

The Olive Leaf

A Mt. Olivet Baptist Church Publication

From the Pen of Pastor Harvey



To all of God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Mount Olivet Baptist Church (MOBC), together with the ministers, diaconate, trustees and leaders; grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of

you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1, "Blessings to you for all that you do to make this place a haven of souls in search of the Savior who is able to keep us from falling and present us faultless before an all wise God." I am excited to speak to you from this medium to share with you some of my thoughts about God's plan for the MOBC.

As we began this year, I spoke with the Leaders in the January 22 Leadership meeting laying out a path for 2011. It began with *"First Things First: Membership, Discipleship, Fellowship and Evangelism."*

- That would be the center of our attention primarily for the first two quarters of the year. In the first quarter we would work toward retraining, recommitting, reconnecting, reorganizing, retention and retraditionalizing.
- That would mean restructuring our Board of Christian Education, adding new members, setting constant meeting times, planning and preparation for events within church.

- That would mean regular meetings with deacons and men of the church to sharing the responsibilities of deacons, needs of the congregation, and the mandate of God for all of us and have them join us in prayer for further directions from God.
- That would mean weekly and more pointed staff meetings that would assist me in the leadership and planning for effective church events and services.
- That would mean monthly trainings with the MOBC ministers in preparation for assistance in worship services, communion, visiting the sick, prayer/worship services, and other pastoral/ministerial responsibilities.
- That would mean striving for greater impact and effect from New Members Orientation class in order to retain and disciple the new members whom the Lord would add to the church. *(cont'd on next page)*

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- That would mean retraditionalizing through bringing in new and fresh ideas to the ministry (i.e. Palm Sunday Service, Diaconate joining pastor in the reading and discussion of the “The Practicing Congregation” by Diana Butler Bass).
- That would mean new ministers in training.
- That would mean conferencing with ministry leaders again to hear their hearts, inspire and encourage them in their work.
- That would mean being as visible and helpful as possible to families who are grieving the loss of loved ones as 2011 has been an unusual year for bereavements.
- That would mean reorganizing some of the ministries that have weakened and perhaps fallen along the way:
 - Youth Ministries, Youth Choir
 - Board of Christian Education
 - Bringing on a Minister of Visitation
 - Bringing on a Minister of Music
 - Bringing on a Minister of Youth

Holy Week of Sacrificial Worship 2011 consisted of a great line-up of spiritual men of God. They were all pastors of successful ministries and well able to bless us with the gifts and talents given to them. **Bertrand Bailey Jr. (Bibleway Baptist Church)** is a young pastor from Mount Pleasant, Texas who may very well be one of the most sought after speakers of this time. **Quinton Chad Foster**, the newly-elected pastor of **Calvary Baptist Church**, Buffalo, NY hails from Phoenix, Arizona (we both served in Arizona together). Kenneth James (**Memorial AME Zion**) is a regular friend of MOBC and needs no introduction. **Pierre Du Plessis**, the pastor of **The Father’s House of New York** and his praise team joined us on Thursday morning. I am so excited about this new acquaintance! Of course on Friday, it was all **MOBC** and me. I brought the closing message.

Maundy-Thursday also known as Holy Thursday, Covenant Thursday, Great and Holy Thursday, and Thursday of Mysteries, is the Christian feast or holy day service. It was held at MOBC on Thursday night at 7:00pm. The speaker was **Victor Wilson**, of Southern Baptist Church of Syracuse who also served in Arizona.

Yvonne and I continue to commit our love and service to our MOBC Family! The Harvey family remembers the MOBC Family in prayer constantly! Pray for us!

Sincerely,

Rickey Bernard Harvey

“Just Us” Retirees

The “Just Us” Retirees resumed meetings on September 13, 2010. Twice monthly, we enjoy our afternoons together by engaging in activities that include a variety of social events, completing fun-filled projects, and being entertained and/or educated by guests from the Rochester community.

In November, 2010, Gertrude Thedford from the Henrietta Stompers, was our special guest. She worked with our member, Christine Bullard, to teach us line dancing. We also sponsored our annual “*Undie Sunday*” project to coincide with the Thanksgiving holiday. The collected underwear was sent to St. Mary’s office for the homeless. In addition, we completed a “*Christmas Shoe Box*” project to provide gifts for women in shelters. The main event for December was our annual Christmas Luncheon.

After 18 years, Doris Gerst passed on the torch as President of “Just Us” Retirees. Thank you Doris for your dedication and for a job well done. We pray that God will continue to bless you in all that you do.

Effective January 1, 2011, the new officers are:

- Irene Ingram, President
- Diane Mathias, Vice President
- Catherine Canty, Secretary
- Carrie Thomas, Assistant Secretary
- Mary Ann Henry, Treasurer
- Velma Hiler, Publicity Coordinator

– Irene Ingram, President

American Baptist Churches of the Rochester Genesee Region Annual Gathering

The American Baptist Churches of the Rochester Genesee Region met on Saturday, September 25, 2010 at First Baptist Church of Rochester. *(cont’d on next page)*

A Peace Breakfast was held at 8:00am before the Annual Gathering began. The featured speaker, Dr. Mary Jeannette (M.J.) Edenhack, talked about the Peace School Project in Uganda.

The theme for the Annual Gathering was *“Lessons from the Past, Hope for the Future.”* The keynote speaker was Al Staggs who is a performance artist. He began his ministry as a typical Baptist minister who occasionally used humor and dramatic monologues in his preaching. Eventually, he found his calling from God to evolve these monologues into a ministry as a performance artist.

Pastor Harvey and several ABW ladies from MOBC attended the conference. Everyone enjoyed listening to Al and after lunch, we attended several workshops. Just to name a few... *“Weaving our Stories,” “Spiritual Formation in the Community of Faith,” “Leadership Crisis for Newly-established Burmese Congregations in North America,” “Ethics and Spiritual Care,” “The Leadership Challenge: A Workshop for Moderators and Church Leaders,” “Alternatives for Christmas Celebrations and Other Creative Outreach Ministries,” “Worship Planning Teams – A Pathway to Innovative and Inspiring Worship”* and *“Conversations on Race.”*

The Annual Gathering closed with afternoon Vespers with Communion. Approximately 35 churches participated in this annual gathering of American Baptist churches.

– Irene Ingram, MOBC Delegate

“100 Years Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord”

What a powerful statement! What an amazing time! (MOBC) celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, October 23, 2010.

The celebration really began in 2009 with the 2010 Centennial Celebration Committee being formed. This was sure to be a daunting task but one that was destined for success with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in charge.

We had a wonderful time celebrating *“Homecoming Weekend,”* in the name of the Lord.

If you attended the Dorothy Norwood concert (although Dorothy cancelled the concert and had Church), you know we had a fabulous time. Dorothy also blessed us with song at Sunday’s service.

Then a very talented young man from Memphis, TN played the piano and sang for us. He was followed by our guest speaker, Reverend Keith Norman, also from Memphis, and he was outstanding!

Reverend Norman delivered a message that touched everyone in some way and when Pastor Harvey opened the doors of the church – my God, my God, people came from all sides of the church. Pastor Harvey got so full and so happy he became speechless! Afterwards, we went to Whitaker Hall for refreshments and fellowship. This was just the beginning – there was more to come!

We watched 2009 go out and 2010 come in. Our 2009 Watch Night service included our Sanctuary Choir featuring special guest artist and famed gospel singer Douglass Miller.

January was the celebration of the birthday of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The MOBC family all gathered together and held a bowling fundraiser and a good time was had by all.

On the evening of Saturday, February 6, 2010, MOBC presented *“A Time for Praise,”* a Christian jazz concert featuring the renowned Cyrus Chestnut Trio.

A family weekend, *“It is Well with my Soul”* was held on Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27, 2010. The Friday evening program was about the African American family – past, present and future. The Saturday program was all about spiritual wellness and was held in conjunction with the American Kidney Foundation and other organizations.

An Evening of Elegance – *“An In-Home Dining Experience”* was held Saturday, April 24, 2010. Various members of the church hosted individuals and couples at their homes for dinner and then everyone returned to MOBC for a fellowship Dessert Reception.

The MOBC Mega Choir held a concert on Saturday, May 22, 2010 with special guest, Inez Andrews of the famous Caravans.

In June, *“Crowns,”* an elegant fundraising event was hosted by Deaconess Lucy Sprouts.

July 10-11, MOBC participated in the Corn Hill Arts Festival. A “free” and open to the community organ concert was performed by Ramon Billinsley. It started on the organ in the old Sanctuary and moved to the organ and baby grand in the new Sanctuary.

August was a very busy and active month for MOBC. There was Family Vacation Bible School, Summer Bash, the Eli Wilson concert and the Clarissa Street Reunion. *(cont’d on next page)*

September was kicked off with the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. speaking on Friday, September 10. Reverend Wright spoke eloquently as well as sang to a packed house. A Fall revival followed the week of September 20, 2010.

In October, 2010, we started our home stretch on Friday, October 22, the “100th Anniversary Youth Recognition Night” was held with guest speaker Reverend James McCarroll, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Mufreesboro, TN. On Saturday, October 23, the 100th Anniversary Banquet and Silent Auction was held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Rochester. Our guest speaker was Reverend James L. Netters, Sr., Pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Memphis, TN. Before Reverend Netters spoke, we were treated to a spiritual interpretation by Klaymine. This was truly a wonderful performance. On Sunday morning, we brought the yearlong celebration to a close with a 100th Anniversary Worship Service. The church was packed with members, friends, and visitors from near and far. As is tradition for Homecoming, members that have relocated and children of members that are still with us come home to celebrate another year with their families as well as their church family. Many of our members participated in the program. The oldest living member of MOBC, Harriett Scott, was recognized and honored. Kevin McDonald rendered a meditational vocal. Then our guest speaker, Reverend Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr., Senior Pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix, AZ delivered a message which was inspirational, moving and a wonderful ending to a wonderful celebration.

Should you want a remembrance of this momentous occasion – cookbooks, history books, and legacy bricks are still available for purchase. But most of all, remember what a glorious time we had in the Lord.

– Wendy B. Rose

Christmas and Candlelight Program

MOBC’s Christmas and Candlelight service was held on Sunday, December 19, 2010.

The theme for the play was “*It’s a Wonder-Full Life.*” The play was a musical about a group of children and youth who had just finished their Christmas musical.

While putting away the Christmas set, one child, Foster (played by Charles Bruce) began complaining that he would

rather forgo the manger and all the Christmas stuff to go home and open presents.

Suddenly, Terrence (played by Ben Bruce) appears. The youth believe him to be Mr. T the custodian, (played by Hugo Divers). To show the real meaning of Christmas, Terrence talks to God asking Him to remove Christmas. At that moment, the entire Christmas scene disappears. Where is Christmas? It no longer exists! The Christmas trees now have no lights, the Christmas bells cannot ring, the Christmas presents are empty and the manger is missing from the Nativity scene.



The children realize Jesus is the reason for the season and that Christmas is Jesus. Their hearts, especially Foster’s, change and they see the promise that Jesus brought to the world. They stop thinking about themselves and start thinking of others. Jesus is the reason for the season and the reason that each of us can truly have a Wonderful Life!

Many thanks to Mikayla Dennis, Neisson Bakou, Ashley and Breanna Chance, Delena Morant, David Mason, Tamia Riley, Tristyn Nguessamble, Djinga St. Louis, Pam Williams, Denette Perez, Selena Oquendo, Amanda Smith, Isaiah Smith, Keyana Bealle, Charles Bruce, Julian Riley, Ben Bruce, Hugo Divers, Savannah Perez, Ayesha Lee, Marianna Porrata, Sevin Smith, Marlon Collins, Shairmare Hill, Colieonia Dawkings, Affinity Campbell, Rashad Harvey, Tyler Corbitt, Josiah Grantham, and Malcolm St. Louis.

The program was coordinated by the Sunday School Drama Team: Irene Ingram, Djinga St. Louis, Nellie King, Ann Brooks, Sadie Hill, Artherine Bruce (costumes), Donnell Johnson (music) and program covers were designed by Marilyn Powers. (cont’d on next page)

The Candlelight Service was led by Pastor Harvey and Reverend Brooks. Thank you to Linda Davis, Nate and Latisha McCray, the ushers, the congregation and the Sanctuary Choir who sang six beautiful Christmas hymns.

– Irene Ingram, Drama Team Committee

A Message to the Men of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church: 'Passionate for Christ'



It is a theme worthy of our study and our diligent effort to live out the call for discipleship. However, it also brings with it some potential misunderstandings and challenges.

Question: *What does it mean to have PASSION for something? Is it just a feeling? Are Christian men supposed to be "passionate?" If so, what does that look like?*

Problems surround the word **passion** in its modern usage and confusion revolves around the concept of **passion** itself.

Men, let's redefine **passion** into a **God**-honoring meaning and reclaim it as a defining characteristic of the Christian man.

Our job as Christian men is to direct our **PASSION** towards objects of worth with actions that are pure.

If we claim to be '**Passionate for Christ**,' then we must be willing to deeply examine our hearts. Certainly, **Jesus** must be the foremost focus of our **Passion** and is worthy beyond all measure. But, do our actions reflect that truth? Is our primary desire for **His** glory? Do we show that we value **Christ** above all things?

The Bible is filled with men who were **Passionate for God** and the things of God. May we be described as David was in **1 Samuel 13:14** as men after – as in **Passionate** pursuit of – **God's** own heart.

Please come out and help OUR ministry reach its full potential.

If you are interested in the Men's Fellowship Bible Study class and/or the Men's Fellowship meetings (held every second Saturday at 10am), please see me.

God bless each of you and your families. I want to also thank you for the opportunity to represent the Men's Fellowship another year.

– Hugo S. Divers, Jr., President, MOBC Men's Fellowship

Words From Your Diaconate Ministry

Your Diaconate Ministry continues to express our love and extend our service to the church. As we pray for direction according to God's word, we will be bringing on new deacons and deaconesses, 1 Timothy 3:13 and Acts 1:6. In the meantime, the present deacons and deaconesses will support the Family Care Ministry. Please trust God's Word and keep us lifted in prayer.

As a reminder please adhere to the following request:

- Make sure your personal contact information is current. If you have acquired a new phone number, moved, or converted to a cell phone as your main number, please update the change to the appropriate persons. Don't assume that we get this information from your written checks that you place in the collection plate.
- If you have moved, you may be in a new Family Care Team. Please notify appropriate persons of your move.
- If there is sickness, death, depression, grief, sadness, etc., please contact your FCT leader so we might lift up your request in prayer.
- Please do not ask to be a member of a FCT that is outside of your zip code.
- Please attend our FCT meeting when called. Like church business meetings, your attendance allows you to be informed and offer suggestions to the group of the ministry. And, by the way, both meetings are important to members.
- Pray for the leaders of the church that we may honor the commitment Jesus has given us. We are to serve and not to be served.

Last year we had several deacons and deaconesses that have served faithfully elect to retire from the ministry. Please extend a thank you to the following deacons and deaconesses:

- Deacon and Deaconess Charles and Marva Boone
- Deacon Robert Terrell
- Deaconess Shirley Godden
- Deacon Henry Lybrand

(cont'd on next page)

We are saddened to report a month after Deaconess Shirley Godden retired, she went home to be with the Lord. Shirley will be sorely missed.



The following are the Family Care Team (FCT) Leaders. Please refer to the church bulletin to associate appropriate zip codes to your FCT.

Deacons	Deaconesses
Gregory Blue	Myrtice Clanton
Ben Bruce	Esther Cresswell
Charles Carter	Audrey Davidson
Larry Cresswell	Dorothy Davis
Embola Ekiller	Mary Ann Henry
Allen McClendon (in training)	Irene Ingram
Robert Mitchell	Ophelia King
Ralph Richards	Paula Lewis
Michael Ruffin	Odessa Lybrand
Devon Stith	Mollie Richards
	Ruby Richardson
	Barbara Roberts
	Lucy Sprouts
	Ginnie Stith (in training)

Please welcome our new deacons and deaconesses in training.

For the cause of Christ,

– Deacon Ralph H. Richards, Chairman of the Diaconate Ministry

MOBC / Alzheimer's Support Ministry Annual Report 2010

Our mission: The Alzheimer's Ministry was established in 2004 for the sole purpose of reaching the African American population, those who are underserved, in denial, or poor, and those who may have a loved one that has a type of dementia and in need of services. This ministry, in collaboration with the Rochester Alzheimer's Association, provides direction to support groups, resource material, and lecture information.

■ Summary of year 2010 activities:

- Hospital/skilled nursing care seminar was presented at MOBC during the month of June.
- Planned and executed a successful third annual African American Alzheimer's Dementia Symposium. Speakers included a gerontologist, neurologist, elder law attorney, and a speaker lecturing in the study of Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- Presently incorporating other churches in Rochester to present the understanding of normal aging, Alzheimer's, and dementia to those who are aging, caregivers, deacons, deaconesses, and pastors.
- There are approximately 19 Alzheimer's volunteers working with the ministry. This includes Rosa and Marvell Paige. Rosa is a caregiver for her husband Marvell who is in the first stage of Alzheimer's.
- Ralph has completed seven years as a member of Alzheimer's Association board of directors and has been elected as an "Honorary Board Member." He continues to work as a consultant and Adjunct Faculty to the Learning Institute of the Rochester Alzheimer's Association.
- Since this disease is prevalent in the African American community, our focus will be in providing resource, knowledge, and education to our community, as well as the underserved individuals.
- African American/Alzheimer's Symposium worked with its healthcare partners: American Heart/Stroke Association, the Kidney Foundation, American Diabetes Association, and Private Massage Therapy. *(cont'd on next page)*

- An African American Alzheimer's Advisory Council has been assembled and includes the following members:
 - Attorney Ben Bruce
 - Reverend Lawrence Hargrave
 - Professor Bill Johnson
 - Judge Roy King
 - Mr. & Mrs. Marvell Payne
 - Deaconess Mollie Richards
 - Mr. & Mrs. Ron Thompson (Memorial AME Zion Church)

The purpose of the council is to gather together vital community leaders to assist in directing the Alzheimer's Association into key areas in the Greater Rochester community and to provide information and resources to the underserved caregivers and persons with dementia.

Thank you to those who have dedicated their time, talents, and prayers to this ministry, "For the Cause of Christ."

Alice Bevins	Diane Mathias
Marva Boone	Henry & Odessa Lybrand
Myrtle Branch	Marvel & Rosa Payne
Susan Buckner	Stella Rainge
Myrtice Clanton	Ralph & Mollie Richards
Lottie Divers	Ernest & Dorothy Turner
Cyndy Gayden	Darlene White
Mary Ann Henry	

As we move into our next phase, we ask all members to prepare themselves by living a healthy life by "Aging Well." Our focus will be on strengthening memories. Please consider attending our seminars, symposiums, or volunteering your talents.

Did you Know...?

- The MOBC/Alzheimer's ministry presents its dementia seminars quarterly.
- Seminars are held on Mondays from 6:30pm-8:00pm.
- MOBC/Alzheimer's ministry is celebrating seven years of service to MOBC and the Rochester community.

- As the ever-increasing need for this dreaded disease to be addressed in the African American community, many people are still in denial and uninformed. Dementia is real; it can affect any family at any time. African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian communities are at a greater risk of this disease than our Caucasian brothers and sisters. Every 70 seconds, a person is diagnosed with Alzheimer's in America.

- Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in America and the second most feared disease among those 65 years and older.

Interested in knowing more? Please call Ralph or Mollie Richards at 385-6042.

Respectfully submitted,

– *Ralph & Mollie Richards, Co-founders of the MOBC Alzheimer's Ministry*

MOBC / Alzheimer's Support Ministry

The MOBC/Alzheimer's support ministry continues to be a viable service to the church and the Rochester community. The ministry focuses on "early intervention" of dementia so that it can equip the client and caregiver with available resources, support groups, and seminars. Additional focus is on health and wellness for those with the disease and those caregivers providing love and attention.

- Upcoming events:
 - Monday, August 22, 2011: 6:30pm-8:00pm, TBD
 - Monday, November 21, 2011: 6:30pm-8:00pm, TBD
 - MOBC/Alzheimer's "Spring African American Dementia Health Symposium" will be held:
 - Date/Time: Saturday, May 21, 7:30am-12:00pm. Reservation in advance is encouraged
 - Participants: American Heart Association, Kidney Foundation, Diabetes Association, Alzheimer's Association and other miscellaneous vendors
 - Continental breakfast and break food will be served

(cont'd on next page)

- Speakers will include:
 - A neurologist specializing in strokes, and a stroke survivor
 - A nutrition professional on healthy preparation eating practices
 - An elder law attorney who will be addressing advanced directives, Medicaid, and other insurance options This symposium is designed for the caregiver, its family members, and friends of someone with these conditions. Included, as well, are those who are young or young in heart who wish to know more about the disease, how to maintain their health, and how to delay the onset of dementia.

We encourage those who wish to volunteer for this ministry to please contact Ralph or Mollie Richards at 385-6042.

A Word From the Communications Ministry

“Often, we are slow to recognize how much and in what ways we can assist each other through sharing and such expertise and knowledge.” – Owen Arthur

MOBC has many gifted members and we are inviting you to share those gifts by joining the Communications Ministry. We need graphic designers, proofreaders, writers, reporters, and some youth and young adult input.

One of the tasks that the Communications Ministry will be working on this year is preparing a “Visitors” brochure. This brochure will be handed out to all visitors that come to worship with us. It will briefly describe the ministries of MOBC along with a Message from the Pastor, Welcome Message, History of the Church, and service times.

Please continue to put flyers, etc. that you want posted on the bulletin board in the tray located on the wall next to the bulletin board. Remember the main bulletin board is not for posting anything. It is there to welcome people into our church.

Please continue to pick up your printed monthly update that is located on the counter where CD’s are sold on Sunday. If your ministry has an event that communications does not know about and it should be included in the monthly update, I ask that you get it to my by the third Sunday of the month.

God Bless!

– Wendy B. Rose, President, Communications Ministry

Christian “Food for Thought”

“The Three Trees” (author unknown)

Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said, *“I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I’ll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!”*

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on it’s way to the ocean. *“I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I’ll be the strongest ship in the world!”*

The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. *“I don’t want to leave the mountaintop at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me they’ll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world.”*

Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, “this tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me.” With the swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. “Now I shall make a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure! the first tree said.”

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, “this tree is very strong. It is perfect for me.” With the swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. “Now I shall sail mighty waters!” thought the second tree. “I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!”

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. “Any kind of tree will do for me, he muttered.” With a swoop of his shining ax, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter’s shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold or treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. *(cont’d on next page)*

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean or even a river and she was taken to a little lake.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened? the once tall tree wondered. All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountaintop and point to God."

Many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him, her husband whispered." The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful, she said." And suddenly the first tree knew she was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and a thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man awoke. He stood up, stretched out His hand and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew she was carrying the King of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry, jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hand to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

So, the moral of the story is...

The next time you feel down because you didn't get what you wanted, sit tight and be happy because God is thinking of something better to give you. ☺



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Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

Reverend Rickey Bernard Harvey, Senior Pastor
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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 potential in Christ. The covenant community strives to build the whole community in order to serve the world in which we exist.

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.

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Schedule of Services

Sunday	Sunday School	9:30am
	Praise Service	10:45am
	Worship Service	11:00am
	Communion, 1 st Sunday of each month	
Tuesday	Intercessory Prayer	5:00pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting	6:00pm