



Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

The Olive Leaf

Blessings in Transition

Rev. Lawrence Hargrave, Interim Pastor
Matthew 5:16: In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (NRSV)



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www.mt-olivetbaptistchurch.org

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Mt. Olivet has continued to move in the light of God's blessings. We joined with Antioch Baptist Church at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church for a wonderful Thanksgiving Day celebration. The host pastor, Rev. Dr. Richard Douglass was the preacher with over 200 persons in attendance. This occasion is part of an annual celebration that rotates its location among the participating churches. The 2008 service will be at Antioch Baptist Church.

Mt. Olivet hosted the Anti-Violence Collaboration (Community Standards) Service on December 15. Rev. Roy Hedman, Interim Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, was the preacher. Approximately one hundred people attended from across the Rochester community to continue the work of ending violence in our community. This event took place a year after Mt. Olivet hosted the initial service at which Rev. Karyn Carter, Chaplain at the New York State Youth Facility at Industry, was the preacher.

On Monday January 21st, I was invited to give the invocation at the Martin Luther King Community Wide Celebration at the Eastman Theater. That afternoon, Mt. Olivet participated in a worship service in memory of Dr. King at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. James Cherry, pastor of Aeon Baptist Church, was the preacher. Over 300 persons from the 3 churches attended.

On Saturday January 26th, I participated in a panel discussion about the church after Martin Luther King at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Also on the panel were Rev. Roy Hedman, Interim Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Rev. Rachel McGuire, Pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, and Rev. Marlowe Washington, Pastor of Baber AME Church.

On Monday January 28th, Mt. Olivet hosted the Annual Meeting of the Greater Rochester Community of Churches. Over 75 religious leaders from the Rochester Community attended to celebrate ministry together and plan for the future.

On New Year's Eve Monday December 31st, Mt. Olivet celebrated our traditional Watch Night Service. This service, which commemorates the anticipation of our slave forbearers as they awaited the freedom that was to come at midnight, was well attended and included a number of visitors. The Mt. Olivet Sanctuary Choir blessed those in attendance and Rev. Denise Logan brought everyone a message of encouragement.

Friday February 8th, Mt. Olivet hosted "Walk the Walk," a program produced by the Landmark Society using actors to portray Historic African Americans with Rochester connections. Over 200 persons attended and the Links provided refreshments.

On Tuesday February 12th, I was invited by County Legislator Harry Bronson to give the invocation at the meeting of the County Legislator. We pray that Mt. Olivet will be a reflector of God's light and help bring peace to our community, our country and our world

Christmas Brunch **By Irene Ingram**

Our Christmas Brunch was held on December 8, 2008 at 11:00 am in Whitaker Hall. The mistress of ceremony was Brenda Caine. Approximately two hundred people attended this affair. We began the day by singing Christmas carols led by a guest song leader, Rose Stokes, who inspired all of us to sing out in a joyful voice.

After Rev. Hargrave blessed the food, we enjoyed a delicious lunch of chicken, ham, potato and tossed salad, bread and desserts. This meal gave church members a chance to fellowship with each other.

After lunch, the Wings of Glory Liturgical Dancers did a great job of dancing. The dancing was followed by the presentation of a Christmas story, "Praise God! Jesus Is Born" by the Church and Community Committee. The audience, especially children, was invited to participate in the presentation. All children received gifts that were passed out by the youth and Sadie Hill. Everyone was invited to bring an Angel ornament to place on the Christmas tree.

Even though we ran out of food, many people commented that they enjoyed the program. In order to avoid this problem next Christmas, we will ask all members to sign up in advance and they will be given a ticket.

Mission Circle **By Ophelia King**

The Mission Circle gave 45 Christmas baskets to the sick and shut-in and other senior members. The baskets contained a variety of fresh fruit and other holiday goodies. Some patients in nursing homes received two pairs of socks and a lap blanket. Also, everyone received a beautiful poinsettia plant given by the Diaconate Board. A special blessing for one MCH patient was that the Mission Circle provided transportation for them to spend Christmas with their family.



Kwanzaa Program By Diane Matthias

Kwanzaa was celebrated at Mount Olivet Baptist Church on December 28, 2007. The principle of Ujima – collective work and responsibility was demonstrated in a dramatic presentation by Valerie Medley and family.

Included in the celebration was a Kwanzaa song written by Ann Barrentine. The candle lighting ceremony was done with members of the audience sharing their own idea of what its principle meant in their own lives. After the candle was lit, a libation was poured by Rev. Hargrave as we gave honor to our ancestors with seven Harambees at the closing of the evening.

The program was attended by approximately forty people. It was an evening of remembrance and fellowship for all of us.

Special thanks to Mary Ann Henry, Irene Ingram, Evanger Cunningham, Queenie Allison and other committee members from the ABW ministry who were responsible for putting the program together.



Temple B'rith Kodesh Pulpit Exchange By Rev. Lawrence Hargrave

Friday evening January 18th, Mt. Olivet continued our long standing pulpit exchange with Temple B'rith Kodesh, the largest Reform Jewish Congregation in Rochester. We worshipped at Temple B'rith Kodesh at 2131 Elmwood Avenue in Brighton. We were greeted warmly by Rabbi Laurence Kotok. Our speaker from Mt. Olivet Baptist Church



was former Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr., who spoke about how Dr. King's work and sacrifices provided a liberating path for other groups. The Mt. Olivet Sanctuary Choir sang as well.

Temple B'rith Kodesh Cantor Keri Berger was joined by her husband Jason to lead jazz influenced Shabbat music. They were accompanied by a jazz trio of Eastman School of Music students. We gathered for refreshments and conversation after the service.

On Sunday January 20th, Temple B'rith Kodesh joined Mt. Olivet for worship. Our Men's Choir sang along with the Mt. Olivet Children's Choir. Mt. Olivet's Sister Rhonda Blue was joined by Judge Karen Morris of Temple B'rith Kodesh to offer two children's sermons. The morning speaker from Temple B'rith Kodesh was Mr. Richard Rosen, a businessman who has had a long interest in better ways to provide housing for poor people. We gathered for conversation and refreshments after the service.

The pulpit exchange was initiated by then pastor Rev. Dr. Leadrew Johnson and the late Rabbi Judea Miller of Temple B'rith Kodesh. The intent then and now is to give Christians exposure to Jewish worship and Jews exposure to Christian worship. We have even worked with Temple B'rith Kodesh on a number of projects in the community such as building homes through Habitat for Humanity and serving meals at Blessed Sacrament Church. Our intent continues to be to build bridges of understanding across lines of race and religion. We can do this and still remain true to who we are as followers of Christ. It was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said we must learn to live together as brothers (and sisters) or perish together as fools.



The words of Jesus, as captured by Matthew in the 22nd chapter of the book named after him, in response to the question of the lawyer as to what is the greatest commandment tell us “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ “This is the first and greatest commandment. “And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (NRSV)

**The Drama Committee for the Sunday School
And the Board of Christian Education
By Irene Ingram**



The Drama Committee works in conjunction with the Sunday School and the Board of Christian Education (BOCE) to present and coordinate programs for the Sunday School and the BOCE.

The committee is open to any member from Mt. Olivet Baptist Church (MOBC) who would like to participate. The Drama Committee's representative to the BOCE is Nellie King. Other committee members who helped to produce the Christmas Program & Candle Light Service were: Artherine Bruce, Ann Brooks, Tina

Chapman DaCosta, Catherine Canty, Sadie Hill, Irene Ingram and Marilyn Powers.

The Christmas Program & Candlelight Service was scheduled for Sunday, December 16, 2007 at 5:00 pm. However, the program was held on Sunday, December 23, 2007 because of inclement weather.

The committee met several times prior to the program to organize and set goals. One of the main goals was to reach out to as many people as possible that wanted to participate. As a result of that goal, approximately forty children, youth and adults did perform. The program consisted of recitations/speeches about Christmas and a short play, "Christmas? Bah Humbug" was also presented. One of the highlights of the play was the manger scene. Artherine Bruce designed beautiful costumes and Ann Brooks displayed beautiful decorations to show the birth of Jesus.



The Candlelight Service, coordinated by Catherine Canty followed the Christmas play. Several speakers, beautiful candles, Rev. Lawrence Hargrave and the Sanctuary Choir made the Candle Light Service a sacred event to celebrate the birth of Christ. The program closed with just the lights from the candles as the choir and the congregation sang "Jesus The Light of the World."

**Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
2008 Officers**

Board of Trustees

Melva Brown
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Perry Wheeler

Church Clerk

Wendy B. Rose

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Thelma Jacobs
Pamela Williams
Harvey McCorvey
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Audrey Davidson
Camelia Dennis
Constance Eli
Paula Lewis
Geraldine McFadden
Sandra Merritt
Luella Peterson
James Rhodes
James Richardson
Sam Smith
Rosetta Street

The MOBC History Committee

One of the most important missions Christians have as disciples of Jesus is to tell others of the love of God and to love your neighbor by caring for them. One of the most powerful ways we have in telling others of God's love is to let our light shine. To live our lives in such a way that others can see God in us. When we look back on our history, we can determine for ourselves if we are doing what God has commanded us to do. We can use this historical data to decide if we need to adjust our walk in the Lord and how we can make it better.

In our journey from 1910, there have been several history books written along the way, to tell of the history of Mount Olivet Baptist Church. The MOBC History Committee now has the task of writing a history book that summarizes and records 100 years of MOBC history in a manner that will make the book both informative and enjoyable. For the past 100 years great men and women of God have been in our numbers, in our pulpits and in our hearts. According to the historical records, we have been helping the poor, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and telling the prisoners of God's plan for their lives. We are that city on a hill.

The MOBC Church History Committee is on schedule with our research for the 2010 Mt. Olivet Baptist Church History Book. We thank you for your assistance and involvement in the interviews and the archival searches that we have conducted. In this year of 2008, we expect to accomplish the greatest portion of our work. Please continue your prayers and support because our work is indeed cut out for us.

Through Christ, we can do all things. Our faith in God is the key.

Jerrimiah Brantley
Chairman
The Mount Olivet Baptist Church History Committee

BYF @ MOBC
By Sherri Ruffin

Yes, Baptist Youth Fellowship has returned to Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. Our target audiences are youth between the ages of 12-18. We will focus on developing our youth to open their eyes to spiritual enrichment and growth, educational advancement, service, mission and fellowship. There will also be social activities.



Our kick off event was a social event in December where 18 youth participated in bowling at Sunset Bowl. All had a great time showing off their skills and techniques.

Our next event was in celebration of Martin Luther King’s Birthday where 30 youth viewed the movie “The Great Debaters”. After the movie we had a group discussion where many expressed their views on the treatment of African Americans in the 1930s. Many realized that they too would react as many of the characters did when faced with racism and prejudice. They also saw how diligence, determination, and hard work would pay off in the end.

BYF will meet twice a month with planned activities. Look to your bulletin for future activities. If you are a youth between the ages of 12-18, please fill in the information below and return to Sherri Ruffin or contact me at 737-0442.

Name:

Phone Number:

Parent’s Name:

School Attended & Grade:

Email address:

Date of Birth:



Cub Scout Pack 46
By Luva Alvarez



The Cub Scout Pack 46 has recently had a great number of young boys join the Boy Scouts of America organization at Mount Olivet Baptist Church. Recent transformations include the change of new leaders as well as an increase in parent involvement and participation among the young boys. The new leaders are Carlos Alvarez (Cub Master), Earnestine Keaton (Assistant Cub Master), David Hawkes (Unit Commissioner) and Luva Alvarez (Pack Chairman).

In the last few months the young boys have made great strides in completing their bobcat badges as well as earning belt loops for their completion of achievements individually and with their families. The cub scouts also ventured outside the church to attend events at the Susan B. Anthony House, Stoke Farm, Memorial Art Gallery and local bowling alley. Just recently on February 10, 2008, the scouts participated in Scouts Sunday, an opportunity for the boys to lead many areas of the Sunday Service at Mount Olivet Baptist Church. The scouts that participated are Simeon A., Donnell C., DJ H., Jovan E., David K., Rohan L., Isaiah S., Seneca P., Ashton C, Jaleel S., Jalen M., and Raymour G. An upcoming event for the Cub Scout program is the Annual Blue and Gold Banquet on February 23, 2008. During this event, the young boys will participate in fellowship activities with their families and one another. We are looking forward to creating many opportunities for our young boys with programs to be implemented throughout the year.



Finance Committee

I know we don't often talk about money in our newsletter. But we thought it was important to discuss two things, the church envelopes and giving to the church.

Church Envelopes

To begin the year we distributed redesigned church envelopes. Most importantly, the biggest change in the redesign was the removal of the printed membership number on the envelope. This has and will continue to reduce our costs associated with acquiring envelopes. The cost for the 2008 envelope order was smaller than in 2007 because we could order just the right amount of envelopes, rather than ordering the boxes in sequence. Previously, we had to order envelopes even if the member number was not used because we could only order envelopes in membership number sequence. In future years, we will purchase even fewer envelopes as many of our members designate their giving for periods that are less frequent than weekly (i.e., biweekly or monthly). All of this means we are using God resources more efficiently.

Most of our members have adjusted to the new envelopes well. There are a couple of items we need to clarify so that we can continue to properly record our visitor and member contributions.

First, please use the envelopes. The ushers have been assuring the Finance committee that envelopes are in the pews and that they will pass them out when requested. A special note for members who give checks without an envelope: the finance committee must complete an envelope on your behalf which slows down our process. We do this so we can double check our work and balances and also so we have a written record after the deposit is made to the bank. The church will properly record your contributions, no matter how large or small, but we can only perform this task if we know who provided the funds. Please if you are able, use and complete the envelope with every contribution.

Second, please print clearly. We are getting better at recognizing signatures, but there is a chance we are not getting them correct and on several occasions we were unable to give credit because we could not recognize the name. If possible, please print clearly with some separation between characters so that we can easily identify your name. As an additional piece of identification, please write your member number on the envelope so that we can look up the number if we can not understand the signature.

So far the new envelopes have been a positive addition to the way we collect funds. We hope that they have been sufficiently easy for you to use. If there are suggestions prior to the next printing, send your comments to John Hill, Financial Clerk.

When you need more envelopes, please contact the church office or an usher.

Church Giving

We are not the pastor, and shall not attempt to give the biblical justifications for tithes and offerings. We only want to emphasize that as a matter of budgeting and the stated vision of the church, tithing should be the goal for more of our members. For those of us who are not yet tithing, the suggestion is to give a higher percentage of your gross income this year than you did last year. This way, we as a congregation will continue to grow toward tithing.

It is a blessing to be able to give,

John Hill, Chairmen and Financial Clerk
Finance Committee

“And the Award Goes to Shalom Greene”
By Charlotte Downing



Shalom Greene, a seventeen year old senior at Monroe High School, is valedictorian of his class and the #2 graduating senior in the Rochester City School District. He was featured in a Channel 8 News video segment reported by Elizabeth Harness on January 25, 2008 and most recently quoted in a February 12, 2008 Democrat & Chronicle article on the Urban League of Rochester's Project Ready Program. As a 2 year participant, he recommends the program and credits it with helping him to keep up with school, his grades and to become more comfortable with speaking in front of a group. He states in the article that lack of academic pursuit comes from the parent not promoting education. And, when interviewed by MOBC, he talked about peer pressure saying that his focus is on what is best for him, "get my education and do what will put me in the best situation for the future". He is also involved with the MCC Science and Technology Entry Program, STEP and is an Urban League Black Scholar.

Shalom has been active at Mt. Olivet for over 4 years. He came to MOBC as a youth leader working with Youth Minister, Rev. James McCarroll, and joined the youth Bible Study class. He completed the study and more recently became a member of the AV ministry working on video recording and projecting images and scripture on the screens during worship service. He likes different experiences and is open to learn new things. His hairstyle has changed over the years. Some MOBC members may know him from his braids and others from wearing his hair out, but the constant over the past years is his attendance at church with his mother, Katosha Greene. Shalom commented on what keeps him active at MOBC, "I like the mellow service and the warm feeling. It fits my personality and I feel at home. My spiritual growth is important. I like to hear the word, lessons, scripture and preaching. That's the whole purpose for coming to church."

His other interests include the Monroe Life newspaper, resurrected after many years, where he serves on the Editorial Board as webmaster and graphic designer. Shalom also works after school at St. John's Senior's Community Home.

Some of the other awards and recognitions Shalom has earned include: the Martin Luther King Jr. Award sponsored by the Rochester Teacher Association, National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, EDS and ASAR Award, Association of Supervisors and Administrators of Rochester for exemplary citizenship and leadership and the 2006 Academic Achievement Award for maintaining the RCSD's highest grade point average.

Shalom plans to pursue computer engineering at one of three colleges: the University of Virginia, University of Maryland, College Park, where he is already accepted, or RIT. He wants to learn how machines are built and make them help us carry out our daily functions.

The MOBC family congratulates Shalom on his outstanding academic achievements, leadership and citizenship. He is committed to developing his talents and spiritual gifts to the glory of God. And, the winner is, Shalom Greene, young, gifted and black.

Mount Olivet Baptist Church
141 Adams Street
Rochester, NY 14608



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 14, 2008

Mount Olivet Baptist Church is now taking bookings for it's 13th Annual Golf Tournament

Rochester, New York; Mount Olivet Baptist Church will be hosting its 13th annual golf tournament, Saturday July 26, 2008; at the Victor Hills Golf Club, Victor, NY.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., and tournament play begins at 10:00 a.m.

This outing is a 4-person scramble and tee times will be established. Co-ed teams are welcome. Participants will be notified of their exact tee time. Victor Hills is a spike-less course and your cooperation will be appreciated.

The entry fee of \$90 includes your greens fee, lunch, & dinner. First, second and third team prizes will be awarded to 3 Men's flights and a Women's flight, along with a number of door prizes. There will be a raffle with tickets available at registration. For more information or to obtain an entry form, contact the church office at 585-232-6742. Entry deadline is June 26, 2008

For the past twelve years, Mt. Olivet has hosted an annual golfing event that serves a twofold purpose. First, this event brings people together for fun and fellowship. It helps to build relationships and renew acquaintances. Secondly, this event helps to continue the work of developing the youth of our community. There can be no greater purpose than to help develop those who are coming behind us. Mt. Olivet helps to develop young people in many ways and some of them include tutorial programs, summer activities, scouting programs and scholarship programs just to name a few. As you participate in this 13th Annual Golf Tournament, you are contributing to a healthier community because through events like this one, we are able to build intellect, shape character and continue the vision of making things better for the next generation.

About Mount Olivet Baptist Church:

Mount Olivet is located in the Corn Hill District of Rochester, NY. The Baptist church was established in 1910. Mt. Olivet Baptist Church 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. We have served and continue to serve in concrete and meaningful ways. We seek, as people of faith, to "serve the present age" for the sake of liberation and wholeness. Join us. Additional information about Mount Olivet Baptist Church can be found at <http://www.mt-olivetbaptistchurch.org>

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Contacts:

George Opira, Tournament Co-Chair (383-8131)
John Hill, Tournament Co-Chair (473-6318)

Telephone Support Available...

for those caring for an aging loved one with short term or long term care needs

To better meet the needs of our congregation, support will now be offered through Careline, a telephone support program.

If you are caring for an aging loved one and are interested in receiving support at your convenience, in your own home, please contact the **Caregiver Support Services Resource Center at 585 760 5470.**



Resource Center™
Alzheimer's Association
435 East Henrietta Road
Rochester, New York 14620
585 760 5470 phone
585 760 5401 facsimile
www.alz.org/rochesterny/

Caregiver Support Services

Funding provided by the Monroe County Office
for the Aging and United Way

alzheimer's  association

Alzheimer's Support Ministry
Presents Educational Seminars hosted at Mt. Olivet
Baptist Church

The Alzheimer's Support Ministry at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, offers support and services to those affected by Alzheimer's disease in the greater Rochester community through the Alzheimer's Association. Please join us for our next seminar:

Monday, February 18, 2008
6:30 – 8:30 PM

**Managing Challenging Behaviors/Taking
Care of Yourself**

Monday, April 21, 2008
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Understanding Alzheimer's Disease

Monday, June 16, 2008
6:30 – 7:30 PM

Community Resources

The seminars will be held at:

**Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
141 Adams Street
Rochester, New York**

Registration is required. To register please call the Alzheimer's Association at
585-760-5400 or 800-272-3900

**Alzheimer's Association
435 East Henrietta Road
Rochester, New York 14620
585 760 5400 phone
585 760 5401 facsimile
800 272 3900 24-hour helpline
www.alz.org/rochesterny**

alzheimer's  association™

the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer