

Pallbearers

Grandsons, Nephews, and Friends

Floral Bearers

Granddaughters and Nieces



Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mrs. Rue Belle Butler Mickens, wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to our many friends, family, and loved ones who shared words of comfort during our time of bereavement. Additionally, appreciation is extended to: Prisma Health Senior Care PACE - White Rock, Prisma Health Senior Care PACE - Laurel, Rest Assured LLC, and Ms. Tiara Thompson, granddaughter, for the care you provided our Mother. God bless each of you.

Services Entrusted To:

Taylor Street Chapel
1831 Taylor Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803)771-7799

I. S. Leevy Johnson
-Owner & Director-

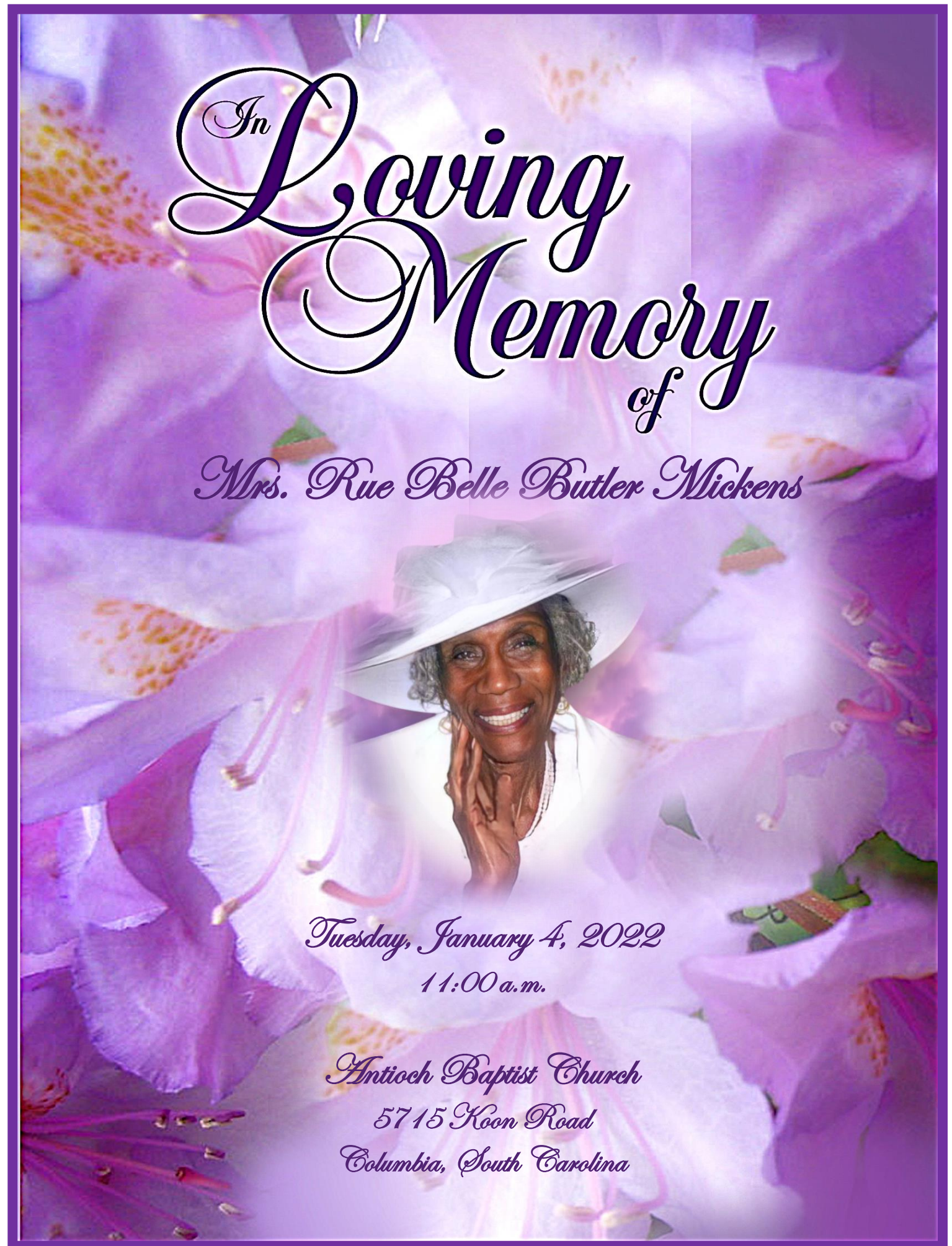
Leevy's

FUNERAL HOME

Chris Leevy Johnson
-President & Managing Director-

Lower Richland Chapel
9120 Garners Ferry Road
Hopkins, SC 29061
(803) 776-6922

Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-



Mrs. Rue Belle "Sister" Butler Mickens

The Creation

And God stepped out in space, and He looked around and said: I'm lonely – I'll make me a world.
And far as the eye of God could see, darkness covered everything, blacker than a hundred midnights,
down in a cypress swamp!
Then God smiled, and the light broke, and the darkness rolled up on one side, and the light stood
shining on the other, and God said: "That's good!"
Then God himself stepped down – and the sun was on His right hand, and the moon was on His left;
the stars were clustered about His head and the earth was under His feet. And God walked, and where
He trod, His footsteps hollowed the valleys out and bulged the mountains up.

On Thursday, January 27, 1927, a very cold morning in Lone Star, SC, a beautiful baby girl, **Rue Belle "Sister" Butler**, was born to Carolina and Nettie Golds Butler. Then into her, God blew the breath of life, and **Rue Belle** became a living soul! She was the fourth of eleven children born to Carolina and Nettie.

The Journey

Rue Belle eventually grew up and moved to Columbia, SC, at the age of thirteen to continue her education. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1946, where she caught the eye of Mr. Harry Mickens, Jr., and they married on January 17, 1947. They were married for more than 56 years, before his death in 2003. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it." To this glorious union, seven children were conceived.

Rue Belle was a retiree of the State of South Carolina Midland's Center. She was an active member of The Ladies of Leisure Breakfast Club and maintained contact with fellow retirees prior to her failing health.

She was a proud member of the **Class of 1946 of Booker T. Washington High School, in Columbia.** Until her health failed her, she attended Class meetings every 5th Sunday of the month, when her classmates, the Cannon brothers and Thelma Rogers, would pull up in the yard like they were going to cheer during a sports event. She attended all of her Class Reunions. She really seemed very youthful every 5th Sunday. **Go Tornadoes!**

Mother was an active member of Antioch Baptist Church on Koon Road for more than **eighty-one** years. She held numerous positions in various auxiliaries and served on several committees. She was a member of the Adult Sunday School class, Missionary Society, and the Antioch Women's Auxiliary. She also participated in the church's weekly exercise program and mid-week Bible study. She was well loved and respected by her Church family.

Mother was also a staunch community activist in both the Farrow Hills and Greenview communities. She walked up to five miles per day at least three days a week; she was a yoga enthusiast; and she was an active member of the Greenview Park Adult exercise program. She maintained a beautiful rose garden and vegetable garden. She never had an unkind thought towards anyone, nor an unkind word. **Proverbs 31:10-31** describes our Mother and how she lived her life! To God be the glory!

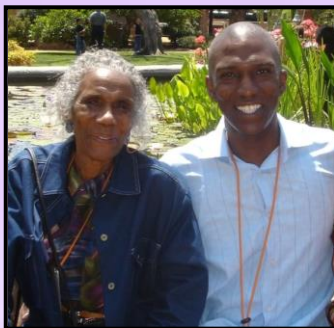
A Christian Mother

God gives us many gifts,
But far above any other,
The first and best He gives us
Is the gift of a Christian Mother.
Her head bows over the scriptures
Teaching children from God's word.
Her hands are always busy
Doing service for her Lord.
Whenever her children need her
They know she's always there.
Her beauty's in the strength of faith
That she daily finds in prayer.
Her children love and bless her,
And in their lives we see
The lessons of the Saviour
That were learned at mother's knee.

~~Ramona K. Cecil



Memories



The Transition

In 2005, a shift occurred in Mother's life. The active and lively woman we had known all of our lives, she was fading away. Later, she was diagnosed with one of the most dreaded diseases known to man, Alzheimer's. It was a slow-moving disease in the beginning, but it robbed us of the woman Mother had yet to become. While she lost the ability to communicate as we were accustomed, she never lost her sweet tender ways nor her manners. Whatever you did for her she would say thank you, please, excuse me, and you're welcome. It was heart wrenching to see her experience this disease, yet we count it joy that God let her remain with us for so many years and allowed us to do for her as she had done for us.

On December 29, 2021, at 7:45 a.m., surrounded by some of her children, the green grass sprouted, and the little red flowers blossomed. The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky, and the oak spread out his arms. The lakes cuddled down in the follows of the ground, and God smiled again, and the rainbow appeared, and curled itself around His shoulder! At that moment God welcome Mrs. Rue Belle Butler "Sister" Mickens to her Heavenly home!

The Legacy

Mrs. Mickens was preceded in death by: a daughter, Little Miss Connie Maxine Mickens; a son, Mr. Stanley Mickens, five brothers, two sisters, and her parents.

A loving mother, grandmother, sister, auntie and friend, Rue Belle will be missed by all those who loved and knew her. She leaves to cherish her precious memory: three daughters, Mrs. Sandra M. McKie, of Irmo, South Carolina, Ms. Sharon M. Cooke, and Mrs. Devra M. (Mondelus) Joseph, both of Columbia, SC; two sons, Mr. Steve W. (Harriette K.) Mickens, of McDonough, Georgia and Mr. Noland D. (Shirley H.) Mickens, of Ooltewah, Tennessee; a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Barbara Watson Mickens, of Washington, DC; an adopted daughter, Ms. Barbara Robinson-Mickens, of Columbia, South Carolina; two sisters, Mrs. Catherine M. Brady and Evangelist Ann Munson, both of College Park, Maryland; two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Minnie S. Butler, of Columbia, South Carolina and Mrs. Mary C. Butler, of Springdale, Maryland; one brother-in-law, Mr. Joseph (Freddie M.) Mickens, of Columbia, South Carolina; fifteen grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews, and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

Mrs. Mickens was a Spiritual Woman. The following is an excerpt from the poem entitled "Spiritual Woman" that speaks volumes about who she was:

*"Worldly women wonder where her secret lies.
She's not flashy, conceited, or caught up in her size.
But when she tells them it's the Jesus in her, they think
She's telling lies. She says it's in the strength of God's arms,
The feel of His love. He orders her every step,
Honey, she's covered in the blood.
She's a Woman, Spiritually. A Sanctified Woman,
That is, she!"*

Mother embodies the essence of a "Spiritual Woman!" We thank God for Her!

Order of Service

Prelude.....Mr. Lonnie Clark
 Processional
 Opening Selection..... “We’re Marching to Zion”.....Mr. Lonnie Clark
 Scripture Readings.....Pastor Chris Gleason

 Old Testament – Psalm 23
 New Testament – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Harry T. Adams
 Musical Selection.....Ms. Willie Ann Harris
 Remarks.....Ms. Dana L. Cooke, *Granddaughter*
 Reverend Ishtar Gleason, *Granddaughter*
 Ms. Sharon M. Cooke, *Daughter*

 Selection
 Words of ComfortReverend Dr. A. A. Neal
 Recessional
 Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

Crescent Hill Memorial Gardens
 Two Notch Road
 Columbia, South Carolina

Memories

