

## ROYAL HOMECOMING CHURCH SERVICE PRESENTATION

Good Morning. I am Whitany Lewis and I have lived my entire life in this beautiful Community of Royal which was formed in 1865 and first called Picketsville.

I stand before you, as a Representative of the Royal Library Association, to recognize the long spiritual history of my beautiful Community - Royal.

I would like for Rev. Jerome Andrews, Rev. Robert 'Tom' Dixon, Rev. Lorenza Robinson and Bishop Leslie Hannah or their representative to come forth. And, as they come forth, I will continue.

After the founding families of Picketsville/ Royal settled down, they wanted to worship God. According to historical records, Royal residents began to walk to Wildwood where they joined in and made a joint Methodist Church at the Old Mt. Moriah Cemetery. In the following years they were able to establish three churches in this community: an A.M.E. Methodist Church, a C.M.E. Methodist Church, and a Missionary Baptist Church. The first community church was Ebenezer A.M.E. Church which was built in 1875 by Rev. Alfred Brown. The first Baptist Church was built in the early 1890's by Rev. Euman Ellison. This church was named Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church later called Second Bethel Baptist Church. Therefore, from 1875 & 1890, Royal has been serving God.

Did you know that Mr. Ellis Walker Anderson was the founder and coordinator of our first Annual Homecoming Day in 1968? But, did you know that the first homecoming church service was held at Ebenezer A. M. E. Church with Rev. Jerome Andrews as Pastor and the preacher for that service was Rev. J. L. Hill, Pastor of Second Bethel Baptist Church?

For this long history, Gentlemen of God, we feel it not robbery to thank God for your spiritual leadership. You have and are ensuring that this annual celebration was, in the past, and will be, in the future, an occasion to give honor and thanks to God.

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1) To Rev. Andrews | 2) To Rev. Robinson |
| 3) To Rev. Dixon   | 4) To Bishop Hannah |

Inclusion, this is a small token of our gratitude as we pray for God to continue blessing and keeping you. Thank you.