

# Blackwell Memorial Is Daughter First Church

From Little Mission Chapel Planted by Dr. Blackwell While He Was First Baptist Pastor This Church Has Grown Into a Large Working Organization

Living things are not measured by dates. No man's life, nor that of any organization can be measured merely by the years. So it is with Blackwell Memorial Baptist Church. It matters not at what date a church was founded—but it matters tremendously what it has done. There was a time in the history of Elizabeth City when there was but one Baptist organization within her limits. With foresight and vigor that organization looked forward and reached out. On one end of the town under the leadership of Dr. Calvin S. Blackwell, at the far end of Riverside Drive a chapel was planted. At the other end on North Road street, one of similar design was erected. These were but mission points, but each destined to play a part in the future of the religious life of the city.

But this story connects itself intimately with the chapel at the end of Road street. Soon in place of a mission station there was formed a church organization, and Rev. Joseph Ferebee was called as pastor. Brother Ferebee did a fine work, and was succeeded by Rev. W. A. Ayers. This pastor is still remembered affectionately by the congregation, and it was under his pastorate that the main auditorium was erected. Upon Mr. Ayers' departure there came the short pastorate of Rev. Josiah Cradup. Succeeding Mr. Cradup came the Rev. L. N. Loflin, perhaps the most loved of all Blackwell's pastors. Under his energetic leadership the church grew rapidly, and two additions were made to the building. In labors incessant, he finally wore himself out and passed to his reward after a pastorate of ten years.

For three months the congregation was without a pastor, but finally secured Dr. George W. Clarke. Dr. Clarke had a vigorous pastorate of four years and it was in his day that the church reached its greatest numerical strength. It was also during this pastorate that Blackwell Memorial secured the chapel on Riverside Drive and organized it into a church, called Calvary. Upon Dr. Clarke's departure the church called Dr. James H. Thayer from North Augusta, South Carolina. For the past

coming by man's faith in what Christ on the cross died for him. To these great, fundamental doctrines I most earnestly subscribe. "I can say also that these meetings have done our church great good. About forty have already come into our fellowship, more will follow, and the body as a whole has been revived. The congregation has supported the meetings, and have derived much help from them. Everything

## BLACKWELL MEMORIAL BAPTIST



three years the work has gone steadily forward, particularly along the line of better organization. Shortly after the pastor's arrival the church planned and built a third addition, which houses a modern junior department, two large adult class rooms and a modern kitchen. "I most heartily give my support to the Evangelistic meeting being held by the Ham-Ramsay party in our city. Dr. Thayer said: "Through these meetings many have come to a knowledge of the Christ, backsliders have been restored, and saints have been quickened. No such results could have been obtained save through the preaching of God's love, His eternal wrath on sin, redemption alone through the blood of Christ, and salvation

points to a better and larger service on the part of the people as a result of these meetings." Dr. James Henry Thayer was



DR. J. H. THAYER

born at Charleston, and the name that he bears, the same as that of his father, has been an honored one in that city for many

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years. He was educated at the Citadel, a nationally known military school at Charleston, where he was graduated with the degree of B. S. His theological training was received at the Southern Baptist Theological seminary at Louisville, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Theology, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Theology. He has also completed a course in story telling at the Home Correspondence School, Springfield, Massachusetts, and as a story teller has won the hearts of the children of the Elizabeth City public schools. He is particularly active among the young people of the church.

In 1907 Dr. Thayer married Miss Ethel Gunter of Louisville, Kentucky, and there is one son.

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