

Homegoing Services

FOR

Mrs. Gelena

Robinson

Motes



SUNRISE
May 9, 1929

SUNSET
October 18, 2024



Thursday, October 24, 2024
11:00 AM

Brookland Baptist Church
1066 Sunset Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Rev. Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr.
Senior Pastor

Her Journey



Mrs. Gelena Robinson Motes, a beacon of resilience, peacefully transitioned from this earthly life on Friday, October 18, 2024, at the age of 95. Born in Saluda, South Carolina, she was the last survivor of Warren and Sallie Robinson's seven children. She was a wonderful daughter, sister, wife, friend, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her remarkable resilience was evident in her committed work ethic and her ability to overcome the loss of her husband, mother, siblings, and close relatives and friends. She faced cancer diagnoses twice and lived well with a heart and knees that were both worn out, showing her unwavering strength in the face of adversity.

Mrs. Motes attended the public schools of Greenwood County, SC, graduating from Brewer High School. She continued her education at Benedict College, earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She later pursued additional studies at Furman University, the University of South Carolina, and South Carolina State University, leading to her library science certification.

Upon graduating from Benedict College, she embarked on her journey as an elementary school teacher, later transitioning to serve as a librarian. Her retirement from Laurens County School District 55 in 1992 marked the end of a 28-year tenure in this district and a 31-year career in education. Her dedication to education and her legacy as an outstanding and loving educator will be remembered by the many students she supported in school and beyond, leaving a lasting impact on the community.

After retiring from her career in education, Mrs. Motes joined the CarePro Home Health team to provide administrative support. In addition to her administrative role, Mrs. Motes assumed the role of "God Grandmother" for all the employees' children. Her office desk and walls overflowed with photos of these children, highlighting births, sporting events, dance recitals, graduations, and more. Mrs. Motes loved each one of these children and cheered on their accomplishments.

Mrs. Motes was baptized early at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, the family church in Ninety-Six, SC. Upon marriage to her college sweetheart, she joined the Zion Hill Baptist Church, where she served as president of the Usher Board, deaconess, and choir member, among other roles within the church. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Motes relocated to Columbia, SC, and joined Brookland Baptist Church. She served on the Jubilee Choir and Deaconess board in her new setting, later transitioning to Deaconess Emerita. She was also a member of the Daughters of Isis, the Heroines of Jericho, and the Order of the Eastern Star, where she held leadership roles and engaged in community outreach.

Mrs. Motes' love for the Lord was evident in her church leadership roles and how she treated people, prayed, sang at home, studied the Bible, and shared guidance anchored in scripture. Her love for Jesus and her neighbors was sincere, and she always reminded others, "Don't forget to pray!"

Mrs. Motes's love for her three sons—Jimmy, Henry, and Dan—and her beloved daughter, Marinda, was profound. Her motherly love was based on Proverbs 13:24: "Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them." Mrs. Motes loved her children deeply and did not spare the rod. Her love for her family was unwavering, a testament to her affection.

Her love for her children was only overshadowed by her unconditional love and affection for her grandsons, Aston, Jamon, Chancellor, and Jalen. While she loved all her grandchildren, she had a special bond with Jalen. Mrs. Motes was Jalen's caregiver when he was a baby; after her first cancer diagnosis, she was unable to take care of him. We believe she survived that cancer because she wanted to take care of her sweet baby Jalen. For the last several years, Jalen has been a loving caregiver to his grandmother, showcasing the beauty of the circle of love.

Becoming a great-grandmother was a source of immense joy for Mrs. Motes. Her love was magnified with the birth of Karys, Harrison, and her twin great-grandchildren, Cory and Paris. Even in her final days, her great-grandchildren could bring a smile to her face, evidence of the joy they brought to her life.

Mrs. Motes was preceded in death by her loving parents, Warren and Sallie Monroe Robinson, her husband, Rev. James Motes, and all six of her beloved siblings—Daniel Robinson, Anderson Robinson, Warren Robinson, Kenneth Robinson, Dorsey Gantt, and Lillie Mae Seigler.

Mrs. Motes leaves to mourn and continue her legacy of love her sons Jimmie (Gwynne) Motes of Hodges, SC, Henry (Patricia) Motes of Columbia, Daniel Motes of Decatur, GA, and Marinda Motes Aiken of Columbia, SC; her grandchildren, Aston (Aushlee) Motes of Atlanta, GA, Jamon (Kristin Rose) Motes of South Pasadena, CA, Chancellor Motes of Hodges, SC, and Jalen Motes of Columbia, SC. Her great-grandchildren, Karys, Harrison, Cory, and Paris, will remember their "GGG," Great-Grandmother Gelena, with love. Additionally, she leaves her sister-in-law, Mrs. Ellen Robinson of Philadelphia, PA, Mrs. Ruth Hardy of Washington, DC, and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends to mourn her passing.

...Forever In Our Hearts



Order of Service

Rev. Charles B. Jackson, Jr.
Officiant

Prelude

Processional

Opening Hymn

Scripture Reading

Old Testament..... Psalms 23.....Rev. Marilyn Bassfield

New Testament..... Philippians 4:11-13 &.....Rev. L. Jerome Bracey
Thessalonians 4:13-14

Prayer of Comfort.....Elder Maurice Webber
*Temple of Faith
Bibleway Church*

Musical Selection.....Jubilee Choir

Reflections

Mr. Anthony Cunningham
*Zion Hill Baptist Church
Cross Hill, SC*

Deaconess Jacquie Stewart
Deacon William Bethea
Motes Family

Musical Selection

Words of Comfort.....Rev. Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr.
Brookland Baptist Church

Committal

Benediction and Recessional

Postlude

A Tribute

Message from GGG to her Great-Grand Children



*Just Think,
You're here not by chance, but by God's choosing.
His hand formed you and made you the person you are.
He compared you to no one else---you are one of a kind
You lack nothing that His grace can't give you.*



*He has allowed you to be here at this time in history to
fulfill His special purpose for this generation*

Love You So Much! Don't Forget to Pray!!

GGG



**“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)”**

Her Family







Pall Bearers
Friends of the Family

Floral Bearers
Friends of the Family



Acknowledgements

We, the family of Mrs. Gelena Robinson Motes, are profoundly grateful for all the acts of kindness, support, and expressions of love over the years and most especially during her recent illness and our time of loss. Special thanks to Ms. Brenda Cornish, Ms. Marilyn Swygert, and Ms. Margaret Webber of Care Givers on Demand and to the Prisma Parkridge Hospital and the Prisma Hospital Hospice staff. We would like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Valerie Aiken, who is more than a family friend, for her constant and empathic support to the family throughout Mrs. Motes' illness and passing.