



## **MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY**

The Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church has been a longstanding, uplifting presence in the City of Schenectady, New York, sharing the good news of God and serving the community in many ways.

Mt. Olivet was established under the late Reverend Benjamin M. Sturges, its first Pastor on October 30, 1930, at 502 Broadway in Schenectady, New York. In 1931, Mt. Olivet expanded under the late Reverend D. Reid, its second Pastor, with the purchase of 535 – 538 Broadway. In 1961, Mt. Olivet branched out to 809 Strong Street in Schenectady, under its third Pastor, the late Reverend M. J. Lynch. In 1963, Mt. Olivet continued to grow under its fourth Pastor, the late Reverend Howard Robinson. In 1964 under its fifth Pastor, the late Reverend L. M. Foster, Mt. Olivet's membership and financial prosperity grew, with the burning of the mortgage and purchase of 807 and 813 Strong Street next to the Church; and following a dynamic membership drive and building fund program, plans for a new edifice were realized. In 1973, the late Reverend Willie Lee Brown became the sixth Pastor of Mt. Olivet and continued working on its dream of building a new church; and in April 1974 the old church on Strong Street was demolished, construction began on the new church while Mt. Olivet conducted its worship services at Albany Street Methodist Church.

On January 26, 1975, Mt. Olivet Church made its Grand March into its new sanctuary. In November 1977, Reverend Albert J. Holman was installed as the seventh Pastor of Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church and served for over 30 dedicated years growing its membership, financial stability, and community activism.

Following Reverend Holman's retirement, Reverend Horace Sanders, Jr. accepted God's call to serve as the eighth Pastor of Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church at 809 Strong Street in February 2012, and on March 4, 2012, Pastor Sanders held his first service. Building on the solid foundation established under the leadership and vision of Mt. Olivet's previous seven Pastors, Reverend Sanders heard God's call to "Move," and the Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist

Church responded accordingly and received an incredible blessing from God allowing the Church to purchase a new sanctuary at 1068 Park Avenue, formerly Union Presbyterian Church, in Schenectady, New York; and on September 8, 2013, the members of Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church proudly made their Grand March from 809 Strong Street to 1068 Park Avenue to carry on the work of the Lord in the City of Schenectady. On November 3, 2013, Mt. Olivet formally dedicated its sanctuary at 1068 Park Avenue to the Lord, offering thanks and praise for God's abundant blessings bestowed upon it, and committing to share God's blessings with Schenectady and surrounding communities.

In the seven years that Pastor Sanders has been shepherding Mt. Olivet, the Lord has continued to bless the church in many ways. New ministries have been created, Christian education and development programs have expanded, the church building has been enhanced, and involvement in community issues and events has been heightened.

Praise God for the **90 years** that Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church has remained a strong spiritual presence in the City of Schenectady.

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