

**SUNNYSIDE IN LEGAL BATTLE TO SAVE HISTORICAL CHURCH PROPERTY**

**DIRECT ANCESTORS OF FREED SLAVES IN LEGAL BATTLE TO SAVE HISTORICAL CHURCH PROPERTY**

The Sunnyside United Methodist Church is in a legal battle to hold onto their historical property which was originally purchased by freed slaves. The community of Sunnyside, also referred to as Mountville, was established after the Civil War by freed slaves. The Sunnyside United Methodist Church is made up of approximately 30 members, and is located at 4521B Mountville Road, Frederick, Maryland 21703. The Church, its Pastor, and Trustees have been sued by the United Methodist Church and the Baltimore-Washington Conference who is trying to take this property from the local church. The members of this small family Church can trace their familial lineage to persons who helped establish the community known as Sunnyside. Adjacent to the Church is the gravesite where many of their ancestors are buried.

Now, the community of Mountville is in a legal battle to keep the Church that they acquired over 100 years ago. The Sunnyside United Methodists Church and Church members are being sued by the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., a worldwide organization, with approximately 8,000,000 lay-members in the United States alone. The lawsuit was filed in the Circuit Court for Frederick County on June 15, 2009, but is being vigorously defended by the Church's attorney, Erika E. Cole, Esq., 9433 Common Brook Road, Suite 208, Owings Mills, MD 21117.