

St. John AME recognizes oldest member

Mrs. Hattie Irby Henry was recognized on Sunday, Sept. 22, as the oldest living member of St. John A.M.E. Church.

The recognition ceremony was held during the regular morning worship service, with friends and relatives attending. The program included inspirational speeches from members and friends on the role Mrs. Henry has played in their lives.

"Aunt Hattie," as she is affectionately called, was born on Sept. 1, 1898. She was the daughter of the late Gussie Irby and Carrie Byrd. When she was 19, she married the late Eddie Henry. The couple had nine children, Alice Willie, James, Rosetta, Andrew, George Washington, Mary Louise, Gussie and Joe.

Soon after her marriage, Mrs. Henry joined St. John A.M.E. Church, located in the Middlesix community, and began her work for Christ. She was a member of the Missionary Society and of the Stewardess Board. She was also Sunday school treasurer and sang for many years as a



Mrs. Hattie Irby Henry

soprano in the senior choir.

Mrs. Henry lives in Columbia with her son, Willie. She, at

98-years-old, still attends services at St. John when she is able.