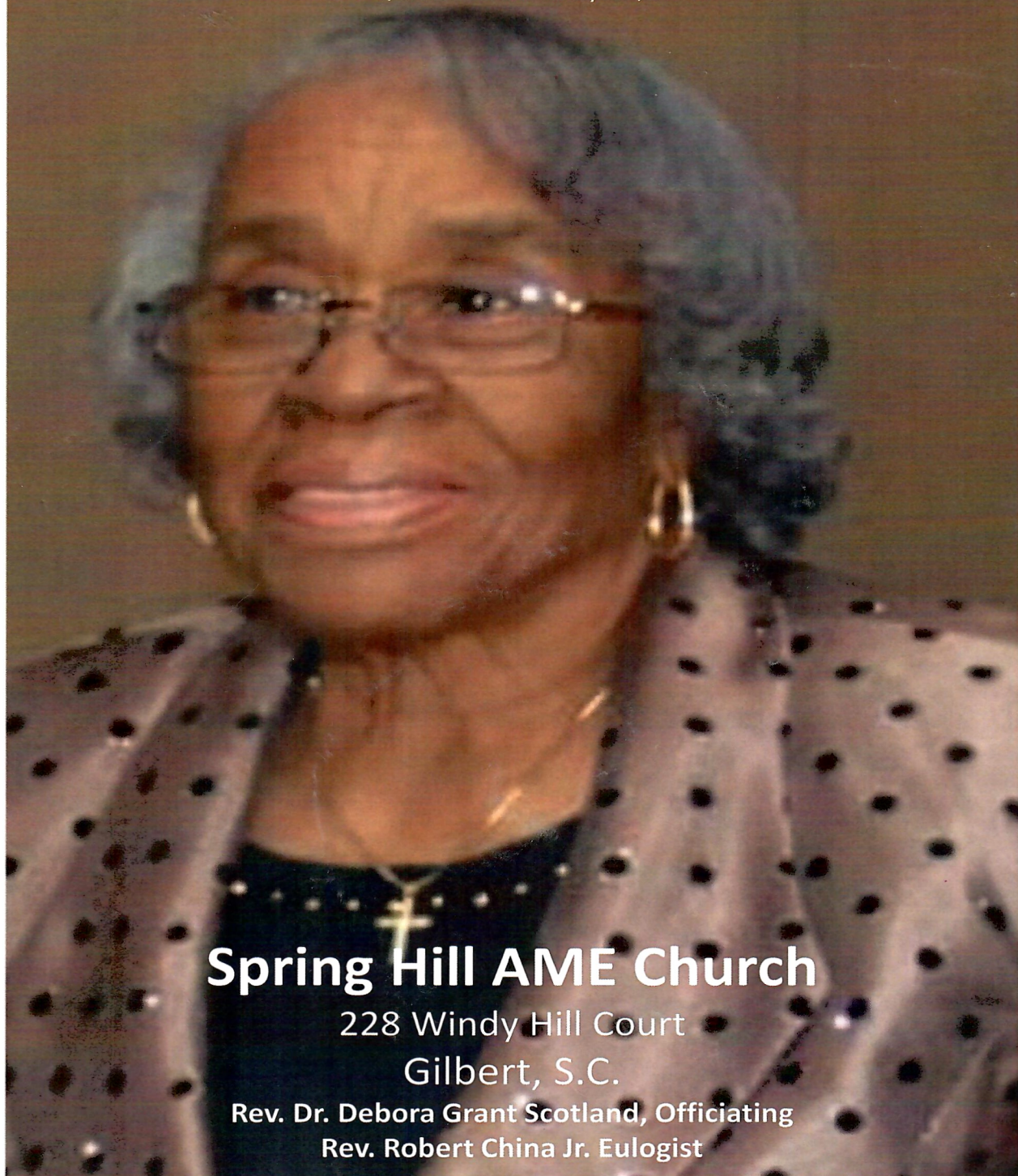


*Celebrating The Life of*  
*Mrs. Lillian Bernetha Wise Gates*

December 20, 1929 – February 23, 2023



**Spring Hill AME Church**

228 Windy Hill Court  
Gilbert, S.C.

Rev. Dr. Debora Grant Scotland, Officiating  
Rev. Robert China Jr. Eulogist



# Obituary

If you grew up in the house with Lillian and Andrew Cleve Gates, you could be pretty sure you would do three things: behave, go to church and eat delicious meals. Lillian made the best pound cakes and explained to her children that she made the pineapple cakes because *"your daddy liked them."* Her joy as a wife and mother was to please her family.

She served her church with the same excellence. She often expressed her mantra of *"I'm living to live again."*

Lillian Bernetha Wise, was born December 20, 1929. She was the fourth of six children born to the late Oscar and Kate Rivers Wise from the Sand Hills area of Lexington, SC. Her siblings, who all preceded her in death, were: Oscar Josephus Wise, (Grace); Margaret Black (Heyward); Kate Serena Jones (Oscar) all of Tampa Florida. Richard Wise (Betty) of San Diego, CA; and Annie Mae Gates (Joseph) of Lexington. Her first grandchild, Ronald's daughter, Angel Kenyatta, sadly, preceded her in death.

Lillian was educated at Lexington Rosenwald High school where she met and later married Andrew Cleve. She received Christ at an early age and joined New Bethel AME Church and later joined Spring Hill AME Church to worship with her husband and children. At Spring Hill she sang lead on the Senior Choir. Additionally, she was a member of the WMS, Lay organization, Senior Citizens Club, Good Neighbors Club and the Women's Ministry. She was Stewardess President, responsible for training the next generation. Blessed with the gift of service, she ensured the communion Linens were spotless and wrinkle free. She wanted to teach the younger generation in the manner she was taught at New Bethel. She modeled excellence in taking care of God's house. (Colossians 3:23-24) She served her community with the same dedication as she did in the American Legion Post 217. She was a great cook and, of course, her delicious cakes were sought after. She enjoyed preparing and serving food at various functions throughout her life.

Lillian loved to travel. She and her travel buddies, Mrs. Zenobia Glover and Mrs. Bea Johnson (deceased) toured parts of the US and Canada by bus and airplane. She cruised and visited many Caribbean Islands with Sylvia and Kristen.

Cherishing her memories, celebrating her life and her victorious entry into God's Kingdom are her husband of 75 years, Andrew Cleve Gates; one daughter, Sylvia of Irmo, SC, and two sons: Ronald (Sheila) of Columbia, SC and Clevelyn (Devrow) of Irmo, SC; seven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, church family and friends who will miss her greatly.





*The Order of Service*  
Rev. Dr. Debora F. Grant, Officiating

PRELUDE  
PROCESSIONAL  
HYMN OF ASSURANCE

The Choir & Congregation  
*"Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine"*

PRAYER

Rev. Elaine Eskew

SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT  
NEW TESTAMENT

Psalm 23  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Rev. Adam China  
Rev. Eric Dent

SELECTION

"Let the Church Say Amen"

Bro. Steve Jeter

REFLECTIONS

(3 mins)  
*Helen Black & Sylvia Banister, Friend*  
*Azalea B. Green, Friend*  
*Terry C. Samuels, American Legion Auxiliary Post 217*  
*Rev. E. Robert Thomas, Former Pastor*  
*Bro. Vincent Taylor, Steward Pro-Tem*  
*Deacon Franklin Donald Black, Family*

SOLO

Deaconess Barbara Black

WORDS OF COMFORT

Pastor Robert L. China, Jr.

SOLO

"HYMN of Heaven"

Bro. Steve Jeter

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Sis. Linda Means

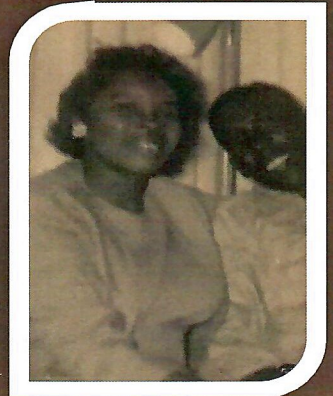
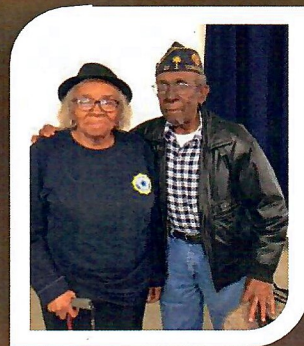
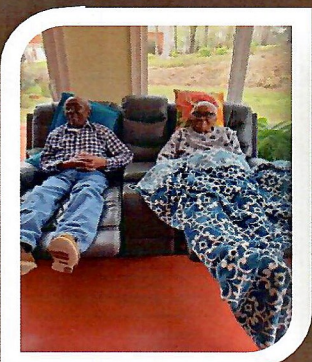
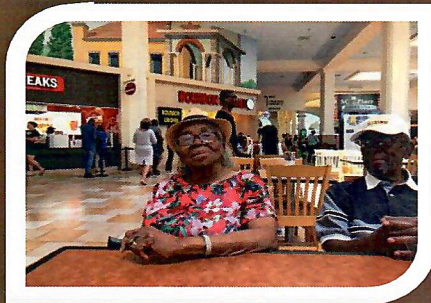
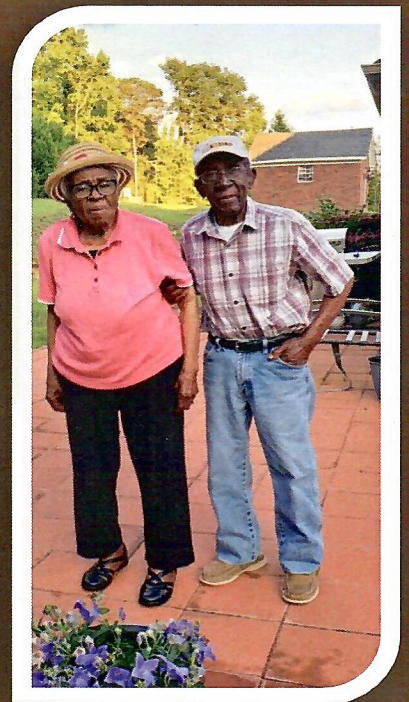
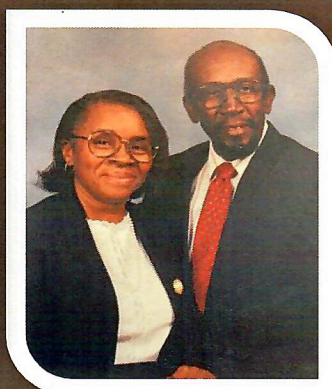
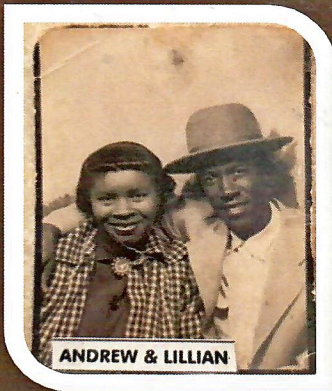
RECESSIONAL

"Well Done" by Deitrick Haddon



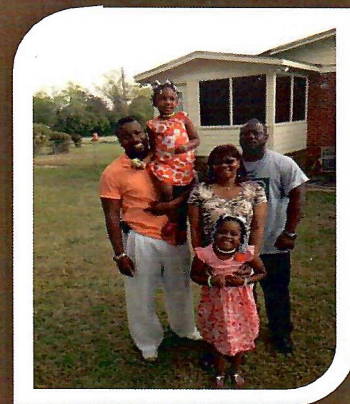
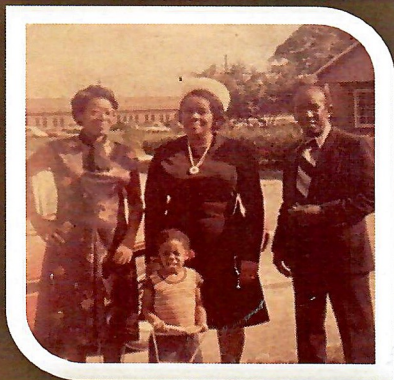


# 75 Years of Love



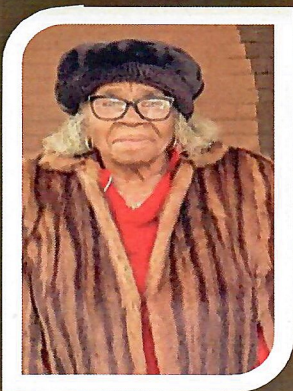
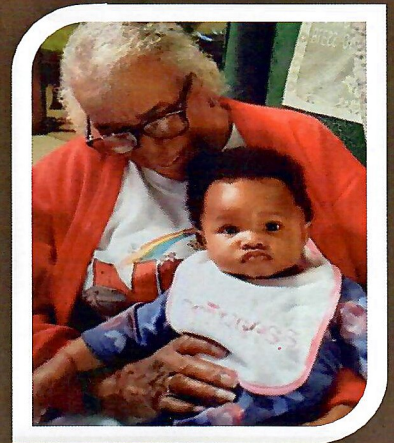
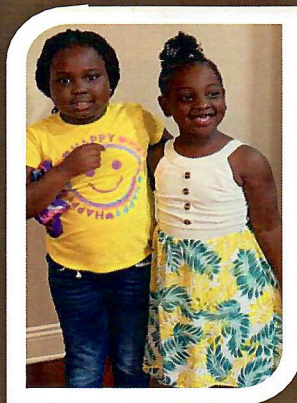
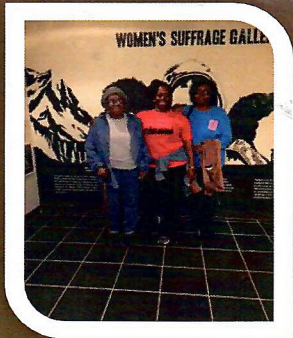


# Memories Family & Friends





# Memories FAMILY & FRIENDS





# HYMN OF HEAVEN

By Phil Wickham

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven

Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets  
To look upon the One who bled to save me  
And walk with Him for all eternity

There will be a day when all will bow before Him  
There will be a day when death will be no more  
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again  
Holy, holy is the Lord

And every prayer we prayed in desperation  
The songs of faith we sang through doubt and fear  
In the end, we'll see that it was worth it  
When He returns to wipe away our tears

Oh, there will be a day when all will bow before Him  
There will be a day when death will be no more  
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again  
Holy, holy is the Lord

And on that day, we join the resurrection  
And stand beside the heroes of the faith  
With one voice, a thousand generations  
Sing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain"

And on that day, we join the resurrection  
And stand beside the heroes of the faith  
With one voice, a thousand generations  
Sing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain"  
"Forever He shall reign"

So let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven  
With angels and the saints, we raise a mighty roar  
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave  
Holy, holy is the Lord

So let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven  
With angels and the saints, we raise a mighty roar  
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave  
Holy, holy is the Lord





## **PALLBEARERS**

Nephews

## **FLOWER ATTENDANTS**

Nieces & SH Women's Missionary Society

## **INTERMENT**

Spring Hill AMEC Memorial Garden  
228 Windy Hill Court  
Gilbert, S.C.

## **REPAST**

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church  
Community Center  
300 Hermitage Road, Lexington, SC

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Words cannot express the humbleness and gratefulness we feel toward all of the friends and family who have consoled us during our bereavement. Your prayers and love have sustained us. The flowers, cards, text messages and visits have deeply warmed our hearts and have been greatly appreciated. We saw all of these as God's love expressed through you. We thank each and every one of you and may God bless each of you.

## **SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:**

### **J.H. ROBINSON'S FUNERAL HOME**

190 Railroad Avenue  
Wagener, SC  
(803)564-5521



701 Hendrix Street  
Lexington, SC  
(803) 957-3022

