

Eva Floyd
Norfolk, Va.

Tributes VII

On our pilgrimage, we so often forget to give honor to those who have given their time, patience, labor, and faithful guidance in helping us out of the secluded places in life and setting us on the hill of recognition.

This historical St. James A. M. E. Church started from a little band of Christian workers, namely Lazarus & Bettie Mathew, Ransom & Fannie McCoy, Jim & Mary Miller, George & Louise Diggs, Peter Halstead, Isaac Smith, Walter Brock and Deacon Sneed who organized and built a little frame structure on a plot of in Berkley Va. on the east side of the Belt Line R. R. on Greatbridge Road in 1866. Better known as the South-side Norfolk Va., and was carried into the A. M. E. Conference 1867.

Since its establishment, the church

has moved on from one success to another.

Since the coming of Rev. L. L. Berry D. D. in 1913 there has been no slowing down or set back in its success!

By his personal influence; strong in-
structive, and forceful manner of
preaching many were added to the
membership and the congregation
increased. As a whole new life
and interest was inserted in the
whole church.

The following trustees, Mr Miles
Simmons, Ransom McCoy, Walter
Jaywell, Alexander Moore, Henry
Williams, Nicholas Towns, Martin
McCoy, Miles Whitehurst and J. E. Fulford
with the wise counsel of the pastor
succeeded in building a new par-
sonage. Also a pipe organ was ~~pur-~~
purchased and installed.

pipe organ required choir?
 but they had the voices!

So well pleased were the members of the choir at the purchase of this* instrument, they went to work to become one of the best choirs in the community. Filled with enthusiasm they worked hard with the timely and wise instructions of Rev. L. D. Berry until they were pronounced one of the best choirs in the area. At this point the chorister (Mr. Frank Russel) began to give 5th Sunday Night concerts, until they became famous not only through Tidewater and State of Va. but people would come from the state of N. Y. to witness them.

We consider the 5th Sunday night concert one of the greatest novelties of his administration. - *the church area*

The various ministers^N said it was difficult to have service on that night due to the reputation of the 5th

As interest in young ministers - he ^{urged}
the ^{without} ^{and} ^{with} ^{is} ^{interest} - ^{young} ^{people}
Program - Church - witness ^{at} ^{gave} ^{Sunday} ^{school}
great ^{at} St ^{gave}

Sunday night concert given by
St. James A. M. E. Church Choir.

New Bethel A. M. E. Church and St.
James A. M. E. Church were united in-
to one membership, during his admin-
istration.

He had a well organized Sunday ^{Program}
school with well equipped officers (Mr.
J. E. Fulford Supt. Mr. Joseph Moore Assit. Sup.
Mrs. Rebecca James Secty. Mr. Miles Simmons,
Mrs. Eva A. Floyd, Mrs. Ella Bell, Mrs. Laura
Riddick Wroten, Julia Carrington, Hester
Beal, and Mary Tynes teachers.)

The Missionary Society under the leader-
ship of Mrs. Benlah Berry his wife did
a good work in the local & State Bodies.

The new pastor Rev. L. S. Berry soon
got into the hearts of the members
and during his stay of three (3) years
we can but say He exerted a great
influence for good in the church

and the community

You could soon find out ^{he} had not only the qualities of a statesman but a diplomat.

In order to keep the members in contact with the vital issues of the day, he would bring in outstanding talent such as Judge Harrison, Bishop Johnson and others so that his members would not only be good Christians but good citizens.

Dr. Berry not only did a great work in the spiritual field, but did much in helping to build all civic organizations for the welfare of the community and the race at large to attain success.

He played an important part in establishing the first (1st) colored drug store on the Southside.