

*Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
Commemorates its 100th Anniversary
and Celebrates its 101st Church Anniversary*

Mt Sinai Missionary Baptist Church

1200 St Louis Ave, East St Louis, IL 62201

Mortgage Burning Ceremony Following Morning Worship

Theme: Hitherto has the Lord kept US

100 Year Diamond Church

**28TH
NOV
10:30AM**

ANNIVERSARY

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. H.L.
Watson Sr.

GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. F
Delano R. Benson Jr.





Pastor Herman L. Watson, Sr.
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us...” is the theme for our 100th Church Anniversary. It reminds us “to this point, the Lord has helped us...” it is God who has brought us, sustained us, kept us—through 101 years of ups and downs, it is God ... We take this opportunity to celebrate the years of operating as a Bible believing, Bible preaching and Bible teaching church. Our mantra is “The Church with a Ministry... Reaching upward to God, Inward to Ourselves and Outward to our Fellow man.” I am delighted that you chose to share with us as we commemorate 100 years and celebrate 101 years of worship and service to the Christ. As we Move To The Next Level in our preparation for praise, let us always remember God’s Participation in the Process of Development and rely upon his Providential Promises, that He will never leave nor forsake us. PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME! Thank you for sharing this time of worship with us. If you are interested in making Mt. Sinai your church home, feel free to come forward when the invitation is extended. God bless you!

100th Church Anniversary Commemoration

The People of God Celebrate with Praise

Welcome—Greeter's Ministry

The People of God Celebrate with Prayer

Songs of Praise—Mt. Sinai Mass Choir/Male Chorus

Introduction of the Guest Speaker

Pastor Herman L. Watson, Sr.

Preachment

Rev. F.D.R. Benson, Pastor

The Antioch Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO

Invitation to Discipleship

The People of God give their Tithes and Offering

Special Presentation

Special Recognitions

Pastor Herman L. Watson, Sr., and Rev. Barry Malloyd

Video Presentation

Cornerstone

Parade/March

Burn the Mortgage Ceremony

Closing Meditation and Benediction

History of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

In November 1920, a small group of individuals, with a strong determination, departed from their mother church, Mt. Paran Baptist Church, and met at 16th and Kansas Avenue. The eight founders were Birdie Pyles, Early Pyles, Augusta Pyles, John Moody, Love Moody, Della Jones and Mr. and Mrs. George Weatherford.

The church was organized by Rev. Yates. The first name given was the "East St. Louis Mission." When the membership increased to thirty-five members, a request was made of the New Salem District Association to accept and organize them into a church. The request was denied, but the little group was determined to carry on the work for the Master. They did not stop there, but sent a request to St. Louis to the former Union Association who readily accepted them. The church was organized and given the name the Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church. The Rev. E.G. Davis was pastor. There were four men ordained as deacons during the origination of the church. They were Earl Pyles, John Moody, William Gregory and George Weatherford. The first church clerk was Mrs. Augusta Pyles Ervin. Earl Pyles served as the First Superintendent of the Sunday School. The first choir consisted of 11 members. They were: Birdie Pyles, Birdie Phillips James, Augusta Pyles Ervin, Ada Taylor, Ethel Ford, Lizzie Finley, Willie Willingham, John Reeves, Dan Green and J.B. Harris. The first pianist was Elsie Simmons-Ballard. (Other pastors were: Rev. R.C. Johnson, Rev. H.S. Green, Rev. Thomas, Rev. Robert L. White and our present pastor, Rev. Herman L. Watson, Sr.) Immediately, the membership began to grow to the extent that the church needed larger quarters. (The church has had six locations: 16th and Kansas, 15th and Division, 14th and Walnut, Highland and Kansas, 13th and Gaty and our present location 1200 St. Louis Avenue.)

In February 1925, Pastor Davis was called from labor to reward. The Assistant Pastor, Rev. R.C. Johnson, carried on for four months. The Rev. H.S. Green was elected Pastor and under his leadership, the church flourished. It was during the Pastorate of Rev. Green that Mt. Sinai moved from a tent to its first edifice located on Highland Place. The church was built by Deacon Ed. Jones. In 1942, Rev. Robert L. White was elected pastor of the church. Mt. Sinai underwent a major renovation, both physically and spiritually. In a matter of years, the church outgrew the building on Highland Place. The membership secured a new worship center. On November 10, 1957, the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church marched from Highland Place in a procession led by Rev. White, deacons and two hundred members singing, "We Are Marching to Zion" to the 13th and Gaty location. After five years, the ten year mortgage was paid in full. On February 24, 1963, a mortgage burning ceremony was held commemorating this event.

Under the leadership of Rev. White, the church grew spiritually and prospered with nine auxiliaries, four departments and a membership of nearly six hundred. For

History Continued

years, the Mt. Sinai Church sponsored a Radio-Outreach Ministry to the sick and shut-in of the Metro East Area. In addition, a Van Ministry was established to provide transportation to members without the means of transporting themselves to and from church.

During the early part of 1985, Rev. White announced his plans to retire as pastor of Mt. Sinai.

The church community and civic leaders across the United States showered Rev. White with accolades and congratulations for a job well done.

The church then called Rev. Herman L. Watson, Sr., who had served seven years as Youth Minister. Rev. Watson was unanimously elected as the new pastor of Mt. Sinai on November 29, 1985. He accepted the pastorate on the first Sunday of February, 1986. There was much rejoicing on the 3rd Sunday in March 1986, during Pastor Watson's installation service. The church's choice of pastor was approved by God through the dynamic presence of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Watson believes that Christian Education is imperative for spiritual growth. Through divine guidance, he has initiated New Membership Orientation classes, Doctrinal Extension classes, Wednesday Night Fellowship/Bible Study, The Brotherhood Ministry, Christian Women in Action Ministry, Usher Ministry #2, The Marriage Ministry, Singles Ministry, Sinai Signal Newsletter Ministry, Tape Ministry for the sick and shut-in members and television and radio broadcasting ministries.

Mt. Sinai had called the corner of Gaty and 13th Street home for 28 years. The building foundation was deteriorating. After an extensive architectural survey, the members decided not to put any more money in an old, outdated building, but to build a new Edifice to the Glory of God.

On December 28, 1987, the church organized a Building Fund Committee to raise funds for the construction of the new church facility. Ground for the new church, 1.3 acres of land at 1200 St. Louis Avenue, was purchased and dedicated on November 26, 1989. Knowing the necessity for a new church, the membership in 1990 decided to utilize a church bond program, Security Church Finance, to escalate needed finances to begin construction of the new building. With God's blessings, the church was able to generate more than \$175,000 in tithes and offerings and special projects. Cash was available to pay for the land and attorney fees. Approximately \$500,000 was needed to complete the new facility. With \$150,000 cash on hand and \$350,000 in first mortgage bonds, the church would be ready to begin construction. September 15, 1991 was Kick-off Sunday to launch the bond drive program.

September 15, 1991 was also the date of the Historic Ground Breaking Ceremony.

History Continued

Pastor Watson, official staff and about 150 members and friends marched from our facility at 1239 Gaty Avenue to the new site singing, "We've Come this Far by Faith." Preliminary construction began in November, 1991.

Because of difficulties with an unethical contractor, the project ceased on October 15, 1992. But praise be to God who allowed the church family to endure all obstacles for four years. In 1994, God placed His church on the hearts of many of his people in the community and other states. God fulfilled His gracious purpose for this church through the persons of Rev. Sherman Bridgman, Rev. Bill Affolter and area pastors, Rev. David Crockett, Greater New Hope M.B. Church, Rev. Jerome Jackson, Southern Mission M.B. Church, Rev. Mack R. Lemons, Pilgrim M.B. Church, Rev. John H. Rouse, Mt. Zion M.B. Church and Rev. A.G. Williams, Mt. Olive Baptist Church. The church thanked them for their time, talent and treasures to complete God's edifice.

Pastor Watson, trustees, deacons and the lay people of Mt. Sinai worked in inclement weather to facilitate the completion through prayer, faith and spiritual endurance, realizing, "It's all God." With God's continued help on October 22, 1995 at 10:00 a.m., Pastor Herman L. Watson, Sr., along with the church's official staff of deacons and trustees and approximately 400 members and friends marched from the old location at 1239 Gaty to the new location at 1200 St. Louis Avenue. Mt. Sinai Baptist Church evolved from a living room, to a tent and several other locations to the new facility at 1200 St. Louis Avenue. "To God Be the Glory."

Mt. Sinai is a church with a ministry, "Upward to God...Inward to Ourselves...Outward to Our Fellow Man."

Sinai Family Life Center

In 2002, incorporating the same philosophy as Jesus when he fed the multitude, Mt. Sinai established the Sinai Family Life Center. The mission of the center is to provide individuals and families with programs that will provide social services for the whole man; academics, nutrition, recreation, counseling, health and spiritual well being. These programs are geared toward children, youth, young adults and seniors.

Mt. Sinai Development Corporation

Pastor Watson had a vision for the restoration and revitalization of the neighborhood surrounding Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. Under his leadership, after much prayer and consideration, Mt. Sinai embarked upon a project that would revitalize the neighborhood around the church. Realizing there was a need for affordable housing for low to medium income families, the Mt. Sinai Development Corporation was established in 2005. Thirty single family homes were constructed. Prospective residents were screened and specific requirements were met, enabling residents to move into the homes. The residents continuously receive educational information geared toward property maintenance and financial literacy. Based upon the great

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response and success of Sinai Village I, funding was established to build Sinai Village II. Construction began February of 2014.

Sinai Village II (SVII) is the second phase of a single-family, lease/purchase project in the Winstanley neighborhood of East St. Louis, Illinois. The project will consist of 30 more homes (6 Two-Bedroom ranch homes, 18 Three-Bedroom ranch homes, and 8 Four Bedroom two-story homes). The scattered site project will be located adjacent to the completed 30 unit Sinai Village single-family lease purchase project. The 30 homes in the first phase of Sinai Village I are 100% leased with a waiting list of potential tenants.

Sinai Village III (SVIII) Sinai Village III represents Mount Sinai Development Corporation (MSDC)'s next phase of housing development in the Winstanley neighborhood. This proposal continues to build on the transformative investment in this significant neighborhood in East St. Louis, IL. The development of Winstanley Park will add 38 new units to the existing 100 units of senior and family housing developed by MSDC since 2002. This proposal includes 12 garden units and 16 townhomes of new construction and 10 adaptive reuse apartments. All of the new homes will be located on the 1100 blocks of Martin Luther King Drive and Cleveland Avenue – adjacent to Sinai Village I and II. The rental units within Winstanley Park will have modern, fully equipped kitchens, open floorplans, and numerous Universal Design features. The townhome units will feature fenced rear yards. Exterior finishes will be durable and attractive with a combination of cementitious fiber board, masonry and metal accents. Interior finishes will be bright, efficient and functional. Each unit will have off parking, individual storage, and high efficiency mechanical equipment. After the initial phase of housing is completed, Mt. Sinai Development Corp has plans to rehab the non-housing portion of the rehab building will into a modern gym facility and commercial space that can be utilized by the East St. Louis community at large. A new office for the Sinai Life Center, the youth programming wing of Mt. Sinai Church, will also be housed in this building in a future phase. There are also plans to include a commercial kitchen and additional, leasable office space and small grocery store.

The Winstanley Community Plan

Winstanley Park is located in a planning area that has been at the center of MSDC's housing and community services since their developer's agreement for the Winstanley neighborhood was adopted by the City of East St. Louis in 2004. MSDC has also taken significant steps to engage the community in determining the scope of this next phase of housing. In 2018, the organization received a community engagement grant from Enterprise Green Communities to support the early stages of a larger planning initiative. The Enterprise Green grant allowed the organization to engage community members and an architect/active design consultant to strategize the best uses for an old warehouse located at 1100 Martin Luther King Drive. Community member input resulted in adaptive reuse plans to convert the

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building into a multi-use space that will provide opportunities for housing, physical activity, and community activities.

MSDC has also engaged residents, community partners, and various stakeholders to launch a community plan for the Winstanley neighborhood. The seven-phase planning process will establish a vision for the future of the community and a series of recommendations for achieving that vision. Bringing together area residents, businesses and organizations will create new, community-driven ideas for the future of the neighborhood and serve as a catalyst for additional investment in the community. The planning effort has a total budget of \$84,000 and to date the plan has been financed by 15 different funders who are committed to investing in long-term planning and growth in the Winstanley neighborhood. The estimated total development cost is \$9,967,000.

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Sinai Family Life Center and the Mt. Sinai Development Corporation, rising from humble surroundings, continues to proclaim to the City of East St. Louis and abroad the Word of God—Jesus is the way, yesterday, today and forever.

We are thankful for the Pastors God has called to lead Mt. Sinai. Those pastors taught by example to come boldly before the throne of God to make our desires known. We rejoice in the leadership of Pastor Watson, because of his obedience, commitment and prayer life, Sinai Village has come to fruition. To God be the glory!

Our fervent prayer is to hold to Godly principles of Faith and Doctrine that have made us useful and inspirational. May we ever keep our productive lamps trimmed for service to God, our fellowman, and community; may the pilot light of truth, honesty and understanding keep burning so that even the generations to come will be able to seize its glow. We are proud of the many accomplishments achieved to the Glory of God, and remain in constant prayer that we continue to humbly provide Godly service and faithful stewardship so one day we may hear the Master say, "Well done good and faithful servants."

Sinai Village









