

Pallbearers

Emmanuel Church Deacons

Floral Bearers

Emmanuel Church Women's Auxiliary

Acknowledgement

The family of Mother Hazel Lee Burgess Pinckney extends our heartfelt appreciation for every prayer, call, visit, card, and expression of kindness shown during this time of loss. Your love and support have strengthened us and reminded us of the many lives she touched. May God richly bless each of you for the comfort you have given.

— The Pinckney Family

*A Service of Victory
Celebrating the Life
of
Mother Hazel Lee Burgess Pinckney*



Friday, September 26, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Emmanuel Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ
1723 Blue Ridge Terrace
Columbia, South Carolina
Bishop Rickie Jackson
-Pastor-

CONTACT US:

Taylor Street Chapel
803-771-7799

Lower Richland Chapel
803-776-6922

WWW.LEEVY.COM

I. S. Leevy Johnson
-Owner-

Services Entrusted To:

Leevy's
Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

Reflections of the Life of Mother Hazel Lee Burgess Pinckney

On Sunday, September 21, 2025, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, Hazel Lee Burgess Pinckney, entered eternal rest at the blessed age of 83.

The Beginning

Hazel was born on September 15, 1942, in New Zion, South Carolina, to the late Stedna and Lessie Burgess. Raised in humble beginnings, Hazel grew up without electricity, running water, or indoor plumbing—but her home was rich in love, warmth, and faith. Alongside her younger sister, Lillie Sue, and later her stepmother, Sallie Lou, Hazel learned the values of resilience, hard work, and gratitude. She was educated in Clarendon County schools while also working in the cotton and tobacco fields, a testament to her strength and determination.

Hazel's childhood was marked by joy as well as responsibility. She loved to play basketball, even earning victory for her team with a celebrated game-winning shot. A proud graduate of Walker Gamble High School, Class of 1961, Hazel soon set her sights on bigger opportunities, first moving to New York City to work in factories and later helping her family back home gain access to electricity.

Early Years and Family Life

Upon returning to South Carolina, Hazel's path led her to Columbia, where she began working as a nurse's aide at Providence Hospital. There, she met the love of her life, Raymond Pinckney. The two were united in marriage on January 20, 1964, beginning a 61-year journey of love and devotion. To this union three children were born: Bridget, Raymond "Ray" Jr., and Sheila.

Hazel grew up attending Howard Chapel AME Church, and in 1964 she became the first candidate baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit at Emmanuel Church of Christ under the leadership of the late Bishop Malon Pollock. From that moment on, Hazel served faithfully as a missionary, teacher, and prayer warrior. Affectionately known as "Mother Hazel," she was deeply loved and cherished by her church family.

She was a devoted wife and mother whose priority was always her family. Even while working at Providence Hospital, General Electric, and later the SC Department of Juvenile Justice, Hazel ensured her home was filled with love, laughter, discipline, and faith. Together, she and Raymond raised their children to serve the Lord and to walk in His ways.

Mid-Years and Retirement

Hazel loved road trips and family vacations, ensuring her children traveled, looked their best, and carried warm meals for the journey. She instilled in them the importance of education, celebrating each milestone—her daughters' college graduations, her son's work successes and ordination to Elder, and her eldest daughter, Bridget's marriage to James Dewees.

Her greatest joys were found in seeing her prayers answered, raising three self-sufficient children, watching her grandson, Caleb Justin, grow from childhood to manhood, seeing him graduate from high school and college, and even praying for her son-in-law Jay through his heart transplant. Through it all, Hazel remained the rock and anchor of the Pinckney family.

In 2004, Hazel retired after 19 years with the SC Department of Juvenile Justice. She cherished working with young people, always encouraging them that it was never too late to change their lives. Retirement opened new doors of travel, adventure, and joy. She and Raymond explored destinations such as Canada, Hawaii, Las Vegas, California, and the Caribbean, always making memories and cherishing each moment.

Legacy

Hazel's life was anchored in faith. She believed in the power of prayer and often declared: *"If God can't work it out, it can't be done."* She exemplified strength, resilience, generosity, and unwavering faith in God. Even in her final years, Hazel gave thanks, saying she "could not and would not complain" because God had been so good to her.

Hazel leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, and perseverance. She is survived by her devoted husband, Raymond Pinckney, Sr.; her loving children, Bridget (James) Dewees, Raymond Pinckney Jr., and Sheila Pinckney; her cherished grandson Caleb Justin Dewees; her sister Lillie Sue; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, church family, and dear friends who will forever treasure her memory.

Hazel's life was truly one of service, sacrifice, and love. She was the prayer warrior, encourager, and steady anchor of the Pinckney family. To know her was to witness strength and grace in action. We celebrate her journey, honor her life, and rejoice that she is now at peace in the presence of the Lord.

A Tribute to Mother Hazel Pinckney

Mother Hazel, strong and true,
A heart of gold, a spirit too.
She walked with faith, she prayed with might,
Her life a beacon, shining light.
Through humble roots she learned to stand,
With love for God and guiding hand.
A mother's care, a teacher's grace,
God's peace reflected in her face.
She prayed us through both storm and test,
Believing God would do the rest.
Her gentle words, her steady ways,
Will echo on through all our days.
A missionary's faithful call,
A prayer warrior loved by all.
The rock, the anchor, guiding star,
Her legacy lives near and far.
Though Heaven claimed her, we rejoice,
For now she hears the Master's voice:
"Well done, my child, come take your rest,
Your journey's finished, you've done your best."
Forever cherished, deeply known,
Her seeds of love are ever sown.
Mother Hazel, our hearts you fill,
Your spirit lives within us still.



Memories



Order of Service

Elder Michael Thompson, Presiding

- Prelude
- Processional
- Opening Selection.....Emmanuel Church Choir
- Prayer of Comfort.....Elder Douglas Albert, Pastor, Emmanuel Church of Swansea, SC
- Old Testament.....Elder Charles Pollock, Pastor, Kingston Road Church
- New Testament.....Elder Abraham Belanger, Pastor, First Fruits Community Church
- Musical Selection.....Emmanuel Church Choir
- Pastoral Reflections.....Bishop Rickie Jackson, Pastor, Emmanuel Church
- Remarks:
 - Home Church.....Lady Teresa Jackson
 - Early Church Friend.....Mother Ida Clinkscale
 - Family Friend.....Ms. Vanessa Neumann
 - Family Friend.....Dr. Erica Fields
- Selection.....Emmanuel Church Choir
- Resolution.....Elder Michael Thompson, Emmanuel Church
- Acknowledgements.....Sister Rai Glover
- Solo.....Elder James L. Dewees, Son-In-Law
- Words of ComfortElder Raymond E. Pinckney, Jr.
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Recessional
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction & Interment

Lincoln Cemetery
 4900 Farrow Road
 Columbia, South Carolina

Memories

