

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

First Calvary Baptist Church Missionary and Friends



I little knew that morning
that God was going to call your name.
In life I loved you dearly , in death I do same .
It broke my heart to lose you, you did not go alone;
for part of me went with you, the day God called you home.
You left me peaceful memories, your love is still my guide and though I cannot see you , you are
always
by my side.

Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same but as God calls us one by one
The chain will link again.

*Forever in my heart,
Love, Ernie*

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Celebrating the Life *of* **MRS. PEGGY SWANSON MITCHELL**



FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025
1:00 P.M.

FIRST CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1401 PINE STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

REVEREND DR. SAMUEL K. LEWIS
-PASTOR-
REVEREND JERYL SALMOND
-OFFICIATING-

Reflections of the Life
of
Mrs. Peggy Swanson Mitchell

Mrs. Peggy Swanson Mitchell was born January 7, 1929, in Maybeury, West Virginia -- the third of eight daughters to the late Thomas and Ruth Johnson Swanson. On Saturday May 31, 2025, in overnight stillness and surrounded by her devoted son, Peggy very peacefully answered her call from labor to reward.

At age eight Peggy moved to nearby Bluefield, Virginia and graduated from Graham Colored High School in 1945. After working in Bluefield two years Peggy began studying at Bluefield (WV) State College and graduated in 1951 with a dual degree in French and Spanish.

Next Peggy chose to explore beyond Bluefield in New York and Connecticut. She also earned a scholarship for a master’s program at the University of Iowa, but a misaddressed 1954 letter from a C.A. Johnson High School French teacher amazingly still arrived at her Brooklyn address to foster a move to Columbia, the town she thoroughly enjoyed as home for more than 70 years.

In 1962 she married fellow West Virginia native Ernest Mitchell and was widowed upon his death in 1978. The union produced one son, Ernest, Jr.

Peggy enjoyed teaching six, nine, and twenty years at C.A. Johnson, Booker T. Washington, and Dreher High Schools, respectively. She also enjoyed offering adjunct instruction at the Allen-Benedict Summer School (1955) and again at Benedict College (1990-1992). In the middle of her teaching career, she earned that master’s degree from the University of South Carolina (1971). Peggy loved helping students, but did not stress self-recognition. When she received Dreher High’s Teacher of the Year award (1985), her son labored to convince her to accept the honor.

After retiring from teaching Peggy focused several years on volunteering for literacy. She loved reading and helping others do the same -- especially mature Ukrainian immigrants studying for the U.S. citizenship exam

Peggy was an active member of First Calvary Baptist Church since shortly after arriving in Columbia. In the 1970s she became one of the earliest women to serve as church trustees. In 1973 she began her 46 years of teaching the Young Adults’ Sunday school class; later named the Mixed Adults’ class.

Around 2005 she realized that little archiving and physical documentation remained in the church and undertook a broad-church history project with Mrs. Lena Danner. She visited the South Carolina Archives, various local libraries, and consulted local journalists to help secure historical pieces of First Calvary; and additional records and documents for the church.

Though the presence of one so dear is no more, a legacy of love will forever be felt in the hearts of her loving and devoted son Ernest E. Mitchell; special niece and nephew, Lisa Palmer and Donald “Pete” Swanson; other nieces, nephews and a host of loving relatives and dear friends all who will miss her dearly.

The Order of Service
Reverend Dr. Samuel K. Lewis, Presiding

Prelude	
Processional	
Viewing.....	Funeral Directors
Opening Hymn.....	“How Great Thou Art”
Scripture Readings.....	Dr. Tracey Weldon-Stewart
	Old Testament – Psalm 23
	New Testament – Philippians 1:21-23
Prayer.....	Reverend Dr. Samuel K. Lewis
Selection	
Presentation.....	Mrs. Mazie Lewis
	Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Remarks.....	Mr. Robert Pindar, Church
	Ms. Diane Sumpter, Former Student
	Ms. Vanesa M. Jumper, Neighbor
Selection	
Words of Comfort.....	Reverend Jeryl Salmond
Recessional	
Postlude	

Committal, Benediction and Interment
Greenlawn Memorial Garden
7100 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, South Carolina

Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late Peggy Swanson Mitchell, wish to express with grateful appreciation a heartfelt thank you for all the acts of kindness shown during our hours of bereavement. May God bless each of you and sustain a lasting peace within your soul.