

Callbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

To Those I Love

When I am gone, just release me,
let me go – so I can move into my
afterglow. *You mustn't tie* me down
with your tears; let's be happy
that we have so many years. *I gave you*
my love, you can only guess
how much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have
shown, but now it's time I traveled on alone.
So grieve for me awhile, if grieve
you must, let your grief be comforted
with trust. *It's only for a while* that
we must part, so bless the memories within
your heart. *And then*, when you must
come this way alone, I'll greet you with
a smile and a *"Welcome Home."*

*In
Loving Memory
of*

Mrs. Vivian Gray Nelson



Monday, May 12, 2025

2:00 p.m.

*Second Calvary Baptist Church
1110 Mason Road
Columbia, South Carolina*

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-

Reverend Dr. Fronne Dudley
-Officiating-

Obituary

Mrs. Vivian Gray Nelson was born April 10, 1931, in Prosperity, SC, the third child of six children, to the late James and Maggie Hardy Gray. Seeking a better life for the family, her parents relocated to Columbia, SC when she was five years old.

Mrs. Nelson began her education in the Columbia public school system at Waverly School and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1949. She received her bachelor's degree from Allen University in 1952 and later pursued graduate coursework at the University of South Carolina.

After graduating from Allen University, she held her first position at Benedict College for seven years. In 1961, she fulfilled her true passion by becoming a teacher at Gadsden Elementary for ten years and later at Millcreek Elementary School, where she remained until her retirement in June 1990.

Along with her late husband, Herbert C. Nelson, Sr., she joined Second Calvary Baptist Church and became a very active member. As she grew within the church, volunteerism became the tool she used to strengthen her faith. She served faithfully as President of the Willing Helpers Ministry and a member of the Christian Education Ministry, the Social Action Committee, Senior Choir, the Golden Eagles Ministry and the Second Calvary Bowling League.

She also was a life member of the Unified Retired Education Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Columbia Alumnae Chapter, Burton Heights-Standish Acres Neighborhood Association, Scholarship Committee for the Retired Richland County Education Association and worked at the Polls for the Election Commission.

Mrs. Nelson enjoyed playing bridge, cooking, bowling and activities with her Church family.

On Sunday May 4, 2025, Mrs. Nelson made her transition. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Herbert C. Nelson Sr., a sister, four brothers, and a grandson, Herbert "Tres" Nelson III.

Mrs. Nelson life will lovingly be remembered by her sons, Herbert Jr. and Alexander; daughter-in-law, Carolyn C. Nelson; grandsons, Jordan and Brannon seven great-grandchildren; a host of devoted nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and church family.

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mrs. Vivian Gray Nelson, would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for all expressions of kindness and love during this time of bereavement. A special thank you to Mrs. Detra Gilliam, niece, for her unwavering dedication, love, and support and to the members of Second Calvary Baptist Church.

Order of Service

Omega Omega Service.....	Delta Sigman Theta Sorority, Inc.
Prelude.....	Mr. Ramelle Brooks, Musician
Opening Hymn.....	Second Calvary Baptist Church Choir
Scriptures Reading.....	Reverend Joseph Hood Sr. Old Testament – Psalm 23 New Testament – John 14:1-6
Prayer of Comfort.....	Deacon Charles Ashe Sr.
Selection.....	Second Calvary Baptist Church Choir “Swing Low Sweet Chariot”
Reflections.....	Dr. Cynthia Walter, Niece Mrs. Detra Gilliam, Niece Deacon Larry Walton Mr. Brannon Nelson, Grandson
Selection.....	Second Calvary Baptist Church Choir “I’m Free”
Words of Comfort.....	Reverend Dr. Yvonne Bradley
Recessional	
Postlude	



Committal, Benediction, and Interment

**Greenlawn Memorial Park
845 Leesburg Road
Columbia, South Carolina**