

2<sup>nd</sup> MT OLIVE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

HISTORY  
FROM  
1856 TO 1956

GROUND  
BREAKING 1992

## A FORWARD

The following history dating from the year 1856 leading up to the year 1875 date of organization, and on to the present time, 1955; 99 years connection with 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt Olive Church history. Many interesting incidents are not recorded, as to the work and sacrifice of the men and women who were founders of the organization; those who have improved, revered and revered their inheritance down to the present time. Many spiritual incidents, many revival meetings, the wonderful manifestations of the Holy Spirit; the Hill-Top experiences; then in the valley of despair; climbing out of the valley, pushing slowly upward and onward again. Financial difficulties, and how overcome and how vividly the hand of God could be seen, leading and guiding this band of Christians workers down through the years.

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## Chapter I      The Beginning or Previous Years

In the year 1856, long before even horse and buggy days, when the mode of travel was walking, horse-back riding and two horse wagon to haul all of the family, if going long distances. Walking a couple of miles was not dreaded, just a pleasant part of life.

No improved roads, all dirt, and of course if it rained it was mud. The community not so thickly populated as it is now. Church houses were few and far between. The only Church house in this community was a log Church, owned by the organization of "The Church of God" or the "Winebrenerians" and known as "Mount Zion" near the line of Daviess and Martin County, east of Farlen. Quite a number of residents of this community had membership with the Baptist Church at Scotland, in Green County, then one of the strongest Churches in the Bedford Association. But Scotland was five miles away from this neighborhood.

But a good neighbor Church helps. Upon invitation by the Mt Zion Church the pastor of Scotland Church, Rev. R. M. Parks began preaching once a month, and held a revival meeting in the Mt. Zion Church, which resulted in several additions increasing the membership of Scotland Church in this community.

Because of distance, bad roads, and mode of travel, some of the Church members have begun thinking seriously of a "Baptist Church" in this community. But there being some opposition, what was known as an "Arm" of Scotland Church was extended to the members here. Rev. R. M. Parks continued to preach once a month at Mt. Zion for three years. Membership continued to grow, and Benjamin Phipps was elected and ordained Deacon of the "Arm" by the Scotland Church. In 1860 Rev. Parks resigned as pastor of Scotland church, and regular services ceased here until 1869. During this interval of 8 years, our nation, communities, churches and homes passed through many bitter experiences. In 1861 the Civil War began. In 1863 Abraham Lincoln set the slaves free. The war now near an end and our United States of America whole it was safe to go to work again, with God's help to overcome many difficulties and problems caused by the three years of war. Communities, churches and homes suffered the loss of many dear ones who had traveled the last mile to their eternal home.

Services at Scotland continued through all these years of war and desolation, and the membership in this community attended as best they could until T. N. Robertson became the pastor, and services were resumed again in this community in what was then known as the Stotts School house, which stood on ground where the residence of William and Laura Bechtel now stands; said ground belonged to the heirs of John Stotts, one of the soldiers of the "Civil War" that never came back. He was the Grandfather of "yours truly". His body was laid to rest somewhere in the state of Georgia.

Rev. M. C. Clark succeeded Rev. Robertson as pastor and for three years regular preaching, Sunday School, and prayer meeting was maintained and the Arm of the church grew in number and spirituality. Then came another season of spiritual drought. The Scotland Church was without a pastor for awhile; until Jacob Cornelius came on the field

and again regular services here were resumed; this time at what was then known as the Phipps School house, near the residence of the afore mentioned Deacon, Benjamin Phipps. Years later this frame building in which church services were held, and in which Second Mt. Olive Church was organized, was moved off the grounds and converted into a residence of Deacon John B. Phipps but long since has been torn down and is no more. A new brick school building took the place of the old frame. Then consolidation of schools, and the property sold. The brick building still stands on the site of the old frame building, along with other buildings on the old school ground, where I spent my childhood school days.

A fruit market now stands by the roadside, built by Mr. And Mrs. Standly Stout who purchased the property and donated to 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Church the school bell from the old brick school house, and this bell now hangs in the belfry of the church at this present time.

## Chapter II Preparation and Organization

For two years regular services were held in the afore said frame schoolhouse. Sunday school and prayer meeting every Sunday and preaching once a month by Rev. Jacob Cornelius, who lived in Scotland.

In the mean time an epidemic of smallpox broke out in Scotland, and in order to shield from exposure to the dread disease, Deacon Benjamin Phipps brought the pastor and his family, consisting of his wife and four children to live in his home, until the danger of the disease was over but which lasted for several weeks, but did not spread outside the town of Scotland. More and more the need of a Baptist Church in this community was realized, and in the latter part of the year 1874 the members of the "Arm" decided to go into action.

A meeting was held to talk the matter over very seriously and agree to organize or not to organize. This was conducted as a business meeting with Rev. Jacob Cornelius as moderator and John Hubbard as clerk. After much prayer and consultation a vote was taken which resulted unanimous in favor of organizing and to call for letters of dismissal, from Scotland church, for the purpose of organizing at this place, a church of the same faith and order as the mother church.

These real-for-sure Christian men and women, realized the sacred task they had taken upon themselves, and in unity of the Christian spirit they prayed, worked and planned, the results of which has been a blessing to this community for the past eighty years, and still stands and we hope and pray it will continue to stand until the end of time.

Frequent meetings were held and carefully and prayerfully plans were made for the organization meeting, which was set to be on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 1875. The following named churches were invited to assist in the organization: Scotland, Boggs Creek, Union And Friendship, all strong working churches of the Bedford Association. (Now we pause here to say, that all four of these churches because of unforeseen, and unavoidable circumstances no longer function. Union and Boggs Creek property was taken over by the Government when the Crane Depot was built). Also the following named ministers were to be invited: Jacob Cornelius, Isaac Correthers of Union, David Manley of Scotland, Thomas Phipps of Boggs Creek and H. Head of Washington in Union Association. Committee appointed to draw up and prepare rules of decorum and articles of faith to be based on the Bible alone. This committee was: R. D. Stotts, Benjamin Phipps, Paschal Fisher, Perry Eubanks and Thomas Ledgerwood. These article of faith, rules of decorum and the church Covenant compose the constitution of the church which is as sacred as the Bible because it is all based on the Bible and scriptures of which we will have more to say later. On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1875, a special meeting was held for final preparation for the organization meeting. The articles of faith and rules of decorum which had been carefully and prayerfully prepared by the committee were presented, rehearsed and accepted and approved. Also, a name for the church must be decided. By a unanimous vote "Mt. Olive" was to be the name. A few days later it was realized there was another and older Baptist church in Daviess County named Mt. Olive.

“2<sup>nd</sup>” was prefixed and all things being ready “2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist” church was brought forth into life on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 1875, the date previously set for the organization.

Rev. David Manley pastor of Union church preached the recognition sermon. Rev. Jacob Cornelius gave the charge to the church and Thomas Phipps of Boggs Creek offered the recognition prayer. Rev. David Manley was moderator and Deacon William Clinton of Friendship was clerk of the meeting. Benjamin Phipps was retained as Deacon of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive. The first elected pastor was Jacob Cornelius. The first Deacons ordained after the organization were: John B. Phipps, son of Benjamin Phipps, and Baldwin Tyler Howard. Other officers elected were trustees: R. D. Stotts, James Ledgerwood, Perry Eubanks, John Hubbard and Andrew York. Treasurer John Hubbard and clerk R. D. Stotts. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Church now fully organized, all officers elected and installed, organization completed; church now ready to go to work fulfilling the mission according to the instruction as given in the Bible; as stated near the beginning.

### Chapter III Building Church Home and Dedication

Immediately after organization this band of Christian men and women began planning for a new church home. But first, there must be a plot of ground on which to build, so in July 1875 the trustees were ordered by the church to find a suitable location for the house of worship. Time slipped by and nothing definite was accomplished until February 1876, when the trustees reported ground available, just across the road, north from the "Taylor grave yard". Said ground a part of the estate of Nancy Taylor Grey and her heirs. The location was accepted by the church and the ground was donated to 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist church by Mary Jane (Taylor) Bechtel and her husband, Aaron Bechtel, for the purpose of a church building to be erected there on. A provision in the deed (take note) if it fails to be used for a home of worship for a period of five years, the property is to fall back to the donators.

Building begins, finished, furnished and dedicated. Size of building to be 46X30X16 feet. Committees were appointed via: The building committee, Tyler Howard; Pascal Pisher; and R. D. Stotts. Soliciting committee to raise funds for the job was John B. Phipps; James Ledgerwood; John Hubbard and Aaron Bechtel. Work began immediately in July 1876. All the timber and the work preparing and delivering on the ground in readiness for the carpenter, was donated by the members, also quite a few who were not members, took an active part in the erection of the new church house. Among the ones who were not members and most active were, James Taylor; Daniel Howard, Paris Taylor, Alfred Keck, William Chambers and Aaron Bechtel who later became a member. The heavy timbers were all cut, hewed, and made ready by hand. Mr. John Potts was the carpenter. The lovely scrolls that he made and placed above the doors; the pulpit stand and the seats, show the skill of his workmanship. The scrolls are no more, but the "pulpit" stands on the rostrum today where the open bible is supposed to lay. This stand is a monument to the memory of John Potts, who built the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church house in 1876, finished in 1877 with furnishings and seats made by the carpenter, some of which are still in use. Seating capacity about 300 people. Lights; two chandeliers, with three coal-oil lamps each were bought and hung from the center of the ceiling, one in front, the other toward the back.. A coal-oil lamp set on the fancy posts, which stood on either side the pulpit stand. House was comfortable heated, with two large wood-burning stoves. For the benefit of this modern age, who never saw a big wood burning stove it looked some what like a big iron box, with a door in one end, and a round lid on the top center, which could be taken on and off. One stove on the east side and one on the west, side of the building. The brick flue extended from the attic, up through the roof, center of building. A big iron drum with stove pipe connections in both ends, and firmly fastened to the timbers above hung below the ceiling under the flue. An elbow joint of stove pipe at each stove with enough joints of pipe connected up with the drum which connected with the flue. Wood was the only fuel in this community at the time and was furnished and made ready to burn in the stoves by members of the church and others with out cost to the church. Also a large Bible for the pulpit stand was one of the necessary items of furnishings. The committee for this job was via: Mary H. Phipps, (familiarily known as Aunt Polly) Julia A. Briner and Jane Chambers. They solicited the money, bought the Bible and white muslin window curtains for the eight large windows



of the church. Mrs. Ferguson, grandmother of Sister Telethn Osborn donated a fine velvet cover for the pulpit stand on which the large new Bible lay. The clerk had been ordered by the church to publish the notice of the date of dedication of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Baptist church, which had been set for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in April 1877. Said notice to be in the following papers via: "The Washington Gazette", the "Washington Democrat", the "Clarksburg Spy", the "Standard" and the "Journal and Messenger", the last two were Baptist denomination papers. Dr. Stinson and Rev. W. L. Boston, both of Washington had been chosen to conduct and preach the dedicatory sermons. James Ledgerwood and Tyler Howard had been appointed to meet these preachers at Loogootee, the nearest railroad station and convey them to the church on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in April 1877, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church was dedicated on the above date, with Dr. Stinson and W. L. Boston taking care of all the necessary features of the day. The church was still financially in debt, but spiritually strong and growing in numbers and slowly but surely overcoming financial difficulties as the years passed by.

## Chapter IV A Few Notes and Incidents Through the Following 30 Years

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1879, the church sponsored a Sunday School picnic and a festival at night to be held in a grove just a short distance west of the church. All neighboring Sunday Schools were invited to have a part in the day's program. A wonderful response. Sunday Schools from Scotland, Odon and Ranglesville and country churches were represented on the days program by "choirs" special songs, readings etc. The special speaker of the day was Elder W. L. Green of Mitchell Indiana. A concession stand, peanuts, candy, fruit etc., were on sale. A large crowd in attendance, an enjoyable and interesting 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Proceeds from picnic and festival clear was \$73.93 which was applied to the indebtedness of the church. In 1880 a carpet for the rostrum, a stand table, two pulpit chairs and a few other needed articles were purchased in preparation for entertaining Bedford association in September of that year. Committee to meet the delegates at the railroad station in Loogootee with conveyance to the church was via: R. D. Stotts, Pescal Fisher and J. D. Phipps. Then again in 1887 Bedford association was entertained here. In May 1886 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church was requested to assist in organizing a Baptist church in New-Berry. So on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May at a business meeting of the church the following named were appointed to assist in the organizing as had been requested via: four deacons, J. D. Phipps, J. W. Stotts, Perry Eubanks and Henry Ledgerwood. Also one lay member John Hubbard. In 1887 "Children's Day" was observed for the first time. G. W. McGraw was the pastor. Henry Ledgerwood Sunday School Superintendent. Miss Laura Phipps teacher of the children's class ranging in ages from about 6 to 12 or 13 years.

This teacher having received some literature from the Baptist State Publishing Company suggested to the Superintendent that we have a children's day program. He thought it a good idea; consequently with the cooperation of pastor, superintendent and all the parents of the children, quite an interesting program was given in June and has continued to be observed either in June or July to the present time. In 1890 because of nearness to the churches of Union Association also of better roads, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church decided to call for a letter from Bedford association to unite with Union association. Letter was granted and change made.

In 1897 a few Baptist people who lived in Burns City attempted to organize a Baptist church at that place. Four of our members, who lived near there called for letters of dismissal from 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church in order to help out in the Burns City organization; but which proved to be unsuccessful, lasting but a short time. From 1897 until 1899 a sort of spiritual drought, not much accomplished; until December 1899 when Rev. Joel Ellis of Linton, Indiana held one of the most successful revival meetings that has ever been held in this community anywhere. Meeting continued for three weeks. Results: church wonderfully revived spiritually. Forty new additions to the church; thirty-four of them for baptism. Meeting closed January 28, 1900.

In May of the same year, an all day meeting was held on the banks of White river near New-Berry, and pastor Joel Ellis baptized the thirty-four waiting candidates. Sure was a memorable day of Christian love and fellowship. Then followed for sometime a

young peoples prayer meeting every Wednesday night. Preaching once a month. Sunday School, prayer and social meeting every Sunday. Every one interested, anxious and willing to work. The Holy Spirit working with us and leading, much work was accomplished, spiritually and in every helpful way concerning the welfare of the church.

## Chapter V Ladies Aid

In 1908 a "Ladies Aid" was organized. The result of a dream. One of the ladies of the church dreamed we were weaving a carpet for the church. She told her dream to a sister member and as they talked about the dream an idea came to both of them; "Why not" for an organization for work to help with the expenses of the church, also try to be a help spiritually. After conferring with a number of sister members, it was decided to announce a meeting for the purpose of organizing a "Ladies Aid". The date set to be on Tuesday P. M. 1<sup>st</sup> November. Place: the home of sister Retta Stickles. After devotions and prayers the organization was completed with seven charter members present, via: Retta Stickles, Laura Bechtel, Dean Wallick (Grandma) Sarah Brown, Margie Phipps, Maud Stickles and Zula Bechtel. Officers elected: Retta Stickles, President; Laura Bechtel, vice President; Dean Wallick, Secretary and Treasurer and Zula Bechtel, Assistant Secretary. Soon after, at a business meeting of the church, the Ladies Aids was recognized and accepted as an auxiliary of the church.

Weekly meetings were held in different homes. Attendance and work and interest increased. Carpet-rags, and rug-rags were donated, and made ready for weaving. Carpet chad was bought and carpets and rugs were weaved by Margie Phipps and Laura Bechtel. The weaving donated, when finished, was sold individually or some times were placed in Barkleys store in Odon to be sold. Many quilts were quilted for people who desired the work done. Many coming from far and near, many names on the old records are interesting to read. With the cooperation of the male members lunch was served at a number of public sales. Also for four or five years at Old-Settlers meetings of three days at Odon, Breakfast, dinner and supper was served at a nominal price, together with a concession stand via: ice cream, home made; lemonade, popcorn and all the balance of "what have you", coming out in the clear with over \$100 each year. Ladies Aid did all kinds of work from hulling beans to stripping cane for people who wanted to hire work done. Meetings were held in many different homes, always devotions, songs and prayers were a part of the program.

Faith, friendship and fellowship were enjoyed. Sometimes, amusing incidents occurred. Will relate one example. This happened at the home of Oscar and Dean Wallick. The ladies met to quilt. The men folk also met in Oscar's woods to chop, saw and split wood for fuel for the church house stoves. Sister Dean, with help, had prepared a wonderful dinner. Noon hour came; men came in, bringing with them a little half grown possum, which they had caught in the woods. And marching into the room where the ladies were quilting, with great ceremony, they presented the little possum to the "Ladies Aid" who though somewhat fearful of the little live animal, accepted with "thanks". Then not knowing what else to do with it, decided at once to offer it for sale, and soon it was sold for thirty cents to William Bummet, one of the wood choppers. A lot of fun, a quick sale of a fine present, and all of thirty cents to the good, all in a very short time of fifteen minutes.

Something for all who were there, to remember with much pleasure. The Ladies Aid, as all organizations has had seasons of drought, and adversity, as well as prosperity. Gradually drifting for several years, there was not much activity; almost dormant. And in 1946, the few that were interested decided to turn over to the church treasurer the money that was in the Ladies Aid treasurer, which at that time amounted to \$22.40. A check was written and given to the church treasurer. In 1953 interest in Ladies Aid work began to revive and has continued to the present time 1955. It's now quite an active organization. All day meeting every Thursday in the church basement. Work, rug-rags, quilting, finishing quilts and comforts etc. Have recently redecorated and painted the walls of the basement and assisted in improving the basement, with a new ceiling, also have purchased a new gas cook stove. The present officers are: via: President, Mrs. Anna Laura Overton; vice president, Mrs. Nellie Bolling and Secretary & Treasurer, Mrs. Pearl Smith.

## Chapter VI Improvements to Church Building, Grounds and BYPU Organization

In 1909 a new carpet for the rostrum and isles, two pulpit chairs and a stand table was purchased. All things made ready to entertain the delegates and visitors of Union Association, for two days meeting. Over night entertainment in the house, and a basket dinner and supper served both days on a long table in the front yard, under the shade trees. Wonderful meals, wonderful fellowship, wonderful spiritual service in all sessions, morning, afternoon and night. A fine representation of all fifteen of the churches of Union Association on August 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>, 1909. In 1911 the coal-oil lamps and chandeliers were removed and gasoline lights were installed, at a cost of fifty dollars. We had now a well lighted building, but which also required very careful and close attention and work, which was very faithfully performed. Also in 1911 improvements on grounds, outside, were completed and remain to the present time. The concrete steps from the road, up into the cemetery also concrete steps, on opposite side of road, up onto the double concrete walk, to the door of the old church. Mechanic, William H. Bechtel superintended the work. In 1912 improvements continued on church building. The lamp posts that stood on either side of pulpit stand, and the old rostrum were removed and a wide rostrum, across the entire south end of the building took its place; making room for seating a large and efficient choir on the left of the pulpit stand on the west side of the building. The old church bell, was taken from a large wooden frame, which stood near the front of the church outside and placed inside a belfry, which O. N. Meyers built on top of the church, over the front door. The soliciting committee to raise funds for the improvements were, Will Conrad, O. H. Wallick, John B Stotts, Grace Ketcham and Edna McCarter. Work all completed and paid for, by the later part of 1912. Old wood stoves were replaced with coal stoves. A nice communion set, which is still in use, was bought by the young peoples Sunday School class, with Mrs. Meggie Reece teacher and presented to the church at a Sunday night preaching service. By request of class and teacher, Mrs. Laura Bechtel made the presentation speech, and acceptance speech by the pastor Rev. Isom Beasley, who was a real preacher and leader, not a driver. Much work and good was accomplished during the three and one half years of his pastorate. Results of which continued on through the years.

In 1912 the Young Peoples organization, then called the BYPU or Baptist Young Peoples Union, was very active in all lines of work. For example, at one time each member was asked to earn \$1.00 by doing a job of work for some one. Then at a specified meeting each one turn the money over to the treasurer of the organization and tell what they did, to earn the money. Sure was an interesting program and meeting and \$34.25 was sent to missions. All lines of work prospering, both financially and spiritually. Henry Sipes was the President and leader. They also sponsored one of the most novel, interesting, enjoyable and profitable meetings this community has ever known. Quoting from a lengthy article, printed in the local paper, the meeting was held at the home of sisters Sarah and Mergie Phipps, charter members of the church and who also cared for an aged aunt in their home. On Thanksgiving Day, very early in the morning, neighbors, friends, men, women and children came bringing well-filled baskets of good eats. Work began, men and boys cut, sewed and split wood enough to last the family, remainder of the winter. Women arranged and prepared dinner, sixty-one people

enjoyed the sumptuous meal. A prize was given to the boy and girl dressed in oldest fashion. According to previous rules, which had been arranged and agreed upon, a fine of three to ten cents on any of the BYPU members wearing stylish clothes or jewelry of any kind at this meeting; also a fine of three cents for every half hours absence from this meeting on this day. Forty-one cents was collected in fines. Groceries and eatables of all kind were donated to these aged sisters, for help to support their aged aunt. A special program in the P.M. The crowd assembled in the living room, and an hour was spent in thanksgiving, praise and prayer and a talk by Schuyler Ketcham. Remainder of the P.M. spent in old time sports and games and fellowship together. A number of pictures were taken. The article in the paper finished quote "as the sun went down, all returned to their homes, feeling that a more enjoyable and more profitable Thanksgiving day could not have been spent".

Back in July of this same year, 1912, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church received a request from the few members that were left at Scotland, our mother church to hold an all day meeting at that church when convenient. By unanimous vote it was agreed to go in a body on the first Sunday in August to fulfill the request of our mother church and which was the last time an all day meeting in Scotland Baptist Church was ever held. Rev. Isom Beasley, pastor, preached morning and in the PM to a large crowd of people.

The following years, 1913-14-15-16 were filled with much Christian service, revival meetings, held by different pastors, quite a number of additions to the church and rejoicing, but also mingled with sorrow, and disappointments, which invariable comes to one and all, and caused us to realize our dependence upon our Savior, who is always an ever present help, in time of need, if we'll only call upon Him and put our trust in Him.

## Chapter VII WAR YEARS (First World War and Second World War)

1917, 1918 and 1919 were years of work and worry, consecration and earnest prayer. Most all of our eligible young people called into the service of our country or working else where, causing serious effect on all church attendance.

A list of the names of the boys called for service from this community was framed and hung on the wall of the church and today it hangs on the wall on the basement of the church, a reminder, and a monument to days past and gone. After the armistice was signed all our boys came home, except one. Thurman Dalton died in camp; his body was brought back home for burial. God rest his soul. Many prayers of Thanks to our Heavenly Father and much rejoicing among all churches and people in general when the boys came home victorious in battle, and our Nation saved; a free Nation, a peace loving Nation. A few years this peace lasted. Churches and people in general struggles and worked back to normal life. But again only twenty years later, the war clouds again gathered. But during that time of twenty years, another fine bunch of young people had grown up and took an active part in church work. But Uncle Sam calls and our boys and girls must answer the call to protect our beloved land. Again the names of our boys and one girl, a nurse, Miss Norma Stickles was framed and hung on the wall of the church; but sorry to say this frame was lost in the fire which destroyed the church and of which we will tell later. After the war was over and victory again gained, all our boys came home alive. But one of our deacons, Francis Sanders passed through a bitter experience as a prisoner of war, in a German prison for six months, was liberated by his own buddies near the close of the war. The nurse, Miss Stickles, still is a nurse in the Navy. When the war was over and our boys came home, again there was much rejoicing in all communities and again came the work and struggle back to normal life and our prayer is God grant we may never have to go through another war experience. (See homecoming – 1945).



## Chapter VIII Improvements Number 2 on Building and a “Legacy”

Leaving the war years, we go back to 1924. The general conversation among members of the church, especially the Ladies Aid was the need of a basement under the church. In October of this year 1924, Rev. J. S. Marrill, our state evangelist, held a very successful revival meeting; also urged and helped to plan the remodeling of the church building. He drew up plans and blue prints and presented them to the church, in a business meeting. The plans and blue prints were accepted as follows: An addition of a Sunday school to both the east and west side of the church. A vestibule in front of the front door which is in the north, and a basement underneath the entire building. On Sunday morning, October 12<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Marrill preached a wonderful sermon to a big audience, and then explained the need and desire of the church for an improved building. He then made an appeal for funds to pay for the material and work, for the newly planned improvements of the church. The treasurer of the Ladies Aid quickly responded with a pledge of \$600 for that organization. This was followed by a number of individual pledges. Soon \$1,800 was pledged. Actual work was not begun until Spring of 1925 when framing timbers, foundation etc., all of which was donated and delivered on the ground ready for the carpenter. Although a lot of material and work was donated, there was much more that cost a lot of money. The building committee was via: O. A. Taylor, treasurer of the building fund, Dan Osborn, Rufus Laughlin, Doan Wallick and Laura Bechtel.

Although not much work had been done on the building during the winter, it was resumed in the spring with a revival of interest in the work. Along with the revival of all nature, the budding trees, the humming bees, the greening grass and the singing birds.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1925, although not yet finished, we had our first dinner in the new basement. This was another memorable day. Rev. C. B. Barnes, pastor and Rev. J. S. Marrell, state evangelist, again was with us. An all day meeting. A baptizing in the P.M. that was quite unusual, because of the fact that three generations went down into the water together and were baptized. They were via: Grandma Elgen, age eighty-five years, her son Emmett and his son Edger. These with three other candidates, six in all, were baptized by pastor Barnes and all were taken into full fellowship with the church at the next service. Work on the building continued at intervals, until it was completed. Furnishing the basement and additions had not yet been completed. Also some changes were to be made in the old part of the building. For heating the entire building the coal stoves were removed and a new coal furnace was installed in the basement.

Kitchen furnished with a long cabinet across the west side including a sink at a cost of \$90, paid by “Ladies Aid”. Tables for the dining room were made by John Dale, work donated. A cook stove, cupboards and table and dishes donated by Laura Bechtel and Dean Wallick. Silver ware was bought, also chairs to seat 78 people at the dining tables were bought at a very low cost of the Odon Theater which was replacing with new chairs. During this time one of our aged members, sister Stacie Lay Rinehart, passed away to her home in the Glory Land. After the funeral, it was revealed that she had left all her worldly possessions to 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church. After all the legal business had been

legally and properly adjusted the Ladies Aid prepared all the house hold articles for a public sale. Furniture, clothing, bedding and lots of etc. were sold at a special public auction sale. A few articles via: Dishes, dining table etc. were released for use in the basement. After all debts and expenses were paid, amount left clear was about \$600, which almost finished the indebtedness on the new improvements of the church building. How applicable the scripture “And the walls were rebuilt because the people had a mind to work”. Not all things were ready to entertain Union Association, the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary which convened with 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church on Monday night, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1926, lasting through Tuesday and Wednesday, closing Wednesday night August 30<sup>th</sup>. Both dinner and supper was furnished and served in the basement to the delegates and visitors of the fifteen churches of Union Association. A large crowd attended and enjoyed all the services. To help out with the food for this crowd of people, Rufus McCarter donated a live, 2 year old beef, which was butchered and dressed by the male members of the church. Beef was much help on expenses and appreciated by the church. The new additions and basement had now been finished for almost a year and all debts paid, but had not yet been dedicated in a special service. So it was decided a rededication special service was next in order.

## Chapter IX Rededication and other Incidents

The date set for rededication of the old, new church building was the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in July 1927. Committees were appointed; special work assigned, so all things would be ready on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1927.

The program committee was to arrange the program for the day and have 400 copies printed and ready for distribution at the door, as the people entered on that morning. A copy of the program follows:

- 9 A.M. Sunday School convenes.  
10A.M. Song, America; let by William H. Bechtel, sung by choir.  
10:15 Devotional, Pastor Barnes  
Duet, William H. and Iri Bechtel.  
10:40 Dedicatory Sermon, Dr. Binemore of Indianapolis, Special song.  
11:45 Dedicatory Responses by Pastor C. B. Barnes, Mrs. O. A. Taylor, Mrs. Dean Wallick and Mrs. Laura Bechtel.  
11:55 Dedicatory Prayer, Rev. Marrell of Indianapolis. Song and Benediction.  
12 Noon Basket dinner in basement of church.  
1:45 P.M. Music, First Christian Church Orchestra of Odon.  
2:15 Song service, lead by William H. Bechtel.  
2:30 Devotional.  
2:45 Song-United Brethren Quartet, Odon.  
3:00 History of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Baptist Church by Laura Bechtel.  
3:10 Solo by Mrs. Jesse Henderson of Washington.  
3:20 Address by Rev. Jesse Henderson of Washington.  
4:00 Song, United Brethren Quartet of Odon.  
Orchestra – Dismissal  
7:30 Night Music.  
8:00 Song service led by William H. Bechtel.  
8:20 Devotional, Mrs. Harrill of Indianapolis.  
8:40 Solo, Iri Bechtel.  
8:50 Address, Rev Marrill of Indianapolis.  
Song – Dismissal.

And the old new church was rededicated to the service of our Lord and Savior where down through the years, many sermons were preached, many souls were saved, many revival meetings were held, many happy seasons enjoyed. All of this now and then mingled with sorrow and disappointment, sometimes the bell tolled and last rites were held for a loved one whose body would be carried from the church, across the road, to the cemetery. But all clouds have a silver lining and “all things work together for good to those that love and trust Him”.

In 1938 a wind storm did considerable damage to the building, both sides and inside. Funds for repairing were needed. Money was scarce and hard to get. Out-look

was dark, but “God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform”. The C.I.C. Sunday School class under the leadership of their teacher Elsie Taylor, said “we will help to pay for a new roof on the old part of building unsolicited. We were surprised when Imell Vertroes of Indianapolis who had joined the church when a young lad, but soon after had moved away from this community, and had been gone for several years, remembered the church of his youth and gave his “tithe” money which had been accumulating, a goodly sum, for redecorating inside and with many other doing their bit, the house was again put in order. And about this time Rural Electricity came along, gas lights were taken out and electric lights were installed. The work of installation was donated by Mach Film, husband of Mrs. Doan Wallick Film. Also a new furnace became necessary, which was bought and work of installation, was donated by Jerome Richardson. All of this in 1939 and 1940 and all debts paid.

Then a few months later a new roof became necessary on the west addition. Not much had been said about it, no plans had been made for the new roof. Then one Sunday morning as we assembled as usual for the Sunday morning service, we were surprised to see a new roof on the west addition. Seemingly as if by magic, soon we learned that the Ketchem brothers and sisters, nine in number, were responsible for the noble deed. All of them were or had been members of this church. They had bought the material and paid all expenses. Their names were, William, Schuyler, Rose, Dean, Gine, May, Doll, Grace, and Britta. Then as time moved on, the entire building was in need of paint. Both labor, money and material scarce and hard to get. But the paint was bought and the painting job was done, work donated by Arthur Phipps, son of Deacon J. B. Phipps and grandson of Benjamin Phipps. The church again looked like new and debts paid.

## Chapter X Home Comings

Home Comings and Celebrations of the rededication of the church has been faithfully observed every year since 1927 with an all day service. Sunday School and regular worship hour in A.M. and basket dinner at noon, and a program of special numbers in afternoon. A few of these services are given in part:

1929 had no regular pastor, but speakers for the day were, Brother George Stickles of Bedford, Indiana, one of our own home boys to whom we had previously granted a license to preach the Gospel, and Jesse Henderson, pastor of the Washington Church.

1933 – no regular pastor. Speakers for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in July were Rev. Clarence McBride and Arzo Blevins of Sandborn, Rev. Buchannon of Odon Christian church and John B. Stotts, one of our own members and Editor of the Odon Journal.

1935 – W. N. Jones, pastor and Rev. Bailey of the Linton Baptist church were the speakers. On this date Bible reading and report of number of chapters read during the past week was started in the Sunday School classes and has continued until the present time.

1936 – Speakers, Pastor Jones, Nimrod Slaven and John B. Stotts.

1940 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in July, Pastor Irven Sowder, and bus load of visitors from Indianapolis, thirty young people with their leader from Cadle Tabernacle with us for Sunday School, and in charge of the program in the P.M. The leader, Mrs. Irmel Vertrees. Testimonials given by entire group and sermonette by one of the young men, Brother Sowder speaker at night. (See poem “Welcome and Thankful”).

1941, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Rev Odus Mitchell, pastor. Several years previous to this date, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive had been acceded the honor of having one of the best choirs in Southern Indiana under the leadership of William H. Bechtel. But time and circumstances make changes. At this time and for several years past, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive had no choir, so arranging the program for this special day, sister Lizzie Bechtel suggested we try to assemble the “Old choir” as many as possible, and again sing some of the old familiar songs. Thirty-five cards were sent to members of the “old choir” requesting them to be present if possible on this date. Several responded in person, others sent greetings and requests for certain songs to be sung. Choir seats were not all filled, but a goodly number of old familiar faces and voices were present. The leader William H Bechtel was absent, he having joined the choir in the Glory Land in 1939. His son, Iri Bechtel, leading the “old choir” now assembled, many of the old songs were sung, bringing back delightful memories of the past, but mingled with a sadness because of the absent faces and voices. Short talks of happy, useful and busy days in the service of the church and the work of the Master were given.

1944 – Rev. Odus Mitchell, pastor, date the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in July. A sort of sadness in all hearts. Most all of our young people in the service of “Uncle Sam”. The A.M. program

and dinner as usual. A special program in the P.M. in honor of our boys and one girl in the service of their country. Miss Norma Stickles was and still is a Navy Nurse. Names of all were read by Mae Sanders. Many volunteer prayers were offered. Mrs. Ethel Corbin displayed an Italian Flag, which had been captured and sent home to her as a souvenir, by her son, from Italy. A special song composed and sung by Danny Holloway. Other readings and songs by home talent and a brief history of the church read by Muriel Barnes.

1945 – July 8<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Mitchell had resigned as pastor, two weeks previous, but was present at this time, also Rev. Ora Bolton was a speaker in the afternoon. Deacon Francis Sanders, one of our most devoted and useful members was home on furlough. Had recently been released from a German prison, a prisoner for six months. He gave some of his experiences which were quite interesting to a large and listening audience.

1947 – We pass on to the next two years. Rev. Guth of Louisville Seminary was called as pastor in 1947, the year our church house burned and for that reason, the Home Coming that year, was held at the Odon Park, in the Christian Church stand, Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, speakers, Pastor Guth, Dr. William R. Seat, of the Washington Baptist church and an eleven year old boy from Louisville, Kentucky. (See poem “The old Country Church on the Hill”).

1949 – Dedication of new church and Home Coming services combined, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

1950 – June 18<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Hamby, pastor. Regular morning worship – dinner in the new church basement. Special program in the afternoon.

1952 – Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Coley Cleveland, pastor, speaker. A large crowd enjoyed the Ambassador Quartet, besides other special numbers in song and readings.

1955 – June 26<sup>th</sup>. Brother Ray Rockwell, the speaker in the A.M, and P.M. Dinner at noon. Three special numbers by a mixed quartet of young people from the Mennonite Church south of Odon and other special numbers by home talent.

## Chapter XI Terrible Disaster - Fire

1947 – the year that will never be forgotten, the year of the terrible disaster – Fire, which destroyed our place of Worship. The winter months had again come and gone. Spring in all its flowering beauty and splendor of green was here. May, the month of flowers and humming bees and singing birds, all nature resurrected to new life. A general clean up day was scheduled for both inside and outside around the church. Several of the members both men and women had gathered at the church on Tuesday morning, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1947. For more than an hour work had been going on. In the basement, the ladies were cleaning, washing and securing shelves, cupboards, dishes etc. The men mowing grass, cutting weeds and burning trash, but the trash fire was quite a distance from the building. Every one enjoying the work, desiring to have every thing looking just right on the following Sunday, which would be “Mothers Day”. A special program and basket dinner was being planned in honor of the two oldest members of the church. While busy working, one of the men happened to look up toward the church and saw smoke was coming out of the attic. Just how, when and where fire could have gotten into the attic of the church, will probably always remain a mystery. Suddenly the blaze broke forth at the top of the building. The church house was burning. One man ran to a near by house to a telephone, calling the fire department, which was soon on the scene, while others were busy carrying everything possible outside. Someone rang the dear old bell, which had called the people to church for seventy years, now ringing for the last time, and its tones were never sweeter or clearer. Soon it lay on the floor of the basement, a molten mass amid the burning hot coals of fire. Everything possible was done to control, and stop the blaze, but to no avail. Several seats, piano, communion table, pulpit chairs, the pulpit stand (which is described near the beginning of this history) a few books, a small stand table and a few picture frames were saved from the auditorium, a few chairs, most of the dishes and few other articles taken from the basement. But the dear old Bible and many other books, papers, pictures, flags, furnace, stoves, cupboards, tables and many other things not much value in money, yet were much esteemed and needed by the members of the church, all went up in smoke. On that memorable May Day, as the sun went down, there never was a sadder congregation of church members. The dear old church, where so many people had found Christ as their Savior, where many times the bell had been tolled and last rites had been held for many loved ones, who had passed on to the Glory land. The dear old church which had stood on the hill for seventy years, was no longer there, only the ashes. A church organization of people without a home. Many faces wet with tears. But I think many of us also remembered the Divine promise “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee”, “I will be with thee in six trouble and the seventh, I will not leave thee”, and in many other precious promises in Gods holy word and our hearts were lifted to Him in prayer, from whence commeth our help. Sure we were confused, sorrowful and saddened. In the language of Paul, we were perplexed but not destroyed and cast down. After our minds and thoughts were somewhat under control, when the excitement had calmed down, we began to think not only of the present, but also of the future, yes, and the past. We must accept present circumstances, honor the past and prepare for the future. So we never missed a service. On Sunday morning of this memorable Mothers Day, the celebration program, which had been planned, was abandoned. But we met in the yard, beside the ashes, of the old

church, beneath the blue canopy of the sky. Setting on seats that had been provided, the service proceeded with the study of the lesson. Songs were sang, prayers offered and Pastor Guth preached the sermon. Special talks by some of the members, as to place of meeting in the future. Upon invitation of Sister Nellie and Maynard Boling, it was announced that we would meet at their home in a special business meeting.



## Chapter XII Plans for Rebuilding Church Home and Dedication

A goodly number were present at the special meeting held in the home of sister Nellie and Maynard Boling, Sunday evening, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1947. Pastor Guth gave a talk, then the house was called to order for business by the Pastor. A number of talks were made as to the rebuilding of the church house. The outlook was dark, both material and labor very expensive and scarce. A vote was taken as to yes or no, the result was a unanimous yes. We will rebuild on the same old hill and the same spot of the old church. Sure it will require a lot of money, a lot of work, a lot of planning and a lot of sacrifice. All the members present realized this, and all were willing to share in this great responsibility. Moderator asked for money pledges. More than \$500 was pledged then and there, which was only a drop in the bucket, but we felt it was a good beginning. Also at this meeting, Brother and Sister Walter Guthrie offered the use of their new block garage, in which to hold our services, until the new church could be built. This offer was gratefully accepted and appreciated, a few days later all the furnishings that were saved from the fire was moved into this big new stone garage, which afforded the congregation a nice place in which services were held every Sunday for 15 months. Emergency business meetings were called as the cause required. Committees were appointed as needed. The trustees were given the authority to buy the lumber and all material, secure the carpenter etc. The trustees were Iri Bechtel, Jake Bechtel and A. M. Stickles. Brother Stickles was not physically able for the job, so brother Walter Guthrie was assigned to take his place as one of the trustees for this special work. A heavy responsibility was shouldered by these three men, but which was ably taken care of, although many obstacles were cast in the way (some of which we almost hesitate to write, but it is a part of this history). After all the above stated arrangements had been made, a new idea entered into the mind of the Pastor, and a very few other members, who had decided we should not build back on the hill, but build in Odon, as there was no Baptist church in the town, although there were four other denominations there and Mt. Olive on the hill, only three miles away. The Pastor called a meeting for the purpose of putting across his idea of change of location, but the idea was very flatly and almost unanimously turned down, but a monkey wrench had been thrown into the previously smooth running works of the church officers and committee and because of some other uncalled for meddling into contracts which had been made by the Trustees, caused the cost of the building to be more than \$1000 more than it would have been. If only a Pastor would be a shepherd, to lead the flock and not a driver or dictator. Earl Guth proved himself to be the dictator type, because of other things, he attempted, later to change the Biblical established customs, rules, and regulations of the church, but failed in his attempt and soon after resigned, his resignation was sure accepted. I write this that those who in the future, have responsibility of control of the business of church affairs may know and profit by things that have past. When in doubt, refer to the old files, of church covenant, and the constitution. Beware of Pastor dictators. We are thankful they are very much in the minority. Work progressed rather slowly, but in August 1948, fifteen months after the fire, all the church furniture was moved from brother and sister Guthrie's garage, where services had been held every Sunday since May 1947 and placed in the new church building, where service was held for the first time on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1948. A group of happy, thankful worshippers sang songs of praise and offered sincere prayers

of thankfulness for the new home and house of worship. Sunday school lessons were studied with renewed interest, but the building was not yet completed, lacking some finishing touches and new seats were yet to be purchased, and installed, old seats and chairs were used for the present time. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday night in August 1948 after the sermon by the Pastor; all Christians present gathered at the alter and knelt in prayer, several prayers were offered and the church was informally dedicated to the sacred worship of Christ the Savior of the world. There was yet much to be done, before we could really dedicate. Financial problems were outstanding, but many folks were sympathetic and help came from all neighboring churches, regardless of denomination. Near the beginning of our building preparation, Dr. Mitchell, our state finance director came to help with our problems and arrangements were made with the church that the Baptist State Convention would appropriate \$500 for expenses on the church building with the understanding; if it ever ceased to be used by the Baptist denomination, it would be the property of the State Convention. (Future leaders of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Church, please take notice of the above statement). The insurance on the old church was only \$1000. Other ways and means were discussed and decisions made, some of which we will mention. First, a public sale was planned. A committee of men with trucks canvassed hardware stores, and other business places in Washington and other nearby towns asking for a donation of some article to be sold at a public sale. The response was wonderful. The sale was held at a sale barn in Odon. The owner of the barn and the sale crier, John Sims, donating all his services. The sale a wonderful success. Many small articles, from machinery, garden tools, stoves, cooking utensils, clothing, rugs, etc, were sold to the amount of \$400. Plan number two, very outstanding and interesting, Easter was not far off, and Sunday School superintendent, Sister Lizzie Bechtel came to my home one evening and said she had thought of a plan to add to our church finance. She said “suppose we write to all the folks who have moved away, but who at one time were faithful attendants at 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church and ask them for an Easter offering, to help with the expense of the new church building”. I thought the plan was a good one, and together we copied from the old church files, 120 names and wrote 120 letters, enclosing an envelope for an Easter offering. We explained the cause and requested each one for an answer, telling us of some incident, that they had experienced either spiritual or otherwise, while attending services here, and enclose same with Easter offering. All letters to be sent to Mrs. Lizzie Bechtel, and we informed them that their letters would not be opened until Easter morning immediately after Sunday school, when all the letters would be read and each offering announced to the audience. Quite a number of replies were received and on Easter morning, as had been previously announced, two people were appointed to open and read the many letters which made an interesting program. Some of the letters would cause the tears to flow, while others related an amusing incident, and laughter prevailed, all of which brought back to memory many scenes and experiences of the past. The offering from the envelopes amounted to \$400 in cash, which was added to the building fund.

Many things still needed for furnishing and finishing, both the upstairs and the basement. Donations were made unexpectedly without solicitation, a large Bible, that now lies on the pulpit stand, was donated by Mrs. Dean Merrill, of Odon. Money for the railing at the front steps, by Mrs. Shanks of Odon, an organ for the basement by Mrs.

Nora Bechtel of Elnora. A four burner oil cook stove by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Taylor. Knives, forks, tea spoons and table spoons, "stainless steel" 100 of each by our own B. Y. F. organization. Flags, "The Stars and Stripes" and the Christian flags were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bechtel, both members of the church. Russell, then in service of his country. He and his family were located in Japan at that time. The flags are of the best and finest of Japanese silk. Many others donated needed material, and work. An oil furnace was purchased and installed in the basement. Work of installing donated by Junior Richardson of Loogootee. Water was needed. The male members of the church dug and concreted a cistern, close by the south west side of the church. Joe Harris donated a pump which was installed at the sink in the basement kitchen, connected and piped into cistern making water available into the basement. Small chairs were bought for the children in the Sunday school classes in the basement. Rooms were petitioned by framed curtains and can be moved as desired. Stand-table made and donated by Helen Sterling. Six dining tables made by John Dale. Carpet for rostrum and aisle bought by church from Poindexter firm in Odon at cost price and cut fitted and laid on the floor by William Simmons. A good neighbor gave the outdoor toilet house; these were moved to the churchyard by members of the church. Everything now ready for the dedication of the new church. A program and all other arrangements were made for the service for June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1949. Sunday came, but the new seats had not been delivered (but were later) because of unavoidable, unforeseen circumstances. We were disappointed but nothing we could about it. The service was held as planned. Pastor, Rev. Hamby, master of ceremonies, beginning immediately after Sunday school. A sermon by Dr. Mitchell, then basket dinner in the basement. Speakers on the program in the P.M. were Dr. W. B. Seat of Washington, preached the dedicatory sermon. Rev. Bush of Vincennes gave a talk. Former Pastor Guth, the dedicatory prayer. Brief history of the church by Muriel Barnes, special music. Dr. Mitchell, state man, secured pledges for remainder of debt on church building, which amounted to \$2,500. Again 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church organization had a church home dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Chapter XIII From Dedication to the Present Time 1955

In May 1951, J. L. Hamby who had been our pastor for the past two years, gave notice that he would be leaving in July, which would be the close of his second year as pastor. Rev. Hamby and his good wife Clara were a great help to our church and community. Under their supervision, our first "Daily Vocational Bible School" was held in June 1950 with much interest and success and which has been continued each year to the present time, with local talent as teachers and leaders and fine attendance of children as well as grown men. Also Brother Hamby was instrumental in getting some of our boys and girls started to our religious camp and assembly. The Brotherhood of Union Association pays the expense of one boy from each church in the association, each church adding as many boys and girls as desired. Since 1950 for five years, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive has paid the expenses of three children to go to camp and for four young people to go to assembly, the first three years they attended at Merom, the past two years at Indian Creek camp near Bedford, Indiana always bringing back good reports of work done and lessons learned along with an enjoyable time.

After Rev. Hamby closed his work with us as above stated, we were supplied by visiting ministers until March 1952, when the church called Rev. Coley Cleveland to be our pastor. He was with us nine months and resigned to take a full time church in Kentucky. Again were supplied by visiting ministers until October 18<sup>th</sup>, when Charles Haggert of Vincennes was called as pastor. At the close of his year as pastor in October 1954, at our regular business meeting of the church, a motion was made and seconded that we call him again for another year. But because of his disregard for the customs, rules and regulations of the church and substituting his own ideas etc, the majority vote was no. But some of the members not being satisfied with the negative vote, Mr. Owens who had been a member of the church for about three months made the announcement on Sunday night, just previous to the November business meeting which was to be on the following Wednesday night, that we would again vote to call Rev. Haggert as pastor, as he was sure the majority vote would be yes. Meeting night came, quite a crowd present. The very unusual recount for a second vote on any business transaction of the church was brought before the meeting which was presided over by Rev. Odus Mitchell, moderator of Union Association, by consent of the church. A motion was made by Mr. Able who had been a member only a few weeks that we call Rev. Haggert as our pastor for another year. After a nice talk and splendid advice to all church members, by the moderator, the vote was taken and again, the majority vote was a very received no. Instructed by the church, the clerk had already given Rev. Haggert the information of the action and vote of the church in the October business meeting. The information caused him to be very angry and the result was a division. Six families which included eighteen church members, followed his leadership and started a church of their own at Burns City. But all their names remained on our church roll until June 1955, when one of his followers who attended this meeting requested a letter of dismissal for himself, his wife and his son. The request was granted, at that same business meeting and clerk ordered to write and send the three individual letters as requested. Three weeks later the clerk of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church received a letter which was signed by Louis Allen, Clerk of the First Baptist Church of Burns City, requesting a letter of dismissal for himself and sixteen other

members named in the letter. The request was for letters of dismissal from this church to join the First Baptist Church at Burns City. The request was granted. The church acting and granting each one an individual letter and instructed the clerk to write and send as instructed. God alone knows and understands.

In December, Rev. Randsome Ragle was elected to be our pastor. Served three months and resigned, physically unable for the job. He went to the veteran's hospital in Indianapolis. During the past two years, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church has passed through a lot of unhappy experiences, but of course mingled with blessings and a greater knowledge of tasks that belong to a church organization and to each member of the church as a Christian. The majority of the members have been and are true to the obligations assumed when they became members of the church. Some have listened to one man substituting his own ideas, rules and customs. Result; a division as has afore been stated.

One of the outstanding, bitter experiences, we believe should be recorded in this history. In the Bible sad and bitter experiences of men, people and nations are recorded, as well as the good. So this one special, unusual, sad, and unhappy experience came on Sunday morning which was the close of Rev. Haggerts year as pastor and as has been stated, he had been informed of the negative action of the church. This also happened to be the regular stated time for observing "The Lord's Supper" which had been prepared, the table set, the bread and wine on the table, covered by a dainty white cloth as per custom, to await the close of the morning sermon, when the pastor would remove the cloth cover and together with the deacons "The Lord's Supper" would be Biblically administered. But not once was this sacred event mentioned in his sermon (if sermon it was) which he closed with a very short prayer, stepped from the rostrum, passed by, ignoring the "Lord's Table" that stood covered, walked down the aisle with an angry look on his face, out the door, into the yard while the audience stood speechless, stunned beyond thought or expression, but a wonder, could ever a church have an experience, a sacrilege like this or to compare with this? There are other experiences, which we will not relate here. But our thoughts turn to the word of God; to Moses and the Prophets, Gods people were often given tests to strengthen their faith and trust in a Higher Power. So with faith, love and trust, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive is moving along, trying to forget the bitter past, looking with hopeful hearts to the future, thankful for the present. All indications point to a successful year in all lines of church work with Rev. Ray Rockwell whom the church unanimously elected to be our pastor for a year at our July business meeting. He had been supplied in May of this year. May the Holy Spirit lead, guide and direct in all and everything that is done and said.

#### Chapter XIV Pastors Who Have Served the Church from the 1875 to 1955

1.	Jacob Cornelius	served 1 year
2.	David Manly -----two different calls	served 3 years in all
3.	R. M. Parks -----served straight	served 3 years
4.	J. C Warriner -----served two different calls	served 3 years in all
5.	W. C. McGraw	served 1 year
6.	D. T. Pierson	served 1 year
7.	M. C. Clark	served 1 year
8.	J. T. George	served a few months
9.	J. L. Weeks -----served straight	served 2 years
10.	H. H. Tubbs	served a few months
11.	Joel Ellis -----served two different calls	served 5 years in all
12.	George B. Weeks	served a few months
13.	Jacob Baker	served a few months
14.	Isom Beasley---served straight	served 3½ years
15.	John W. Dennison (A licensed preacher when called, but ordained during the year at Bedford where he was a member. Before ordination, special authority was given him by this church)	served 1 year
16.	Felix Goldman	served 1 year
17.	E. M. Bowles	served a few months
18.	T. J. Sharp	served 1 year
19.	C. B. Barnes -----served two different calls	served 6 years in all
20.	J. L. Sherrill	served 1 year
21.	J Seahalm	served 1 year
22.	John Ashley	served 4 months
23.	W. N. Jones ( A licensed preacher when called then placed his membership with this church by letter and was ordained in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Church soon after the call)	Served 2 years
24.	Irvin Sander	Served 2½ years
25.	Odus Mitchell	served 4 years
26.	Ora Balton	served 1 year
27.	Earl Guth	served 1½ years
28.	J. L. Hamby	served 2 years
29.	Coley Cleveland	served 7 months
30.	C. L. Haggard	served 1 year
31.	Randsome Ragle	served 3 months
32.	Ray Rockwell	present pastor

#### Names of a few supply preachers:

1. W. L. Boston of Washington volunteered his service when 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive was in desperate need of a pastor, passing through a spiritual draught, only a faithful few in attendance. Another denomination trying to take over, but with faith, love and trust in a higher Power, the “faithful few” in cooperation with W. L. Boston and Professor Hemlet Allen also of Washington, the church was saved, a stronger

working church, because of some experiences and lessons learned. These two Godly, Christian ministers of the gospel have long since passed to the reward of the faithful.

2. J. M Statker
3. T. J. Freeman
4. I. J Brewer
5. Clive Mcguire – State Evangelist
6. J. S. Marrell – State Evangelist
7. J. N. A. Downie
8. D. M. Adams
9. Rev. Palson.

## Chapter XV Names of Other Church Officers

Deacons elected and ordained and served:

1. Benjamin Phipps – elected and ordained in Scotland Church in the year 1859
2. John B. Phipps – elected and ordained in 1875
3. Perry Eubanks – elected and ordained in 1875
4. Baldwin Tyler Howard – elected and ordained in 1877
5. J. M. Stotts – elected and ordained in 1887
6. Henry Ledgerwood – elected and ordained in 1887
7. T. M. Brown – elected and ordained in 1910
8. B. H Myers – elected and ordained in 1910
9. O. A. Taylor – elected and ordained in 1910
10. Michael Hall – accepted from Shiloh Church where he had been ordained in 1910
11. Dan. W. Osborn – a son of J. S. Osborn, a charter member of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Church elected and ordained in 1921
12. Iri R. Bechtel, grandson of Deacon J. B. Phipps and great grandson of Deacon Benjamin Phipps, elected and ordained in 1921
13. Francis Sanders – elected and ordained in 1926
14. William Kutch – elected and ordained in 1953 Brother Kutch is a great grandson of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Osborn, who were charter members of the church
15. Glen Webster – elected and ordained in 1953.

Deacons serving at the present time are via: Iri R. Bechtel (Senor Deacon), Francis Sanders, William Kutch and Glen Webster. All the others named above have passed on to the reward of the faithful.

Also we will mention the names of three others who were elected and ordained but served only a short time. Milton Horron was elected and ordained in 1921. Also was granted a license to preach; a short time later, he returned the license and joined another church, passed away several years ago. Cainaan Dale was elected and ordained in 1926. He also was granted a license to preach; he moved away and joined another denomination. Burley Stuffle was elected and ordained in 1953. Granted a letter of dismissal in 1955. George Stickle was licensed to preach in later was ordained and was pastor of a full time church near Bedford when he was called to his reward of the faithful. Two others via: Ralph Green and were granted licenses to preach. They have moved away. A total of five people have been licensed to preach by 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church.

Names of Trustees who have been elected, qualified and served:

R. D Stotts – elected and qualified in 1875  
James Ledgerwood – elected and qualified in 1875  
Perry Eubanks – elected and qualified in 1875  
John Hubbard – elected and qualified in 1875  
Andrew York – elected and qualified in 1875



R. D. Stotts – reelected and qualified in 1887  
 Perry Eubanks – reelected and qualified in 1887  
 Andrew York – reelected and qualified in 1887  
 O. M. Wallick – elected and qualified in 1900  
 A. N. Stickle – elected and qualified in 1900  
 Tom Summerville – elected and qualified in 1924  
 Iri R. Bechtel – elected and qualified in 1924  
 Dan W. Osborn – elected and qualified in 1929  
 Jake Bechtel – elected and qualified in 1936  
 Ralph Starling – elected and qualified in 1953

Also Hedon Richey was elected in 1953 then a member of the church, but has since been granted a letter of dismissal, no longer a member here, and by order of the church his name has been removed from the court house records at Washington, as trustee of this church. Tom Summerville moved away with a letter of dismissal. Present trustees now serving via: A. M. Stickle who is 91 years old and has been a trustee for 55 years. Iri P. Bechtel, trustee for 31 years and Ralph Starling has been trustee for 2 years. All others named above have long since passed away to the reward of the faithful.

Treasurers elected and served:

1. John Hubbard – elected and served 1 year: 1875 to 1876
2. John Hubbard – reelected and served 12 years: 1876 to 1888
3. Joseph N. Stotts – elected and served 3 years: 1888 to 1891
4. M. F. Hubbard – elected and served 1 year: 1891
5. J. M Stotts – elected and served 4 years: 1891 to 1895
6. O. M. Wallick – elected and served 6 years: 1895 to 1901
7. Grand Sipe – elected and served 10 years: 1901 to 1911
8. Henry Taylor – elected and served 5 years: 1911 to 1916
9. Tom Summerville – elected and served 3 years: 1916 to 1919
10. Raymond Ledgerwood – elected and served 3 years: 1919 to 1922
11. O. M. Wallick – elected and served 1 year: 1922 to 1923
12. Sherman Stickle – elected and served since 1925, and has faithfully served until the present time, 1955. Thirty years of faithful service and still is treasurer of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive. Tom Summerville, Raymond Ledgerwood and Sherman Stickle moved away taking a letter of dismissal. All the others above named have passed on to the glory land.

Clerks of the Church who have been elected and served:

Robert D. Stotts – elected and served 35 years from 1875 to 1910.  
 Tom Brown – elected and served 6 months during 1910.  
 Laura Bechtel – elected and served 12 years from 1910 to 1922 and also served one year as clerk protem because of illness of P. B. Stotts, completing 13 years in all as clerk.  
 Bell Boyd – elected and served 2 years from 1922 to 1924.

Elsie Taylor – elected and served 1924 to the present time 1955. Sister Elsie Taylor has faithfully and loyally filled this important church office for the past 31 years. Minutes and records of the business meetings of the church have been faithfully recorded and preserved from beginning of the organization through the years to the present time and are available and can be seen and read by anyone interested.

R. P. Stotts and Tom Brown have long since passed on the reward of the faithful. Bell Boyd moved away taking a letter of dismissal from the church with her.

Since 1910 the old record book of the church has been in the care of Laura Bechtel and her son Deacon Iri R. Bechtel.

## Chapter XVI Music and Song Leaders and Janitors

Good music is one of the most important factors in the success of a church organization both spiritually and in entertainment, and it can be truthfully said that 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church has always been blessed with good musical talent, in both leadership and membership. Robert P. Stotts, a school teacher and a real music teacher was the first song leader from 1875 to 1889, fourteen years of faithful leadership in all the song services of the church. No organ nor piano. Brother Stotts would get the proper pitch of the song with a tuning fork, which he carried in his vest pocket and the congregation would sing with the spirit and understanding. Also a choir was available if needed; and an organ from home would be loaded in a two-horse wagon and taken to the church for special programs. In 1889 Brother Stotts turned over this leadership to William H. Bechtel who was a very efficient song leader and a vocal music teacher. At one time 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive was accorded the honor of having one of the best choirs, in Southern Indiana because of the leadership and the musical talent that lived in the neighborhood and attended the services here and were interested in good music. Brother Bechtel also was an Evangelistic singer and song leader assisting in many revival meetings in other churches. He was song leader in 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church for forty-six years, from 1889 until 1935 when his health gave way and he was succeeded by his son Iri R. Bechtel. During the following four years, my husband was unable to attend the services, but was interested in all church work until the close of his life's work: in October 1939 when he joined the choir in the Glory Land. Iri B. Bechtel has been song leader in 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive for twenty years since 1935 to the present time 1955. He was also a vocal music teacher, a band teacher and director. The first church organ was purchased in 1901. The first organist elected was Edna McCarter. Others following down through the years were: Zola Sipes, Eva Miller, Britta Ketchem, Dean Wallick, Ruth Bechtel. Anna Laura Bechtel, daughter of Iri and Ruth Bechtel was elected pianist at the age of eleven years and served seven years straight. Alta Richey served six years straight. A number of other very efficient supply's were and are always available when needed. The first organ after being in use for several years was sold in 1919 for \$5.00 and a new organ purchased for \$117.00. Nine years later the organ was moved to the basement and a piano bought for the auditorium, price \$82. The Voyagers Sunday School class, Elsie Taylor teacher and Elsie Stoner treasurer, paid \$30 and the Ladies Aid paid \$52, total \$82.00. When the church burned the organ went up in smoke but the piano was saved. After the new church was built, Mrs. Nora Bechtel of Elnora donated an organ for the basement. Later a business firm in Odon donated a piano. The old piano was moved to the basement. The one donated taking the place of the old one and just recently the church purchased another piano. The first old one was given to Mrs. Mable Webster a member of the church and her father moved it out of the basement and again a new piano was located up stairs. The older one moved to the basement. In all 3 organs and 3 pianos have been used during the years since 1901 to the present 1955, 54 years.

### CHURCH

Names of present officers, teachers and leaders of Church, Sunday School and BYF

Pastor – Rev. Ray Rockwell of Louisville Seminary.  
Deacons – Iri R. Bechtel, Francis Sanders, William Kutch and Glen Webster  
Trustees – A. H. Stickles, 92 years old, trustee for 55 years, Iri Bechtel, 65 years old,  
trustee for 31 years and Ralph Starling, trustee for 2 years.  
Treasurer – Iri R. Bechtel, treasurer for 30 years.  
Missionary Treasurer – Ruth Bechtel.  
Clerk – Elsie Taylor, clerk for 31 years.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent – Lynn Barns, Asst Supt – Glen Webster.  
Secretary – Freeda Webster, Asst Sec. – Betty Porter.  
Treasurer – George Overton.  
Basement Supt – Ruby Kutch.  
Teacher Upstairs – Howard Smith, Laura Bechtel, Murial Barnes, George Overton and  
William Kutch.  
Basement Teachers – Helen Starling, Margeret Baker, Anna Laura Overton and Ruth  
Bechtel.

### BYF

President: Vice President:  
Secretary: Betty Porter.  
Sponsor: George Overton.  
Children basement sponsor: Anna Laura Overton and Ruby Kutch. BYF song leader –  
Barbara Kutch, assistant, Sue Heshelman. Pianist, Freeda Webster.  
Church and Sunday school pianist – Mrs. George Overton, assistant – Mrs. Lynn Barnes.  
Special Music, Quartet, Trio, Duet and Solos as required and needed. Iri R. Bechtel,  
Barbara Kutch, Pearl Smith, Myrtle Porter, Idzzio Bechtel, Muriel Barnes, Enid Inman,  
Ruth Bechtel and Ruby Kutch.

A janitor of the church is a very important official. The church door must be unlocked in plenty of time for all services. The building must be kept at reasonable temperature, especially in the winter time. The floor must be swept, seats and all furniture dusted, fuel for heating must be looked after and kept on hand and ready when needed, etc.

In the early days of the organization as has been afore said, the house was comfortably warmed with wood burning stoves; kindling must be kept dry, wood carried in at ready for a refill at anytime which would be quite a chore for anyone in this modern age. Also the same was required after the switch to coal only it was coal instead of wood. In those days, at a business meeting of the church, the clerk would write the names of the months of the year on a slip of paper, 12 slips of paper each with the name of a different month, these 12 slips put in a hat or container, shuffled, then the male members, 12 of them, would each draw out a slip and the months that was on his slip was his time to be

janitor, no expense to the church, work donated. Then a few years later it was decided to hire a janitor. Following are the names of some of the janitors hired and served at different times. Gleason Wallick a fine Christian young man, who passed away when quite young, when seemingly his life's work has just begun. A faithful influential member of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive. Other janitors were via: William H. Bechtel, Jake Bechtel, Iri Bechtel, Victor Bechtel, Lemuel Feece, Russell Fellers and Carl Davis. For the past eight years, no expense for janitors has been incurred. The deacons via: Iri Bechtel, William Kutch and Glenn Webster have cooperated in taking care of the oil furnace in the winter time. The Ladies Aid, most of the time has taken care of the sweeping, dusting and cleaning etc. For the past two years Johnny Brock has kept the cemetery and the churchyard nice and clean but of course he is paid for this work.

Chapter XVII Poems “Welcome and Thankful” and “The Old Country Church”

The poem “Welcome and Thankful” was written especially for the program at the 1940 Home Coming celebration of the rededication and also the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organization of the church.

We are here today to celebrate our anniversary 65<sup>th</sup>,  
And we welcome all, both great and small,  
Today and every day here with,  
And may God’s richest blessings rest on all.

We welcome the folk from our capital city fair,  
The pastor, the leaders and all;  
We think it fine, for you to be here,  
In the future this day, with pleasure we hope to recall.

We welcome the stranger, neighbors and friends  
And those who did not always live near our church,  
Whose homes are now here and we hope you’ll attend  
Every session; of Sunday School, BYF and church.

We thank God for this church by the side of the road,  
Which our parents and grand-parents built,  
For 65 years through the storms it has stood,  
May their faith and their works in us and future generations be instilled.

We’ve traveled along for sixty-five years,  
Some times on the mountain top;  
Again in the valley almost of despair,  
But God ever lives and our faith failed us not.

A recent experience of God’s loving care,  
We think not out of place, here to state;  
We all were agreed, the house needed repair,  
But no funds were in sight up to date.

Our wants were many, much work was needed,  
There was paint and roof and lights to buy,  
Our number few, our treasury depleted,  
But God always helps his people, who try.

So we cast about, just how to begin,  
To meet expenses, we had to prepare,  
We asked the Baptist State Board if they would chip in,  
But nothing available was there.

Then the C.I.C. Sunday School class and the teacher all so true,  
Says “we’ve forty dollars to spare”,  
And other members and friends not a few,  
Says, “we’ll help the burden to share”.

Still funds were lacking to pay all the bills,  
And we wondered where we would get it.  
But God’s ever ready to take care of our ills,  
And we’ll tell you how, we think, he went at it.

But first we’ll recall the life of Queen Ester,  
Then young she did not know,  
The work God had in store for her,  
When she did older grow.

And so it is, with each of us,  
He cannot in the future see,  
But we can work, and do our tasks,  
And wonder what God’s planned for me.

How there was a boy who once lived here,  
And with the church united,  
But he moved away, and for several years,  
His seat was empty and deserted.

To manhood he grew and he came back one day,  
His wife came with him too,  
They saw the church house needed repair, and were quick to say,  
“We’ll help with the work there is to do”.

God sent them we’re sure, for the place and time,  
Their mission was here to fulfill;  
They gave of their “Tithes” so freely and fine,  
Which ended our worries and gave us a thrill.

The work is now completed, which we set out to do,  
The bills are all paid up to date,  
While work never ends, we never get through,  
What to do next, later on we’ll debate.

And now we would thank everyone who has given,  
And helped; God’s house to light and repair,  
May reward from above and blessings of Heaven  
Be joined with our thanks, is our prayer.

Again we thank God for this church by the side of the road,

Which our fathers and grandfathers gave us,  
For sixty-five years through the storms it has stood,  
May future inheritance ever guard, reverence and revere it.

We'd better sign off for this poem is much to long,  
For such as it is, I am sure,  
Would not pass the censor of the poetical throng,  
When checking the hyphens and dashes and meters.

We thank God for this day, that has brought us together,  
Thank God for the peace and liberty of our beloved land,  
May all nations soon remember, that God  
Holds all power in His omnipotent hand.

May all the people, that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,  
Him serve with mirth, His praises forth tell,  
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Because the Lord our God is good,  
His mercy is forever sure  
His truth at all times firmly stood  
And shall from age to age endure.

Then let us "Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost".

Laura Bechtel

This poem was written by Laura Bechtel in memory of our beloved 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Church.  
This is a brief history, written especially for the Home Coming, July 13, 1947 held in the  
Odon Park, after the fire destroyed the church on May 6, 1947.

The seventieth anniversary of the first dedication of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive and the twentieth  
anniversary of the rededication.

Church House completed and dedicated-----1877  
Remodeled and rededicated in July -----1927  
Burned to ashes in May -----1947

#### The Old Country Church On The Hill

Once there was a country church, that stood  
Close by the side of the road, on a hill,



Then built of timbers strong and good,  
From roof to wall and sill,  
The sills were hewed, the planks were planed,  
Timbers all straightened by a line, chalked and stained,  
No modern machinery, but plane and saw and broad-ax,  
Here wielded by men, without relax,  
Until the timbers were ready, you know,  
To build that church, just seventy years ago.

A picture fair ever stands in my view  
Of that old church, when it was new.  
The door in the north, the pulpit south,  
With a fancy lamp post on either side,  
On each a coal oil lamp did set,  
To give light for the preacher to read his text.  
Two chandeliers from the ceiling hung,  
All could see, and all the congregation sung.  
And the home was filled with people you know,  
In that dear old church that was built, seventy years ago.

But they who built that church, passed on;  
But their work still stood, for time to come.  
A new generation took over the work,  
And carried on faithfully, they didn't shrink,  
God met with His people in that church on the hill.  
As in years gone by meet with them still.  
And oft that church was filled you know,  
That dear old church that was built just seventy years ago.

In 1912 a more modern building; was required  
More room for seating a choir, was desired.  
Lamp Posts were removed, new lights installed,  
A rostrum was built, entire length the south wall,  
The bell was removed from the frame outside,  
And placed on top of the building inside a belfry.  
But its sweet tones rang out the same you know,  
Calling people to the church that was built seventy years ago.

As time moved on more improvements were needed,  
A basement our goal, and Sunday School rooms acceded,  
The task was enormous, but we worked with a will,  
Praying, asking God's help, our desires to fulfill,  
The work was accomplished, beyond expectation,  
And we begin to prepare for a rededication,  
Of that old church, but remodeled you know,  
And that same old church was rededicated just twenty years ago.

But now it lies in ashes, no more that bell will ring,  
A molten mess it lies, our hearts too sad to sing.  
But we trust in God, our Savior, who doeth all things well.  
And hope that soon, again, a church will stand upon that hill.  
Some things we cannot understand, we know not why,  
That in our lives some sad things come, but we will know by and by,  
So with God's help, we will rally; and build again a church on the hill you  
know,  
On the same old place, where our forefathers built just seventy years ago.

## Chapter XVIII Exact Copy of the Original Church Covenant

As we trust we have been brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ and by the influence of His Spirit, to give ourselves up to Him; so we do now solemnly covenant with each other, that, God enabling us, we will walk together in brotherly love; that we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully, warn, rebuke, and admonish one another, as the case shall require. That we will not forsake the assembling; of ourselves together, nor omit the great duty of prayer, both for ourselves, and others; that we will participate in each others joys, and endeavor with tenderness, and sympathy, to bear each others burdens and sorrows; that we will correctly endeavor to bring up such as may be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; that we will seek divine aid, to enable us to walk circumspectfully, and watchfully in the world; denying; ungodliness, and every worldly lust, that we will strive together, for the support of a faithful evangelical ministry among us that we will endeavor by example, and effort to win souls to Christ; and that through life, amidst evil report, and good report, seek to live to the glory of Him, who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Chapter XIX Articles of Christian Belief and A Few of the Bible References  
(Copied From Old Church Records)

1<sup>st</sup>: Of the Scriptures or Bible.

We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction. That it has God for it's author, Salvation for it's end, and truth without any mixture of error for it's matter. That it reveals the principle, 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 supreme standard by which all human, conduct creeds and opinions shall be tried. Reference: 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, 1:21, 3:16; Acts 1:16, 3:26; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, 3:16; Hebrews 1:1, 2; Proverbs 30:5&6, Matthew 5:18 and John 10:35 and others.

2<sup>nd</sup>: The True God.

There is only one true and living God; and is the supreme ruler of Heaven and earth. The term: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Reference: 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:1, 3:16; John 17:3; Mark 12:32; Revelations 4:11; Hebrews 3:4; Matthew 28:19; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 13:14; Psalms 2:12; and others.

3<sup>rd</sup>: Of Grace and Regeneration.

In order to be saved, we must be regenerated, born again. The evidence is the life that we live; the fruit that we bear, to the glory of God. References: John 3:3-7; 7:1, 13:3-8; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:22-23; 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4-5, Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28-29, and others.

4<sup>th</sup>: The perseverance of the Saints.

The true and real born again believers are kept by the power of God, through faith until salvation. Reference: Matthew 10:22; John 10:28-29, 4:14, 17:2-3, 8:31, 6:66, 69, 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:19; Romans 8:28.

5<sup>th</sup>: A Gospel Church.

A visible church, is a congregation of Baptist believers, covenanted together in faith and fellowship of the gospel and governed by the love, rights privileges invested by His holy work and the covenant which binds together the congregation. The Biblical Officers are, Pastor and Deacons. Reference: Timothy and Titus; Acts 8:1, 13:1, 5:11, 11:26, 15:41, 16:5, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:2, 4:17; Romans 16:1, 6:3, Revelations 1:4, 11, 20.

Biblical Ordinances and Rule and Custom of Accepting Members.

There are two Biblical Ordinances of the church, via: "Baptism" and "The Lords Supper" and our rule, and custom of accepting members into the church is No. 1: by baptism. No. 2: by letter. No. 3: by relation. When the pastor has finished his sermon,

he will make it plain to the audience, that any one desiring to unite with the church may become a member by either of the 3 ways. While the audience sings, they may come to the front give the preacher their hand and be seated, until the close of the song. Then the pastor will assert in their desires. If they have never been baptized they are a candidate for baptism and by motion and vote of the church are accepted as a candidate for baptism and after baptism into full fellowship of the church. If they come by letter from a sister church or if baptized by emersion from any other denomination by motion and vote of the church they are taken in full fellowship of the church; and given the right hand of fellowship then and there. Each candidate is questioned by the pastor personally and voted the same. Emersion is the only mode of baptism accepted by the church. For the Lords Supper. Let a man examine himself and so let him eat. He that eateth or drinketh unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body – for Jesus said "As oft do ye eat this bread and drink of this cup - do it in remembrance of me". 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29; Mark 1:8, 9, 10, 11; Matthew 28:19, Matthew 3:13, 14, 15, 16, 17.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper both should be administered by an ordained minister of the gospel and ordained Deacon. But in an emergency the church may grant authority to a licensed Pastor to administer the ordinances in the local church.

There are eighteen Articles of Faith recorded in the old records of the church. Only 6 of them are herein given, and they are also somewhat condensed. All are based on the Bible with many, many, references given. These Articles of faith and rules of Decorum, and church Covenant, compose the Constitution of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church and is as sacred as the Bible, because it is based solely on Gods Holy Work, and should be revered and revered by all members of the church and especially by the officers and leaders.

And now we close this history of 99 years connection dating from 1856 until the present 1955, but this is not the close of the history of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, because history continues on into the future and we earnestly hope and pray that future generations may reverence, revere, and record the history as the years go by and may the records be faithfully kept and preserved by the Christian men and women leaders of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church until the end of time.

May Gods Holy work ever and always be taught and practiced. May 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive church ever stand as a beacon light on the hill and as a spiritual magnet to draw both saint and sinner within these sacred walls to worship Him who said "I am the way, the truth and the life" and may there be many, many who will accept and believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. And now we close with the Lords Prayer. Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven; Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the Kingdom, and power, and the glory forever, Amen.

By  
Laura Bechtel

## Continued 1956

As stated in the beginning, this history was to close with the year 1955. But time moves on so fast, 1956 has come and is now moving on into the last half. And as 1956 closes a century, 100 years connection with the church, and as history does not end with the writing. So to continue with the recording of some of the incidents and happenings of these last few months. As has been stated, Rev. Rockwell had been called as pastor for one half time in July 1955, at a stated salary. A short time after the call, he and his wife, Lois, united with the church by letter, and he volunteered to come and preach every Sunday just for the offering received on the off Sundays and for some time we had full time service. Then one Sunday morning he read quite a lengthy proposition to the church as to full time service. The deacons took it under advisement, then at the business meeting presented the proposition to the church for action. By a legal vote, the members felt that we were not financially able to meet the requirements of the proposition and he dropped back to half time preaching. His year closed in July; and again he was called for one half time. But he feels that God is calling him else where, and he preached his last sermon Sunday night July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and at the present time, August 1956, we are without a pastor. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, annual date of Home Coming, and 8<sup>th</sup> celebration of the dedication of the new church, dinner in the basement, regular services in A.M., interesting program in the PM. The next day June 25<sup>th</sup>, Mt. Olive church and entire neighborhood suffered a severe loss when Iri P. Bechtel suddenly passed away to his home in the Glory Land. He had taken an active part as was always his custom, in all the services of the church during the Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>. But he had been retired from any strenuous physical exercise for more than a year, because of a coronary heart affliction; and now for the first time in the 81 years history, the church is left without a professional song leader. Other church officers were left vacant and had to be refilled at the July business meeting. William Kutch was elected Moderator, for Treasurer, Lynn Barnes and it was decided to elect two trustees. Glen Webster and \_\_\_\_\_ were nominated, but to comply with the state law, the time of election must be advertised by posting 3 notices in public places also printed in local papers, 30 days before the election, which date was set for September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1956 and after elected, their names will be recorded in the court house record. The office of deacon was not refilled as we still have 3 deacons. Iri united with the church and was baptized at the age of 15 years and for 51 years he was an earnest faithful church worker, in any and all lines of work when he was needed and wherever duty called.

Iri is not dead; but just gone away,  
God called him to a higher, better service above.  
Our loss is his gain, and we sincerely pray,  
Our lives may be filled with service, faith and love.

About a year ago Brother Billy Williams and wife Jeanette brought their letters from a far western Baptist church and enrolled their names with us, real Christian workers. Brother Williams, an expert typist, is transferring this history from writing to print.

**HISTORY OF  
2<sup>ND</sup> MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
THREE MILES EAST OF ODON  
MADISON TOWNSHIP, DAVIESS COUNTY  
INDIANA**

In most part taken from the files of the old church records.

**DEDICATED**

In the memory of my beloved Grandfather and Grandmother, Benjamin and Mary H. Phipps and to the present leaders and to all future members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Olive Church, upon whom the responsibility of leading and keeping sacred the organization as it was founded and dedicated on the teachings of the Holy Bible.

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel”  
Mark 16: 15

“Watch ye therefore and pray always”  
Luke 21: 36

“Be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine”  
Ephesians 4: 14

“Therefore my beloved brethren be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”.  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 58.

## “HISTORY”

### “125” YEARS Second Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church

In the year of 1856, long before even horse and buggy days, when the mode of travel was walking; riding horse-back or using a two horse wagon for the whole family, walking was not dreaded, even a couple of miles was a pleasant part of life. All roads were dirt and if it rained they were mud. There weren't to many houses and churches were few and far between. The only church house in this community was a log church, owned by “The Church of God” and known as “Mount Zion”, near the Daviess and Martin county line, east of Farlen.

Quite a number of residents had membership with the “Baptist Church of Scotland” in Greene County, five miles away.

Our early brethren met at “Zion” and had the minister of the Scotland church preach to them once a month and were known as an “Arm of the Scotland Church”. This continued until 1860, when the Rev. Parks of the Scotland Church resigned and until 1869 they had no one. During these years the country suffered thru a Civil War and President Lincoln freed the darkies in 1863.

After the war, the folks met in the old “Stotts School House” on the ground that belonged to the heirs of John Stotts, who was killed in the “Civil War” and buried in Georgia. If my count is right that is about six generations back from the Overton boys of our church today and the property was on the east side of 231 somewhere across from their present homes.

The next place the group met was in a frame building later replaced by a brick building, which was known as the “Phipps School House”. This building still stands on the east side of 231 and is owned by Marilyn Rollins. It was for many years used as a produce market. They met for two years here. In the meantime an epidemic of smallpox broke out in Scotland. At this time Deacon Benjamin Phipps brought the pastor, his wife and four children to live in his home for several weeks to escape the dreaded disease. The Lord once again watched over the people. The disease did not spread from the town of Scotland.

In 1874 the group decided to form a church of their own, being led by the “Hand of God”. Constantly in prayer and not knowing where to turn or having the means with which to begin. The Lord answered their prayers. Mary Jane Taylor Bechtel and her husband Aaron Bechtel gave the church ground from the estate of Nancy Taylor Grey, in February of 1876 to the group, with the stipulation, that if ground failed to be used for a house of God for jive years it would be returned to the heirs. This ground was located across from the “Taylor Cemetery”.

We now call it the “Church on The Hill” and the cemetery has become known as “Mount Olive Cemetery”.

These were very hard times but thru the faith, belief and determination, of the people, a church house was erected. All the proper steps were taken and in July of 1876 work began. There were donations from many people and much sacrifice. Mount Olive got a permanent home. After a few weeks it was discovered that Daviess County had a church by that name. We became “Second Mount Olive”.



We must remember, though it seems impossible in this day and age, when we speak of donations that people didn't give \$100.00 or \$500.00 or even a thousand dollar donation. It was given in cents or a few dollar bills. One story I read was in 19008 a group of the churchwomen had started a "Ladies Aid" and they were at the home of Dean Wallick to quilt. The men were out chopping, sawing and splitting wood fro the church house stoves and found a half-grown possum. The men marched into the room where the women were quilting and presented the small animal to the "Ladies Aid". Not to be outdone by the men, the ladies accepted and decided to offer it for sale. One of the men bought it for 30¢, which went into the treasury. The Ladies Aid after many years discontinued and then turned their treasury of \$22.40 over to the church.

Fundraisers of all kinds were started whenever a need for the church was found. Thru 1901 to 1912 the church made many improvements and did much entertaining of Union Association, which they had changed to from the Bedford Association. The B.P.Y.U. was begun and was very active in the church and in their own fund raising efforts.

Our church was asked to help start a Baptist Church in Newberry, which they did. World War I came and many local men served. All but one returned safe. Thurman Dalton died in camp and his body was brought home for burial.

In 1924 the church set about on a remodeling program. We needed a basement, a couple of classrooms and a vestibule in the front of the church. (Which at this time faced north to the cemetery) and the main road running between them. We now have a little more money. The Ladies Aid pledged \$600.00 and the church received pledges totaling 1,800.00. Many changes were made and we got our first coal furnace, replacing stoves. Sister Stacie Lay Rindhart passed away during this time and left all her worldly goods to the church. Things that couldn't be used in the church kitchen were sold at auction, which reaped \$600.00, enough to almost wipe out the indebtedness.

Many dinners were held and much fellowship was enjoyed. Celebrations were held with many baptizing and rededications.

In 1938 a windstorm did considerable damage inside and out. Money was needed. A new roof on the old part of the building was needed. "God works in Mysterious ways His wonders to perform". A Vertrees man of Indianapolis, who had been a member of the church in his youth, gave his tithe, which had been accumulating for many years for the repair of the church. In 1938, R.E.M.C. came thru and the gal lights were removed. We now had electricity. One thing after another as the years went on. Repairs, new fixtures, needed and replacements made. God saw to it that with His help they were taken care of.

For many years there were homecomings, with prayers, music food and preaching.

Once again A World War and many boys enlisted and men were drafted, but with the Lords protection they came home to Mount Olive.

Tuesday, May 6, 1947

In 1947 while cleaning the church and grounds in preparation for a "Mothers Day" celebration, a disaster happened. A fire was burning some distance from the church of debris and trash. Everyone was in a happy festive mood when a man spotted smoke and then fire coming from the loft of the church. People hurried to carry what they could

from the church house. The Madison Township fire truck was called and used all their resources until they ran out of water and none was available to be had. All hopes of saving "The Church On The Hill" were lost. The pulpit we use and the Communion Table in front with the chairs on either side are what we keep to remind us of the old church. Possibly a bird carried a piece of burning debris to the loft. Who knows? On Mothers Day Sunday the people met on the church grounds. After 70 years they had no home. "The Father Said: I Will Never Leave Thee, I Will Never Forsake Thee". He Did Not. Meetings were held in the home of Maynard and Nellie Boling, and church services were held in the garage of Walter Gutherie for 15 months. Money was once again raised, prayers were once again given and on Sunday August 8, 1948 the first service was held in the new church.

We now face the East.

Many sales were held. We had \$1,000.00 in insurance, the State Baptist Convention gave us \$500.00, and donations from former members were requested. We had fundraisers of every kind and a good neighbor gave two outdoor toilet houses that were moved to the churchyard.

During the years following we saw many hard times but always with the Lords guidance and loving care kept on moving upward.

We began paying ½ for any child that wished to go to camp at Indian Creek, from our church family. We started helping families what had home fires with a monetary gift, regardless of where they went to church or if they went. We initiated giving 10% of our regular collections each month to some form of missions whether it be local, individual or other. Remember we are SECOND MOUNT OLIVE MISSIONARY CHURCH. We help where we see the need.

A new piano was donated by a family. We have made many purchases for the church, including the latest electronic equipment.

The building fund was begun in 1986 to raise money to build a new sanctuary, add classrooms, a fellowship hall and modernize the kitchen. All of these things have been completed plus new restrooms upstairs and down. All of these things are paid for and we owe it all to the goodness of our Lord and Savior. Construction began in 1992 and dedication was November 19, 1995. The church now faces the south.

We have a large group of teenagers with devoted leaders. Many, many little people and babies for all to hold and love. "Jesus loves the little children" and so do we. Our Vacation Bible School grows each summer with a bus ministry to pick up and return the children home.

It is hard to name all the people that have worked so hard to attain the church family and home we now enjoy. Before we start patting ourselves on the back for all the things that have been accomplished let us give thanks to the one that has made it all possible. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must be obedient in all things to Him, because He has made all things possible.

The church "Second Mount Olive Missionary Baptist" adopted "Articles of Christian Belief from the Bible.

We believe the Bible was written by men directly inspired and in 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 principle, 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 supreme standard by which all human, conduct, creeds and opinion should be tried.

There is only one true and living God; and is the supreme ruler of Heaven and earth. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

In order to be saved, we must be regenerated, born again. The evidence is the life that we live; the fruit that we bear to the glory of God.

The true and real born again believers are kept by the power of God, through faith until salvation.

A visible church is a congregation of baptized believers, covenanted together in faith and fellowship of the gospel and governed by the laws, rights and privileges invested by His Holy word and the covenant, which binds together the congregation.

There are two Biblical Ordinances of the church, Baptism and The Lords Supper and our role and custom of accepting members of the church is 1. By immersion, 2. By Letter. Anyone wishing to unite with the church and never having been baptized is a candidate for baptism, by motion and vote of the church are accepted as a candidate for baptism and after baptism into full fellowship of the church. 2. If they come by letter from a sister church or if baptized by immersion from any other denomination by motion and vote are taken into full fellowship of the church, and are given the right hand of fellowship than and there. Immersion is the only mode of baptism accepted by the church. For the Lords Supper. Let a man examine himself and do let him eat. He that eateth or drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lords body.

In the year of 1993 a new Constitution and By-Laws was composed by the officers of the church. It took many months to complete. No committee per say was appointed to do this but had input from all persons directly involved. This new booklet was not written to challenge or find fault with original writings, but was put together with the hope of explaining to everyone what our membership, our ordinances, our officers their duties consist of and in hopes that the Lord will bless our church.

A listing of members, deacons, ministers and church officers over the years may be found in the church records.

Mrs. Betty Jean Davis

10-01-00