

HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

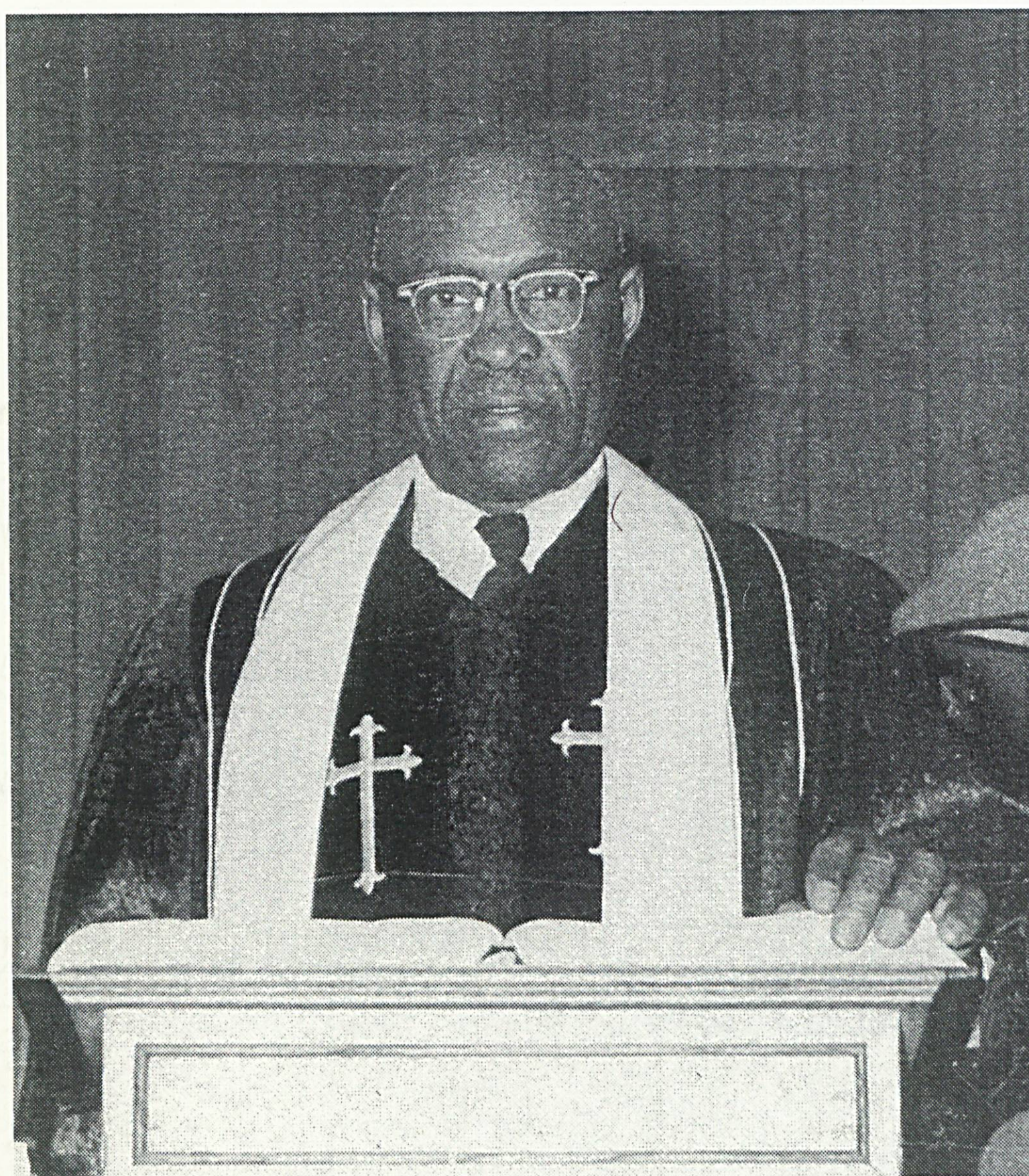
FOR

Dr. E. J. Alston

(Efford Joe)

Sunrise
August 23, 1911

Sunset
September 24, 2006



Saturday, September 30, 2006
3:00 O'clock p.m.

Evans Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
241 Evans Chapel Church Road
Siler City, North Carolina 27344

The Reverend Dr. J. C. White, Pastor
The Right Reverend Richard K. Thompson, Presiding Prelate

The Order of Service
Dr. J. C. White, Presiding

Prelude
Processional
Words of Assurance

Dr. Kenneth Brooks
Pastor, Mitchell Chapel AME Zion Church
Pittsboro, NC

Hymn of Victory

E. J. Alston Gospel Choir
Bethel AME Zion Church, Spring Lake, NC

Scripture Readings;
Old Testament - 90 Psalm 1-12

Rev. Theodore Tyson
Superannuate Minister Central NC Conference

New Testament - 1 Corinthians 15: 51-58

Rev. James Smith
Pastor, Jordan Grove AME Zion Church

Prayer of Comfort

Elder Johnny Horne
Pastor, Victory Tabernacle
Eagle Springs, NC

Remarks:

Church Family
Former Pastor
Pastor
Presiding Elder's Council
of the AME Zion Church

Mr. William Alston
Rev. Ridie Headen
Dr. J. C. White
Dr. L. A. Miller

Selection

E. J. Alston Gospel Choir

Acknowledgements/Resolutions/Obituary

Rev. Laura Headen
Pastor, Mt. View AME Zion Church
Moncure, NC

Last Public Prayer of Dr. E. J. Alston

81st Session of the Durham District Conference September 8, 2006

Selection

E. J. Alston Gospel Choir

Introduction of Bishop

I fought a good fight & have finished my race
The Lord is my Rock
Dr. S. J. Farrar
Presiding Elder of the Durham District

Selection

E. J. Alston Gospel Choir

Eulogy

Shanty 4th
John
The Right Reverend Richard K. Thompson
Presiding Prelate of Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Selection

E. J. Alston Gospel Choir

Recessional/Parting View

Interment
Evans Chapel AME Zion Church Cemetary

Obituary

*I fought a good fight, I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith...*

In my Father's House, there are many mansions...

Come, for all things are now ready.

September 24, 2006, was the day that the Lord summoned our beloved E.J. Alston home. He left us early in the afternoon leaving a huge void that will never be filled.

He was born on August 23, 1911, to the late Lonnie Joe and Addie Horton Alston in Siler City, North Carolina where he resided at the time of his death. He attended school in Chatham County, NC. At an early age, he accepted Christ and joined Evans Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, where he was a faithful member. As a young man, he allowed the spirit of the Lord to lead him. Thereby, becoming one of the most vocal and outspoken persons in Sunday School. He held numerous positions in the Evans Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. He continued to study God's word into adulthood and began to carve out his career in spiritual leadership and servitude.

In 1933, God blessed him with a helpmate, in holy matrimony, the wonderful Elizabeth Alston, who preceded him in death. To this union, 5 children were born.

In the late 1940's, he heard the call from the Lord to become his messenger. A man of charismatic flair, he had unique qualities and an exceptional ability for winning the devotion and hearts of anyone who met him. He encompassed divine inspiration and had a personal magnetism that drew many near and dear.

He spoke profoundly and captivated many by his thought-provoking conversations. He loved to talk, and those who loved him, were fascinated by his boundless wisdom, yet comedic charm. No one was a stranger. He could spend countless hours teaching the Gospel and guiding others to the Lord. He continued to spread God's word until 1993, when he retired.

As Rev. E. J. Alston's ministry began, he accepted his first charge at Belmont AME Zion Church in Pittsboro, NC. He served as leader and Pastor at many AME Zion Churches including: St. Matthews; Glovers Grove; Thompson Chapel; Mt. View of the Durham District; New England of the Sanford District; Freedom Chapel; Mountain Grove of the Laurinburg District. His last charge was Bethel of Spring Lake, NC of the Fayetteville District where he broke ground, built a new church, and burned the mortgage all within 13 years. He was truly an exceptional human being. As a testament to his astounding life, The Bethel Gospel Choir changed their name to the E. J. Alston Gospel Choir in honor of him.

He studied theological courses at Livingston College, Salisbury, NC. Thereafter, he received a Doctorate of Divinity Degree from Clinton Junior College. Rev. Alston was caught up in midst of sheer joy and excitement during his trip to the Holy Land in 1974 where his spirit was rejuvenated. In 1983, he was appointed Presiding Elder of the Durham District. He served in this position for nine years until his retirement in 1993. He shared his last fervent prayer at the 81st session of the Durham District Conference at the Holland Chapel AME Zion Church on September 8, 2006.

He leaves to cherish his memory, 2 daughters, Mary Yon, of the home, Lottie Kendall, Washington, DC, 3 sons, Ervin (Mergie), Siler City, David, Siler City, and Efford Jr. (Mary) of Durham, NC. one sister, Ethel Johnson of Siler City, NC and one brother, Jay Wade Alston, who preceded him in death, 13 grand children, 11 great grand's and a host of nieces and nephews, relatives, and friends.



E. J. & Wife



Pallbearers

Darryl Alston

Joe Johnson

Gerard Alston

Leon Johnson

Travis Harris

Eugene Tinsley

Floral Bearers

Kendra Alston

Alexis Coleman

Yvonne Johnson

Rhonda Tinsley

Karen Sellars

Delores Alston

Barbara Green

Grace McLaughlin

Kayla Tinsley

Erica Alston

Kelly Bailey

J. Denise Yon

Mary Alice Peoples

Carolyn Stroud

Tenia Sellars

~ Loving Memories ~

A precious one from us has gone,

His voice we'll hear no more;

A vacancy is in our home,

Where he will no longer roam.

The Golden Gates were opened wide,

Our Savior's gentle voice said, "Come!"

No farewells were ever spoken,

But he silently slipped home.

Sleep on, dear one, sleep on,

We'll miss you, but the

Loving memories we will treasure of you

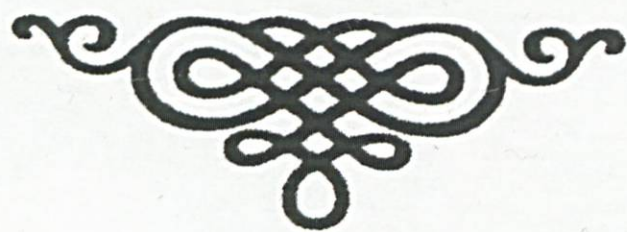
always and forever.

~

Acknowledgement

Our family wishes to thank you for all kind expressions of sympathy and condolences in sharing our loss. We heard and felt the prayers of you who shared your love and friendship during the period of his illness.

The E.J. Alston Family



*I shall pass through this life but once
I have done all the good that
My hands were assigned
to
Now I must bid you farewell, for I shall not pass this
Way again...
EJ*



*Professional Services Entrusted to:
Farrar Funeral Service
718 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Siler City, North Carolina 27344
919-742-3134*