



The History of Watch Night ...

New Year's Eve service, or what some African Americans call "Watch Night Service," is tradition passed on to us by our ancestors. Old stories state that Southern slaves were in waiting all night long on December 31, 1864,

to receive word of the Emancipation Proclamation – words that would have given slaves freedom in the South – not the North. Some slaves received the news on December 31st, while the slaves in Texas did not receive this information until June 17th the following year. Because of that, today many African Americans celebrate June 17th as Juneteeth Day.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. *(Hebrews 11:13)*



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| Mrs. Marie Destouet | January 11, 2009 |
| Mr. James Richardson | April 13, 2009 |
| Mr. Milton Lewis, Sr. | April 17, 2009 |
| Mrs. Elsie Blackwell | July 16, 2009 |
| Mrs. Mildred Brown | October 4, 2009 |
| Mr. Henry McElroye | December 31, 2009 |

The Fallen Soldier

Prayer: *(in unison)*

In these first beginnings of the new life of the world, renew in us the resolution to persist in the good work we have begun. Give us strength of body and strength of mind and the unfaltering determination to carry out that which we know to be good and right. Forgive all wavering in the past service of Thy cause and make us strong to go forward in spite of the doubts of our friends and our enemies and in spite of our own distrust in ourselves. Out of the death of winters comes ever and again the resurrection of spring: so out of evil bring good, O God, and out of doubt determination. Amen. *(John 2:17-25)*

MOUNT Olivet Baptist Church



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VISION

Mt. Olivet's vision is to be well-founded in God's word, leading a diverse representation of people who are God-centered, Bible-based, Spirit-led and Mission-Bound.

MISSION

Mt. Olivet's mission is to encourage people to be a member of a covenant community which nurtures spiritual growth through fellowship. The church will nurture the gifts and talents of each individual - teaching, motivating and inspiring each to reach their full potential in Christ. The covenant community strives to build the whole community in order to serve the world in which it exists.

Mt. Olivet is a member of the American Baptist Churches of Rochester/Genesee Region, The Greater Rochester Community of Churches; The United Church Ministries; the National Baptist Convention, Inc.; and the American Baptist Churches of the USA



