

State University of New York College at Buffalo - Buffalo State University

Digital Commons at Buffalo State

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Papers

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

1990

History, 1990

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/fmbc-papers>



Part of the [History Commons](#), and the [Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

"History, 1990." Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Papers. Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State.
<https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/fmbc-papers/63>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Papers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu.

Mass Choir 30th 1959-1990

Singing brings joy to the heart with the reminder that God is present. Life's crises can trap us, but a song of faith can give courage for the present and hope for the future. Looking back upon the past three decades, the year 1959 our Mass Choir was organized, as a singing choir of Friendship Baptist Church by the late Pastor, Rev. E. D. McPeckey. My Mass Choir, Oct. 22, 1958 Rev. McPeckey and the Smith Singers of our Church (Friend Clayton, Rosalie Smith, Joyce Vans. Hollis, Zenobia Chester (Babe) Rachel Clark (Nabe) Rhoda Eberhart) were among the Gospel Stars, singing at the Cleveland Opera for the Temple Baptist Church's Mary Gaston had asked the late Rev. Ward to meet Pastor McPeckey in Jan. 1959 Rev. McPeckey received an invitation from Rev. Ward & Temple for our Church and Choir to be their Guest for the 7th Anniversary of the late Pastor Ward & Temple's

Pastor McPeckey asked that Mrs. Rosalie Smith prepare our charts for our trip to Cleve. Many of our members said they couldn't make the trip, an appeal went out to our City Churches to allow their choir members to join us. It was a huge

success. Members came even from Las Vegas. Mrs. Smith, arranged the music & songs, trained the soloists, and ~~trained~~ all voices, sopranos, tenors, Altos & Bass could be heard. It was a great Hallelujah Day of singing & preaching by Pastor McPeck. At that time, Sister Craig filled 3 buses and many traveled by car. Music and singing plays a vital part in worship and spiritual ministry. It was David who appointed full-time singers, and thus began the first ministers of music, whose duty was to lead in singing and praise.

On returning to our church, the middle of April we had a meeting to express our gratitude to all our sister choir members who so graciously had supported us at their own expense and to thank Rosalie for all her extra work. Pastor McPeck expressed his desire for the choir to continue as a mass group, sing on the 1st & 5th ~~months~~. On April 30, 1959 we organized with:

Mrs. Rosalie Smith - Dir.

" Lesue M. Gray - Pres

" Mary Bellis - V. Pres

" Mary Hill - Rec. Sec.

" Kenner Bailey - Chmn. of Hays & Means

later

Walter Harris - Rec. Sec.
 Mary Gaston - Fin. Sec., at Pres. B. Hamlin Sec.
 Kate Brown Percy Jefferson - Treas.
 Rachel Clark Wade - Organist
 Carol Turner - Pianist
 Kate Lounil Russell - Asst. Pianist

At this meeting we enrolled 180

The power of recollection is a precious possession and retrospection is advantageous as long as we appropriate the best of our past to the plans of our future.

A Review of some of our Events:

June 7, 1959 - 1st Annual June Rose Festival.

Guest: The Temple Choir of Holy Temple Church.

July 29, 1959 - Attendance Roll Call began, so if anyone dropped out we could replace them with someone from the waiting list. Began our 3rd Sunday night musical which was a great success & financially, spiritually & financially.

Nov. 6, 1960 - Mammoth musical at Klumbehaus because at our 1st musical we had standing room only. Published our 1st Journal, we netted \$3,000.00

Star Salvist (Tenor) Inflammatus - Mr. Robert Jones.
 Sometimes I feel like a motherless child.
 Joy Williams Hollis, Mrs. Smith
 Walk on by Faith - Elder Hank Reed

needed some assistance with the grounds she selected our own Mr. Robt. Turner,

Oct. 1, 1961 - Annual Concert - Forecast of Fall & performances: Matinee at 3 & twilight at 7:00 we did this to accommodate our audience many of our listeners purchased tickets & attended both performances. We used the first City Choir to hold 2 performances. The people had a mind to work and all worked we netted over \$300.00 again.

Oct. 6, 1963 Annual Autumn Sing - O Rama! featuring Gospel, Folk Songs, Anthems and Spirituals. We were blessed with many lead singers to name a few, Rachel, Zenobia, Lila Mae Richardson, Lessie M. Craig, Edell Hicks, Mary Hill, Mary Muschat, the late Esther Young & etc. Deacon W. D. Allen, Elder Reed was great composer, and leader.

St. John's 100 Voices, Chorus Mass Choir and the Varsons are among the singers who always come here and helped us every time we asked and as Paul encouraged the early Christians to be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in, psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs these groups not only encouraged us but supported us fully.

65

Des, Craig made our first robes, she also asked the choir to Carpet the Church floors and for 30 yrs we are still walking on the Carpet that this group purchased. You recall our Broadcast at Station W.K.B.B. and later the "Hour of Faith" through the facilities of W.B.L.K. right here from our Church. Remember our records and that 140 members were present when we made our 1st Album of 8 Songs. If you have them play them sometimes.

Michael Washington, ^{Mrs Williams} Richard Smith ^{and} the ^{and} our own Sarah Mae Clemons, who have served the Gress Choir are deeply imbedded in our account of the past and each was a great help to us, and we are grateful. You had our last Concert in 1964 with Mrs Smith and in 1965 she moved to Los Angeles, but we shall always remember the great musical talent she shared with us.

Let us love you with our great pass, Our Summary is the Gress Choir, has continued to serve, support our Church and its Pastors since its organization, singing and ^{representing} ~~participating~~ at church and other gatherings. Look how far we have come. Since Our Organization more than ⁶⁶ 45 of our

members have been called from labor toeward
others have dropped out, 'The faithful few'
have listened to some say, phase out the
Mass Choir, but we as laborers determined
to serve until our day is done

Another year is added to our Mass Choir
family celebration 31 years we thank God
for our success & blessings. We like to mention
the great deeds of the late Deacon Frank
Hambins and Philip Rendell and very
recently our Devotion leader Sister Eva
Oso Cohen they followed until their day was done
We acknowledge the contributions of the Musical
Staff last year Rev. Ben Clark and Mrs. Eric Reed
We are grateful for our present young
staff of which LeVern Hubbard is chief
Miss Rachel Haber, Patrick Illips, Glenda Richardson
and Chattie Martin all working with us
Thanks to the young people who have joined
the Mass Choir all peoples with their
stronger voices

Paster Ware as you pass toward your
10th Anniversary the Mass Choir has not
been failing promise of support
& churchland to the Pastor
By what time is it?

members have been called from labor to reward, others have dropped in and others have dropped out. We've listened to some say why not drop the Mass choir but we are laborers in the vineyard and we believe we'll get our right pay if we serve until Our Day is done.

Many of our members are now shut in ^{very} ~~just~~ ^{recently}. God called Sister Cora Lee Hayes, Bro. Percy Johnson, ^{most faithful} Deacon Frank Hawkins, ~~Deacon Arthur Bookman~~ Deacon Kenneth ~~to a better home. But we too must toil.~~

Pastor ^{are} made you have entered upon your ~~10th~~ year ^{of} ministry, and the Mass Choir has kept our pledge of full support to our Church and Pastor. We have been Deers, Pres. Craig (Mrs) ^{Pratt} ^{disappointed}

To our ^{we} ^{acknowledge} ^{that} ^{we} ^{are} ^{part} ^{of} ^{the} ^{staff} ^{of} ^{which} ^{is} ^{led} ^{by} ^{the} ^{Chief} ^{musician} ^{Rev. Benjamin Clark} is minister of music and Eric Reed, Organist, ^{with} ^{Miss} ^{Scott}

^{Patricia} ^{Illup} ^{Dumner} ^{the} ^{Mass} ^{Choir} ^{thanks} ^{each} ^{of} ^{you}.

Finally: What time is it? Time to leave home, give of your best in service? While it's daytime in your life, give us that something you have that

cut

7. It is time to put love in action Give your
Best in Service. Work for the right is coming,
Give that something you have that is no good
to you unless you give it away - give it
that is no good to you unless you give
it ~~to others~~ - "Smile" "Give"

~~I thank you,~~

Remember the Word of God it endures
despite all that has happened and continues
to happen for:

Scenes have translated it,
Hundreds have burned it,
Many have argued over its meaning,
Children have memorized it,
Military persons have carried it in their
pockets,
Teachers have taught it or denied it,
Atheists have made fun of it,
Believers have treasured it,
The Word of God has endured because
it is living divine truth,
God is his own interpreter and He
speaks to all who will listen and
it is that time Right now. Please ~~listen~~
Thank you!!

I deeply appreciate & treasure this opportunity
of sharing 31 yrs of Mess Church Christian
History with you. Thank you