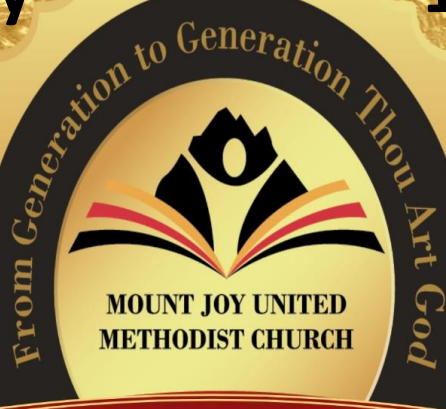


Mt. JOY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*From Generation To Generation
Thou Art God*

November 19, 2023
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



150th Anniversary

Psalms 90:1

WORSHIP

**Mt. Joy U.M. Church
451 Townsend Street
Wilmington, DE 19801**

SERVICE

Worship Witness Win

Rev. Provey Powell, Jr., Sr. Pastor

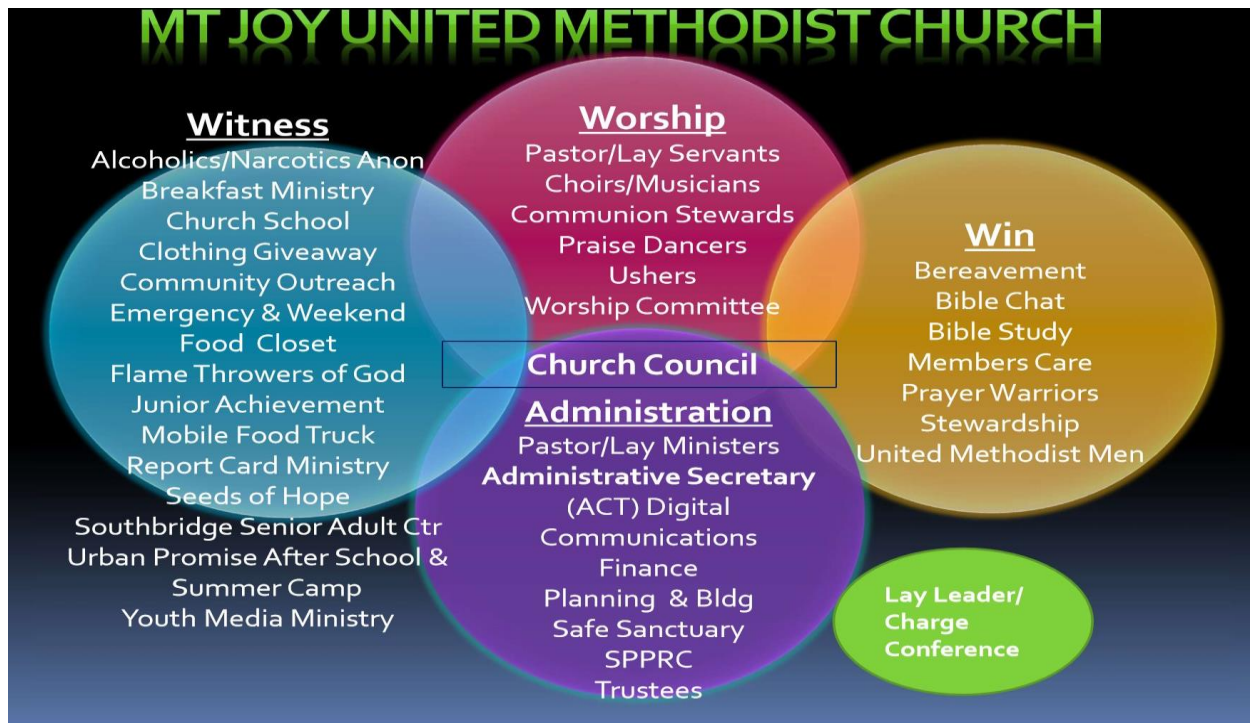
Mission and Vision

Mission

The mission of Mt. Joy United Methodist Church is to Worship God, Witness Christ through our love, service, and evangelism, and go forth to Win Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision

"The vision of Mt. Joy is to serve as a bridge to wholeness in person and community. We define wholeness as being spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, and psychologically complete. This vision is birthed out of the theological underpinning of our mission."





THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 19, 2023

Congratulations to Mount Joy United Methodist Church on your 150th anniversary.

Places of worship have been an essential part of our Nation's fabric since our founding, providing hope and comfort to generations of Americans. They strengthen our faith and nourish our souls. Our congregations call us to love one another, serve our communities, and uphold the dignity of every person because we are all children of our Creator.

May you reflect with pride on the role you play in your community, and may this moment of celebration inspire all of you in the years ahead.



Mt. Joy United Methodist Church 150th Anniversary

PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

BISHOP, PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE,
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

REV. ERICA ROBINSON-JOHNSON *Chief Administrative Officer*

September 13, 2023

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:



Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Today, my spirit rejoices with you as you celebrate the **150TH anniversary of Mount Joy United Methodist Church**. Over the decades, your congregation has, indeed, honored and lifted the majesty of Christ as you fearlessly followed God on a journey of discipleship and service.

Your anniversary provides an opportunity to remember and to celebrate the saints who have served as witnesses to grace, hope and transformation. It is a chance to embrace all that you have to offer, and to envision a future that proclaims the unwavering power of faith.

It is my prayer that you will continue to be prompted by the Spirit to take God's love out into your community and to make a difference in the lives of those whom you encounter. We've come this far by faith, and the future stands bright with the continued possibilities of God's promise. This occasion is more than a celebration, it is an opportunity to grow deeper in our discipleship as we labor together to transform the world.

I give thanks to you. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings and Peace.

In Christ,

Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling



Mt. Joy United Methodist Church 150th Anniversary



DELAWARE DISTRICT OFFICE

THE PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
900 N. Washington St.
Wilmington, DE 19801

The Rev. Joseph W.A. Archie, III, District Superintendent
(302) 655-8873 · DelawareDistrictUMC@gmail.com



September 14, 2023

To Pastor Provey Powell, Officers, Members and Friends of Mt. Joy United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ! I am thankful to Almighty God for the opportunity to celebrate a great milestone, the 150th Anniversary of Mt. Joy United Methodist Church. On this joyous occasion, I pray to God to keep showering His blessings towards you so that you might be found both faithful and fruitful in your ministry and mission.

On this anniversary of the church's founding, I'd like to congratulate you on bringing your ministry to so many people and using it to do so much good. In 150 years, many have accepted Christ, grown in Christ and have become perfected in love because of Mt. Joy UMC.

Many blessings as you continue to worship, love, and serve God in this next season in your church's life. Your church is a treasure in the community, and I will continually pray for all of you as you make disciples of Jesus Christ and live as transforming agents in this community and in the world.

I share the same feelings for you all that the Apostle Paul had for the Philippian Church:

Philippians 1:3-6 "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you; whenever I pray for you all, my prayers are always joyful, because of the part you have taken in the work of the gospel from the first day until now. Of this I am confident, that he who started a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Christ Jesus."

Peace and Love,

Rev. JWA Archie, III

Rev. Joseph W.A. Archie III
Delaware District Superintendent





The Pastor's Statement



"From generation to generation, thou art God!"

As lead pastor of this historical and iconic branch of Zion called Mt Joy United Methodist Church, let me take this opportunity to welcome you to our 150th church anniversary gala celebration.

This year's theme for our sesquicentennial celebration is an appropriate reminder of God's faithfulness throughout all generations. Scripture reminds us in 2 Timothy 2:13, When our faith failed, God remained faithful. It is remarkable to think and reflect on our church's illustrious 150-year history and meditate upon the various obstacles, barriers, and necessities which we endured yet God remained faithful.

It's intriguing to think that this church was birth during an era of one of the greatest atrocities known to humankind called slavery. Despite these inhuman conditions, our ancestors embodied an unwavering faith in God and persevered to establish our current house of worship affectionately known as the Mountain of Joy.

Just think, 10 years removed from the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, the founding mothers and fathers of our church were not the least discouraged but rather forged ahead with an unrelenting determination to establish a spiritual presence in the very community which we worship and serve God today. Not only did they establish a worship center and resources for our community, but likewise created an educational institution for children and youth so that they could experience the great American dream of upward mobility.

I'm truly amazed to think that 150 years later, we the current generation of the Mountain of Joy family are promoting the similar values of spiritual awareness, community engagement /empowerment and educational opportunities for the youth and children in the Southbridge community.

Scripture also reminds us in the book of Isaiah 51:1-5 (NIV) "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth."

On this historic and commemorative occasion, let us pause and look back to the rock of our foundation, which is Jesus Christ and likewise, bestow great honor and gratitude to our ancestors who represent the former generations which now comprise that great cloud of witnesses.

Lady Joyce and I are truly humble to serve as your spiritual leaders during this unprecedented season of obstacles, obstructions yet enormous opportunities. As we walk together by faith, let us take time to recognize the tremendous blessings God has bestowed upon us and trust him for the remarkable miracles that await us in the future.

Rev. Provey Powell, Jr.
Sr. Pastor



First Lady's Statement

Celebrating 150 Years!



WORDS FROM LADY JOYCE

As we band together on this celebratory occasion let us praise God for all that he has done, is doing, and will continue to do for Mount Joy United Methodist Church! So much has been accomplished over the 150 years of the church's existence. From the laying of the first brick, and from the saving of the first soul; God has continuously allowed His torch to be passed from Generation to Generation. In doing so, each generation has brought increase and abundance to the *Mountain of Joy*.

My prayer, family, is that we be intentional in serving Him as we diligently work to witness and win souls in the community and across the airwaves. With each victory let us be careful to give God all the honor and all the glory. And, at this time let us also honor our past leaders; the ancestors, who journeyed faithfully in the spirit of holiness to make it to this day.

I want to thank God for my Mount Joy Family. I love each and every one of you. Over the years you have continuously demonstrated your love for our Pastor. And, as we move forward you have unanimously agreed to help him to fulfill God's divine vision for the South Bridge Community and the next generation of Mt. Joy worshipers. I love working with all of you and I find that the more I serve Him, the more I thirst to serve Him. I am always available to you as we go into the world letting all the people know that *Generation after Generation, Thou Art God..*

To our guests and supporters of this celebration, may God continue to bless you in every area of your life. I pray that all of you will encounter peace as you fulfill your divine appointments.

Lastly, to my husband, I thank God for you and this journey that He is taking us on. I know also that the best is yet to come! I love you.

Let us all etch in our hearts the prayer of Moses in Psalm 90:1 when he prayed to God saying "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations". I personally receive this prayer as God *is* my dwelling place. He is my refuge, my sanctuary, and my stable place in this generation that I live in. Yes! I know it to be the truth! And, I will praise him for the rest of my life because He said in His Word that I am fearfully and wonderfully made in His image (Psalm 139:14) and for that I am so grateful!

With all my love,

Lady Joyce Powell





Mount Joy United Methodist Church 150th Anniversary

"From Generation to Generation Thou Art God!" Psalm 90:1

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
Reverend Provey Powell, Jr.,
Senior Pastor

NOV. 18 – 19, 2023
Minister Laretta Wilson,
150th Anniversary Chairperson

From Generation to Generation Thou Art God - Psalm 90:1

It is with great reverence to God, and my church that I have chaired Mt. Joy's 150th Anniversary Celebration. It is no coincidence, but more likely God's design that 50 years ago my grandmother Trafinna R. Wilson chaired the 100th Anniversary Celebration. With my family having 7 generations attend Mt. Joy UMC I can truly attest that "From Generation to Generation Thou Art God". Mt. Joy provided a spiritual foundation that would include my history making moment as the first female Acolyte, attending Sunday School, being a Jr. Usher, and singing on the choir beginning in the early 70's under the leadership of Rev. Jesse and Charlotte Walker. My Great Grandfather, Howard (Snap) Coage and my grandmother Trafinna Ruth Wilson were my family's roots in the Mt. Joy tree, and we are still here.

Serving Mt. Joy in its many ministries for more than 52 years has been an absolute honor. However, the Music Ministry brings me the most joy. I love to sing especially "Thank You Lord (for all you've done for me)". But never would I have imagined being called into Lay Ministry. My favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord". I am humbled that God would use the life and testimony of a little girl from Southbridge to bear witness to the providence of God to others. Words could never describe the love and gratitude I will always feel for my grandmother, my dad George Wilson, and aunt Aretta Harrison who kept our family and its values intact. The spiritual leadership of Rev. Derrick Porter and Pastor Provey Powell Jr. influenced a closer introspection that eventually invoked my submission to the will of God. I am sincerely grateful to and love both you and Charlotte Walker.

I am also grateful to you, my Mt. Joy family, friends, and constituents. For you to be here with us celebrating 150 years of service to the Southbridge Community and surrounding areas is a true testament to God's favor on our church. To my Co-Chair Cynthia Righter your commitment to making this Gala a success was unwavering and I thank you for your patience with us all and am so glad we were able to do it together again. Kudos to all the Anniversary Committee for your time and talents in whatever capacity you contributed to this historical event. You are loved and appreciated. I would like to give a special shout out to Loraine Watson, our honorary member who continued to encourage Cynthia and me as she worked tirelessly to create the beautiful Souvenir Journal you are viewing.

Proverbs 29:18 tells us "Without a vision the people will perish". I have faith that Mt. Joy's Vision "To Be a Bridge to Wholeness" will manifest itself into a full campus at Townsend, B and Buttonwood Streets to continue its Mission to Worship, Witness and Win disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world.

Mt. Joy pray without ceasing and let our faith be the driving force to get it done.

God Bless You All!

Min. Laretta E. Wilson, Chairperson





Mount Joy United Methodist Church 150th Anniversary

"From Generation to Generation Thou Art God!" Psalm 90:1

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
Reverend Provey Powell, Jr.,
Senior Pastor

NOV. 18 – 19, 2023
Minister Laretta Wilson,
150th Anniversary Chairperson

From Generation to Generation Thou Art God - Psalm 90:1

Greetings to Pastor Provey Powell, Jr., and First Lady, Joyce Powell and to all of my Mt. Joy Church family and friends.

I would like to start by thanking God for allowing me to use my gifts and talents to Co-Chair this memorable occasion. Being part of a 150th year celebration of any kind does not come every day. I consider myself truly blessed. I am thankful to be a part of Mt. Joy United Methodist Church's celebration – "From Generation to Generation Thou Art God" and I am a product of that generation-to-generation theme.

To all the Mt. Joy members and friends that have supported this vision of celebration, I say thank you and may God bless you; and to all of you who are joining us tonight, may God's light shine through you.

I want to thank our committee members who endured meeting after meeting; your support was greatly appreciated. To the fundraising teams that provided lots of fun for everyone leading up to this day; to our decorating team who was determined to make this evening look and feel like an evening of elegance; and to all of those who were not part of the Committee but provided support in other ways, I say thank you.

To my husband who endured and tolerated my many meetings and phone calls for many months, I say thanks for your patience. To the Chairperson, Laretta Wilson who tolerated all of my many challenges to our vision throughout our planning months; she also endured early days and late nights, I say may God's blessing fall upon you. It has been an honor and a privilege to have been part of this milestone celebration.

To God Be the Glory!

Cynthia K. Righter, Co-Chair

150th Anniversary Celebration Committee





WORSHIP LEADER

Min. Robin Henry

New Pentecostal United Holy Church Of America

Minister Robin Henry, a Solider on the battlefield for the lord, Married, Mother, and a Woman of God. I have been a member of New Pentecostal Church for 35 plus years and I love to praise the lord.

Guest Pastor

Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Daniels, Jr.



The Emory Fellowship

6100 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20011

c (240)472-3182; o (202)723-3130

<https://www.emoryfellowship.org/>



Order of Worship

..... Praise & Worship

Processional

Introduction of MC.....	Antoinette Houston, Riverside Chapel Nashville, Tn
Mistress of Ceremony	Min. Robin Henry New Pentecostal United Holy
*Call To Worship.....	Min. Robin Henry
*Hymn of Praise <i>"We've Come This Far By Faith"</i>	
Welcome	Maureta Collins
Response	Susie Wilson, New Destiny Fellowship
Prayer	Joel Orr, Urban Promise
Prayer Response	Mt. Joy Combined Choir
Scripture	Cherae Latney, Glorious Church
Liturgical Dance	Seeds of Hope
Church History	Marlene Wright
Selection.....	Mt. Joy Combined Choir
Recognition of Pastors and Officials.....	Min. Robin Henry
*Offering/Offertory.....	Nyrie Watson - Alexander J. Fawra, Jr.
Introduction of Preacher.....	Rev. Provey Powell, Jr., Sr. Pastor
Selection(s)	Mt. Joy Combined Choir
Sermon.....	Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Daniels, Jr. Emory United Methodist Church
Presentations.....	Beverly Evans and Betty Anderson
Closing Remarks.....	Cynthia Righter, Vice Chairperson Laretta Wilson, Chairperson Rev. Provey Powell, Jr.
Benediction.....	Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Daniels, Jr.

Guest Pastor

REV. DR. JOSEPH W. DANIELS, JR.

Dr. Joseph W. Daniels, Jr. is a husband, father, pastor, author, prophetic imaginer and leader of a Relevant, Enthusiastic, Authentic and Loving church movement. Joe has dedicated his life to growing the kingdom of God. For the past 31 years, he has done so as the lead pastor of the Emory United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. During three of those years (July 2013 to June 2016), he did so in a dual role: as lead pastor of Emory and as the District Superintendent of the Greater Washington District of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. During Joe's time as a superintendent, denominational studies revealed that the Greater Washington District was one of the only districts in the Northeast Jurisdiction showing growth in all of the key metrics. During his leadership at Emory, the congregation has grown from an average of 55 people in weekly worship attendance to 400.

In 2019, the church completed a \$60million, 99-unit affordable rental housing, commercial and congregational development project that will provide hope to many individuals and families desperately needing an affordable place to live in a region that is arguably one of the top five most expensive in the country. Emory seeks to be a "REAL Church for Real People" and strives to "lead people to WHOLE lives." It has been acknowledged numerous times for its role in changing lives and changing communities. The church has been awarded the "Kim Jefferson Northeast Jurisdictional Award" for effective urban ministry representing the United Methodist Church and has been recognized as a key resource center for the "Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century" effort of the United Methodist Church.

Joe holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary (2000) in Washington, D.C. He is also a 1991 graduate of Howard University School of Divinity, and has earned a Bachelor and Master's degrees in the areas of Public Communication, Psychology, Journalism and Public Affairs from The American University (1982, 1984) in Washington, D.C. He is very active in community affairs, serving as a founder and co-chair of the [Washington Interfaith Network \(WIN\)](#) from 1992 to 2021. In 2023, Joe has worked as one of the founders of D.C. Power, a new, church-based, social justice network addressing issues of wealth, equity and respect for marginalized communities in D.C. He also teaches at Wesley Theological Seminary in both the Urban Ministry and Practice of Ministry and Mission programs.

Joe has been called upon for mission service to churches in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Ghana providing training for pastors and laity in the area of congregational and community development. Instructing groups on how to establish strong neighborhoods, Joe's commitment to a spirit of "peace on earth" is not confined to the Brightwood (D.C.) community, the city of Washington D.C. or the United States of America. He fully believes that there can be healthy, wholesome, economically stable families and communities all over the world.

As a sought-after speaker, preacher, mentor and author, Joe inspires and equips others to see the possibilities God has for them and their communities. To that end, he has written four books: ***Begging for REAL Church*** (2009), ***The Power of REAL*** (2011), ***Walking with Nehemiah*** (2014) and co-authored ***Connecting for a Change*** (2019). He has been happily married to Madelyn since 1985; they are the proud parents of two young adults, Joia and Joseph W. Daniels, III, a daughter-in-love, Tiffany and two granddaughters, Emory and Jaidan.





Pastors of MT JOY U.M. Church

LAYMEN OF 1873

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Byrd

Mr. Soloman T. Bantum

Mr. Charles H. Smith

1873

Reverend Hooper Jolly
Pastor Ezion Church

1890-1910 - HISTORY NOT
AVAILABLE SEE BARRETTE CHAPEL
LIBRARY DOVER, DELAWARE

1960

Reverend Augustus Chancy

1875

Reverend Soloman Cooper
Pastor Ezion Church
Reverend Lewis Y. Cox
Reverend Perry Walker

1911

Reverend D. H. Harris

1970

Reverend Richard Hicks

1914

Reverend W. E. Waters

1971

Reverend Jesse Henry Walker

1876

Reverend William Holland

1926

Reverend J. W. Jewett

1981

Reverend Donald Hamilton

1877-1883

Reverend I. H. White
Reverend Harrison Webb
Reverend J. J. Campbell

1927

Reverend Sidney Emptage

1985

Reverend Dr. Janet Harmon

1932

Reverend L. H. McArthur

1992

Reverend George Commodore

1884

Reverend F. Butler
Reverend Hezekiah Grinnage

1935

Reverend R. B. Thompson

1993

Reverend Lorenzo Murdaugh

1885

Reverend Andrew J. Wallace

1940

Reverend J. H. Russum

1997

Reverend Derrick Porter

1887

Reverend Charles Tinley
Reverend William Hilton
Reverend William J. Hudson

1945

Reverend G. E. Geddis

2010

Reverend Dr. James T. Seymour

1948

Reverend J. W. Watson

2011

Reverend H. Ward Greer

1888

Reverend J.A. Richardson

1954

Reverend W. H. Johns

2014

Reverend. Dr. James T. Seymour

1889

Reverend Harvey W. Ewing
Reverend J. R. Waters
Reverend J.A. Richardson

1955

Reverend R. C. Hughes

2015 - Present

Reverend Provey Powell, Jr.





Some Important Milestones

Southbridge area known as "Turkey Town"

- **1873** - Chapel erected on "A" Street; Dedicated and named "Whittington Methodist Episcopal Church in honor of Rev. Joseph Whittington, a former pastor of Ezion Methodist Church"
- **1875** - Chapel burned to ground
- **April 29, 1889** - Church foundation completed
- **June 12, 1889** Corner Stone was laid
- **1889** - Named changed to Mt. Joy and identified as the "Singing Church"
- **1968** - Parsonage (625 S. Heald St.) was purchased
- **1970** Buttonwood Church merge with Mt. Joy - became Mt. Joy Buttonwood Charge
- **December 3, 1972** - Groundbreaking of the Mt. Joy Multipurpose Community Center
- **April 15, 1972** - Multipurpose Center renamed to the "Sonya Maria Wright Fellowship Hall"
- **1974** - Mt. Joy Church was renovated (Community and government partnership)
- **1987** - Senior Program started
- **1991** - Mortgage Burning Service of Addition -1978 (5-19-1991)
- **1997** - Church mission updated to "Worship- Witness - Win"
- **2000** - Building Committee Established
- **2015** - Audio -Communication - Technology Ministry developed
- **2019** - Updated Vision and Mission Statement
- **2020** - Revitalization of Building Committee
- **2022** - Wholeness Campus Project Implemented
- **2023** - Mt. Joy CDC (501 c 3) created



Church History

Abridged from the 150th Anniversary Souvenir Journal

In 1789 Old Asbury Methodist Episcopal church was organized after both blacks and whites began to congregate under a tree for Sunday Worship at 8th & King streets in Wilmington. As a result, people from MD Eastern Shore and lower DE began to migrate to the area known as Turkeytown. 1873 there was an initiative to begin Sunday School by the Byrd, Bantam & Smith families in a house on Buttonwood St.

What started with 5 children becoming too many to hold in one house. This news was brought to the attention of Rev. Hooper Jolley the pastor of Ezion M.E. Church. He led an effort to purchase a lot on the corner of "A" Street. In spite of several difficulties, a chapel was erected and dedicated in August 1873. It was named Whittington Methodist Episcopal Church in honor of Rev. Joseph Whittington, a former pastor of Ezion Methodist Church. The chapel was burned to the ground in February 1875.

1875 Rev. Solomon Cooper led the building of a new chapel on the old lot. In the summer of that year this new chapel was dedicated by Rev. Lewis Y. Cox assisted by Rev. Perry Walker. In this new chapel, the Public School of South Wilmington was organized under the leadership of Brother Girard Rollins, a member of Whittington Chapel.

1877 Rev. I. H. White was the first regularly appointed pastor. From 1879 -1872 there were several pastors who served Whittington Chapel. On July 17, 1882, the Ezion trustees who had handled the business until this time elected and turned the business over to the Chapel's trustees. In 1883, a lot, 30 x 100 feet, was bought on the east side of Townsend Street, between A and B Streets. 1884 Rev. F. Butler was appointed pastor Rev. Andrew J. Wallace became pastor in 1885 and Rev. Charles A. Tinley in 1887.

1888 Rev. J. A. Richardson was appointed. He advised the congregation to exchange the east side lot for the present location, one 40x100 feet on the west side of Townsend St. The deal cost \$600.00. A brick house, next door, was bought for \$700.00, which became the parsonage. Rev. Richardson was re-appointed to Whittington in 1889 and was changed back to an individual station. As an independent Church, the pastor and congregation began building a brick church on the lot at a cost of \$6,000.00.

Brother Leon Collins broke ground on April 29, 1889, the foundation was completed by June 12, 1889 and the cornerstone was laid Sunday, June 23, 1889 by Rev. Harvey W. Ewing, assisted by Rev. J. R. Waters and Rev. J. A. Richardson.



Church History

Abridged from the 150th Anniversary Souvenir Journal

The joy that filled the hearts of the people that day moved them to change the name of the Chapel to Mount Joy. Since that time Mount Joy has been known as the "Singing Church." When Whittington became Mt. Joy, the membership was 85 and the Sunday School membership stood at 145.

From 1890 until 1960 There were quite a few preachers who were responsible for leading the church, improving the building and parsonage, leading the choirs and developing ministries.

1960 Rev. Augustus Chancy was appointed to Mt. Joy remained here until 1970 when he retired. During Rev. Chancy's pastorate, much progress and many improvements were made including the addition of many, many new members; major repairs to the parsonage; addition of the Communion rail; conversion of organ; remodeled ceiling and increased financial reports year after year.

At the 1970 session of the Peninsula Annual Conference, Mt. Joy was again put on a circuit with the Buttonwood United Methodist Church. Rev. Richard Hicks was assigned to these Churches. Under Rev. Hicks' leadership a Breakfast Program was started with the help of the Methodist 5 Action Program. Rev. Hicks was most instrumental in helping to introduce Rev. Walker to the Peninsula Conference and to Mt. Joy Church.

Recent History*

1971 Rev. Jesse H. Walker was a student at the Interdenominational Theological Center, located in Atlanta, Georgia. He would be graduating later that year. While attending a Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) meeting, he met Rev. Richard Hicks. Through conversation, he learned that Rev. Hicks would be leaving Mt. Joy after the conference that year. Rev. Hicks suggested that Jesse might be interested in coming to Mt. Joy and that he would put him in contact with the Superintendent of the Wilmington District. The Rev. Howell O. Wilkins, the Superintendent, and his family, stopped in Atlanta on their way to Florida for spring break, interviewed Jesse, and the rest is history. Jesse came up in May, following his graduation from seminary, to attend the annual conference. At this time, he was an Ordained Deacon. At the annual conference the following year, he was ordained carry out that project.

Mt. Joy was a church with great spiritual assets but had seemingly become lax in the general upkeep of its physical structure. Approximately \$6,000.00 was owed on the parsonage. It was a struggle just to meet regular utility bills. Mt. Joy had always, down through the years, paid its conference asking's in full.



Church History

Abridged from the 150th Anniversary Souvenir Journal

The Church had no apparent credit with the local businesses and supply houses, yet it had been granted \$17,000.00. This was given added influence by the presence and concern of the Mayor of Wilmington, Harry G. Haskell, who had been a friend of the Church most of his life.

The church's office was in a row house in the back of the church. It needed repairs. An appeal was made and an organization (whose name I cannot remember) sent a sizable donation to help pay for repairs. Rev. Walker had a different vision and convinced the trustees, after much consideration, to return the donation because it had been sent for a specific purpose and we no longer planned to carry out that project. Instead, the idea of building an addition was considered. After working with the conference, the community and other agencies in the city, the addition was built which included the fellowship hall, kitchen, restrooms, offices and space for an overflow crowd. The Fellowship Hall was dedicated to Sonya Marie Wright and The Prayer Garden was added and dedicated to Sheila Ferrell, 2 of our children whom we lost to soon.

Every agency and institution in South Wilmington had increased its service and staff budgets from 100% to 400% for the overall improvement of this community. Mt. Joy and Rev. Walker with the help of the City of Wilmington, Senator Herman Holloway, Representative Henrietta Johnson, and Councilman James (Jim) Baker, developed plans that made Southbridge a model community by 1976. One of Rev. Walker's favorite sayings was "You can't lead from behind." So, with this capital improvement project ahead of us, he stepped up and encouraged the leaders and congregation to make this improvement a reality.

After the project was completed, the fundraising was ongoing. One of the fundraisers was a dinner theater production in the fellowship hall. The featured entertainer was Robert "Buddy" Temple, one of Mt. Joy's young members.

When shopping at a nursery to purchase trees and plants to adorn the front of the church and the new addition, Rev. Walker was told by the proprietor that if the plants were still there in a year, we would not have to pay for them. Well, they are still there. What did he think would happen to them?

Some of the new purchases included a new candle lighter for the acolytes. Laretta Wilson was our first female acolyte.



Church History

Abridged from the 150th Anniversary Souvenir Journal

The Walkers and Mt. Joy had become family and we often got questions about where we were from and how life was down south. So, we took a bus trip down south to New Orleans, LA, Atlanta, GA and to our home, Birmingham, Alabama. Upon arrival there was a Block Party to receive Mt. Joy. Because our family frequently visited, our family knew a lot of Mt. Joy's members. They often remarked on how warm and friendly you were. That Sunday morning the families laid out a down home southern breakfast for all and afterwards we all worshipped at our home church, Brownsville United Methodist Church. It was a good time had by all.

Rev. Walker was always interested in children and young people. (Maybe that was partially because he was a big kid, himself.) He was intentional about having them participate in the Sunday morning worship services. The Sunday School and youth workers planned holiday parties and dances, and other events for them here at the church.

So, this year, Mt. Joy is celebrating 150 years of ministry to its congregation and to the Southbridge community. Though it seems like yesterday, we were here for Mt. Joy's hundredth anniversary in 1973. Participation of the membership and the community was grand. The anniversary celebration was held in the Gold Ballroom at the Hotel DuPont.

We did not have personal computers to create souvenir booklets then, but my husband and I, and members of the congregation, worked diligently to make that a volume of which members would be proud. Looking at it recently, I realized that it is a good resource for some of your younger members to learn of your heritage as you work on your genealogy. There are several family trees in the last section of the book.

I think that Rev. Walker spent his best and most productive years of ministry here at Mt. Joy. His favorite scripture was 1st Corinthians 13:4-8 which reads (English Standard Version): Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. This is how he lived.

**As written by Mrs. Charlotte Walker, wife of Rev. Jesse Walker*



Church History

Abridged from the 150th Anniversary Souvenir Journal



1985, Rev. Dr. Janet Harmon was assigned as Pastor of Mt. Joy served until 1992. Under her leadership, she conducted a study of needs of the South Wilmington community in conjunction with the Neighborhood House. The study identified a lack of programs for youth, single parents, and seniors. As a result of the study, Mt. Joy started a "Church and Community Worker Program". The program was the first of its kind in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. It offered senior, youth, and single parent programs, and a substance abuse program. The senior program started in 1987 and continues today.



1997, Rev. Derrick Porter was appointed pastor Mt. Joy Church. Under Rev. Porter's leadership, the church established and defined its mission to Worship (Psalm 100), Witness (Matthew 25:31) and Win (Matthew 28:18-20). He challenged the members of the congregation to revitalize and expand its outreach ministries. The Breakfast Ministry consistently fed 80-100 people each week. Homeless men, women, and children as well as the community members were warmly welcomed and served a hearty hot breakfast. They were also invited to join the "Come as you are" services." "Come as you are" services opened our worship services to those who may not have felt comfortable to sit in a "traditional" church setting. Many people joined the church because of the Breakfast ministry and the come as you are mentality. Rev. Porter recognized the large number of teenagers in the congregation and started a program called the "Hook-Up" in which the teens would gather in his office and have open and honest conversations about the issues they faced and how to relate it to the bible. The young adult choir was revamped and changed its name to "Voices of Praise" stating that "we weren't that young anymore." Rev. Porter felt it necessary to connect with the youth in the community in an environment outside of church. He encouraged the development of our Youth Outreach Ministry and secured funding from the Conference to engage the youth in the Southbridge Community.

The community was invited to Thanksgiving dinner which was always filled. One of the most promising endeavors was to allow Urban Promise to utilize our facilities for its afterschool and summer camp programs which are still a blessing to the children in our community. Rev. Porter envisioned building a new facility to service the community. During his tenure, the Planning and Building



Church History

Abridged from the 150th Anniversary Souvenir Journal

Committee was birthed, and the congregation committed to investigating the possibility of building a new facility by offering a good-faith down payment on Mr. White's property (this effort was led by Karen Anderson-Bowen - our resident architect) and the late Wayne Brown.

Rev. Porter also started the precursor to the Media Ministry through recording the services and making CDs and DVDs available to those who could not attend service. His exemplary leadership was recognized, and he was appointed District Superintendent in the Pen-Del Conference. Rev. Porter often says Mt. Joy is a church filled with love and it will always be home to him.

2010 Rev. Dr. James T. Seymour served as interim pastor until 2011 to maintain the stability of the church.



2011 Rev. H. Ward Greer stepped into the role as Sr. Pastor until 2014. Rev. Greer was instrumental in revitalizing the Sunday School Program and Flame Throwers which was a youth outreach initiative.



2014 Rev. Dr. James T. Seymour stepped in again being led by holy spirit and inspired by the music of the "Voices of Praise" choir, stating "he couldn't get to church fast enough to hear such a powerful choir." He worked diligently with Mt. Joy leadership to get our affairs for the newly appointed pastor.

2015 Rev. Provey Powell, Jr. was appointed and hit the ground running. He met with the leadership of the church July 1 the first day of his assignment to establish a covenant relationship. His divine purpose is to bring out the greatness in all whom he encounters. He has been intentional about expanding and creating opportunities for leadership, resulting in the Mt. Joy's first four Certified Lay Ministers and one Licensed Local Pastor. Through the generous grants from the Wilmington Urban Center Ministries, Rev. Powell strengthened the ACT (Audio Communication and Technology) initiative, Children's Outreach Ministries and Children's Church. He also made room for Youth Take Over Sundays where the children and youth are responsible for the Worship Experience.



After some brainstorming about how to reach the missing generation (in the church) New Wine Mission (Millennial ministry) was developed. The purpose was for Gen Y & Z to develop their own style of worship outside of the walls of the church while being able to offer personal support some personal needs.



Church History

Abridged from the 150th Anniversary Souvenir Journal

Financial Literacy was also offered to children through Jr. Achievement and Adults through a few different partnerships.

Rev. Powell, being a member of the Board of Education, was instrumental in partnering with the Southbridge Neighborhood House to create learning pods during the pandemic to serve families who were not able to be at home with their children. This opened the door to 1 on 1 tutoring in the Christina School District which increased reading and Math proficiency. During the pandemic only being allowed 10 in the church, Rev. Powell became very forward thinking about getting the word out to the masses. Because we had already advanced in our technology, he took that opportunity to fully utilize his Lay Ministers, ACT team and a few Choir Members to create a virtual

Worship experience every week for almost 3 years. We were able to continue weekly bible study online and even join with as many as 3 other churches virtually. He also created a space in our backyard to 'Pull up and Praise'. The outdoor worship experience was birthed so that spiritual inspiration would be shared throughout the local community. He is always looking for opportunities to expand and birth ministry. He continues to remind us that we have to have Faith. It doesn't matter what it looks like "Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen".

Rev. Powell's love for youth and children was the motivation for his appointment to the Delaware State Board of Education as he works with community leaders through the Southbridge Civic Association for the betterment of Southbridge and surrounding communities. From the financial support of the United Methodist Congregational Development Corporation and the Mid Atlantic Foundation, Rev. Powell was able to visualize and implement the Mt. Joy's newly established Eden Project, which is designed to generate multiple streams of income. The streams include traditional Tithes and offering, our newly reinstated Jubilee Development Corporation, a 501c3 organization, Endowment Fund, and a For-Profit Enterprise for youth. During his tenure, the building team was re-energized by God's spirit, to purchase and acquire local property, resulting in the development of our current vision of "A Bridge to Wholeness Campus ". Pastor Powell (lovingly referred to as the hardest working part-time pastor) and Lady Joyce continue to serve with joy and enthusiasm.





150th Anniversary Committee

*We thank you
for worshipping with us on this
historic occasion*



Laretta Wilson
Chairperson



Cynthia Righter
Vice Chairperson



Lady Joyce and Pastor Powell

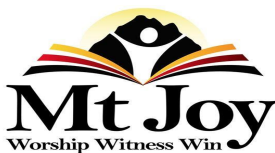
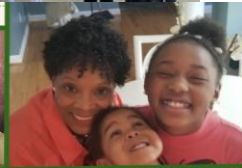
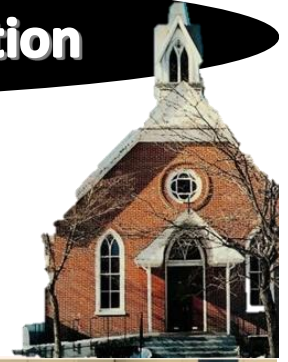
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Crystal Brown
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From Generation To Generation



Thou Art GOD

Psalm 90:1

