

APRIL 19, 2026

the MOUNT

1801-2026

*For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Psalm 100:5

225TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
**ONE GOSPEL.
EVERY GENERATION.**

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www.mtolivetbaptist.com



ONE PEOPLE.



Centennial Celebration April 1901

On April 25th, 1901, Mt. Olivet was 100 years old. A Centennial Celebration was held and an estimated 1000 people attended. A woven wire fence was created, stretching 100 yards long and held what was known as "one of the finest and best arranged dinners ever served in Wilson County."

The Revolutionary War was over, the United States of America was growing. Thomas Jefferson had just entered the White House as our 3rd president in 1801 when **Big Cedar Lick Church was constituted on April 25, 1801**, becoming the first Baptist church in Wilson County.

The early church was active in expanding the Kingdom of God by establishing "arms" of the church (today we call it "church planting"). Big Cedar Lick "planted" at least 11 arms. Some these churches continued the vision and started other churches that still are in existence today.

Big Cedar Lick changed its name to Mt. Olivet in 1843. In this same year, property was provided for a new church building where we are gathered still today.



Revival Invitation 1915



Steeple Placed in May 1979

EVERY NATION.



Missions has always been an important part of the church. In 1916, the church donated a cow to the Orphan's Home (later known as Baptist Children's Home). Using a horse and buggy, two church members took turns riding in the buggy and driving the cow to Franklin, TN.

Following the cow donation, Mt. Olivet has been active in missions efforts for over 200 years showing the Love of Jesus in our community, our state, our country and around the globe.

Mt. Olivet missions continues to serve the local community through Compassionate Hands, Rebound Wilson, Joseph's Storehouse, Christmas Backpacks for Children, Operation Christmas Child and more.

Our love for Jesus has no boundaries! Mt Olivet has shared the Gospel, painted buildings, erected fences and even built entire churches. Our members have served in New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and globally in Benin, Brazil, Chile, Togo, Africa and India.

Mt. Olivet also gives generously to denominational mission efforts - According to TN Baptist records Mt. Olivet has given over \$1 Million supporting missionaries and their work throughout the globe.



Benin - 1993



India 2025

EVERY GENERATION

It all began on June 1, 1796 when Tennessee became the 16th state of the United States. There were approximately 77,000 people living the state (*today an estimated 177,000 people live in Wilson County alone*).

In 1799 a "Camp Meeting" was held at Cane Ridge in Sumner County. This meeting was attended by most of the religious leaders in the Nashville Basin. The purpose of the meeting was to *"establish churches in the settlement to preach the gospel and hold fellowship with each other to keep the rules of the gospel."*

And so it began! The people of Wilson County, led by their 1st Pastor, Moore Stevenson, would place their faith in God and establish the church in which we gather today.

The very existence and preservation of this church is solely by the grace of God. Every step forward from 1801 has been with the future generation in mind. Wars did not sway our ancestors. Depression and difficulties did not hinder our zeal. And not even a pandemic would keep us from our mission of preaching the gospel and having fellowship with one another from this location.

Whether it was new buildings erected on site, stained glass windows installed, new pews, screens on the wall or even internet live services being broadcast - it was, still and will always be to give Glory to God and proclaim Jesus is Lord to this community and to the next generation! - Amen and Amen!



John Harvey Grime
1893-1894



Elijah Haile
1840's



Baptism at Cedar Creek
1945



Time Capsule Monument
To Be Opened April 2101

FAITH. FORWARD.

At Mt. Olivet Baptist we continue to look forward to the future with wonder and excitement of what God is going to do next in our church. As our community grows, the opportunity to reach individuals in our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ grows as well.

To help support the future ministry of our church with the Faith Forward Campaign. You can make a donation to this fund directly at the church or give online at give.mtolivetbaptist.com.

"Go into the land that I will show you." - Gen. 12:1

Mt. Olive† Baptist

“ ONE GOSPEL. EVERY GENERATION.”



Two hundred and twenty-five years is a long time. In that time, much has changed—our community, our methods, even the way we gather. From dirt roads to digital screens, telegraph to smart phones, from one generation to the next, this church has seen constant movement and growth.

But the most important thing has not changed—*and never will.*

The **Gospel of Jesus Christ** remains the same. The message first proclaimed here in 1801 is still our message today: Jesus lived the life we could not live, died the death we deserved, and rose again so that we might be saved by grace through faith.

*Cultures change. Preferences change. Times change.
But the Gospel stands firm.*

That's why this theme matters: *One Gospel. Every Generation.*

Each generation must receive the Gospel, be transformed by it, and faithfully pass it on. We are not the owners of this message—we are but humble *stewards* of it.

Those who came before us carried it with faith and sacrifice so that we could stand here today. Now it is our turn. Will we proclaim it clearly and boldly? Will we invest in the next generation so they will inherit not just a building—but a living, active faith?

As we celebrate 225 years of God's faithfulness, let's also commit to the years ahead. May we be a generation that holds fast to the unchanging Gospel and faithfully hands it to those who come next.

**One Gospel. Every Generation.
May We Carry it Well.**

Pastor Rodney

*Thank
you!*

Thank you for being part of this special 225th Anniversary celebration. Your presence today has honored the generations who have come before us and encourages the ones who will follow. Whether you have been here for decades or this is your first visit, you are now part of a story that God has been writing since 1801. We are grateful you chose to celebrate with us, and we pray this time has reminded you of God's faithfulness and the power of the unchanging Gospel.

*If you are interested in more historical stories and photos you may purchase one of our history books
“Mount Olivet Baptist - The First 200 Years (1801-2001)” at our Welcome Center.*