8



PICTURE NO. 10



PICTURE NO. 11



PICTURE NO. 12

CHAPTER THREE

Statistics of Church Growth



PASTORS

Year	Pastor	Baptisms	Letters	Salary
1882	J. M. Anders.....	0	0	*
1883	J. M. Anders.....	4	1	*
1884	No records .....	.....	.....	.....
1885	No records .....	.....	.....	.....
1886	No records .....	.....	.....	.....
1887	S. E. Hodge.....	0	0	*
	(One excluded from church)			
1888	J. Barnett	0	0	*
1889	Felix Mills	0	5	*
1890	Felix Mills	0	0	*
1891	Felix Mills	2	4	*
1892	J. M. Anders.....	1	12	*
	(One excluded from church)			
1893	J. M. Anders.....	17	2	*
1894	J. M. Anders.....	4	3	*
1895	J. M. Anders.....	9	5	*
1896	J. M. Anders.....	3	6	\$ 25.00
1897	No Pastor	0	0	*
1898	J. M. Anders.....	0	0	*
1899	J. M. Anders.....	10	0	*
	(Three excluded)			
1900	No records .....	.....	.....	.....
1901	No records .....	.....	.....	.....
1902	C. R. Miller.....	11	10	56.00
1903	J. M. Anders.....	0	0	*
1904	J. M. Anders.....	0	0	25.00
1905	S. E. Hodge.....	9	5	*
1906	S. E. Hodge.....	.....	.....	25.00
1907	S. E. Hodge.....	.....	**	*
1908	No records .....	.....	.....	*
1909	No records .....	.....	.....	*
1910	L. R. Spencer.....	12	9	52.90
1911	L. R. Spencer.....	10	3	65.00
1912	No records .....	.....	.....	.....
1913	S. E. Hodge.....	21	1	*
	(One excluded)			
1914	No records .....	.....	.....	.....
1915	L. R. Spencer.....	17	2	64.60
1916	L. R. Spencer.....	1	2	62.00
	(One excluded)			
1917	S. W. Clements.....	5	2	61.65
1918	S. W. Clements.....	12	0	101.02
	(One excluded)			
1919	No Pastor	6	3	88.26

*Unreported.

**No Letter.

Year	Pastor	Baptisms	Letters	Salary
1920	L. R. Spencer..... (Two excluded)	6	2	100.00
1921	No Pastor .....		**	.....
1922	L. R. Spencer.....	0	0	100.00
1923	L. R. Spencer.....	4	0	48.65
1924	J. M. Mills.....	15	2	200.05
1925	J. M. Mills.....	10	2	160.00
1926	J. M. Mills.....	3	1	180.00
1927	J. M. Mills.....	0	1	190.00
1928	C. Jackson	13	2	96.60
1929	J. L. Clements.....	3	1	63.85
1930	J. L. Clements.....	0	0	89.85
1931	J. A. Kyzer.....	4	9	91.54
1932	J. A. Kyzer.....	3	3	69.00
1933	J. A. Kyzer.....	10	0	72.08
1934	J. A. Kyzer.....	5	0	55.20
1935	J. F. Yancey.....	0	0	46.37
1936	J. F. Yancey.....	4	0	96.00
1937	J. F. Yancey.....	0	4	87.50
1938	J. F. Yancey.....	0	0	122.00
1939	J. F. Yancey.....	0	0	105.00
1940	J. F. Yancey.....	15	0	105.24
1941	J. F. Goree.....	0	0	129.41
1942	J. F. Goree.....	12	0	199.51
1943	J. F. Goree.....	12	7	256.43
1944	J. T. Swann and Charles Thomas	22	9	183.31
1945	Charles Thomas	8	6	448.89
1946	Charles Thomas	4	2	610.76
1947	Charles Thomas	4	2	609.00
1948	Robert Brown	10	2	652.92
1949	Robert Brown	15	1	579.12
1950	Robert Brown	6	4	704.00
1951	J. E. Donahue.....	13	6	790.00
1952	J. E. Donahue and L. D. Brookshire	4	5	1,571.00
1953	L. D. Brookshire (10 mo.) Jerome Robinson (1 mo.)	1	6	2,282.00
1954	Jerome Robinson	60	15	2,839.00
1955	Jerome Robinson	21	18	3,801.00
1956	Jerome Robinson	9	3	4,210.00
1957	Jerome Robinson	30	2	4,420.00
1958	Jerome Robinson	17	4	4,745.00

**No Letter.

FINANCIAL RECORDS OF MT. OLIVE

Year	Treasurer	Total Received	Missions	Value of Property
1882	No name given.....	\$ 1.25	.....	*
1883	J. T. Doughty.....	5.00	\$ 3.00	*
1884	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1885	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1886	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1887	John Jordan	1.35	.....	.....
1888	John Jordan	*	*	*
1889	W. S. Brittain	1.40	0	*
1890	W. S. Brittain .....	.75	0	50.00
1891	W. S. Brittain	*	*	*
1892	W. S. Brittain .....	.75	*	*
1893	W. S. Brittain	1.15	*	100.00
1894	J. C. Shamblin.....	1.50	0	50.00
1895	W. N. Bryant .....	.80	*	225.00
1896	J. C. Kyzer	26.35	*	250.00
1897	No record available.....	**	**	**
1898	J. C. Shamblin.....	1.50	*	*
1899	W. N. Bryant.....	5.15	3.40	250.00
1900	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1901	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1902	J. C. Shamblin.....	63.73	4.18	250.00
1903	M. M. Watkins.....	2.70	1.70	300.00
1904	M. M. Watkins.....	31.50	2.50	300.00
1905	J. C. Shamblin.....	94.81	12.00	500.00
1906	J. C. Shamblin.....	47.25	11.65	500.00
1907	No Letter sent in.....	.....	.....	.....
1908	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1909	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1910	M. M. Watkins.....	80.94	2.94	400.00
1911	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1912	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1913	J. C. Shamblin.....	22.00	4.50	500.00
1914	No record available.....	.....	.....	.....
1915	J. L. Wheat.....	95.25	1.24	500.00
1916	J. L. Wheat.....	134.00	7.23	1,150.00
1917	J. C. Wheat.....	106.00	16.36	1,150.00
1918	J. C. Wheat.....	199.31	27.05	1,150.00
1919	J. C. Wheat.....	199.00	37.20	1,150.00
1920	J. C. Wheat.....	550.74	185.08	1,150.00
1921	No record .....	.....	.....	.....
1922	J. C. Wheat.....	155.00	15.00	1,150.00
1923	S. A. Watkins.....	92.00	.00	1,200.00
1924	S. A. Watkins.....	292.00	33.00	3,000.00
1925	S. A. Watkins.....	260.00	14.00	3,000.00
1926	Not listed	242.00	57.55	3,000.00
1927	J. C. Shamblin.....	261.85	.00	3,000.00

*Names
Taken*

Year	Treasurer	Total Received	Missions	Value of Property
1928	J. C. Shamblin.....	267.71	22.50	3,000.00
1929	J. C. Shamblin.....	188.24	81.85	3,000.00
1930	J. C. Shamblin.....	194.95	46.50	3,000.00
1931	J. C. Shamblin.....	244.60	53.81	3,000.00
1932	J. C. Shamblin.....	69.00	.00	3,000.00
1933	J. C. Shamblin.....	99.13	26.01	3,000.00
1934	J. C. Shamblin.....	93.17	37.00	3,000.00
1935	J. C. Shamblin.....	112.11	19.12	3,000.00
1936	J. C. Shamblin.....	122.92	25.17	*
1937	J. C. Shamblin.....	175.82	42.70	*
1938	J. C. Shamblin.....	221.00	27.50	*
1939	J. C. Shamblin.....	122.00	31.45	3,000.00
1940	J. C. Shamblin.....	154.56	19.70	3,000.00
1941	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	203.38	16.47	3,000.00
		622.00	on repair of old bldg.	
1942	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	277.22	22.31	3,000.00
1943	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	529.37	70.25	3,000.00
1944	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	601.56	71.35	3,000.00
1945	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	915.03	165.04	3,000.00
1946	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	1,090.47	91.17	3,000.00
1947	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	1,263.00	99.00	15,000.00
		5,208.00	on Building Fund	
1948	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	1,344.56	157.17	15,000.00
		139.83	on Building Fund	
1949	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	1,229.50	192.67	15,000.00
1950	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	2,821.00	157.00	15,000.00
1951	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	2,034.00	244.00	15,000.00
1952	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	4,886.00	244.00	15,000.00
1953	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	3,806.55	368.26	15,000.00
1954	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	6,661.62	421.73	15,000.00
1955	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	8,097.99	474.72	15,000.00
1956	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	9,505.90	1,499.07	30,000.00
1957	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	11,642.00	965.00	30,000.00
1958	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	13,048.00	1,623.00	50,000.00

*Unreported.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRESS AT MT. OLIVE

Year	Superintendent	Enrolled	Average Attendance
1892	M. M. Watkins.....	25	*
1893	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1894	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1895	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1896	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1897	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1898	M. M. Watkins.....	30	*
1899	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1900	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1901	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1902	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1903	No Superintendent reported.....	30	*
1904	No Superintendent reported.....	45	*
1905	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1906	G. W. Brown.....	50	*
1907	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1908	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1909	No Sunday School.....	....	*
1910	R. L. Shamblin.....	70	*
1911	R. L. Shamblin.....	**	*
1912	No records.....	....	....
1913	R. L. Shamblin.....	100	*
1914	No records.....	....	....
1915	R. L. Shamblin.....	113	*
1916	R. L. Shamblin.....	100	*
1917	R. L. Shamblin.....	100	*
1918	R. L. Shamblin.....	100	*
1919	R. L. Shamblin.....	85	*
1920	R. L. Shamblin.....	66	*
1921	No report.....	**	*
1922	R. L. Shamblin.....	59	24
1923	R. L. Shamblin.....	70	50
1924	R. L. Shamblin.....	101	60
1925	R. L. Shamblin.....	105	50
1926	R. L. Shamblin.....	**	50
1927	R. L. Shamblin.....	**	50
1928	R. L. Shamblin.....	61	*
1929	R. L. Shamblin.....	60	40
1930	R. L. Shamblin.....	103	70
1931	T. H. Gray.....	97	65
1932	J. L. Wheat.....	103	68
1933	J. L. Wheat.....	149	*
1934	S. A. Watkins.....	120	*

*Unreported.

**No report.

Year	Superintendent	Enrolled	Average Attendance
1935	J. C. Shamblin	75	*
1936	J. C. Shamblin	89	*
1937	J. C. Shamblin	94	*
1938	J. L. Brown	82	*
1939	R. L. Shamblin	101	*
1940	Lando Montgomery	108	*
1941	Lando Montgomery	118	75
1942	Lando Montgomery	120	75
1943	Lando Montgomery	119	77
1944	Patton Brown	126	55
1945	Patton Brown	128	58
1946	Lando Montgomery	126	75
1947	Patton Brown	122	64
1948	O. R. Grimes	135	60
1949	O. R. Grimes	142	60
1950	O. R. Grimes	119	75
1951	Patton Brown	114	75
1952	O. R. Grimes	111	.....
1953	Joe Shelby	126	69
1954	Joe Shelby	162	106
1955	Joe Shelby	177	133
1956	Joe Shelby	156	122
1957	Joe Shelby	190	126
1958	Joe Shelby	196	134

*Unreported.

TRAINING UNION PROGRESS

Year	Director	Enrolled	Average Attendance
1925	J. G. Brown	*	*
1926	Lando Montgomery	23	*
1927	Unreported	25	*
1928	No Union	.....	.....
1929	No Union	.....	.....
1930	Unreported	20	*
1931	No Union	.....	.....
1932	No Union	.....	.....
1933	No Union	.....	.....
1934	No Union	.....	.....
1935	No Union	.....	.....
1936	No Union	.....	.....
1937	No Union	.....	.....
1938	No Union	.....	.....
1939	No Union	.....	.....
1940	No Union	.....	.....
1941	Mrs. S. A. Johnson	20	*
1942	Mrs. S. A. Johnson	*	*
One Intermediate Union only			
1943	Mrs. S. A. Johnson	30	*
1944	Mrs. S. A. Johnson	83	*
1945	Mrs. S. A. Johnson	51	.....
1946	Mrs. S. A. Johnson	55	.....
1947	O. R. Grimes	45	25
1948	O. R. Grimes	39	20
1949	O. R. Grimes	48	30
1950	O. R. Grimes	80	50
1951	W. L. Smith	84	50
1952	W. L. Smith	88	44
1953	W. L. Smith	98	60
1954	W. L. Smith	142	83
1955	W. L. Smith	150	108
1956	W. L. Smith	133	99
1957	W. L. Smith	127	95
1958	W. W. Prewitt	121	95

*Unreported.

W. M. U. PROGRESS

Year	Presidents	Enrolled	Church Tithers
1928	Mrs. Trilla Randolph.....	12	2
1929	Mrs. Trilla Randolph.....	10	*
1930	Mrs. Trilla Randolph.....	12	*
1931	None .....	.....	.....
1932	None .....	.....	.....
1933	None .....	.....	.....
1934	Mrs. W. M. Brown.....	*	*
1935	Miss Mary Lou Wheat.....	*	*
1936	Miss Mary Lou Wheat.....	*	*
1937	Mrs. Steve Wedgeworth.....	10	*
1938	Mrs. Steve Wedgeworth.....	*	*
1939	Mrs. Steve Wedgeworth.....	*	*
1940	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	*	*
1941	Mrs. R. L. Shamblin.....	18	*
1942	Mrs. R. L. Shamblin.....	*	*
1943	Mrs. R. L. Shamblin.....	20	*
1944	Mrs. R. L. Shamblin.....	30	*
1945	Mrs. R. L. Shamblin.....	30	*
1946	.....	.....	.....
1947	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	15	*
1948	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	20	*
1949	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	20	*
1950	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	20	*
1951	Mrs. H. B. Walker.....	45	*
1952	Mrs. W. R. Montgomery.....	20	25
1953	Mrs. W. R. Montgomery.....	20	25
1954	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	17	21
1955	Mrs. S. A. Johnson.....	56	25
1956	Mrs. W. L. Smith.....	74	44
1957	Mrs. E. H. Brown.....	37	55
1958	Mrs. E. H. Brown.....	37	53

BROTHERHOOD PROGRESS

Year	Presidents	Enrolled	Children's Home Contributions
1955	Woodrow Prewitt	38	\$ 76.00
1956	Woodrow Prewitt	32	300.00
1957	Woodrow Prewitt	36	303.00
1958	Patton Brown	30	360.00

CHAPTER FOUR

Deceased Members Since 1926



IN MEMORY

"The memory of the just is blessed." Proverbs 10:7. The Bible says, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." Rev. 14: 13. We are called upon each year to give from our church members who have lived Godly lives. We give them up with the assurance of the blessed hope of being united with them in Glory where death shall be no more. Paul said, "O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?" The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. "But thanks be unto God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED DECEASED MEMBERS

1926— Dr. J. M. Wheat	1934— Mrs. Matilda Crowder Mrs. Sallie Brown Elder G. W. Brown Mrs. Maudé Brittain — <i>aunt</i>
1927— None	1935— None
1928— None	1936— Mr. Rufus Cook Mrs. Permela Roycroft — <i>Grandma</i> Mr. John B. Wedgeworth Mrs. Margaret McDaniel Mrs. Leaney Sanders
1929— Elder W. N. Bryant	1937— Mrs. Annie Corder Mr. James Smelley
1930— Mr. W. F. Brown	1938— None
1931— Mrs. R. L. Shamblin Mrs. W. M. Watkins	1939— Miss Willie Mae Brown Mrs. Adline Glover Mrs. Mary Folley
1932— Mr. Robert McDaniel <i>Cousin</i> — Miss Adell Brittain Mrs. May L. Price Mrs. W. N. Bryant Mrs. Affie Wright	
1933— Mr. T. F. Montgomery	

1940— None	1950— Mrs. Norman Beck Mrs. Marcella Roberts
1941— Mr. Jimmy Gray Mrs. Theo Hysaw Mrs. Gennie Brown Mrs. Ann Wheat Mrs. Mary Sanders	1951— Mr. Elijah Folley
1942— Deacon J. J. Wheat	1952— Mr. Steve Wedgeworth Mr. Tom Roycroft - <i>uncle</i> Mr. John C. Shamblin Mr. Henry Hatch Mr. Hugo Hendricks
1943— None	
1944— Mr. Marion Harrell Mrs. Marion Harrell	1953— None
1945— None	1954— Mr. Tommy Richardson - <i>cousin</i>
1946— Mrs. Maude Prewitt	1955— Mr. Sam Gray Mr. Lonnie Brittain - <i>uncle</i>
1947— Deacon R. L. Shamblin Mrs. Jadie Cleary	1956— Mrs. O. L. Bryant Miss Becky Crowder Mr. W. J. Roberts Mrs. Cora Cook
1948— Mr. Dave Brown Mrs. Sarah E. Brown Mrs. Mary Montgomery	1957— Mrs. Lizzie Cook
1949— Mrs. Artie Brown Mr. Victor Duncan Mrs. Fannie Gray Mrs. J. B. Richardson	1958— Mr. Olen Noland Mr. Reynolds Rogers Mr. E. W. Bailey, Jr.

CHAPTER FIVE

Brief Comments of Church, Pastors and Pictures



FACTS ABOUT CHURCH AND PASTORS

The first building the Mt. Olive Church ever used was a one room log church. The church was located approximately 100 yards below where the Mt. Olive School now stands on the left going toward the Moore's Bridge road. The old log church had two windows in it. One was behind the pulpit and the other was on the side. The church had two doors. One of the doors was in front and this door was called the men's door. The door on the side of the building was called the ladies' door. When a couple came to church the lady would usually separate from the husband and go to the side of the church and go in through the ladies' door. The men would come in the front. The men usually sat on one side of the house and the ladies on the other. The only means of heating the church was by a large pot-bellied stove. One would usually burn on one side and freeze on the other. The roof was covered with wooden shingles. The pews were some half logs with legs on them, however, some benches with backs were made later to replace the half logs. The lighting system for the church consisted of some kerosene lamps sitting on stands along the wall. Some churches burned pineknots for lights, but Mt. Olive was using a more modern method.

Out in front of the church was a horse-block. This block was made for the ladies to mount their horses and to dismount. It was nothing unusual to see the ladies ride a horse to the church. Most would come by wagon, but a few rode buggies. Some stories are told of the ladies coming to church barefooted. When they were in sight of the church they would put their shoes on. After church was over they would take them off again after they got down the trail apiece. The church was the only place to go for the old and young alike.

Brother Anders was the pastor in 1882. He was a large, raw-boned man. In the pulpit he had an equally strong voice. No one had trouble hearing him. He wore a beard some three or four inches long, but not a mustache. He was a very spiritual man. As he preached the gospel his face seemed to glow. A story is told of one occasion when he was preaching in the second church which was located in the same location the present building rests. As Bro. Anders was preaching on Sunday morning, one of the church member's mules was having hornet trouble. Someone had stirred up a hornets nest, and the member who owned the mule stood up in the middle of the service by the window and yelled very loudly, "Woe mule, Woe there." The preached never missed a word, just kept on preaching.

The church had no type of music until the year 1918. Everyone was encouraged to sing. They had a pocket size hymn book which they carried with them. In 1918 the church talked about

the old pump organ and how badly they needed one; but, as usual, some thought it was a devil's music box. Much discussion took place over whether to buy one or not. Finally on the day set aside for the singing, a company in Tuscaloosa brought one out, by wagon, to the church; and that Sunday the organ was used for the first time. The men raised twenty dollars to pay on the eighty dollar organ. The company let the church buy it for sixty dollars. Some of the members opposed the church buying the organ, but it was purchased and in a few months all seemed satisfied. Bro. Z. T. Bryant was the first organist the church ever had. Bro. O. L. Bryant was the first elected song director. Up until the church bought the organ anyone they could get to volunteer from the congregation would serve.

During the period around 1900 there were some good revivals, and a whole lot of shouting was going on at Mt. Olive. The revival was the second Sunday in October in 1882 until 1917. In 1892 over seventeen were converted and some unusual things happened. Each day at ten A.M. the people would have prayer meeting. They would leave their crops and come in from the fields and go and pray. From this the spirit began to work in the hearts of many. The revival was scheduled to close on Friday night and the pastor was leaving the community, but he went by the church. In a little while others had come to the church and the meeting continued on and others were saved. Brother O. L. Bryant was the last one converted. He waited until the invitation was over and the benediction was about to be pronounced and he came forward to the altar, and the Lord saved him. Today he is eighty-seven years old. Much of the information in this chapter was related by him.

Education in Alabama during the 80's and 90's was hard to get. More harder than you can realize and a study of Alabama history would be necessary to understand the need. The community was responsible for providing education for the young people and three months a year was considered a good school year. The church building was always depended upon to serve as the school house. In about the year 1908 a state law was passed that would pay half the cost of erecting a school house if the community would pay the other half. The Mt. Olive school was then built so that the children might have a place to go to school. The church had always served this purpose until now.

Old Aunt Flora was a name remembered by many of the old timers of Mt. Olive. Aunt Flora was an old negro woman who was loved and respected by the entire community. She had been a slave until she was freed by President Lincoln through the Civil War. She attended the Mt. Olive Church. She would take care of the babies if they cried. She always attended the grove prayer meetings preceding the revival services. She would usually sit in the back of the building, unless the babies demanded attention. On one occasion an old hymn was being sung. The name of the song was, "Heavenly Sunlight," and everybody in the church that would shout was shouting. That is, except the song leader, organ

player, the preacher and Aunt Flora. The preacher looked at Aunt Flora as he was standing and said, "Aunt Flora you can shout if you want to," and she did. Aunt Flora was a jack of all trades, but she excelled in helping sick folks get well. One man in the community was having fits, so Aunt Flora said she knew a remedy that would cure him or kill him. She was permitted to use her remedy. She pulled his shirt off as you would a knit sweater over your head (inside out) and burned it. The story goes that he got better.

The following is a report on the eight pastors who have passed on to glory. Brother O. L. Bryant furnished this information from memory the best he could.

Brother H. M. Anders served the church for about 12 or 14 years. Some of the records are lost and cannot be determined. About fifty people united with the church by baptism and about thirty-eight by letter. No record was kept as to how much salary was paid to him for his services. He was a preacher who could preach "Hell fire and Brimstone." On one occasion Brother Anders came into the community to preach the next day. The weather was so cold and he was almost frozen when he arrived. He was so cold he couldn't put his horse up for the night. We owe much to men like this. You have already read about his traits and characteristics so we will omit them.

Brother S. E. Hodge was the second pastor the Mt. Olive Church ever had. He served one year in 1887, and then again in 1905. That term was from 1905 until 1907. He left and was called back again in 1913. In 1913 twenty-one united with the church by baptism and one by letter.

Brother J. Barrett served the Mt. Olive Church only one year. This was the year 1888. Brother Barrett was a man of small stature. He was a coal miner. No additions recorded while he was the pastor. It is said that while he was at Mt. Olive he was in bad need of finances. He asked some of the men of the church to go on a note for him. All of the men refused and he had to leave and move back to Kellerman, Alabama. Some of the men were good hearted enough to help him move back on a wagon. No one knows why they wouldn't go on the note for him unless it was during hard times.

Brother Felix Mills became the pastor in 1889. He was considered a well educated man for his time. He was a deep preacher in the scriptures. He was a Civil War Veteran. Brother Mills was a man of medium size and wore a mustache as most men did then. Only two people were received into the church by baptism while he was at Mt. Olive. Nine members were received by letter.

In the year about 1894 the church was moved from down under the hill to the present location. The reason for the move was that the location seemed to be a better church site. There wasn't any disagreement at all on the part of the church members when it was moved. Mr. Monroe Barringer at Big Creek furnished the lumber for the church to be built at eight dollars per thousand feet. The church was built with green lumber.

*mine
Robert
Cowan*

Brother C. R. Miller served the church for one year. The year of 1902. During that time there were eleven additions to the church by baptism, and ten by letter. His salary for that period was recorded at fifty-six dollars for the entire year. This is the second time we find where the salary of the pastor was recorded up until now. The first salary was paid to Brother Anders during the year of 1896, which was twenty-five dollars. One year not recorded, but by memory of Brother Bryant, the church paid him five dollars for one year's service, which was taken up on the outside of the church.

In 1918 Brother L. R. Spencer was called as the pastor. He seemed to be more of a hard-shell preacher than a missionary baptist. He served the church five years at different intervals. While he was pastor twenty-eight were received into the church for baptism and six were received by letter. During his stay at Mt. Olive the offering increased considerably. He was the first pastor to place emphasis on tithing and giving. Brother Spencer urged the members to pledge to give a certain amount every meeting day. He was an average size man, and the first pastor without a mustache. He was also the first pastor to own an automobile. He sold Raleigh products and used an old Model T. Ford.

S. W. Clements served the church from 1917 through 1918. There were seventeen additions by baptism and two by letter. He was a very dedicated man, but not considered a great preacher (loud) by the congregation. In those days a man was considered a great preacher if he was loud in his preaching. He had the honor of receiving the highest wages for his labor at Mt. Olive up until this time. The amount was one hundred one dollar and two cents (\$101.02).

In 1924 Brother J. M. Mills became the pastor of Mt. Olive Church. He served the church for four years. During that period of time there were twenty-eight additions for baptism and six members were received by letter. There was some confusion in the church over two other candidates and he was recommended as a compromise candidate. Brother Mills lived a long distance away and would ride the train to Coker and then some of the men of the church would meet him and carry him to church. At night they took him back to catch the train.

We begin now with the former pastors which are now living. All pastors who have served the church since 1928 are still living.

BROTHER CHARLIE JACKSON

Brother Charles Jackson was the pastor of Mt. Olive Church for one year, 1928. During that period of time the church had fifteen additions. Thirteen were by baptism. His salary was \$96.60 for that year. This is all the information we have on him because he did not send back the questionnaire that was sent to him. No picture was received.

BROTHER J. L. CLEMENTS

Brother J. L. Clements was pastor of Mt. Olive Church from 1929 through 1930. During his stay there were four additions. Three were by baptism. For the year of 1929 his salary was \$63.85. For the year of 1930 his salary was \$89.85. Brother Clements did not answer his questionnaire or send in his picture, so this is all the information we have on him.

BROTHER J. F. YANCY

Brother Yancy pastored the Mt. Olive Church from the year 1935 through 1940. Eight additions were recorded by the church. Four were by baptism and four came by letter. His salary for the year 1935 was \$46.37. For the year of 1940 his salary was \$105.24. Brother Yancy did not return the information that was requested, so we do not have a picture of him. At the present time Brother Yancy is the oldest living former pastor of Mt. Olive.

BROTHER J. A. KYZER

Brother J. A. Kyzer served as pastor of Mt. Olive from the year 1931 to 1934. During that time there were forty-four additions to the church. Twenty-two were by baptism. For the year of 1931, Brother Kyzer's salary was \$91.54, and for the year of 1934, his salary was \$55.20.

Brother Kyzer was born in Tuscaloosa County. This was near the Mt. Olive Church. The year of his birth was 1896. He married the former Bertha Watkins. They have seven children. Their names are; Daisy, Clara, Francis, Ruth, James, John, and Easter.

Brother Kyzer has served the following churches; Rosedale, Mt. Olive, Ruhama, Big Hurricane, Enterprise, Piney Woods, Windham Springs, Carrols Creek, Rices Valley, Mt. Paran, Stone Memorial, Yellow Creek, Pleasant Hill, Mt. Pleasant, Bethabara, Cedar Creek, and Liberty.

BROTHER J. F. GOREE

Brother Goree served the Mt. Olive Church from 1941 until 1943. During that time there were thirty-one additions to the church. Twenty-four were by baptism. His salary while at Mt. Olive during the year 1941 was \$129.41. For the year of 1943 he was paid \$256.93.

Brother Goree was born in 1911, in Ethelsville, Alabama. He married the former Evelyn Ellis. They have three children. Their names are; Jesse Lloyd, Jr., Ellis Gene, and Lewis Hardy.

Brother Goree has pastored the following churches; Cornelius Chapel, Bethany, Mt. Olive, Tuscaloosa County, Berry, Mt. Zion, Huntsville, Ala., Calera and Plant City in Lanett. He also served as Associational Missionary in Duck River Association in Tennes

see. He has also served in Madison and Liberty Association in Alabama.

Some of Brother Goree's comments of his stay at Mt. Olive are below.

"I remember the first time I preached at Mt. Olive I went home with the Lando Montgomery's. We had apple pie for dinner. Brother Lando passed me the pie for a second helping and I declined; whereupon his oldest son, Harvell, jumped from the table and opened the "safe" and said, "Look, preacher, Mother has plenty more in the safe." We all had a big laugh and I had some more pie.

I recall a glorious experience we had while serving at Mt. Olive. The war was beginning and many of our fine young men were being called for service. One fine young man, Brother James Montgomery, was called into service and stationed in the Panama Canal Zone. His mother became very ill and all thought she was not going to live. The doctors helped us to get James home to see his mother. Now James was not a member of the church and all of us were very much concerned about him. He came home and his Mother started improving. James came to church the following Sunday and when I gave the invitation, he came forward upon profession of faith. The wonderful thing about this is that the next Sunday his Mother was able to be at the baptizing and witnessed it, seeing James and his sister both baptized in the Blessed Name of our Christ. God just used his great power to bring the young man home so we could baptize him. I will never forget his Mother and how happy she was to live to see her fine son and daughter baptized into the fellowship of Mt. Olive Baptist Church. Those were great days at Mt. Olive."

BROTHER J. T. SWANN

Brother J. T. Swann was the pastor of Mt. Olive Church for only a short time. The year was 1944. The church was without a regular preacher so he would preach for the people in the afternoons. No record was available to show the progress of his work.

Brother Swann was born in 1903 in Blount Springs, Alabama. He is married to the former Myrtle Shaw. They have three children. Their names are Clyde, Floyd, and Francis.

Brother Swann says, "that his first thought of Mt. Olive was that it was an outstanding old church. First, because of the many fine people that had come out of the church. Also, because of the fine people that were in the church at the time he was pastor. Some of them were the Shamblins and the Watkins. They made a deep impression on him. He also said that there were two great revivals at Mt. Olive while he was there. During one of the revivals he baptized sixteen converts. Among these converts was a seven year old girl. Her conversion was very outstanding. He could not remember her name. Brother Swann says he had many hours of fellowship in the homes of the wonderful Christian people at Mt. Olive."

Brother Swann has served the following churches as pastor; West Blocton, Five Points, Haysop, Woodstock, Coaling, Pleasant Grove, Mt. Olive, Ruhama, and Rosedale.

BROTHER CHARLES THOMAS

Brother Charles Thomas served the Mt. Olive Church from 1944 until 1947. During that time there were fifty-seven additions to the church. Thirty-eight by baptism and nineteen were by letter.

Brother Thomas had a salary of \$183.31 in 1944. In 1947 the church paid him a salary of \$609.00.

He was born in 1917 in Selma, Alabama. He married former Sara Grace Stephens. They have two children, Gayle and Lynn Thomas.

Brother Thomas had this to say about Mt. Olive: "Mt. Olive was my first church to pastor. They called for my ordination from the Rosedale Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa. I was invited to preach at Mt. Olive while they were without a pastor. The Sunday that I preached was "Calling Day." This I did not know before hand. After the morning worship the church was announced into a conference by Brother Shamblin, for the purpose of calling a preacher. The ballots were secret, and when the counting was over, I had been elected. No one but God will know how surprised I was. While I do not recommend such hasty calls as this, I shall never cease to be grateful to God for the call. God blessed my life greatly by allowing me to preach at Mt. Olive. I love the people to this day."

Brother Thomas has served as pastor to the following churches; Mt. Olive, East Brookwood, Stone Memorial, and Moundville.

BROTHER ROBERT BROWN

Brother Robert Brown served the Mt. Olive Church from 1948 until 1950. During that time there were thirty-eight additions to the church. Thirty-one were by baptism.

His salary was \$652.92 for the year of 1948. He was paid a salary of \$704.00 during the year of 1950.

Brother Brown was born in 1922 in Cullman, Ala. He is married to the former Dorothy Little. They have one child, Jennifer Lee.

He has served the following churches as pastor; Casada Church in Elmore County, Edgewater Church in Jefferson County, New Hope and Mt. Olive in Tuscaloosa County. He is now a college professor at Wake Forrest University in Greenville, S. C. He holds a Ph.D. degree.

Dr. Brown has this to say about his memories of Mt. Olive. "I have never known a group of people to take as much interest in their church as did the people of Mt. Olive during the year I attempted to serve as their pastor. The new building had just

been completed and during my stay we equipped the church with some fine pews. I think an example of Baptist democracy was demonstrated at this time. There was a long and heated debate over whether to put in two or three rows of pews. I don't recall which won out. That is not important. The important thing is that a decision was reached and all cooperated fully in making their dreams of new pews become a reality. Such Christian conduct is to be commended in any group."

BROTHER J. E. DONAHUE

Brother Julius Donahue served the Mt. Olive Church in 1951 and part of 1952. According to the minutes a total of five members were added to the church by baptism. Eleven were received by letter.

Brother Donahue received a salary of \$790.00.

Brother Donahue was born January 27, 1910, in Gordo, Alabama. He married the former Susie Hughes. They have three children. Their names are, Mary Nell, Leonard, and Donnie.

He has served the following churches as pastor; Herman Avenue, Stone Memorial, Gordo Temple, Johnstown, and many others.

Here are some comments he made about Mt. Olive. "Out of all the churches that I have pastored, Mt. Olive stands out as one of the most progressive churches in the entire Tuscaloosa Association. I shall never forget one experience during the time I was the pastor. The church was to vote whether to stay half time, or four Sundays a month. Bro. Harrison Brown served as moderator that day and did a wonderful job of it. As the meeting began there were many that were not happy over the matter, and quite a few had something to say about the matter. I sat near the back door and thought for a while I might have to use it as an escape, but when the vote was taken the church had voted to go to four Sundays a month on a trial basis and if at the end of the time set aside as a trial period the people were dissatisfied they would go back to half time. As far as I know nothing else was ever said about going back to half time."

BROTHER L. D. BROOKSHIRE

Brother Brookshire pastored Mt. Olive only a short time, approximately 9 or 10 months. No additions were recorded as to baptism. Six were recorded by letter, but whether these united with the church during Brother Donahue's or Brother Brookshire's pastorate I do not know. Since Bro. Brookshire did not return his questionnaire there is no other available information. We regret that several of the former pastors did not fill in the questionnaire that was sent them. We also regret that they did not furnish us with a picture to be used.

BROTHER JEROME ROBINSON

"I, Jerome Robinson, began to serve the Mt. Olive Church in September of 1953. At the time of this writing my wife, the former Lila Mae Wright, and I have two children, Sheila and Deborah. It has been my happy privilege to see 179 unite with the Mt. Olive Church in the five years I have been their pastor. 137 of these were those accepting Jesus as their Saviour, and 42 by letter. When I came to Mt. Olive the church paid me a salary of \$2,889.00 in 1954. In 1959 my salary was \$5,000.00. There are so many outstanding things that I will always remember about Mt. Olive until I hardly know which to use. First, I would like to tell about the first time I ever visited the church in 1951. There was a revival going on and I attended. The church that night was almost empty. I can still see the people and where some of them sat. The appearance of the building is still fresh upon my mind. I was not a preacher then, but the Lord was working on me. I remember when we were on our way back home we had rough roads to ride over and I had a new car and my wife and I commented either, on the way home or when we got home, "If the Lord ever called me to preach we sure hoped he would not send me to Mt. Olive. Well, as you have guessed by now, He sent me to Mt. Olive and I will always believe that he was preparing me for the church the very night I visited the Mt. Olive Church. I could never forget the first revival we had at Mt. Olive, but I will not use the space to tell of this since it is mentioned somewhere else in the book.

Several things outstanding have happened at Mt. Olive that have not been mentioned as yet. In 1957 our Training Union began to see some of the hard work come to life. For the first time we had participants in the Tuscaloosa Associational eliminations. Joe Allen Shelby and Dessie Smith both won in the Tuscaloosa Association in the sword drill. Miss Betty Bailey was the winner of the speakers tournament. Mt. Olive had three of the five representatives from the Tuscaloosa Association in the district elimination at Bessemer. Dessie and Joe Allen were eliminated at Bessemer, but Betty won. She then spoke at Shocco Springs and was eliminated. Her speech was, "Serving Christ In My Home." In 1958 Joe Allen Shelby, Dessie Smith and Betty Bailey were again the Mt. Olive winners. Betty and Joe Allen were winners in the Tuscaloosa Association, but lost out in the district eliminations.

Another thing Training Union has done at Mt. Olive is to encourage Bible reading. You will find more on this in the report from the church bulletins.

It was 1955 before the associational minutes began to report on the music in the churches. Much of this information will never be known. Mr. O. L. Bryant was the first elected song director at Mt. Olive. Bro. Bryant says the people carried their song books with them, for it was a pocket size book. Later Bro. T. H. Gray was the song director. At the time of this writing Mr. O.

L. Bryant is the oldest living member of the church. He is now 87 years of age. Bro. T. H. Gray has just a few weeks ago passed on to glory.

In 1931 Bro. E. H. Brown was elected as the song director for the church and served as song director for 20 years. During this 20 years there was only two interruptions and that was when Bro. James Montgomery served the church as song director. Bro. Brown said some he can remember that served as pianist while he served was; Pauline Brown Bradberry, Mrs. Lola Johnson, Barbara Brown and Martha Brown. In October of 1958 Bro. James Rodenberry was elected as the director of music in the church, Martha Brown as organist, and Eloise Prewitt as church pianist.

EXPLANATION OF THE PICTURES

Pictures tell a story no men could ever tell, and we have some pictures that we shall always cherish at Mt. Olive. For those not familiar with the pictures a brief explanation will be given here for your benefit.

PICTURE NUMBER 1. This picture was taken September 31, 1901. The church served as church and school, and this is the picture of the teacher and his pupils. The teacher is W. J. Kyzer. This is the second church building the church has had. The first church building was a log structure of which we have no picture.

PICTURE NUMBER 2. This is a singing school that was held by Leon Chism. This is the third church building that Mt. Olive has had. Bro. Chism said this was the entire population of the Mt. Olive community, he believed.

PICTURE NUMBER 3. This is a picture of the Mt. Olive School. This is the closing day of the school and parents, teachers and children are on the picture. The reason for using this picture of the school is that this same building was later used by the church as a place to worship. The old church, picture number 4, was torn down to begin building the present church. With the old church torn down the school burned, therefore the people were without a place to worship. The Sand Springs Methodist Church opened their doors to the Mt. Olive people to use until their church could be completed for use.

PICTURE NUMBER 4. This is the third building that Mt. Olive has used since 1882. The church was replaced in the late 1940's.

PICTURE NUMBER 5. This is a back view of the same church as in picture number 4. The picture was taken on decoration day as the people were putting flowers on the graves.

PICTURE NUMBER 6. This is a picture of a baptising held in 1917. The pastor is S. W. Clements. The candidate is Harrison Brown. The results of this revival was eight additions to the church. Two of these eight are still members of Mt. Olive and serving as deacons. One thing about this revival that still effects the church is that the church in 1917 voted to have the summer revival the second Sunday in August. The date still exists until today and has never been changed except for benefit of the pastor when the church was having preaching on the first and third Sunday.

PICTURE NUMBER 7. This is the fourth church building Mt. Olive has used to worship in. This building was completed approximately 1947 or 1948.

PICTURE NUMBER 8. This picture was taken April, 1954. This is part of a group that was baptised after the spring revival. There were 42 additions to the church during this revival. Thirty-five of these being for baptism. Bro. Ira Patterson was the evangelist. The field was "white unto Harvest." Before the year was over Mt. Olive had seen 75 unite with the church. Sixty of these being for baptism.

PICTURE NUMBER 9. This is a picture of the church taken May, 1959. Notice the trees and the outside light that have been put there as a project by the brotherhood.

PICTURE NUMBER 10. This is a back view of the church taken in May of 1959. A part of the Mt. Olive School can be seen on the right corner of the picture.

PICTURE NUMBER 11. This is a picture taken in May of 1959 at the left side of the church auditorium.

PICTURE NUMBER 12. This is a view taken at the right side of the auditorium.

This entire set of pictures will be used by Mrs. Hampton Richardson, State W.M.U. worker. She will use these pictures as she teaches the new study course book on "Rural Baptist Churches," at Glorieta, N. M., and Ridgecrest, N. C.

CHAPTER SIX

Church Bulletin Reports Since 1955



QUOTES FROM CHURCH BULLETINS

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church adopted the bulletin service in 1955. The first bulletin was printed and used Sunday, January 22, 1955. The pastor for the first two months paid the cost to introduce the bulletin to the church. Later they were voted out in a monthly business meeting. Two months later they were voted back in, and have been in continuous service since.

The bulletin reported on Sunday, February 27, 1955, that Mt. Olive and Cottondale Baptist Church had challenged each other for one month in Sunday School attendance. Mt. Olive won the contest by 6, and a special service was held at Cottondale. The Mt. Olive pastor preached on "Fighting Christians." The scripture reference was Ephesians 6:10-18. On this same Sunday an invitation was extended to all who would like to contribute on the building of a baptistery in the church. Brother William Smith was appointed chairman and in a few months, more than enough was collected. The reason for this move was that Mt. Olive had baptized over 100 people in 2½ years, and every time there was a baptizing the church had to use the baptistery at the Northport Baptist Church.

Sunday, March 20, 1955, Miss Elaine Crotwell, Missionary from the Philippines, spoke to the Mt. Olive congregation at the night service. She wore the type of clothes worn in the Philippines. It was a blessing to the church to hear this Missionary.

Sunday, September 18, 1955, the bulletin reported the Training Union had broken the old attendance record of 136 with 142 in Training Union on Sunday, September 11, 1955.

Sunday, April 1, 1956, the Spring revival began with Rev. David Barrentine, pastor of the Willcutt Memorial Baptist Church. One thing not known by the congregation of Mt. Olive was an incident that happened one afternoon during visitation. Bro. Barrentine and the pastor stopped to talk to a man about his lost condition. He was a very difficult person to talk and witness to. On this particular day he was out working on his tractor and seemed to be anxious to get away from the two ministers. Bro. Barrentine, not being the kind of person to give up easily, knelt between the wheels of the tractor and prayed for the man anyway. The man, as of this writing, is still lost.

Dr. Vaclou Voyta came to visit Mt. Olive on Sunday, April 15, 1956. This very humble and burdened christian was born in Russia. He spoke and showed films on the conditions of our christian friends in foreign countries. His presence was an inspiration to all whom attended this meeting. He will be remembered for a long time.

Sunday, May 20, 1956, Mt. Olive Church set aside the third Sunday in May as Graduation Day. This was the first time a program of this kind had been presented at the church.

Twelve young people of the Mt. Olive community, ten were members of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, graduated from Tuscaloosa County High School at Northport, Alabama. The graduates wore their caps and gowns, which made a very impressive sight to the congregation. As this service was for the young people, the pastor chose for his message, "Your Life Is What You Make It." The graduates were; Ruby Bailey, Juanita Bailey, Annie Jo Battle, Martha Brown, Janice Essary, Martha Johnson, Donald Prewitt, Dorothy Smith, Dorothy Wedgeworth, and Betty Wilburn.

Sunday, June 24, 1956, the Mt. Olive people were given the opportunity to pray for a new wing that was needed on the church. Two classes were using the auditorium at that time. Thirty-two members pledged to give \$1.00 per week above their tithes on the new building. Those who pledged were as follows; Louise Smith, R. L. Acker, James Battle, L. V. Sanford, Lando Montgomery, Roy Brown, S. A. Johnson, Mrs. Elizabeth Michalski, Clearon Montgomery, Mrs. Helen Snider, James Snider, John Thrasher, Harrison Brown, James Rodenberry, Sam Sutton, Jerome Robinson, Woodrow Prewitt, Joe Shelby, Peggy Spencer, Mrs. Thestus Prewitt, Matt Montgomery, Patton Brown, Hoyt Montgomery, James Holloway, Frank Prewitt, William Smith, Rondel Smith, Mrs. Clytee Holloway, Mrs. Ruby Gilliland, Ted Gilliland and Clyde Channell. There were others who pledged later on, but the ones just mentioned are credited with getting the program moving.

Sunday, July 8, 1956, was official ground-breaking service for the new building. Bro. Carol T. Hatchell (Associational Missionary) and Rev. Bronnie Nickols (Associational Moderator) were the guest speakers. A sudden thunder shower prevented any ground to be broken or any pictures to be taken.

Sunday, October 21, 1956, the bulletin reported that Mt. Olive was recognized at the associational meeting for their church letter. We received a grade of 95, and was awarded a plaque as a six star church. At the request of the association the pastor of Mt. Olive Church made a brief talk on what a budget could do for a church.

Sunday, November 11, 1956, the bulletin reported the Mt. Olive Baptist Church and Sand Springs Methodist Church would have a combined Wednesday night prayer service before Thanksgiving Day. The first meeting would be held at Sands Springs and then would rotate between the two churches.

Sunday, December 2, 1956, it was announced that Judge Bailey would speak to the Mt. Olive Brotherhood and W.M.U. on the subject of Juvenile Delinquency.

Sunday, January 27, 1957, Mt. Olive held their dedication service for the new building. A former pastor, Bro. J. F. Goree, spoke to a packed auditorium at the morning service. Other former pastors who attended were J. F. Yancy and J. L. Donahue.

Sunday, October 20, 1957, the bulletin reported that Mt. Olive received the following recognition at the associational meeting. Mt. Olive led all rural churches in baptisms, won first place on

the church letter, Sunday School was outstanding, Training Union considered best in the Tuscaloosa Association, vacation Bible school outstanding, church was recognized as being a Six-Star church. Mt. Olive led all rural churches and many of the suburban churches in total collections.

On Sunday, December 5, 1957, the bulletin states the Mt. Olive Church had 96 at (M) Mobilization Night. This led all rural churches, and was second in the entire association. On this same Sunday, the library was first mentioned in the bulletin. Dorothy Smith named as being the first church librarian.

In November, 1957, the new Baldwin electric organ was purchased. This addition to the musical department of the church has contributed much to the worship service.

Sunday, January 5, 1958, for the first time a group of young people from the Mt. Olive Church purchased time over station WNPT to present a program called Youth for Christ. For three months these young workers for Christ prepared and presented an inspiring program, and only because of financial problems they had to discontinue them.

Sunday, February 2, 1958, the bulletin reported that Brothers Frank Prewitt, Joe Shelby, and Clyde Channell were elected by the church as deacons. The ordination service would be announced at a later date.

The church bulletin states on Sunday, April 13, 1958, that Ellis Hall, James Holloway, Lee Hodo, John Richardson, Ted Gilliland, Sam Sutton, Vernard Brown, and S. A. Johnson were elected as trustees for the church. It also stated that Joe Allen Shelby and Betty Bailey were winners for Mt. Olive in the Tuscaloosa Association and would represent the Tuscaloosa Association at the district Training Union meeting at Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Sunday, May 18, 1958, was youth week. Larry Sexton, a young preacher from Holt High School, was the guest speaker. The pastor and his wife were attending the Southern Baptist Convention at Houston, Texas. This was the first time in the history of the church that a pastor had been sent, expense paid, to the convention.

Mt. Olive Vacation Bible School reported 139 enrolled. The daily average attendance was 125. The week of study and fun was enjoyed by both teachers and children.

Sunday, October 19, 1958, the church reported that Mt. Olive had been recognized at the associational meeting for the fourth consecutive year as being a Six-Star church. Mt. Olive was also recognized as being outstanding in soul-winning. The church letter received a grade of 97.

In October, 1958, the Mt. Olive Church purchased 100 new Baptist Hymnals. They in turn gave some of the old Broadman Hymnals to the Hale T.B. Sanatorium at Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Sunday, November 30, 1958, James Swedenberg, executive secretary of Alabama Temperance, spoke to the Mt. Olive congregation.

December 1, 1958, Mt. Olive turned out in record number to (M) Mobilization Night with 85 present. This was the highest number present from any church.

December 17, 1958, the Bryce Hospital Choir, under the direction of Rev. B. W. Allen, presented a wonderful program to the people of the Mt. Olive Church. This Choir is composed of many talented patients.

Mt. Olive elected Mr. Joe Shelby as Mr. Sunday School for 1958 because of his yearly grade of 98. Mrs. Lila Robinson was chosen Mrs. Sunday School with a grade of 100. Mr. Training Union was Mr. Woodrow Prewitt and Miss Dessie Smith was elected for Training Union with a grade of 95.

Those who received a grade of 100 for the year in Training Union are as follows; Jerome Robinson, Sheila Robinson, Deborah Robinson and Lila Robinson. Dessie Smith was close with 95. The 100% members in Sunday School were; Barbara Shelby, Joe Allen Shelby, Cecila Shelby, Betty Grace Shelby, Lila Robinson, Shelia Robinson, Deborah Robinson and Jerome Robinson. Richard Hall, Jr., and Richard Hall received grades of 98.

Mt. Olive has always stressed daily Bible reading and the following were recognized in October of 1958 for their Bible reading record. Dessie Smith, Nell Thrasher, Juanita Bailey, Mrs. Lola Johnson and Shelia Robinson for one year. Rev. Jerome Robinson and Lila Robinson for three years and Mrs. E. H. Brown for five years.