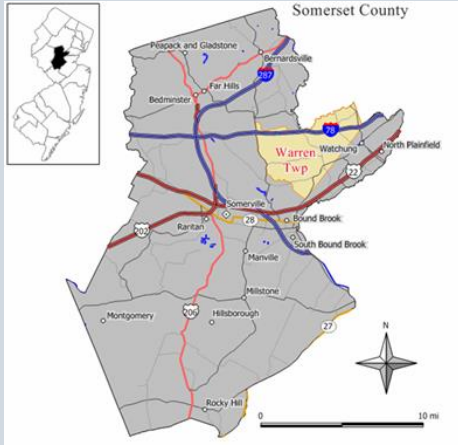


Mt. Bethel Baptist Church



FOUNDED IN 1767

The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church



Nine years prior to the American Revolution, Mt. Bethel Baptist Church began with eighteen people who lived in Warren, but attended the Baptist church in Scotch Plains. Due to the difficulty of travel, they began meeting in Warren under the leadership of the founding pastor, **Rev. Henry Crosley**.

The church was named after its first site, which was a hill in Warren called Mount Bethel, which literally means “House of God” in Hebrew.



The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church



The Mt. Bethel Meeting House was a small structure (pictured to the left) which housed a gallery. It had separate entrances for men and women and a large **sycamore tree** in front of the building, a sacred biblical symbol of seeking God with humility.



Watercolor painting of Mt Bethel Baptist meeting house

The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church



The church's second pastor, ordained in 1775, was **Rev. Abner Sutton**. He was also one of its founding members; in fact, the Sutton family helped establish the community of Warren.

The church grew rapidly and during this time the Meeting House was disassembled and moved by ox-drawn wagons to its current location. Rev. Sutton is the first person buried in the church's adjacent **cemetery**.





The Clergy of Mt. Bethel



Rev. Henry Crosley (1767-1775)

Rev. Abner Sutton (1775-1791)

Rev. Jacob Fitz-Randolph (1791-1794)

Rev. Lebbeus Lathrop (1794-1805)

Rev. John Ellis (1805-1813)

Rev. Mr. Elliot (1816-1818)

Rev. John Watson (1818-1826)

Rev. Morgan R. Cox (1827-1848)

Rev. Edward C. Ambler (1848-1851)

Rev. Jacob Timberman (ca 1850s)

Rev. Thomas Haynes (ca 1850s)

Rev. John Crampton (ca 1850s)

Rev Thomas Cole (ca 1850s)

Brother Taylor (ca 1850s)

Andrew Hopper (ca 1850s)

Mr. William Pike (1862-1866)

Rev T. Simpkins (1866-1871)

Rev. Zelotes Grenell (1871-1872)

Rev. Peter Gibb (1871-1911)

Rev. William Mount (1913-1931)

Rev. Carl H. Voss (1931-1933)

Rev. James A Howell (1934-1940)

Rev. F. Dudley Bahrenburg (1940-1946)

Rev. Rev. Earl B. Mowen (1946-1948)

Rev. Stanley Formanek (1948-1965)

Rev. John Givens (1966-1966)

Rev. Floyd C. Alley (1966-1976)

Rev. Charles Renken (1976-1987)

Rev. Bob Damrau (1987-1995)

Rev. David Babbitt (1995-2008)

Rev. David Hentschel (2009-2016)

Rev. Michael Jones (2017-2026)

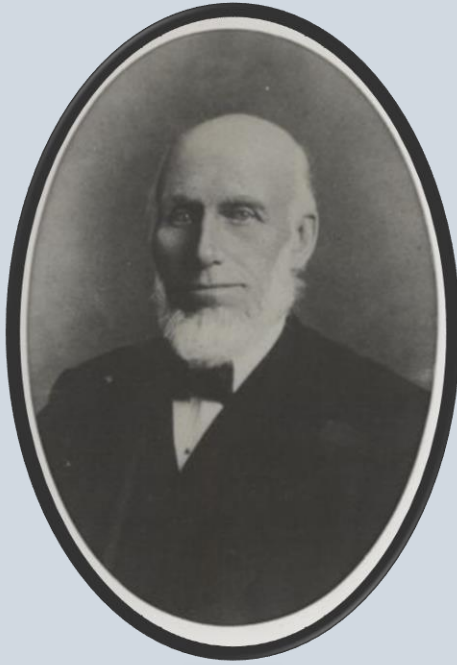
The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church



The Fall of 1850 brought the greatest revival experienced yet in the area, 107 people were added to Mt. Bethel's congregation by baptism. Now up to 220 members, they decided it was time to plant a daughter church with eighty of their most influential members.

The church was planted on the North side of the Dead and Passaic rivers (known to flood); this was the birth of **Millington Baptist Church**, still a thriving church today.

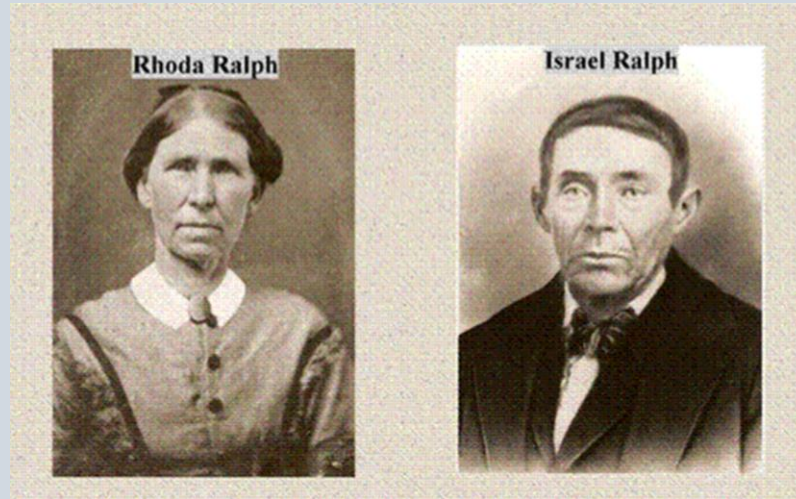
The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church



Rev. Peter Gibb from Scotland became the pastor of Mt. Bethel in 1871. In his nearly forty years of ministry at Mt. Bethel, he was called a “model country pastor.” He had a deep appreciation of hymnology and provided singing lessons.

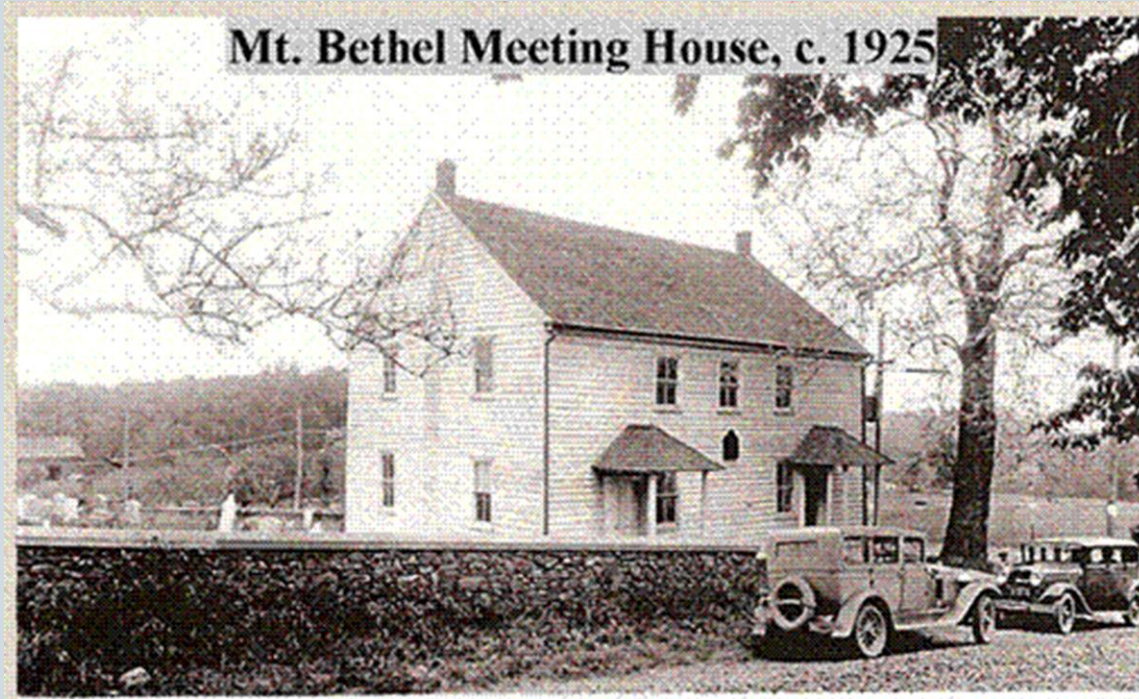
He was described as a popular, sweet-spirited man who was faithful to the church. He preached a total of 6,260 sermons before he passed away at age seventy-eight.

The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church



The **Ralph family** has been active in this church for several generations, still attending today.

The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church



The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church

Rev. William H. Mount was called as pastor in 1913 and revitalized the Sunday School program, serving faithfully with his wife until he died in 1931, bringing out nearly all of Mt. Bethel for his funeral.



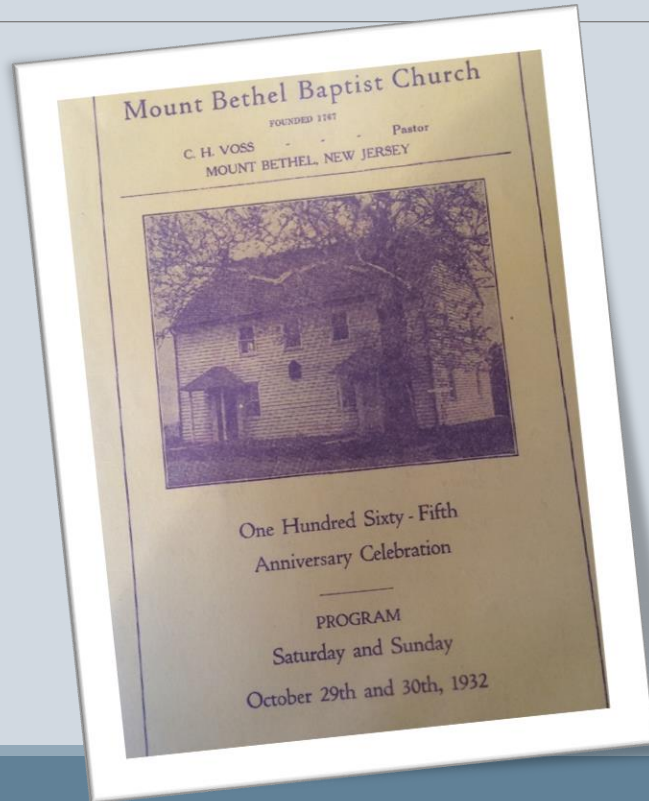
The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church

MEMBERSHIP RECORD

BAPTIZED	MEMBERS	ADDRESSES
	Mrs. Mary Ralph	R#3 Plainfie
	J. V. Adams	Plainfie
	John C. Cooper	"
	Mrs. Clara Bowers Cooper	Martinsv
	Mrs. Louise Van Winkle	R#3 Plainfie
	Mrs. Ida May Wittman	758 Jersey
	Mrs. Lillian Campbell	Plainfi
July 6, 1913	Mrs. Blanche Boetteyer	R#3 Plainfi
Apr. 19, 1914	Joseph Zeglio	"
Apr. 19, 1914	Mrs. Hazel Zeglio	"
Mar. 28, 1915	Leon P. Zeglio	"
Mar. 28, 1915	Irving Roddy	Baskin
Mar. 28, 1915	Mrs. Henrietta Murry	Martin
Mar. 28, 1915	Elmer Coddington	Portlan
Mar. 28, 1915	Clarence Roddy	Martin
May 14, 1916	Chester Coddington	R#3 Plainf
May 14, 1916	Peter J. Cooper	"
Nov. 5, 1916	Melvin Cain	R#3 Plainf
Jan. 13, 1921	Cora E. Cooper <i>in Newell</i>	49 Tiffany
Apr. 9, 1922	Mrs. Alice F. Collier	R#3 Plainf
Jan. 22, 1924	George Wittman	"
Jan. 22, 1924	Mrs. Helen Wittman	619 Spring
Jan. 22, 1924	Wadsworth Walter Mount	"
Jan. 22, 1924	Helen Louise Mount	"
Jan. 22, 1924	Keith Bradford Mount	Plain
Jan. 22, 1924	Benjamin Harrison	"
Jan. 22, 1924	Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison	New
	Magdeline Reinmann	Weeb
Apr. 29, 1931	June Reed	R#3 Plain
Apr. 29, 1931	Mrs. Jeannette Meyers <i>in Newell</i>	"
Apr. 29, 1931	Florence Meyers	"
Apr. 29, 1931	Eva Alice Wittman	"
Apr. 29, 1931	Walter Meyers	"
Apr. 29, 1931	Frank W. Ralph Sr.	"
Apr. 29, 1931	Edward Everett Cooper	"
Apr. 29, 1931	Henry Bell	"



Mt. Bethel Celebrates 165 Years!



Mount Bethel, c. 1940



EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

MOUNT BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH



FOUNDED 1767

Mount Bethel Road, Mount Bethel, N. J.

Rev. F. Dudley Bahrenburg, Pastor

Mt. Bethel Celebrates 175 years!

Mt. Bethel Church Marks 175th Anniversary



—Photo by Richard C. Gales

In Mt. Bethel Baptist Church in Warren Township, which is this weekend observing its 175th anniversary. The observance will open tonight in the Mt. Bethel Grange Hall and Sunday afternoon a special anniversary service will be conducted in the church with Rep. Charles A. Eaton of Watchung and Samuel S. Swackhamer of Plainfield as guest speakers.

**Mt. Bethel Baptist Church
to Mark 175th Anniversary**

Warren Township—The Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, third oldest in the state, will observe during this weekend its 175th anniversary. An extensive program has been staged by the committee in charge. It includes church social this evening and anniversary service Sunday at 10 a. m. in the church.

Concluded Oct. 26, 1942

The church was established Oct. 1767 and stood formerly near office building here in Warren township. Watchung, Old Plainfield and Valley Road. The church is now located in the old granary and

Pioneer Member



Trustees include Mr. Ralph J. Baker, John M. Smith, John V. Bower, Walter Mount and Mrs. Albert Johnson.

Celebration Open Tonight

The anniversary celebrations will open today at 8 p. m. when the congregation will hold a social in the Mt. Bethel Grange Hall. A musical program will be featured Sunday morning the Rev. Charles H. Gosnell, executive secretary of the N. J. Baptist Conference, will preach at the 11 a. m. service and will assist the pastor, the Rev. M. Bakewell, at the World Communion service to be held. Miss Doris Christensen will play an organ solo. Sunday School will meet at 10 a. m. and the Young People's Society will meet at 8 p.

OF THE

Mount Bethel Baptist Church

FOUNDED 1767


Mount Bethel, New Jersey

PROGRAM

Sunday, October 4th, 1942



Speak at Anniversary Service in Mt. Bethel




Rep. C. A. Eaton **Samuel Swackhamer**

Rep. Charles A. Eaton of Watchung and Samuel S. Swackhamer of Plainfield, who were guest speakers Sunday afternoon at the 175th anniversary service of the Mt. Bethel Baptist Church. The church is the third oldest Baptist Church in this state.

**75th Anniversary Observed
by Mt. Bethel Baptist Church**

Warren Township—Rep. Charles Eaton of Valley Rd., Watchung, and Samuel S. Swackhamer, executive secretary of the N. J. Baptist Conference, are now faced with, or are w

The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church

In the 1950s plans for a new church building were being considered. Rev. Formanek announced a gift of one and a half acres of land, including a house, from Hazel, Janice and Leon **Zeglio**.



Y, MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1960



DEDICATE NEW CHURCH—Taking part in dedication ceremonies yesterday in the new Mt. Bethel Baptist Church building were, left to right, U.S. Army Chaplain Grover G. DeVault, George Miles, president of the Washington Bible College, and the Rev. Stanley Formanek, church pastor. (Photo by E. G. Mumm)

New Church Dedicated In Warren Township

Warren Township—An address by George A. Miles, president of the Washington Bible College, Washington, D. C., highlighted yesterday's dedication ceremonies of the new Mt. Bethel Baptist Church.

The Rev. Stanley Formanek, the pastor of the 193-year-old

page 20, 1960

Dedication Ceremony Set For Church

Warren Township — Dedication ceremonies in the new Mt. Bethel Baptist Church Sunday at 3 p.m. will represent a milestone in the congregation's 193-year history.

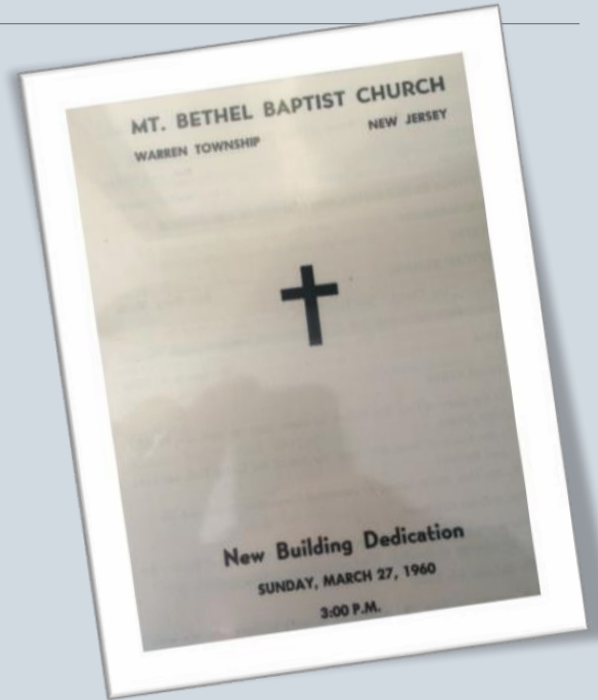
The new church building, for which ground was broken in December, 1957, will take the place of the original church built when the congregation was instituted in 1767.

The Rev. Stanley Formanek, pastor, yesterday commended members of the congregation for participation in many phases of construction.

George Miles, president of the Washington Bible College, Washington, will deliver the dedication message Sunday. Layor Earl B. Pierson and pas-

The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church

The new building was dedicated and Mt. Bethel's first indoor baptismal service was held on **Easter Sunday**, April 17th, 1960.



Rev. Formanek retired and was succeeded in 1966 by Rev. Floyd C. Alley.



MINISTERS HONORED — The Rev. and Mrs. Stanley Formanek, center, receive a tea set from John Bettler, center, in honor of their recent appointment as full-time ministers at the Mt. Bethel Baptist Church in Warren Township. With them Saturday's reception in church is Grover I. Vault, Army chaplain at Fort Belvoir, V

THE COURIER-NEWS
Plainfield, N. J.
Monday, February 7, 1966

Mt. Bethel Minister Is Honored

Warren Township — More than 175 friends met Saturday night to say farewell to the Rev. and Mrs. Stanley Formanek of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church.

The Rev. Mr. Formanek who is retiring, has been pastor of the church for 18 years. He plans to make his home in Largo, Fla.

He began his work at Bethel in 1948 as a lay member and was ordained in November, 1963. He then became the first full-time minister the church has had since 1851.

He spearheaded the drive for a new church building, dedicated in March, 1960, and in April of that year offici-

Church fetes New Pastor

WARREN—Members of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church honored new pastor, the Rev. Floyd C. Alley, and Mrs. Alley at a reception yesterday afternoon.

The Rev. Mr. Alley is a graduate of the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and Boardman College Seminary in Colorado Springs. He pioneered churches in Wisconsin for the Conservative Baptist Association of America. He also served for three years as chaplain of the Northampton Hospital.

Prior to accepting the call, the Rev. Mr. Alley was pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church in New York City.

He and his wife have children, Barbara, a student at the Philadelphia College of the Bible, and Marshall David, at home.

The Rev. Mr. Alley was master of ceremonies. Walter H. Meyers opened the program with a prayer.

Neighbors greeted the new pastor. The Liberty Day Fellowship expressed greetings with vocal selections. Sister Zeglio gave the welcome.

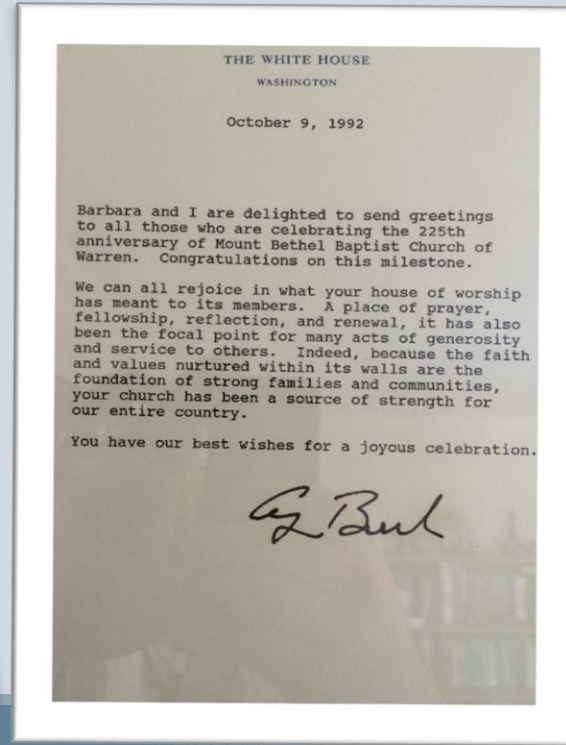
PASTOR FETED — The Rev. Floyd C. Alley, Warren Township, and his wife, center, at luncheon with the church members at reception yesterday in the church building.



In 1976, **Rev. Charles Renken**, who was a missionary in Venezuela, pastored here for ten years before returning to the mission field.



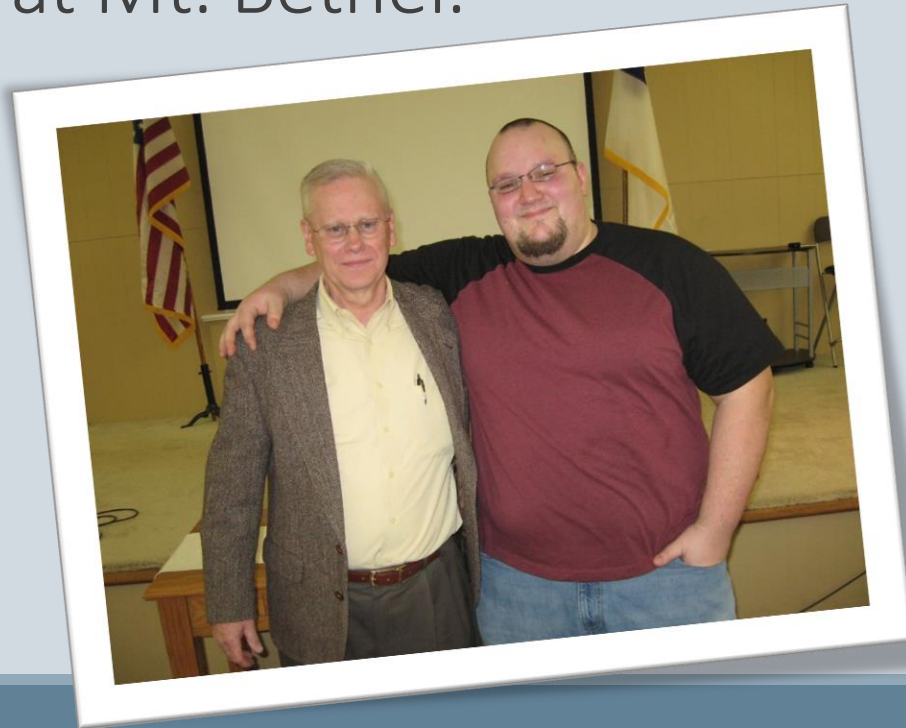
Mt. Bethel celebrates 225th Anniversary under leadership of Rev. Bob Damrau



In 1995, Dr. David R. Babbitt began to serve as pastor. He was a diligent expositor of the Word, and concurrently served as dean and professor at Philadelphia Biblical University. He built into the hearts of his students a genuine love for the Word of God.



One of Dr. Babbitt's students, **Mike Perna**, served as Youth Director and Outreach Director at Mt. Bethel.



The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church

Since its **original eighteen members in 1767**, Mt. Bethel Baptist Church has remained faithful to the call to preach the gospel and to make disciples, but the focus of history is not about the successes of any particular church or individual.

Rather, it is about the triumph of the one true God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is building His church.

The History of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church

On the great, wide stage of the drama of human redemption, Mt. Bethel has been privileged to play a small role. It is a story of grace and love, and we pray that the Lord of all history will continue to find us faithful to His call and use us for His purposes in the future.

To Him be the glory forever and ever!