

Floral Bearers

Jenais Y. Means
Katherine C. Grant
Kristina D. Grant
Sheimeria Means
Ebony Means

Two Mothers Remembered

Joann Snow Duncanson, Author

I had two Mothers – two Mothers I claim
Two different people, yet with the same name.
Two separate women, diverse by design,
But I loved them both because they were mine.
The first was the Mother who carried me here,
Gave birth and nurtured and launched my career.
She was the one whose features I bear,
Complete with the facial expressions I wear.
She gave me her love, which follows me yet,
Along with the examples in life that she set.
As I got older, she somehow younger grew,
And we'd laugh as just Mothers and daughters should do.
But then came the time that her mind clouded so,
And I sensed that the Mother I knew would soon go.
So quickly she changed and turned into the other,
A stranger who dressed in the clothes of my Mother.
Oh, she looked the same, at least at arm's length,
But now she was the child and I was her strength.
We'd come full circle, we women three,
My Mother the first, the second and me.
And if my own children should come to a day,
When a new Mother comes and the old goes away,
I'd ask of them nothing that I didn't do.
Love both of your Mothers as both have loved you.
Thank you Mom for the journey.
Take your rest now and I'll see you in the morning.

- Loving Daughters

pallbearers

James W. Means, IV
Jathan N. Means
Hamilton R. Grant
Alexander M. Grant
Philip Powell, Jr

Expression of Gratitude

The family of Carrie R. Nelson
would like to thank each of you
for the many acts of
kindness expressed towards us
during this time.
May God continue to bless each
of you with his mercy.



Funeral Services

For



Sunrise
08.21.1927

Sunset
03.12.2020

Carrie Leona Richburg

Nelson

Saturday, March 21, 2020

9:00 AM

Friendship African Methodist Episcopal Church

Columbia, SC 29210

Rev. Edward L. Hill, Sr

Obituary

Mrs. Carrie Leona Richburg Nelson was born on August 21, 1927 to J. Haskell and Hessie Ragin Richburg in the Spring Hill community of Summerton, South Carolina. She matriculated through the segregated public school system and after completing 11th grade, entered Allen University. During the summers, Mrs. Nelson returned home to the family farm to help tend the crops. She often told the story of picking enough cotton during the summer to pay her fall tuition. She graduated with a degree in education and began her teaching career in Clarendon County, South Carolina.

Mrs. Nelson taught at Spring Hill Elementary School in Summerton South Carolina. Her father supported the petition for equal funding and then he supported the desegregation of public schools. His continued support for a better educational system for black children caused employment discrimination towards his family members. After the Summerton School Superintendent refused to issue her a new teaching contract, Mrs. Nelson moved to Columbia and began teaching at Little's Nursery. She also worked in Allen University's Curriculum Lab before becoming a preschool teacher in the Head Start program.

Ms. Carrie, as she was affectionately known, loved children and they loved her. She spent many years as a Head Start teacher preparing preschoolers for kindergarten. She taught through play and understood the importance of children learning from a caring adult. It was common for people to stop her and ask "Do you remember me? I used to be in your Head Start class!" She was a Head Start Director upon her retirement in the early 2000s. A natural educator, Mrs. Nelson lived and practiced her teachings. Her home was filled with books and educational toys that her grandchildren loved to take out and spread across the floor to enjoy.

On February 13, 1953, Mrs. Nelson married the late Presiding Elder Willie J. Nelson. At his side for 56 years, she served as first lady at St. John (Bishopville), Chappelle Memorial and Friendship AME Churches in Columbia. She was also the First Lady of the Columbia District during her husband's tenure as Presiding Elder. Mrs. Nelson was a Life Member of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS). She was also a frequent delegate and attendee at Quadrennial Conventions, General Conferences, Annual Conferences as well as WMS and Minister Spouses (MSWWPKs) retreats and meetings.

Although she was at her husband's side in ministry, she also maintained associations with multiple service organizations. She held membership in the Eastern Star, in Veterans of Foreign Wars and in Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Mrs. Nelson loved caring for plants, attending concerts, going to the ballet, bowling, sewing, and dancing.

Ms. Carrie's greatest love was family. She appreciated each moment spent with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. One of her talents was loving others through shared meals. She enjoyed when her grandchildren helped form her famous biscuits. At the end of the meal, you left the table full both physically and spiritually. Even when her health began to decline, a quick lesson in making biscuits or a visit with her great grandchildren brought joy and laughter to all.

Expecting things to be correct and in order, Mrs. Nelson was a proponent of protocol and timeliness. Whether in church, at a community event, or at someone's home, she was known to pick up her pocketbook, place it on her shoulder, stand up, then proceed towards the door; regardless of whether the event was over or if her ride was ready! She was eager to get home and enjoy a cup of peppermint tea. In fact, you could always depend on her having peppermint candy in her pocket or her purse.

Mrs. Nelson transitioned to Glory on March 12, 2020. Left to cherish her memories and continue her legacy of love and service are her daughters, D. Yvonne N. Means (James) and Helen N. Grant (Tony); her son, grafted by love Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr. (Supervisor Irene); grandchildren James Means IV (Ebony), Jathan Means (Sheimeria), Jenais Y. Means, Hamilton Grant (Alana), Alexander Grant, Kristina Grant, Katherine Grant, Danica Daniels, Davida Daniels and Iesha Daniels; great grandchildren Graysen, Hannah, Jorrdyn, JaLynn, Joi and Jathan Means, Jr., and Hamilton R. Grant, II, who is due to arrive May 2020. Also surviving are three brothers John Richburg (Doris), Herbert Richburg (Daisy) and Emmett Richburg (Elaine); one sister in law, Dorothy Bonner, and one brother in law, Bernard Nelson. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Presiding Elder Willie J. Nelson; brothers and sisters Joe Richburg, Sr., Thornwell Richburg, Van Buren Richburg, Pedro Richburg, Roland Richburg, Catherine Richburg and Eddie Richburg Alexander. Loving nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, caregivers and friends will cherish her memory.

Order of Service

Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman, Presiding

Prelude/Viewing

Processional

SelectionHymn #450 Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

**Prayer of Comfort Rev. Schrendria Robinson, Pastor
Mt. Olive AME Church**

Old TestamentProverbs 31:26-31

New Testament John 14:1-6

**Pastoral Remarks.....Rev. Edward L. Hill, Sr
Friendship AME Church**

Solo Mr. Christopher Gladman

Reflections Friends and Family

**Resolutions.....Friendship AME Church
Women's Missionary Society**

Solo Ms. Tryphena Taylor

**Words of Comfort..... Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr
Presiding Prelate, 15th Episcopal District**

Recessional

Committal, Prayer, Benediction, Interment

Crescent Hill Memorial Gardens

2603 Two Notch Road

Columbia, SC 29204