

# If Roses Grow in Heaven

If Roses grow in Heaven  
Lord, please pick a bunch for me.  
Place them in my Mother's arms  
and tell her they're from me.  
Tell her that I love her and miss  
her,  
and when she turns to smile,  
place a kiss upon her cheek  
and hold her for a while.  
Because remembering her is easy,  
I do it every day,  
but there is an ache within my  
heart  
that will never go away.

Her guiding scripture was Proverbs 3:5-6:  
"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not  
unto your own understanding. In all thy ways  
acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path."

## Pallbearers

Christopher Lytes  
Ronald Lytes  
Keyon Lytes

## Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

## Acknowledgement

We, the family of Reverend Dr. Beverlyann Virginia Harper Austin, would like to thank each of you for your prayers, love, support, phone calls, visits, flowers, food, and any act of kindness shown to us during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way.

# A Celebration of Life In Loving Memory of Reverend Dr. Beverlyann Virginia Harper Austin



Saturday, February 7, 2026  
11:00 a.m.

Sidney Park CME Church  
1114 Blanding Street  
Columbia, South Carolina

Bishop James B. Walker, Officiating  
-Presiding Prelate  
Seventh Episcopal District-

CONTACT US:  
Taylor Street Chapel  
803-771-7799  
Lower Richland Chapel  
803-776-6922  
WWW.LEEVY.COM

Services Entrusted To:

**Leevy's**

Chris Leevy Johnson  
-Managing Director-

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-General Manager-

## Obituary

Reverend Dr. Beverlyann Virginia Harper Austin, 78, entered eternal rest on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Born on May 29, 1947, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, she lived a life devoted to God, family, education, and service to others. Dr. Austin was a loving wife, devoted mother, cherished grandmother, and a faithful servant of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Austin was born to the late Bernie and Bernella Harper, who were devoted members of Greater Cleaves Memorial CME Church. Her call to ministry was evident early in life. At the age of six, she became the pianist for Sunday School and the Children's Choir, and by age eight she was serving as church organist, a role she faithfully fulfilled until leaving to attend college. She joined the church at a young age and worked diligently in music and Christian Education.

As a young woman, Beverlyann began administrative work for Presiding Elder J. S. Sykes and later served two additional Presiding Elders in the Oklahoma-Muskogee Annual Conference. This early experience led to her service as assistant to Bishop Walter H. Amos during his tenure in the Ninth Episcopal District. She was richly shaped by the teaching of Reverend Simmie D. Lewers, a gifted biblical scholar, and the pastoral leadership of the late Bishop Oree Broomfield, Sr. Over the course of her ministry, Dr. Austin faithfully served six bishops of the CME Church in administrative capacities.

She earned her bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary. During her time at Saint John CME Church, in Washington, DC, Dr. Austin worked extensively in music and Christian Education. Answering her own call to ministry, Dr. Austin was Admitted on Trial in 1988, ordained Deacon in 1990, and Admitted into Full Connection in 1994. Dr. Austin served as Associate Minister at Vanderhorst Memorial CME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, along with other pastoral assignments. She pastored Mount Olive CME Church in Lexington, South Carolina, for approximately ten years, and later served as pastor of Saint John CME Church in Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina, for over nineteen years. Through her preaching, teaching, and pastoral care, she touched countless lives with wisdom, compassion, and faith.

Dr. Austin was deeply committed to fostering spiritual growth and encouraging rigorous study of the Bible to better understand God's mission. Her areas of specialization included Pastoral Care, Counseling, and Church Administration. She was a passionate advocate for education, urging both children and adults to pursue academic excellence. She took great pride in celebrating the accomplishments of her church members, often giving glory to God for their achievements.

In addition to her ministry, Dr. Austin was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Iota Gamma Omega Chapter, in 1985, alongside her sister, Carolyn Piper. She later joined the Omega Gamma Omega Chapter in Blythewood, South Carolina. She faithfully served the sorority in various leadership roles and cherished the bonds of sisterhood.

Reverend Austin leaves to cherish her memory, husband of 57 years, Reverend Dr. William Austin; sons, William Austin II (Mona), Gregory Austin, Reverend Mark Austin (Cherish); daughter, Querstyn Harvey (Corey); 16 grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other family members, many others who called her Mom, Grandmother, Sister and Friend.

Reverend Dr. Beverlyann Virginia Harper Austin leaves a legacy of faith, service, and love that will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her.

## Memories



## A Service of Remembrance

- Musical Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Musical Selection.....Charleston-Columbia District Choir
- Old Testament.....Psalm 23.....Reverend Claudia Harrison
- New Testament.....John 14:1-6.....Minister Keyon Lytes
- Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Jetson R. Maness  
Presiding Elder, Charleston-Columbia District
- Musical Selection.....Charleston-Columbia District Choir
- Reading of Resolutions.....Reverend Faye R. Houston  
Presiding Elder of Winston-Salem/Greenville District
- Family Reflection.....Reverend Mark Austin  
Pastor, Rutland Chapel CME Church
- Silent Reading of the Obituary
- Musical Selection.....Mr. Vincent Harmon
- Eulogy/Message of Hope.....Bishop James B. Walker  
Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District
- Recessional
- Postlude



## Committal, Benediction, and Interment

Memorial Gardens of Columbia  
9301 Wilson Boulevard  
Columbia, South Carolina