HISTORY
OF
OUR CHURCH
HISTORY
OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH

When we think of the record, and the beginning of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, many, many years ago; and how she was started by a group of dear old Christian souls, just liberated from the chains of slavery, (the majority of whom were not able to distinguish one letter from the other), yet having a vision from God to carry on as they did, then this generation can say, "There is still hope for us as a race". With courage, and God on our side, there can be no failure.

We pause, and praise the Lord for having spared Sister Susan Ann Johnson, the mother of Sister Althenia Woods, and grandmother of Sisters Priscilla Creswell and Norva Lee Bonds, who with her powerful memory, at the age of eighty-seven, was able, in the year of 1934, to give Sister Rosa Lee Easter, (who spent her entire life membership at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church), the facts concerning our church origin. Sister Susan Ann Johnson, (along with a few others), was one of the organizer of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

In order to visualize the very beginning, we must give some facts. Sister Susan Johnson gave the following information to Sister Rosa Lee Easter, concerning some other churches. The historical old Mount Zion Baptist Church, that once stood on Canal Street, was the parent mother church of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Mount Zion, was at one time, on this side of the bayou, where the I & G.N. railway trestle, (then and now), crosses Buffalo Bayou.

Reverend Alex Pierson was the first pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church. He was killed by a member of the other race, while on a train en route from Courtney, Texas, where he pastored. Mount Zion Baptist Church called Reverend Henry Steward to pastor the church; (Reverend Steward was pastoring at Pleasant Grove two Sundays).

Sometimes later, Mount Zion was burned to the ground by accused whites. The frightened congregation moved across the bayou and leased some land where the old street car electric barn stood, in the 2nd Ward. It was called Horse Shoe Bend. The congregation was there for about a year. Then, they moved to a site on Canal Street, where they worshiped for many, many years, until moving to their present location. During this time, a group from Antioch Baptist Church, visited and invited Mount Zion to come over and help them.

Antioch Baptist Church had been organized since January, 1866, by a white minister, Reverend W. C. Crane. Antioch Baptist Church was worshiping on Baptist Hill in 4th Ward. The congregation was now planning to lay their cornerstone
their mothers before them, had learned to make light bread.

Finally, enough money was raised, and Brother Monk Smith was delegated to get the lumber. Someone was hired to be responsible for building the church. All the men and women came out and worked. The material used, was the one-by-twelve shiplap, which made a box church. A second lot was bought on credit, and the membership began paying on it; (two deeds to the old church site verified that fact). Brother Reuben Evans conducted a large Sunday School, and lots of young men and women congregated on Sunday, and made the church a community center. Some of the young men and women included Mr. Robert Carter, just out of Houston College. He was a dashing figure among the girls, like Mary Booker, Mittie Johnson, Ida Johnson, Pauline Perkins, Estella Gray (whom some knew as Estella Steward), Susie Evans, Luvenia Evans, Louisa Childs, Sallie Woods, (called Susie Wright), and Bertna Roberts(Jones). The young men were Frank Perkins, Jim King, Dave Bass, Alex and Robert Ford, Porter Bingham, Ed Bundick and Willie Bundick, along with many others, (too many to mention). But, these mentioned, worked in the church.

About ten or eleven years later, Bettie Simon came with her husband, (who had been transferred by the railroad company on a run from Houston, to Shreveport). They brought their two daughters, Minnie and Eddie, and little granddaughter, Rosa Lee, with them. They moved in the home with Mrs. Amanda Creswell, who became Mrs. Foster, after the death of her husband, Abner Creswell, (a train wreck). Other families: Brother Rufus Robinson and his wife, Erviness, came with their children, whose names were Eddie, Duchie and Effie. (We lovingly remember Effie, as Sister Effie Hicks). Next, the Watkins' family moved in the city, and the wife, Sister Sarah Watkins, (who was the mother of Sister Emma Watkins), is now known as Sister Emma D. Ray. Sister Emma D. Ray was one of the leading spirits in her time. At one time, in later years, she served as the Superintendent of the Sunday School.

A storm came and twisted the box church, and it was torn down. This made way for a larger two-story frame building that was weather boarded, and completed fully, with a tall steeple. The steeple held a sounding bell that could be heard far away. In those days, when a member died, the sexton tolled the bell as a signal that someone was dead. Then, the children would run for long distances to find out who it was, and the news was carried along. Everyone knew of the death.

In this new two-story building, Jim Foster and Tobert Carter carried on. Good times were had then. They had church fairs, suppers, grab bags, fish ponds, (as well as Sunday School), down stairs. There were plenty of benches, (handmade ones with backs to them). The benches they had before, did not have backs to them. One had to sit up straight, with their feet hanging down. The little children sat on the front seats, with their feet not touching the floor, and were
sudden, the floor in the rear of the church gave way, and down it went, with the people standing on it. Someone screamed, "Fire!" Through the windows, children and adults jumped to the ground below. Bessie Simon broke her arm while jumping out of the window. Well, the Sunday School exercises were cut off, right then and turned into a stampede. This church had to be remodeled, and it stood until 1910.

Reverend George W. Booker, at this stage of his life, (after more than thirty-two years of service), began to fail in health. Signs of old age crept upon him. Some of the members wanted someone else to pastor the congregation.

Reverend Booker resigned. For a little while, he was given a small sum of money as retirement salary. This did not last too long. Soon after, he took ill and lingered for a while. There were those members who still loved him, and helped him out. In May, 1918, he passed from this land to the sweet beyond. His memory lingers on with those who knew him. He was highly respected and loved. His opinions were often sought. His favorite song was "Farewell, Farewell to all Below, My Saviour Calls Me, and I Must Go."

In the year 1910, (eight years before the passing of Reverend Booker), Reverend Joe J. James was called to pastor Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. During his first year of service, the church again took on new life, and bloomed forth in all its glory. The membership was heavily increased. The Women's Missionary Society was organized under the pastoral leadership of Reverend Joe J. James. The Women's Home Missionary Society was a powerful group in the church. They bought the Communion Service Containers. Before this purchase, the "Silver Service," that was seen each Communion Night on the Communion Table, consisted of a pitcher and two (2) goblets. The wine was sipped from these goblets, each member sipping after the other. Now, each member had an individual glass. It was decided that this method, (using individual glasses), was more sanitary.

Under the pastorate of Reverend Joe J. James, another heavy storm arose one night. The building was blown to one side. This called for the remodeling of this building. This time, the building was not torn down. Additions were made on each side, which were called wings. This made the edifice much wider. The church bloomed forth, again. Sister Sarah Watkins, the mother of Sister Emma D. Ray, became the new Superintendent of the Sunday School. Under her supervision, a new organ was purchased for the Sunday School, also a bookcase. At the close of her superintendency, she was succeeded by Brother I.R. J. Fisher. Later, Brother Fisher became Reverend Fisher.

Brother Issac Robinson, who was called Ike, became Superintendent. Some thought he was too young to fill the post. The members had been accustomed to an elderly person serving in this capacity. Brother Issac Robinson was young and jovial; the young folk came out and rallied to this program. The church began to work hard financially to raise
quite a large sum of money, by putting on plays, cantatas, etc. Members were sent to the National meetings. The Church began, at this period, to have Easter Services on Easter Sunday, instead of Children's Day, as in former years. Brother Edgar Davis, the brother of Sisters Lillian Glover, Catheryn Calhoun, and Clara Mae White, was called to the superintendency of the Sunday School. Brother Davis was also sent to the National meeting as a delegate. Brother George Jackson, brother of Sister Willie Mae Davis, was the next Sunday School Superintendent. After his stewardship in office, came Brother L. A. Tucker, then Brother "Ike" Robinson, again. After his service, Brother J. W. Wallace, a promising young man from Orange, Texas, had united with the Church, and he was given the position. Brother Wallace brought the Sunday School to the front again, and also worked hard in the church proper. Many Biblical plays were presented, (having been written by our humble servant). The leading characters were Sister Emma D. Ray, (giving all the synopses), Sisters Susie N. Patrick (White), Patience Sherman, Mary Sue Jones Roberts, Bertha Easter, Effie Hicks, Pearl Robinson, Aldonia Carter (Washington), Laura Armstrong, Maggie Patterson, Brothers Joe Sigh, George Robinson, George Easter, Manuel Henry, Sister Mattie B. Norton, all the Punch children, (who were large enough to serve in a play), superintendent Wallace, and the Wallace Children.

The appearance of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church was marred by age, so the men set about to have it remodeled. While this work was going on, one Monday night in October, 1927, the church caught on fire, and everything was burned down. The news spread, and the following night, all assembled. Plans were made to construct a temporary building. The little cafeteria that stood next to the old church was erected. The men used new shiplap, and some of the burned material that could be scrapped up. The members worshiped in this building until money could be raised for another church. A rally was planned, and $2,000.00 was raised by the strong workers like: Dandis Patrick, Andrew Patterson, L. A. Tucker, Gaston Crawford, C. E. Palmer, Edmond Ray, Jeff Hicks, George Easter, Walter Whitehead, Shelly Johnson, Johnny Mayes, Henry Anderson, J. W. Wallace, George Robinson, Will Thornton, Ben Bass, John Easter, Jim Sherman, Bob Randolph, L. W. Lyles, J. C. Cherry, G. C. Morris, Richard Punch, Sr., Cornelius Easter, Jeff Davis, Carter Norton, W. E. Lewis, C. C. Jones, B. B. Bookman, Sisters Effie Hicks, Maggie Patterson, M. B. Norton, S. N. Patrick, Patience Sherman, Emma D. Ray, L. E. Crawford, Clara Harris Walker, Estella Steward, Bessie Valentina, Mary Carter, Rosa Lee Easter, Minnie Green, S. R. Jenkins, Lula Taylor, Classie Childs Mouton, Mary Washington, Otonie Jones, Lucinda Hines, Lillie Pickney, Addie Davis, Savannah Punch, Addie Henry, Bertha Easter, Athenia Woods, Mary Sue Jones (Roberts), Mamie Ladson (Craft), Erie Davis, Jennie Lubine and Ruby Adair. These members set out to build another church.

Reverend Joe J. James remained pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church for twenty-two years. When he and the
membership disagreed on a matter concerning the Association to which the church belonged, Reverend James voluntarily resigned as pastor in 1931. The church continued to love and care for him throughout the years.

Sometimes later, Mount Corinth Baptist Church was destroyed by fire. Mount Pleasant had a church building, but no pastor. Mount Corinth had a pastor, but no church. A committee from each group met for the purpose of consolidating the two churches; (the two churches being so close to each other). The consolidation was considered to be a great idea. Plans were worked out by the joint committee. The consolidated church was to be known as Mount Pleasant-Corinth Missionary Baptist Church. For the first year, both deacon boards were to function, and Reverend Hubbard would be pastor, or another minister could be chosen. When the time came to present the plans to the membership, Reverend L. H. Simpson was asked to preside. The result of the meeting was that there would be no consolidation, but that Mount Pleasant would call a pastor.

On January 28, 1932, Reverend Howard Oliver Scott was called, and officially elected Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church by the Church Membership; becoming just the third pastor, in the church's existence of a little over the half century mark, in history. Reverend Scott took charge on February 14, 1932. The church took on new growth, and the membership began to work again, as in former years. New member came like Sister M. J. Nicholson, Brother G. C. Patterson, Brother and Sister A. W. Frisco, Brother Bethel Parker and wife, Sister Sadie Ray, Sister Ivor Robinson, Sister Annie Lee Brown, Vena High, Addie Lane (Hampton), C. M. Fuller, Brother and Sister T. P. Wiley, Beatrice Ray, Jessie P. White, Mamie Tabb, W. Phifer, Rosa Mae Campbell (Shepherd), Luella Wallace, Clara Greene (Burse), Ruby Bibbs, the Shepherds, and other good workers.

Minds differ, and that is human nature. Church fights will come when we let the devil get the best of us. The devil has never left us alone, regardless of how strong we are. The devil is just standing there saying, "Now is my chance". After Rev. Scott's Pastorate of a few years with us, there were some members who wanted a new shepherd of the flock. Other members got on bended knees, in their secret closets, and asked the Master to "calm the raging seas;" and He did. Some members left the church, (as they had done in former years), but the old Church moved on.

The Mount Pleasant Membership attempted to build a church on the old site at 2727 Rothwell Street, but the City of Houston stepped into the picture, and wanted the land for a highway. This area is now a part of the Interstate 10 East Freeway. The members were given $24,000.00 - recording fee $50.10. The members set out to locate another site. Some of the members were grieved beyond measure, as they had been there all of their lives; yet the City officials said: "You can't build there," so, the church had to go.

One day, Reverend Scott and Reverend D. F. Griffin were riding, and passed the site located at Solo and Hershe
Streets. They inquired from neighbors as to who the owners were. At once, they went to Clay & Clay Funeral Directors and tried to buy the properties. Then, a committee visited them. Mr. Clay’s mother, Sylvia Fance, had been a member of Mount Pleasant, and was buried from Mount Pleasant years ago. He decided to sell the Solo and Hershe Streets properties to Mount Pleasant. The legal steps were taken, and the deal closed, with all trustees signing the papers. Mount Pleasant purchased the site, one city block, containing six lots, for the sum of $13,000.00 cash.

In the month of August, 1949, the frame Educational Building was completed, and the members marched in through a heavy rain. Some came in cars, others on foot, some on buses, but everyone was there. The members worked from that day on to build another edifice for the Lord. Every week, most of the members were loyal. They made a sacrifice, and gave what they thought was needed, in order that the building program would be completed. Services were held in the Educational Building, until entrance into the present Church Edifice, on Sunday, October 7, 1951.

The present Church Edifice was built at a cost of $71,724.00, and a fraction. Under the leadership of Reverend Scott, Mount Pleasant had a Sunday Broadcast on Radio Station KLVE. Mrs. Gertrude Frisco organized a singing group called "The Mount Pleasant Aires.” Some of the members in this group were Gloria Patterson, Thelma Brown, Catherine Califoun, Lula Bell Jones, A. W. Frisco, Willie Gloud, Melvin Jackson, Warren Smith, and others. The new building was equipped by L. L. Sams Company of Waco, Texas. The church mortgage was paid off in August, 1956, just five (5) years after the church was built! Later, a chain link fence was added to enclose the church campus; a neon sign was placed in front of the Church; chimes were added to the organ; and a kitchen was added to the Educational Building.

Reverend H.O. Scott resigned as pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, in the Spring of 1959, (after serving for twenty-seven years), to assume the pastoral duties of the First Baptist Church in Far Rockaway, New York.

On August 24, 1959, Reverend Acy Doyal McCraw, pastor of First Independent Baptist Church of Corsicana, Texas accepted the pastorage of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. The church elected a dynamic, young humble servant of the Master. Under his leadership, members have grown spiritually by his emphasis on church workshops, leadership training, Bible teaching, titles for giving, dedicated service, and evangelism and revivals for soul winning. Reverend McCraw was an inspiration to the membership of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Much was done during his ministry to improve our physical plant. The main auditorium was carpeted at a cost above $7,000.00; painted and re-air conditioned, at a cost of $16,987.97. Glass doors were installed in the front foyer, and a 650 pound brass core bell installed in the tower. We completed payment on our $9,600.00 Rogers organ, and $2,500.00 Kwani piano. A new sound system was installed at a cost of $330.00. Many other improvements were made, including installation
of Facet Glass windows for the Sanctuary at a cost of $11,500.00; purchase and installation of light fixtures at a cost of $10,000.00, and purchase of new kitchen equipment at a cost of $3,500.00.

During the fiscal year 1994-1995, Reverend McCraw is credited with the installation of rest rooms and marble tile flooring in the front entrance of the church; replacement of wall to wall carpet throughout the sanctuary, ceramic tile in the Baptismal area, walkway cover on the westside of the church, cushions for the pews, modesty panels for the piano and organ, refurbishment of the parking lot; total improvements of more than $326,000.00, on the Main Building and church properties. On Sunday, April 16, 2000, Pastor McCraw appointed Reverend Roy Lee Jackson, to the position of Assistant Pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. On June 21, 2000, Reverend McCraw departed this life after more than forty-one (41) years as Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. He leaves a legacy of faithful commitment, untrining service to humanity, and dedication to God's work, that will transcend for generations to come.

On September 18, 2000 the church voted (94:27) and elected Reverend Roy Lee Jackson as the Pastor-Elect of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. He accepted the call on Sunday September 24, 2000. Pastor Jackson considers the pastorage of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church an honor, and privilege to be chosen by God to lead His people. He is grateful that the Holy Spirit directed the Lord’s people to elect him as Pastor.

As history continues to unfold, we salute and acknowledge, some of today’s "GREAT CHRISTIAN WARRIORS," who were members of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, (located at 2727 Rothwell Street). These WARRIORS have continued their commitment to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as members at our present location, (4819 Hershe at Solo Streets). When the church moved from Rothwell in 1949, to a wood framed building, these warriors were present. On October 7, 1951, these same warriors celebrated the march from the wood framed building, into the two-story brick church, (located at 4819 Hershe at Solo Streets). These Warriors ARE ALIVE TODAY, (as we pen these historical facts), to attest to and/or witness this, our 125th Church Anniversary Celebration, October 7, 2001, (50 years later)! These great warriors of the Lord are: Our 5th Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Reverend Roy Lee Jackson, Brother Sam Barnum, Brother Elwood Guillory, Sr., Brother Phillip Tabb, Sister Rose Kirkwood, Sister Josephine Harris, Sister Maud Adair Randon, Sister Alberta Adams, Sister Loretta Jackson, Sister Loretta Huff, Sister Gracie Mae Sorrell, Sister Ethel Cyrus, Sister Helen Hayes, Sister Estella Jones, Sister Alma Renfro, Sister Clara Mae White, Sister Catherine Calhoun, Sister Kathryn Guidry, and Sister Francis Harris.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, in her growth and development, has built edifices, refurbished the interior and exterior
ONLY FIVE (5) PASTORS OF THE CHURCH IN 125 YEARS
REVEREND GEORGE W. BOOKER, ORGANIZER AND FIRST PASTOR OF MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH (1870-1908)

Reverend George W. Booker was a young minister, assistant to the pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church. He was small of stature, and of a dark brown complexion. He wore a long mustache, and chin whiskers. He was reverenced by all. The children and lost of grown-ups called him by his "cherished name," Uncle George. He used a walking cane, because it was stylish in that day and time. He rode horse-back on a beautiful black mare, called Parlee.

Reverend Booker, his wife, Lizzie, and several other christians of 5th Ward, attended Mount Zion Baptist Church. Their only means of getting across the Buffalo Bayou, was by crossing the channel, (by way of the I. & G.N. railroad trestle), which was a very dangerous and hazardous thing to do. So, Reverend Booker decided to organize Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, on THIS SIDE of the channel. The location at 2727 Rothwell Street, (then called Liberty Street), was selected for the church site. At first, the house of worship consisted of a brush harbor. Plans for raising funds for erecting a building were put into effect. With fish-frys, church bazaars, etc., enough money was raised to build a small frame church. After so long a time, the church was destroyed by a storm. The members built another structure, which was also destroyed by storm. By now, quite a few members had joined Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, and the members built a much larger edifice with a basement.

Reverend Booker was a powerful preacher in his day. Many were added to the church by conversion, weakly, and the church grew to be very outstanding. Many people loved to hear him. During his pastorate, people could not become members if they were common-law. Reverend Booker married them before he baptized them. In preaching funerals, he preached the funeral just as the person lived; no camouflage. Reverend Booker believed that the way one lives, is the way one dies. The Scripture says in Ecclesiastes 11:3b, "If the tree fall toward the south or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall lie."

During Reverend Booker's pastorate, a dissension arose among some of the members; several of them organized the present Mount Olive Baptist Church. Reverend Booker was now an old man. His bodily strength, as well as his voice, failed. He grew ill, being afflicted with cancer of the mouth. Before his last illness, he was set aside. The deacon board promised to take care of him. Another minister was called to the pastorate of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, in the person of Reverend Joe J. James.

Reverend Booker departed this life in May, 1918.

The above information was excerpted from history recorded by Mrs. Emma D. Ray, who became a member of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church at the age of 9. She was baptized by Reverend George Booker, along with about 60 other persons in Buffalo Bayou. Additionally, credit is also given to Sister Althea Woods, and Reverend George Booker.
REVEREND JOE J. JAMES, SECOND PASTOR OF MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
(1909-1931)

Reverend Joe J. James became the Second Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, succeeding Reverend George Booker. Reverend James was the founder of the General Central District Association, New Waverly, Texas. During the pastorate of Reverend James, the last church built by Reverend George Booker was remodeled, (by adding "wings" to both sides), making the edifice much wider. The organ was replaced with a piano. The first choir was organized during Reverend James’ early administration. It was also during Reverend Joe J. James pastorate, that the Woman’s Home Missionary Society,( a powerful group in the church), bought the Communion Service Receptacles. Before this, the "Silver Service," that was seen each Communion Night on the Communion Table, consisted of a pitcher and two (2) goblets. The wine was sipped from these goblets, each member sipping after the other. Now, each member has an individual glass. It was decided that this method, (using individual glasses), was more sanitary.

In October, 1926, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church was totally destroyed by fire. There was no insurance on the building. The cafeteria that had been built by the Missionary Society was used for entertainment. Reverend James and his official staff enlarged this building, and the church membership worshipped in it until enough money could be raised to build another church. The people had a mind to work. Many brothers pledged fifty dollars, others pledged less. The sisters worked side by side with the brothers. Finally, the building of a new church was realized, and worship service was held in the new church, until the church was sold to the City of Houston for freeway purposes. The selling price of the church was $24,000.00.

Reverend James remained pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church until he and the membership disagreed on a matter concerning the association to which the church belonged. Reverend James voluntarily resigned as pastor. Mount Pleasant Baptist Church continued to love and care for him throughout the years. On January 8, 1932, Reverend Howard Oliver Scott was called as third pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Reverend James departed this life, February 5, 1956.

The above information was excerpted from history recorded by Mrs. Emma D. Ray and Mrs. Rosa Lee Easter.
REVEREND HOWARD OLIVER SCOTT, THIRD PASTOR OF MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
(1932-1959)

Reverend Howard Oliver Scott was born in Crowley, Louisiana. He is the son of the Late Reverend and Mrs. Henry Scott. He was the eighth child of fifteen children. He married Naomi Crawford Scott. He is the father of 3 daughters and one son. Reverend Scott is a graduate of H. C. Ross High School, Crowley, Louisiana; Leesland College, Baker, Louisiana; and Erma Hughes Business College. He earned a Business Certificate from the National Council of Business Schools, Washington, D.C. He holds a Doctor of Law degree from Union Theological Seminary. He ranks high in the Masonic world. He is a thirty third degree (33rd) Mason, past member of Victoria Lodge F. A. M. (Prince Hall affiliation), and Past Patron of Rosa Lee Chapter O. E. S.. He is heard monthly over K.P.R.C. Radio, and other broadcast stations.

When Reverend Howard Oliver Scott accepted the pastorate of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, on January 8, 1932, (becoming the third pastor in the history of the church), its indebtedness was over $6,000.00. The church was 9 months behind with notes; the membership was approximately 35. Only two (2) persons owned automobiles. The pastor was paid as little as $2.50 per week. The pastor lived with his sister in Montrose. Total receipts for Sunday Services, including all activities, seldom exceeded $16.00 per Sunday. If $16.00 was raised, the pastor would get $8.00. The church was seven (7) years paying off that $6,000.00 indebtedness. On Reverend Scott’s first anniversary, $53.00 was raised.

During the first 25 years of Reverend Scott’s pastorate, he extended the right hand of fellowship to more than 2,500 people, (800 of which were baptized). He officiated 214 marriages, and eulogized 211 deaths. Twenty-five (25) ministers confessed the ministry; twenty-two (22) ministers joined Mount Pleasant after they had been preaching, which makes a total of 47. The receipts for the first 25 years of Reverend Scott’s pastorate were approximately $500,000.00. Reverend Scott delivered over 4,800 sermons, most of them at the church.

Reverend Scott’s first trip was to Chicago, in 1933. Since that time, he traveled through 43 States and out of the United States 6 different times; Old Mexico three times, Canada, twice, and Europe, Asia and Africa, covering a distance of 25,000 miles. He has traveled to London, England; Cairo, Egypt; Jerusalem, Jordan and Israel; Paris, France; Rome, Italy; Athens, Greece; and Shannon Ireland.

Reverend Scott pastored the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 2727 Rothwell for 19 years; the church was at that location for 73 years. While at the Rothwell location, the membership purchased from Mr. Sam Calvin, (on the Buck Street side of the church), the property, joining the church. This property measured 100’ by 100’. $4,000.00 was paid for that property. The State Highway Department refused the church the opportunity to build on this property. The membership was forced to move. They purchased the 4819 Hershe @ Solo Streets location. This location is bordered by four streets, (Solo, Hershe, Oats, and Whippet). These properties were purchased at a cost of $13,500 cash. A two-story brick church was erected on this property at a cost of $71,724, and a fraction. This stately church, (Mount Pleasant Baptist Church), is one of the most attractive religious centers in Houston, Texas.

In the spring of 1959, Reverend Scott resigned as pastor of Mount Pleasant after serving for twenty-seven years. He left to assume the pastoral duties of the First Baptist Church in Far Rockaway, New York. He was succeeded by Reverend Acy Doyal McCraw. Reverend H. O. Scott departed this life December 15, 1987.

This information was taken from "THE PASTOR’S COLUMN," from the 80th Church Anniversary Souvenir Journal.
Reverend Acy Doyal McCraw was born May 4, 1925, in Many, Louisiana, to the late Reverend and Mrs. W. C. McCraw. He accepted Christ, and was baptized at age seven, at New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Reverend Palmer, Pastor. He attended Sabine Parish Training School, Many, Louisiana. In 1943-1945, he served in the U.S. Naval Reserve overseas duties. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Religion, from Bishop College, Marshall, Texas 1951, (where he later served as Trustee). He did further studies at Prairie View A&M University, and Texas Southern University. Reverend McCraw was the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Ministry Degree from Mount Hope Bible College, Houston, Texas, (where he later served on the Board of Trustees). In 1951, he was Ordained, Baptist Minister, by the 12th District Baptist Association, Many, Louisiana. On August 30, 1951, Reverend McCraw married Miss A.L. Williams, Ernie, Texas. No children were born to this union.

Reverend McCraw served as Junior Pastor, of the Junior Church, under the leadership of Reverend H.O. Scott. On August 24, 1963, Reverend McCraw became Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. In the early 1960’s, the First Civil Rights “In-Door Rally” in Houston, was held at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. In the late 1978-1979, Reverend McCraw helped to provide living quarters at the "Hester House," to those from Haiti. He baptized many Haitians, and found jobs for those Haitians who were members of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. He was the first Baptist Pastor of color, in Houston, to organize an Alcoholic Anonymous (A.A.) Program, and housed the same on church campus. This A.A. Program was known for many years as the "Fifth Ward Group". Assisting with the organization of this A.A. Program, was Reverend Paul Nickerson, and Mr. G. Loyd Butler.

From 1967-1974, Reverend McCraw served as Vice-President of The Texas Baptist Convention, Inc. In 1974, he became the President of The Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. (formerly known as the Texas Baptist Convention, Inc.), where Reverend McCraw served as president for 25 years. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. In 1976-1980, he sponsored two (2) State Convention Publications, (Copyright and Trademark), Quarterly Study Guides, entitled "The Helper" and "The Layman." In April, 1990, he led the Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention into a Multi-Million Dollar Project in Jacksonville, Texas, resulting in the purchase of The Baptist Building, (which is surrounded by forty-three (43) acres of prime timber land). The "Mortgage-Burning Ceremony," for the purchase of The Baptist Building, was held October 10, 2000, in Jacksonville, Texas. This history making ceremony was held in "The Baptist Building," which was later named in honor of Reverend Acy Doyal McCraw. The "Baptist Building" is now known as, "THE A. D. McCraw BAPTIST BUILDING".

Under the leadership of Pastor McCraw, members have grown spiritually by his emphasis on church workshops, leadership training, Bible teaching, tithe for giving, dedicated service, evangelism, and revivals for soul winning. Reverend McCraw was an inspiration to the membership of Mount Pleasant. Much was done during his ministry to improve our physical plant. The main auditorium was carpeted at a cost above $7,000.00; painted and re-air-conditioned, at a cost of $16,987.97. Glass doors were installed in the front foyer, and a 660 pound brass core bell installed in the tower. Facet glass windows were installed in the Sanctuary at a cost of $11,500.00; purchase and installation of light fixtures at a cost of $10,000.00. Additionally we purchased new equipment for the kitchen at a cost of $3,500.00, a Rogers Organ, $9,600.00, and a Kawai Piano, $2,500.00.

During fiscal year 1994-1995, Reverend McCraw is credited with the installation of rest rooms and marble tile flooring in the front entrance of the church; replacement of wall to wall carpet throughout the sanctuary, ceramic tile in the Baptismal area, walkway cover on the westside of the church, cushions for the pews, modesty panels for the piano and organ, and refurbishment of the parking lot. The total improvements are at a cost of more than $326,000.00, on the Main Building and church properties.

On June 21, 2000, Reverend McCraw departed this life after forty-one (41) years of service, as Pastor. He was a bulwark for our church, community, state and nation. He leaves a legacy of faithful commitment, untried service to humanity, and dedication to God's work. His teachings, powerful spirit, words of wisdom and consultation, will transcend for generations to come. Reverend Roy Lee Jackson, fifth pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, succeeded Reverend Acy Doyal McCraw.

The above information was taken from historical accounts recorded by the Centennial Historical Committee and the 126th Church Anniversary Historical Committee.
Biographical Sketch of Reverend Roy Lee Jackson

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

January 10, 92

On November 2, 1942, a baby boy was born to Georgia and Mamie Lou Jackson of Houston Texas, whom they named Roy Lee. Mr. & Mrs. Jackson were active members of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, which was located at the time at 2727 Rothwell Street. A year and a half later Roy’s mother Mamie Lou, on her death bed, requested that the late Mrs. Willie Mae Davis her aunt would take him and rear him as her own son. This task was willingly done by the best that she could do with God’s help and guidance. Mrs. Davis was also a member of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 2727 Rothwell, where she served in various church capacities, while always caring, caring, and nurturing Roy to and in the church's atmosphere.

Roy grew up in Mount Pleasant receiving the Christian training he needed via attending Sunday School, being an active member in the Starlight Band, participating in Easter Programs, and singing in the Youth Choir. At the age of seven years old Roy accepted Christ and was baptized by the late Rev. H. C. Scott, a former Pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Roy attended public schools in Houston, from the Little Folk Kindergarten, Bruce Elementary School (where he often played the Trumpet, in the school’s Rhythm Band), E. O. Smith Junior High, to Phillips Wheatley Senior High School. He attended Bishop College for a year, and did further studies at Houston Community College & University of Houston.

Rev. Jackson accepted the call into the Gospel Ministry on June 6, 1970; acquired Certificate of License June 6, 1971, and on December 31, 1975 was Ordained by presbyter. Further, on June 4, 1985 Pastor Jackson received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity Degree from the Mount Hope Bible College, the late Rev. L. V. Bolton, President.

Rev. Roy L. Jackson was an associate minister to his late pastor, Rev. Doyel McCraw, for a number of years where he served faithfully. Prior to the passing of Pastor McCraw, Pastor McCraw and the church voted to move Rev. Jackson to the position of Assistant Pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Rev. Jackson after Pastor McCraw’s death, continued to take care of the church’s stability during trying times. Through much prayer by the membership and the associate ministers (Rev. Terry Land, Rev. Vernon Hickerson I, and Bro. Vernon Hickerson II, the church looked to God for divine direction of another Under-Shepherd.

On September 18, 2006 the church voted and elected Rev. Roy Lee Jackson as the Pastor-Exeget of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. He accepted the call. On October 8, 2006 Rev. Roy L. Jackson preached his first sermon as Pastor entitled “BREAKTHROUGH” (Chronicles 14:8-11).

On “Good Friday” March 31, 1971 Pastor Jackson united in marriage to Carolee J. Moore-Jackson. They are now the proud parents of three (3) children: Royleatha A. Jackson, Julia N. Jackson, and Roy LeD. Jackson. Pastor & Sis. Jackson are also the proud grandparents/legal parents of Percy D. Jackson-King.

Pastor Roy L. Jackson considers the pastorage of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church as an honor and a privilege to be first, chosen by God to lead His people at 4819 Hershey Street, and secondly, he is grateful that the Holy Spirit directed these, the Lord’s people, to make this choice.
PICTURES
OF
CHURCH EDIFICE
1908

This two-story Church was built following the destruction of the "Box Church". Once again, a raging storm came along and blew the church down. The big steeple was blown on the Church parsonage. (Pictured is the wreckage of the two-story Church blown down by the storm).
1949

The last "Old Mount Pleasant Baptist Church located at 2727 Rothwell Street.

The last "old" Mount Pleasant Baptist Church at 2727 Rothwell Street
Erection of Steel for the reconstruction of the current Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, located at 4819 Hersge at Solo.

Erecting Steel for the "new" Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
2001

Today, October 7, 2001, members of The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church located at 4819 Hershe at Solo Streets, joyfully and prayerfully celebrates 125 years serving the Lord and rendering services to Humanity.
The Historical Subject Marker is to be placed in front of the Church, on Church property, according to the picture above.