

HISTORY
OF THE
MOUNT PLEASANT
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1926 in Deacon Arthur James' house in Spruce Alley on Chestnut by the late Reverend Aaron Burney, his wife, Frances, and children. The church was named Mount Pleasant Baptist Church by the late Sister Frances Burney. Their son, Herbert Burney, is currently a member of Mt. Pleasant.

Reverend Burney resigned in 1936, and Reverend George W. Mitchell was called to Pastor in 1937. At that time he was pastoring two churches, Grace Mary, Robles Pond and a church in Rubonia, Florida. He later resigned from both churches and gave full time to Mt. Pleasant. When Reverend Mitchell became the Pastor, the church was in debt. Within three years, all debts were paid off and the church had been enlarged.

The church became too small and Mr. Ben Lacy had a Sundry (at that time there was no such thing as a bar). He sold his place of business to the church for the sum of \$18,000, which was paid off in two years. The location was Lincoln Park on the Riverside which is presently the Howard W. Blake Baseball Field. The members sat on boxes and wood benches without backs. They had kerosene lanterns along the walls and a potbelly stove for a heater.

Many members were converted and baptized in the Hillsborough River. Several deacons were ordained to include Deacon Arthur James, Deacon Peter Kirkland, Deacon Mac McComb, Deacon James Sampson, Deacon Clev Adams, and Deacon J. Bedden. The late Sis. Mamie Smart served as Church Clerk. Sister Lillie James succeeded her and served faithfully until her passing in 1959. The Church also had a choir, but no piano so they practiced at Annie Bailey's house and they would sing acapella at church. Every first Monday the choir went to the Flying Squad (Choir Union) to sing.

LOOK WHERE GOD HAS BROUGHT US FROM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- ◆ 1951 In 1951, a small building was built so that the Church could host the Association Convention.
- ◆ 1954 The Hillsborough County School Board purchased the former church site on Spruce Street for \$15,000.00. The two lots on Laurel Street were purchased and a new church was built by Brother Master Martin for \$13,500.00.
- ◆Feb. 1955 We marched from the old church on Spruce Street to the new church on Laurel Street.

- ◆ 1959 Sister Ernestine Rogers became Financial Secretary and Sister M.S. Jackson, Church Clerk.
- ◆ May 1962 The church was demolished because of the expressway and worship services were then held at Pallbearers Temple on Main Street.
- ◆ July 1962 Payments of \$14,500 were paid for the lots on Spruce Street and Rome Avenue.
- ◆ March 1963 The keys were presented to the present church. Deacon L.L. Virgil led a group of members in building the Church's dining area.
- ◆ April 1963 The building dedicated in time to entertain the District Sunday School and B.T.U. Convention.
- ◆ 1965 We began building an annex to our main building and it was completed in April 1966.
- ◆ 1966 Dedication services were held on April 24, 1966. Most of the work was done by members of the church under the leadership of Deacon L.L. Virgil, who gave his spare time, working both day and night, to get the dining area ready that we might host the District Sunday School and B.T.U. Convention.
- ◆ Sept. 1967 The cornerstone was laid by the Lily White SBA.
- ◆ June/Aug. 1973 The air conditioning and heating systems were completed.
- ◆ Oct. 1976 The 50th Anniversary of the church was observed and \$12,505.53 was raised to pay off the mortgage of the church.
- ◆ Feb. 1977 The church mortgage was burned.
- ◆ Dec. 1977 Sister M.S. Jackson resigned and Sister Betty J. Newton, who as corresponding secretary was elected church clerk in January 1978.
- ◆ 1978 The church ceiling was redone and new lighting fixtures were installed.
- ◆ 1978-1980 Improvements continued: pews were cushioned, carpet installed, pulpit was widened, and installation of railing at the entrance of the church.

- ◆ 1980 Choir No. 1 presented Bibles and Hymnals to church. The Nurses Guild was organized.

- ◆ May 1981 Eight members graduated from the Baptist Fellowship Center:

Sis. Louisa Bigham	Sis. Louise Burton
Deacon Luis Burton	Sis. Easter Gatlin
Sis. Ernestine Rogers	Sis. Leota Taylor
Sis. Luella McAdoo	Sis. Delores Williams

- ◆ April 1982 The forty-fifth year of Pastorate for Reverend G.W. Mitchell came to an end, and on July 30, 1982 the Reverend Owen Henry was elected to serve as Interim Pastor.

- ◆ May 1983 Five members graduated from the Baptist Fellowship Center:

Sis. Jo L. Norton	Sis. Carolyn Hall
Sis. Berteal Johnson	Sis. Doretha Scott
Sis. Betty Newton	

- ◆ Oct. 1983 Rev. Owen L. Henry was terminated as Interim Pastor.

- ◆ Oct. 1983 Rev. C.T. Kirkland accepted the Pastorship of the Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church and on November 13, 1983, Rev. Kirkland was installed as Pastor.

- ◆ Dec. 1983 Sis. Ernestine Rogers resigned after 25 years of faithful service as Financial Secretary.

Sis. Bernice Nelson was elected to serve as Financial Secretary.

- ◆ Oct. 1984 In order for our children to be taught on their level, Pastor Kirkland organized the Children's Church. Under the direction of Bro. James Franklin, several members of Children's Church have been baptized.

- ◆ Nov. 1984 Sis. Bridgette George was elected to serve as Church Secretary. A fifteen (15) passenger van was purchased.

- ◆ Feb. 1985 Sis. Anna Taylor was elected Assistant Church Clerk.

- ◆ Sept. 1985 Youth for Christ was organized. The following officers, counselors and instructors were elected to serve:

President	Bro. Frederick Blaylock
Vice President	Bro. Jay Jackson

Treasurer	Bro. Adrian Webb
Asst. Treasurer	Sis. Charlene Miller
Secretary-Dean	Bro. Dwayne McDuffie
	Pastor C. T. Kirkland
Counselors	Bro. James G. Franklin
	Sis. Victoria Kirkland
	Sis. Betty Newton
	Sis. Jo. L. Norton
	Sis. Mary Richardson
	Sis. Mary Collins
	Pastor C.T. Kirkland
Executive Instructor	Sis. Victoria Kirkland
Instructors	Deacon Frank Harper
	Bro. James G. Franklin

- ◆ Nov. 1985 New Public Address System installed.
- ◆ March 1986 Plans were formulated to build educational facilities.
- ◆ July 1986 Junior Women Society organized.

Officers:

President	Sis. Sylvia Salter
Vice President	Sis. Sandra McDuffie
Corres. Secretary	Sis. Michele Norman
Asst. Secretary	Sis. Sonia Franklin
Recording Secretary	Sis. Bridgette George
Asst. Rec. Secretary	Sis. Sandra Nelson
Treasurer	Sis. Katie Peoples
Asst. Treasurer	Sis. Annette Filer
Chaplain	Sis. Sadie Perry
Asst. Chaplain	Sis. Mamie McCrimmon
Advisor	Sis. Victoria Kirkland

Intermediate Mission organized.

Officers:

President	Sis. Martha McClendon
Vice President	Sis. Cynthia Bailey
Recording Secretary	Sis. Cassandra Fuller
Asst. Rec. Secretary	Sis. Ruby Dixon
Corresponding Secretary	Sis. Christine McCarter
Asst. Corresponding Secretary	Sis. Mattie Jackson
Treasurer	Sis. Bernice Nelson

Asst. Treasurer	Sis. Carolyn Collins
Financial Secretary	Sis. Selphenia Hudson
Asst. Financial Secretary	Sis. Rose Sullivan
Chaplain	Sis. Doretha Scott
Asst. Chaplain	Sis. Brenda Williams
Advisor	Sis. Louise Burton

- ◆ Oct. 1986 Sis. Carolyn Collins was elected to serve as Assistant Church Clerk.
- ◆ Nov. 1987 Construction began on Education Facility.
- ◆ April 1987 Educational Facility and Pastor's new office completed.
- ◆ Aug/Sept. 1988 Choir stand is enlarged, new carpet is installed and other repairs were completed.
- ◆ Feb. 1989 Plans were formulated to complete the balcony and expansion of the Finance Office, along with paving of the South parking area.
- ◆ Nov. 1989 Sis. Erica Cage was elected to serve as Church Secretary.
- ◆ Aug. 1990 New photocopier purchased, Finance Office expanded, balcony completed, south side parking area completed.
- ◆ Oct. 1990 Front lounge redecorated.
- ◆ Nov. 1990 Sis. Claudette McAdoo was elected Church Secretary.
- ◆ May 1991 Sis. Bernice Nelson suggested that a Life Membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Urban League be purchased. The five hundred dollars was submitted for the NAACP membership.
- ◆ July 1991 Computer purchased and installed. The computer was put into immediate operation. The first major job done on the computer was the Souvenir Booklet for the Sixty-Fifth Church Anniversary.
- ◆ Aug. 1991 The announcement was made in Quarterly Business Meeting that Brother Gentle Williams would be added to the Deacon Board.

Bro. Norris and Sis. Carolyn Collins were named chairpersons for The Church's Sixty-Fifth Church Anniversary, the first husband and wife team to function in this capacity for the Lord and Mount Pleasant.

The Certificate of Life Membership Plaque was delivered to the Church. The Tampa Branch President, Mr. Henry Carley and several board members worshipped with the Church to acknowledge our Church's family membership.

- ◆ Oct. 1991 The Sixty-Fifth Church Anniversary Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn on Dale Mabry Highway. The speaker was Dr. Joseph Webster of Tallahassee, Florida.
- ◆ Jan. 1992 The offering procedure was changed to provide more time for Worship Services. One offering would be lifted per service, including Tithe and Offering using the tithe envelope.
- ◆ Feb. 1992 Due to changing times, the Church hired a security guard to monitor the exterior property during services.
- ◆ May 1992 The motion was made to research the remodeling of the ladies restroom.

Plans were initiated to travel as a church family to the National Baptist Convention in Houston, Texas.

- ◆ July 1992 A committee of five (5) ladies were appointed to make recommendations for remodeling the ladies restroom.

The church family traveled long-distance to Houston, Texas to the National Baptist Convention. Twenty members departed from the church on September 7th on a high-rise bus for New Orleans, Louisiana, then on to Houston, Texas. Departed Houston, Texas September 12th via New Orleans and a delay in Tallahassee, Florida at Florida A&M University to attend a college football game. The children of Lord living and traveling together in love and harmony.

- ◆ Dec. 1992 The new roof for the Church was completed.
- ◆ Feb. 1993 Plans, talk and a binder were initiated to purchase several parcels of land around the Church. A campaign was started to raise money for these projects.

Office equipment was purchased to upgrade the office operations. A ten-key adding machine, a tape recorder, and a telephone answering machine were purchased.

- ◆ March 1993 Brother John Luke, Trustee Chairperson assumed the responsibilities for repairs. The closet shelves were purchased

and installed; telephones purchased and installed; church painted; remarking the parking lot; and many other necessary repairs were covered by their auxiliary assessments in a short period of time.

- ◆ April 1993 The Youth Program included all of the youth in the church displaying their God-given talents. The youth presented a skit, "Where is Calvin?" where young Christians showed unity in Christ through love and caring.
- ◆ May 1993 Sis. Sandra Nelson was elected Church Secretary.
- ◆ Oct. 1993 As we closed on another year, many of the auxiliaries changed into new uniforms. The Male Chorus in burgundy suits; Usher Board No. 1 in their black suits; and Usher Board No. 2 in their burgundy suits and dresses.
- ◆ Jan. 1994 Under the leadership of our Pastor, a drill team for our youth was organized.
- ◆ June 1994 The two lots on the North side of the Church was purchased.
- ◆ July 1994 The Junior Women sponsored Mount Pleasant's First Youth Revival.
- ◆ Aug. 1994 Sis. Bernice Nelson motioned that the Life Membership in the Urban League be purchased. The five hundred dollars was submitted for membership.
- ◆ Sept. 1994 The Church Family traveled to Nashville, Tennessee for our venture in the Lord long distance together to the National Baptist Convention.
- ◆ Nov. 1994 Sis. Claudette McAdoo was elected Church Clerk.
- ◆ Dec. 1994 Min. James Franklin and Min. Milton Peoples were ordained as Elders. The Ordination Services was held at Mount Pleasant. The guest church and choir was St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Louis Carr, Pastor.

The charge to candidates was given by Pastor G.E. Edwards; Ordination Prayer, Laying on of Hands, Ordination Certificates and Presentation of Bibles was done by Dr. C.T. Kirkland, Pastor.

The Mount Pleasant Drill Team performed for the NAACP Membership Banquet. All of the Drill Team members were

given free membership cards for their outstanding performance.

After 36 years of dedicated services, Sister Bernice Nelson retired from the Hillsborough County Educational System.

- ◆ Jan. 1995 Sis. Bernice Nelson was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award for Human Rights and Community Service at the Tenth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Talent Showcase held at the Tampa Theater.

The guest speaker was Yolanda King, the daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our Pastor, Dr. C.T. Kirkland was chosen to be among those who made the presentation to the honorees. Many members of Mount Pleasant were present to show love and support to Sister Nelson, who is the third person at Mount Pleasant to receive this award. Pastor C.T. Kirkland and Sister Carolyn Collins are the recipients of this award.

The First Unification Concert was held January 17th in observance of our Pastor's 11th Anniversary. Choir members from several churches participated. Sister Cynthia Bailey was the concert coordinator.

- ◆ Feb. 1995 The Trustees, Pastor Kirkland and some of the brothers of the Church put up the fence to redesign the parking lot. By doing the jobs themselves, the improvements resulted in a big savings of \$3,803.07.

- ◆ March 1995 The Deacon's Board recommendation at the First Quarterly Meeting was that a scholarship fund be initiated for students of Mount Pleasant who would like to attend college. It was also recommended that Sister Bernice Nelson be the person to screen the students.

Pastor Kirkland formed a scholarship committee and appointed Sister Bernice Nelson and Sister Carolyn Collins as members of the committee.

A suggestion was made that other members may be interested in being on the committee and that it should be brought to the Church body. Two more members have since been added to the Committee: Sister Anglin Brown and Sister Mary Brown.

- ◆ Aug. 1995 The Mount Pleasant Church Family proudly fellowshiped with Aime Chapel in Nichols, Florida for the installation of Elder James G. Franklin as their Pastor.

- ◆ Sept. 1995 Twenty-nine (29) members of the Mount Pleasant Church Family traveled together to Dallas, Texas for the National Baptist Convention where Pastor Kirkland preached for the Ushers Department and the choir sung under the direction of Brother William Adams, Minister of Music.

- ◆ Oct. 1995 New public address system was purchased and installed.

- ◆ April 1996 New pulpit furniture was purchased and installed.

- ◆ July 1996 Sis. Claudette McAdoo resigned as Church Clerk to relocated with her job to New York.

- Closed (purchased) an 8 lot property on South corner of Spruce Street and Rome Avenue.

- ◆ Sept. 1996 Members of the Mount Pleasant Church Family traveled together to Little Rock, Arkansas for the National Baptist Convention.

- ◆ 1997 Plans were begun for a Community Center on the eight lots of property on the South corner of Spruce Street and Rome Avenue. Our laymen, following the example of our Pastor, have begun their labor to bring those plans to fruition.

- This year, 32 Mount Pleasant members traveled together to attend the National Baptist Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our members had an opportunity to tour the famous Motown Museum in Detroit, Michigan and for the first time to visit a foreign country together when we entered Windsor, Ontario in Canada.

RECRUITS FOR CHRIST

Candidates for Baptism	46
Christian Experience	31
Restoration	12
Rededication.	1
TOTAL	90

- ◆ 1998 Athletic Program Ministry for Mount Pleasant was formed under the direction of Minister Reginald Franklin. The program was very successful; includes basketball, baseball and cheerleader teams.

- ◆ May 1998 Faith Christian College Satellite Campus at Mount Pleasant

under the direction and instruction of Pastor C.T. Kirkland bestowed degrees on the following members:

BA Christian Education	-	Sis. Victoria Kirkland
AA Theology	-	Min. Eddie Gilbert
		Sis. Tammie Gilbert
		Min. Claude Hall
		Sis. Debra Reid
		Min. Lewis Shepherd
		Sis. Sonja Shepherd
		Bro. Edward Quarterman

Faith Christian College bestowed an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Theology to Pastor Kirkland.

Reconstruction of the Community Center continued and is on schedule for completion by the year's end. Most of the labor was performed by members of the Church under the direction of Pastor Kirkland and supervision of Deacon L.L. Virgil.

Mount Pleasant hosted two meetings for the local chapter of the NAACP.

The Mount Pleasant Church family proudly fellowshiped with New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida for the installation of Elder Milton Peoples, Jr., as the Pastor.

◆ Aug. 1998 Min. Ricky Roberts having accepted his calling, gave his first public sermon and subsequently was licensed as a minister by Pastor Kirkland.

◆ Mount Pleasant's Annual Community Revival made history by having five of its ministerial sons as featured evangelists. They were Minister Eddie Reid, Minister Eddie Gilbert, Minister Larrie Lepard, Minister Jay Jackson and Minister Reginald Franklin.

Twenty-five members of the Mount Pleasant Church Family traveled to Greenville, South Carolina for the National Baptist Convention, where Pastor Kirkland preached for the Junior Women's Ministry.

Brother Edward Quarterman accepted his calling to the ministry and he gave his first public sermon in October.

◆ May 1999 Faith Christian College Satellite Campus at Mount Pleasant, under

the direction of Pastor Kirkland and Sister Victoria Kirkland bestowed degrees on the following members:

AA Christian Education – Sister Cynthia Bailey
Sister Sonia Franklin
AA Theology - Minister Ernest Boone

Closing on the property at 1901 Spruce (formerly identified as 1901 Fremont) was closed at the Southland Title Company. Plans are to convert it to the Mount Pleasant Kitchen and Thrift Store where meals and clothing will be distributed.

- ◆ June 1999 Reconstruction of the Community Center Building was completed and named the Aaron Burney/G.W. Mitchell Fellowship Center. A Dedication and Cornerstone Laying Service and Feast was held on June 20, 1999.

The National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.'s National Congress of Christian Workers and National Youth Children Convention held its annual convention in Tampa. Pastor Kirkland was Host Chairman of the Local Committee with many members of the church assisting in helping to make the convention a success.

- ◆ July 1999 Mount Pleasant hosted the Twenty-Sixth Annual Session of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist Convention of Florida, Inc.

- ◆ September 1999 Again, God blessed a total of twenty-five Christians, which included Mount Pleasant members and other Christian travelers to journey together to Cincinnati, Ohio for the National Baptist Convention.

- ◆ January 2000 Deacon Louis Burton (and his wife and helpmeet, Sister Louise Burton) stepped down from his position as Church Sexton after many years of service. Deacon Burton also relinquished his position as Church Treasurer after 36 years of faithful and devoted service.

Deacon L.L. Virgil was installed as Church Treasurer. Minister Eddie Gilbert was installed as Church Sexton.

- ◆ March 2000 On March 7, 2000 the Mount Pleasant family under the leadership of our Pastor, Dr. C.T. Kirkland, participated along with tens of thousands of others in the One Florida March and Rally in Tallahassee, Florida. The Church provided two buses for members

and friends to travel in order to protest and show solidarity with the NAACP and other civil rights organizations against the Governor's planned abolishment of the State's Affirmative Action Plan.

A Finance Committee was established to help members with their financial planning, money management and counseling and help in improving skills for finding better jobs. Brother Hopkins was installed as the Chairperson.

- ◆ May 2000 The following Florida Beacon Bible College, Mount Pleasant Satellite under the direction of Dr. C.T. Kirkland bestowed degrees on the following students:

AA Christian Education -	Jacquelynn L. Hall
BA Christian Education -	Tammie Gilbert
	Sonja Shepherd
	Debra Reid
BA Theology -	Min. Eddie Gilbert
	Min. Claude Hall
	Min. Lewis Shepherd
	Min. Edward Quarterman

- ◆ August 2000 The First Annual Youth Education and Honor Roll Recognition Banquet was held on August 19, 2000 and it was a tremendous success. The guest speaker was our own Bro. Michael Sails, Jr. who delighted our hearts with jewels from his trip to Africa with the Brooks Bunch as a reward for his academic achievements.

On August 27, 2000, the Mount Pleasant Church Family showed its appreciation in a Recognition Service to Deacon Louis Burton and Sister Louise Burton for blessing the Mount Pleasant Family with many years of faithful and dedicated service.

- ◆ September 2000 Eight of the Mount Pleasant Church Family traveled to the National Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Other Mount Pleasant members also traveled by car. Our Pastor, Dr. C.T. Kirkland, had the honor of preaching to the national body at the convention.

Min. Edward Quarterman was called to be Youth Pastor for the Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida, where the Rev. Willie Williams is Pastor.

- ◆ November 2000 Brother Lewis Adkins, Glen Baham, Edward Carlton and Rudene Igles were ordained as Deacons. The Ordination Service was held at Mount Pleasant.

- ◆ March 2001 Starting the First Sunday in March (4th), Worship Services were changed to 7:45 A.M. and 11:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M. BTU and 6:00 P.M. evening worship were discontinued. Family Series Teaching (5:00 P.M.) and the Lord's Supper (6:00 P.M.) are held on First Sunday only.

- ◆ April 2001 Florida Beacon Bible College Satellite Campus at Mount Pleasant, under the direction of our Pastor, Dr. C.T. Kirkland, along with Instructor Victoria Kirkland, bestowed degrees on the following members:

Elder Milton Peoples, Jr.	(M.A. Theology)
Rev. James Franklin	(M.A. Theology)
Min. Reginald Franklin	(M.A. Theology)
Min. Jay Jackson	(M.A. Theology)
Min. Larrie Lepard	(M.A. Theology)
Min. Eddie Gilbert	(M.A. Theology)
Min. Ernest Boone	(M.A. Theology)
Sis. Cynthia Bailey	(B.A. Religious Education)
Sis. Colleen Upshaw	(B.A. Religious Education)
Sis. Sonia Franklin	(B.A. Religious Education)
Sis. Jacquelynn Hall	(B.A. Religious Education)
Sis. Marchel Green	(B.A. Religious Education)
Min. Ricky Roberts	(A.A. Theology)
Sis. Betty Odne'	(A.A. Religious Education)

- ◆ June 2001 Pastor Kirkland and the Youth Department sponsored approximately forty (40) Mt. Pleasant youth who were taken by bus to Jacksonville, Florida and Savannah, Georgia. They visited Edward Waters College, Savannah State University and the First Africa Baptist Church.

Min. Eddie Reid was asked to be Assistant Pastor at the Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Plant City, where the Rev. Donald White is Pastor.

- ◆ July 2001 The Second Annual Youth Education and Honor Roll Banquet was held July 28, 2001. A contest for the best essay on the educational trip in June was held and the participants read their essays.

- ◆ August 2001 Min. Ricky Roberts was asked to be an Associate Minister at

Beulah Baptist Institutional Church, Tampa, Florida where the Rev. James Favorite is Pastor.

- ◆ September 2001 Again, God blessed a total of nineteen (19) Christians, which included Mt. Pleasant members and other Christian travelers, to journey to New Orleans, Louisiana for the National Baptist Convention.

Min. Lewis Shepherd was called to be Youth Pastor at Oak Hill Missionary Baptist Church where the Rev. Victor Ball is Pastor.

- ◆ October 2001 Two duplex apartments at 1717 and 1723 Spruce Street adjacent to the church property are being purchased.

RECRUITS FOR CHRIST

Candidates for Baptism	50
Christian Experience	14
Restoration	19
Total	83

- ◆ December 2001 Min. Reginald Franklin, Min. Jay Jackson and Min. Lewis Shepherd were ordained as Elders. The Ordination Service was held at Mount Pleasant. The Charge to the candidates was given by Pastor Victor Ball. Laying on of Hands, Ordination Certificates and Presentation of Bibles were done by Dr. C.T. Kirkland.

Sister Bernice Nelson-Green retired as Financial Secretary after 18 years of exemplary service. She continued to serve until January 2002 when Sis. Sandra Niles returned from maternity leave.

The purchase of the duplexes next door to the church was finalized and the brethren installed fencing around the property.

- ◆ January 2002 Sis. Cathleen Bradley was hired as full-time Church Secretary.

Sis. Sandra Niles was installed as Financial Secretary, succeeding her mother, Sis. Bernice Nelson-Green.

- ◆ June 2002 Bro. James Earl Anderson answered his call to the ministry and gave his first sermon at Mt. Pleasant.

- ◆ July 2002 The Youth and Education Department took the eligible youth, Grades 6th and above, on a three-day trip to Tallahassee, Florida, Albany, Georgia and Atlanta, Georgia.

- ◆ August 2002 The ladies lounge was converted into a new Finance Office.
- ◆ September 2002 Reconstruction of the house at 1901 Spruce Street has been completed. Dedication Services are scheduled for November 2002.

This year, ten (10) Mt. Pleasant members and three (3) other Christian friends of Mt. Pleasant traveled to the National Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

A down payment was placed on a bus for the church.

The Deacon Board held their first Annual Deacon's Day. The guest church was Union Missionary Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, where Rev. J. Alexander is Pastor. Financial awards were given to the following members for their untiring and laborious work they have done on church properties:

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Deacon L.L. Virgil | Deacon Arthur Tolbert |
| Deacon Lewis Adkins | Deacon Roosevelt Williams |
| Deacon Rufus Hardwick | Deacon Glen Baham |
| Bro. Eugene Sheppard | Sis. Ida Smith |
| Sis. Marion Wimbush | |

Carpet has been replaced in the sanctuary.

RECRUITS FOR CHRIST

Candidates for Baptism	41
Christian Experience	21
Restoration	13
 Total	 75

A new ministry was started at Mt. Pleasant. Min. Eddie Gilbert was chosen to manage the tape ministry.

A new copier was acquired for the Finance Office.

- ◆ December 2002 The Dedication Service of the Mt. Pleasant Kitchen of Mercy was held.
- ◆ April 2003 The Mt. Pleasant Kitchen of Mercy opened and is being managed by volunteer church members.

- ◆ June/July 2003 Renovation of the duplexes was completed for use by the Mt. Pleasant Standard Based Middle School.

The church's classrooms were readied for use by the Mt. Pleasant Standard Based Middle School.
- ◆ August 2003 The Mt. Pleasant Standard Based Middle School opened.

A 31-seat passenger bus was delivered and a VCR/DVD system was installed for use by the Mt. Pleasant family.
- ◆ September 2003 Twenty-seven (27) travelers took the new 31-seat passenger bus to the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. Convention held in Chicago, Illinois.

Final architectural plans for the construction of the new school building were presented for approval.
- ◆ October 2003 The Mt. Pleasant M.B. Church hosted the South Florida Progressive Baptist Association where our own Pastor, Dr. C.T. Kirkland, is the moderator. A golf tournament was held to benefit scholarships and education.

2003 RECRUITS FOR CHRIST

Candidates for Baptism	42
Christian Experience	15
Restoration	12
Total	69

- ◆ March 2004 The Mt. Pleasant Family traveled to Tallahassee, Florida to attend the Progressive M&E Baptist State Convention where our Pastor, Dr. Kirkland, preached for the Senior Women's Ministry.
- ◆ April 2004 The Mt. Pleasant Church Family held its first All Ministries Annual Day where all auxiliaries were recognized.
- ◆ July 2004 One hundred members of the Mount Pleasant Church Family traveled with Pastor Kirkland to New York to enjoy shopping, dining, touring and praising the Lord. The Mount Pleasant Family worshipped at the Star Bethlehem Church in Ossining, N.Y., with Pastor Arthur Lewter and the Star Bethlehem family on Sunday. Everyone had a wonderful time.
- ◆ October 2004 On October 8, 2004, Sis. Carolyn Collins and Sis. Victoria

Kirkland were awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees during the South Florida Progressive Baptist Association in Lakeland, Florida, where Rev. Kirkland serves as the Moderator, for their outstanding service to the church and the community.

The church closed on the property where the new facility for the Mt. Pleasant Standard Base Middle School will be built.

A Gold Shovel Ground-Breaking Ceremony was held on Mt. Pleasant M.B. Church's 78th Anniversary for the Mount Pleasant Standard Base Middle School. Members, staff of the school, as well as others in the community paid \$100 per shovel to be a part of this groundbreaking for the school's new facility.

2004 RECRUITS FOR CHRIST

Candidates for Baptism	55
Christian Experience	16
Letter	1
Restoration	12
Total	84