

Celebration of Life

MRS. LILLIE RUTH EDMOND PHELPS

Pallbearers

Jerald Brooks
Anthony Edmond
Charlie Edmond
Calvin Golson
Curtis Golson
Reginald Phelps

Floral Bearers

Joyce Mickens
Sesame Brown
Linda Crumpton
Valerie Rumph
Stacey Tyler
Tammye Wilson

Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late Lillie Phelps, would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who have shown an outpouring of love and care during this difficult time. To those who have traveled near and far to share in this service, we thank you. To those who have given of their time to participate in this service, we thank you. We are ever grateful for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers, food, and just your presence sitting with us during this time. For each act of kindness shown, we pray God will richly bless you!

Repast

Bethel AME Church
Fellowship Hall (Downstairs)

Interment

12:00 Noon, Thursday, May 28, 2026
Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina



**TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026
12:00 NOON**

**BETHEL AME CHURCH
819 WOODROW STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**REVEREND BOBBY COX, JR.
-PASTOR-**

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-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

Reflections of the Life of Mrs. Lillie Ruth “Lil” Edmond Phelps

Mrs. Lillie Ruth “Lil” Edmond Phelps entered eternal rest Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at the Lexington County Hospice House, in Lexington, South Carolina. She was born on December 19, 1938, in Swansea, South Carolina, to the late John Henry and Annie Johnson Edmond, where she grew up in a loving home with four siblings. Lillie attended the public schools of Lexington, South Carolina, where she excelled academically and with great athleticism. She was a standout point guard for Monroe Pinckney High School Basketball Team, and graduated Salutatorian of her graduating class.

Lillie began her Christian experience at a young age at Mount Hebron Baptist Church, in Edmund, South Carolina. Later in life, the family relocated to Columbia, South Carolina and she began attending Jehovah Baptist Church with her family. Lillie’s strong faith and love for God was her guide in how she loved and treated people and raised her children. She was totally devoted to her children and made sure they were exposed to music, dance and athletics. She was a stickler for excellence and made sure that her children were prepared for pageants, recitals, any performance or endeavor. She carried this same spirit on with her grandchildren, supporting and attending all their extracurricular activities.

Lillie began her career working at the S.C. State Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. While working at the State Hospital, she was introduced to the love of her life by her late sister-in-law, Gladys Phelps. She began dating Alonzo Phelps, and after a loving courtship, they were married in 1964. After marriage, they purchased their first home in the Greenview subdivision, where they remained until their death. To this union, two children were born. In 2014, they celebrated 50 years of marriage with a renewal ceremony and reception. Last year, they celebrated 61 years of marriage. She loved her husband immensely, affectionately calling him “Sweet Pea” and she continued to take care of him in her own way until his death in November 2025, while battling her own illness. She would repeatedly ask him, “You alright, or are you okay?” After marriage, Lillie joined her husband at St. James A.M.E. Church, where she served in several capacities as a Stewardess and led the Children’s Choir. She loved attending Sunday School and took great delight yearly, working with Vacation Bible School. She truly loved the Lord and St. James A.M.E. Church dearly.

Lillie retired from the S.C. State Hospital as a Lodge Clerk for Bryan Psychiatric Hospital. She retired after 28 years to take care of her first grandchild, Kaleb. After he started school, she entered the workforce again, stocking shelves at Super 10, which was supposed to be a temporary job. She loved working at the Super 10 Store so much, she stayed for 10 more years. After leaving Super 10 Store, she started her caregiving journey taking care of four different seniors as if they were her own parents.

Lillie was a great cook, taking after her mother. She was known for her baking and often sold and gifted cakes to friends and family. Her home always reeked of her favorite Red Velvet, German Chocolate, Pound or Pineapple Cakes. Lillie was a member of the Golden Rule Social Club, serving as treasurer for many years. She loved participating in their social, community and travel events. Lillie loved their annual trips to Biloxi, Mississippi and Atlantic City, often leading and coordinating the trips. She loved the family and friends weekly Pokeno Games. It started as something fun to do, turning into 18+ years of weekly play. Nothing stopped this. She planned her schedule around those weekly games. Lillie loved being with her family, and this was a great way for her to keep the connection. Her other favorite pastimes were sitting on the front porch with her “Sweet Pea” talking back and forth with their neighbors, listening to music and working out in her downstairs gym area.

Lillie was preceded in death by her loving husband, Alonzo Phelps; two brothers, James “Swamp” Edmond and Johnny Percell Edmond; one sister, Millie Bell Seymour.

She leaves behind to cherish and preserve special memories: a son, Kieron (Cathy) Phelps of Columbia, South Carolina; a daughter, Karen (Rodney) Way of Grovetown, Georgia; grandchildren, Kaleb Phelps of Columbia, South Carolina and Reina Way of Savannah, Georgia; one sister, Annie Davis of Baltimore, Maryland; one sister-in-law, Lizzie Edmond of Columbia, South Carolina; a godson, Norman (Lisa) Edmond of Columbia, South Carolina; special niece, Levonne (Ed) Brown of Columbia, South Carolina; loyal caregiving niece and nephew, Rachel (Reginald) Phelps; loving care-givers, Lawanna Wilson and Myra McKeever; caring neighbors; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Miss Me But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little - but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me-but let me go.*

*For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone.
It’s all a part of the Master’s Plan,
A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds*

Memories



Order of Service

Reverend Cheryl A. Moses, Presiding

Prelude

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Viewing.....Funeral Directors

Hymn of Praise.....“Blessed Assurance”.....Choir

Invocation.....Reverend Dr. Angela Williams

The Holy Writ:

Old Testament.....Reverend Adelia Davis

New Testament.....Minister Leslie Wilson Jenkins

Musical Selection.....“Oh, I Want to See Him”....St. James AME Praise Team

Expressions In Remembrance: (Two Minutes, Please)

Neighbor.....Sister Bonnie Wise

Church Class Leader.....Sister Shell Faye Martin

Family.....Sister Rachel Phelps

Grandson.....Brother Kaleb Phelps

Acknowledgements.....Sister Felicia Brooks

Solo.....“Your Face Is the First Face”.....Reverend Natalie Minor

Words of Comfort.....Bishop Carson Wise

The Song of Celebration..... “Going Up Yonder”.....Reverend Natalie Minor & St. James AME Praise Team

The Service of Committal.....Reverend Cheryl A. Moses

Recessional.....“When We All Get to Heaven”...Reverend Natalie Minor & St. James AME Praise Team

Postlude



Memories



Memories

