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Members of the Deaconess Board of Saint John Baptist Church

Active Floral Bearers

Members of the Emily Dial Davenport Missionary Circle of Saint John Baptist Church

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Deaconess Clareatha Robinson Laury, wish to express sincere appreciation for the concerns, love, and sympathy expressed during Deaconess Laury's extended illness and our bereavement. Please remember us in your prayers. May God continue to pour his blessings upon you.

Special thanks to Dr. Albert Humphrey and staff, Dr. Daniel Miller and staff, Senior Resources staff and volunteers, PRISMA Health Richland staff, NHC Parklane staff and Pruitt Health Hospice Columbia staff who provided excellent support for Deaconess Clareatha Robinson Laury.

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*Celebrating The Life
of
Deaconess
Clareatha Robinson Laury*



*Sunrise
July 24, 1933*

*Sunset
July 14, 2025*

*Wednesday, July 30, 2025
11:00 a.m.*

*Saint John Baptist Church
3404 West Bellline Boulevard
Columbia, South Carolina*

*Reverend Dr. Jamey O. Graham, Jr.
-Pastor-*

Memories



Reflections of the Life

of

Deaconess Clareatha “Reatha” Robinson Laury

Deaconess Clareatha “Reatha” Robinson Laury was born on July 24th, 1933, during the last year of the Great Depression in Neeses, South Carolina. She was the youngest of two children born to the late Willie and Clara Robinson. She departed this life peacefully at home on Monday, July 14, 2025, after an extended illness.

Young Clareatha attended the public schools of Richland County. She was a proud member of the CA Johnson High School Class of 1953 and an honor student. She continued her education at Good Samaritan Waverly Hospital and Columbia Hospital and graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in 1958, and later at Columbia College, in Columbia South Carolina.

On April 18, 1952, Clareatha Robinson married the love of her life, Reverend Moses Wilbert Laury, Sr. For 65 years, they were best friends and constant companions. Together they created a home that demonstrated the principles of a Godly marriage.

Deaconess Laury accompanied Reverend Laury while he served his country in the United States Air Force during the Korean War at Norton Air Force Base, in San Bernardino, California. After her late husband served honorably in the military, they returned home to Columbia SC. She became employed with the Good Samaritan Waverly Hospital, the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and retired from Richland County School District One in 1988. Serving as a dedicated nurse and educator gave her the opportunity to share her love for her community.

At an early age, Clareatha was baptized at Bethel AME Church, in Livingston, South Carolina under the pastorate of her maternal grandfather, Reverend Tommy Robinson. Upon her family relocating to Columbia, South Carolina, she joined the Friendship Baptist Church, on House Street. There she became active in the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Junior Choir and Senior Musical Choir under the pastorate of Reverend Doctor Frank M. Young. In 1960, she and her husband moved to the Farrow Terrace Subdivision and became members of Saint John Baptist Church, under the pastorate of Reverend Dr. Roscoe C. Wilson, Sr. Mrs. Laury quietly and faithfully served Saint John for 65 years in many capacities to include: the Sallie Boular Missionary Circle (65 years), the Emily Dial Davenport Missionary Circle (45 years), Deaconess Board (50 years), Sunday School Assistant Teacher, Vacation Bible School Teacher, Church Nursery Attendant, Assistant Leader, Chaplain, Reporter for the Emily Dial Davenport Missionary Circle, Church Greeter, Women’s Day Choir, Voter Registration Volunteer, annual Thanksgiving Basket preparer, Founder and Leader of Senior Citizens and Homebound Ministry, Widow and Widower Ministry, Elder Care Ministry, Four Score member and Lewis/Price/Kimpson Family Ministry Unit.

Her community affiliations included: attended the St. Anna’s Park that was founded by the late Anna Dixon, who lived in the neighborhood and invited Columbia Bible College (now Columbia International University) students to conduct weekly Bible Club classes to teach the youth about God and Jesus, attended May Day and Christmas events, plays, and talent scout events at St.



Memories



Anna's Park, as a Girl Scout collected money in the neighborhood from door to door to help raise funds to build the Good Samaritan Waverly Hospital and collected scrap metal for the Waverly Community for World War II at the Columbia Airport (now Columbia Metropolitan Airport) , Y-Teen, Junior Elk, Wellesley Place Beautification Campaign, C.A. Johnson High School Class of 1953 Alumni Association Member, Living the Legacy National Council of Negro Women Honoree, St. Jude Partners in Hope member, and currently, her LPN portrait is in the Allen University Waverly Wall Museum in the Waverly Clyburn Building located at the corner of Pine and Hampton Streets.

Deaconess Laury was a devoted and loyal mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin, employee, neighbor, and friend. She dearly loved her church and continued to work in her declining years to contribute to the duties of her church.

In addition to her parents, Deaconess Laury was preceded in death by her husband, Reverend Moses Wilbert Laury, Sr., and her brother, Steward Willie Lee Robinson.

Deaconess Clareatha "Reatha" Robinson Laury leaves to cherish her precious memory: one devoted daughter, Ms. Alesha M. Laury, of Columbia, South Carolina; one beloved son, Mr. Moses W. Laury, Jr., of Alpharetta, Georgia; two loving grandchildren, Mrs. Kelsie L. (Bryan) Lowery, of Inglewood, California and Ms. Aliya N. Laury, of Lakewood, California; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and friends, all of whom will miss her dearly.