



Rev Ellie Winfield Nathaniel Palmer

November 7, 1933 - October 17, 2018

“To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

A Time to Be Born... Reverend Dr. Ellie Winfield Nathaniel Palmer was born November 7, 1933 in Eutawville, South Carolina. He was the eighth of twelve children to the late Rev. Josiah and Zadie Smith Palmer.

A Time to Grow... Ellie was reared in Orangeburg County in the town of Eutawville, where he graduated in 1952 from Roberts High School in Holy Hill, South Carolina. He furthered his education at Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina and in 1954, he was drafted by the United States Army and served his country during the Korean Conflict. He served two years in the United States Army and returned to Morris College Sumter, South Carolina where he received a B.S. Degree in Mathematics in 1959 and a B.D. Degree in Theology in 1979. In 1976, he was awarded a Master of Education Degree in Secondary Education by the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina.

A Time to Worship... Ellie was baptized at First Baptist Church in Vance, South Carolina and later moved to Sumter, South Carolina in 1952 and joined the Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of the late Benjamin F. Weston. Dr. Palmer has been a faithful member of Jehovah Baptist Church for 62 years.

A Time to Love ... Dr. Ellie W. Palmer was married to the late Rev. Dr. Shirley

M. Palmer and to this union three children were born, Wanda, Ronald and Ellie II and prior to his marriage, his eldest son Larry was born. He is blessed with nine grandchildren; Nehemiah, Amber, Perrin, Brittany, Brianna, Tamiris, Tianna, Ethan, and Aidan; three great grandchildren, Saniyah, Siani and Katalina, and three daughters-in-law Yvette, Debograh and Mildred; and two granddaughters-in-law Ebony Haigler and Yessica Palmer.

A Time to Serve ... For thirty-one years, Dr. Palmer was the Pastor of High Hills Baptist Church in Dalzell, SC. Under Dr. Palmer's leadership, the following accomplishments have been made: the completion of bricking in the church and landscaping of the yard (1985); expanded air-conditioning capabilities; church calendars, printed annually; installation of church telephones; cushioned covering for church pews; choir benches for the choir stand; improved church administration included revised financial reporting that encompasses an audit committee and a voucher system; expanded youth ministry included Junior Church; carpet installation; orientation classes for new converts; a church organ was purchased; tithing by members which continues to increase in membership; expanded Trustee Board with increasing numbers and the addition of women board members; purchase of new communion chairs; improved public address system; the addition of Prayer Ministry Program; an updated computer system, Share Food Ministry and in 1996 our sanctuary was renovated and the Education Building was added which includes; restrooms with a ladies lounge, the Pastor's Study, kitchen, fellowship hall, clerk's office, four classrooms, a nursery and a library. In 2014 the church parking lot was paved and a covered Picnic Pavilion was added to the campus.

A Time to Work ... After graduating from Morris College in 1959, Dr. Palmer was employed as a High School Mathematics Instructor at Central High School, (Cross, South Carolina). He moved his family to Sumter in 1965 and was employed by Sumter County School District Two as a High School

Mathematics instructor and Assistant Coach at Eastern High School. During Integration, he was transferred to Mayewood High School as Mathematics teacher/coach for eleven years and in 1973 he was promoted to Assistant Principal. Dr. Palmer served as Assistant Principal for five years until 1977, when he was promoted as the First African American Principal of Mayewood High School, where he remained in the position for twenty years. In 1992, Dr. Palmer retired from the field of education after thirty-three years of faithful and successful service in the schools and the community. The following is an acknowledgement to Dr. Palmer for the unending quest to enlighten the minds of the young through an unfaltering support of higher education and for the dynamic, liberating and vital expression of religion as a minister of the Gospel by his Alma Mater (Morris College, 1999);

Morris College was truly blessed by Dr. Palmer's love and support as a long-time official of the Sumter Alumni Chapter and a past national alumni president. Over the years he worked consistently to raise money for his Alma Mater to help it meet the difference between income and operating expenses. These funds play an essential part in helping to raise tuition to a level that includes those who look to Morris to assist them in preparing for full participation in American society.

In grateful acknowledgement and appreciation for your many contributions to public education, the Baptist denomination, the Sumter community and your Alma Mater, Morris College was pleased to confer upon Dr. Palmer the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity.

(Dr. Luns C. Richardson, Presiding President, Morris College May 10, 2003).

After many years of service, Dr. Palmer continued to serve the community through organizations and affiliations, some which are listed here: NAACP Life Member, supporting member of Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church, Community Intermediate Care Facility, treasurer; Sumter County African American Cultural Society, Chaplain; Palmer/Smith Family Reunion, President; Past, Morris College Board of Trustee, member; Wateree Baptist

Association, Lower Division, Vice Moderator and a past Moderator; and South Sumter Revitalization Committee Advisory Member. He was a friend to all, a servant of God, and a lover of God and humanity, that was Pastor Palmer. Several citations and awards were bestowed upon Dr. Palmer for his many years of dedicated service to the community, and the following are just a few; Appreciation for dedication & Leadership (Mayewood PTSA, 1990), Appreciation for Mentor & Friend (Ernest W. Palmer & Robert L Bryant, 1992), Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding and dedicated Service (SC Education Association, 1993), Appreciation as Guest speaker(WCAA Head Start Parent/Volunteer Banquet, 1994), Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement and Strong Support to Alma Mater(The Morris College Family, Dr. Luns C Richardson, President, 1980), South Carolina Effective Schools Training Program during 1986-87 school year, and Appreciation for Outstanding service and contributions to the Sumter Community(Sumter County Branch NAACP, 1991.) In 2012 he was awarded the Pioneer Award by the Wateree Baptist Association Lower Division.

“The personal accomplishment of alumni is the means by which a college or university really fulfills its primary objective. Morris College, his Alma Mater, was proud of your outstanding record as an educator, pastor, leader of the Morris College National Alumni Association and member of the Morris College Board of Trustees.

As a teacher, coach, and principal for 33 years in Sumter’s public schools, he was concerned not only about your students’ intellectual growth but also about their moral, physical and emotional growth. He taught them how to think, how to appreciate the good and beautiful, and how to live rich and useful lives.

A Time to Die ... God called him home from labor to reward on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at his residence in Sumter. He lived a long, full life and was ready to meet his Savior.

A Time to Mourn Fond memories of Ellie Winfield Nathaniel Palmer will be forever cherished by: his children Wanda Palmer Brown of the home, Larry (Yvette) Haigler Philadelphia, PA, Ronald Winfield (Debograh) Palmer of Blythewood, SC and Ellie Winfield II (Mildred) Palmer of Sumter, SC; five brothers Rev. Benjamin F. (Annie Ruth) Palmer, Joe (Claire) Palmer, John (Elizabeth) Palmer, Samuel (Elsie) Palmer of Eutawville, SC and James (Ruby) Palmer of Holly Hill, SC; one sister Ernestine Palmer (Henry) Mack of Bronx, New York; one brother –in-law, Eugene McFadden of Sumter, SC; nine grandchildren, Nehemiah (Ebony), Amber, Perrin (Yessica), Brittany, Breanna, Tamiris, Tianna, Ethan and Aidan; three great grandchildren Saniyah, Siani and Katalina and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends; and caregivers: Eugene McFadden, Freddie Bennett, Linda and Pete Taylor, Anthony Rich, Nell Baldwin, Mildred Palmer, Ethan Palmer, Aiden Palmer and Hospice Care of SC: Dr. Billy Clowney, Dr. William Kellogg, Mandy Harrison, Latoya McKenzie, and Daisy Godwin. He was preceded in death by brothers Frank and Isaac Palmer and Sisters Mary Lee Palmer Fuller, Emma Palmer Myers and Cora Lee Palmer Bowman. Special daughter Linda Pinckney Taylor of Cross, SC.

Dr. Palmer's favorite scripture is "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT **21**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel
304 South Main St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3381

Receive Friends

OCT **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Sumter
304 South Main Street
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3381
palmermemorialchapel@sc.rr.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Funeral Service

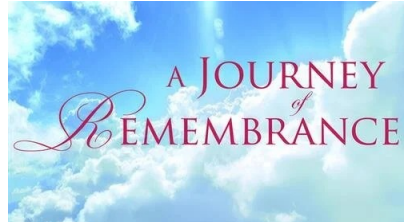
OCT **22**. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church
803 South Harvin St.
Sumter, SC 29150

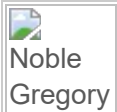
Tribute Wall



“ Palmer Memorial Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev Ellie Winfield Nathaniel Palmer



Palmer Memorial Chapel - October 21, 2018 at 11:35 AM



Noble Gregory

Beautiful. To the Palmer family I send my Love, Condolences, and Heartfelt Sympathy in the passing of Rev. Palmer. May God continue to be with you always.

Noble Gregory Sr. - October 21, 2018 at 10:31 PM



“ Rev Ellie Winfield Nathaniel Palmer

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ Mr. Palmer was a guiding light to me and so many other students. He lives on through his teachings, good deeds and in our hearts. The best Principal ever. Karen Hamilton Eastern & Mayewood



Karen Hamilton - December 11, 2022 at 06:29 PM

LJ

“ We still miss this wonderful man of God who was and still is a great influencer of young minds. Our hearts go out to the family, Truly, one of Mayewood's greatest administrators.

Thank God for allowing him to be in our lives and for the many lives he touched while here.

Until we meet again in eternity....

Sincerely

*Linda Johnson & Family
Mayewood High C/o '88.*

LJ - January 20, 2019 at 06:49 PM

VR

“ Vickie Robinson lit a candle in memory of Rev Ellie Winfield Nathaniel Palmer



Vickie Robinson - October 27, 2018 at 10:17 AM

CK

“ I am so sorry for the loss of such a great and positive person in my time at Eastern. Mr Palmer knew how to keep you straight, with a stern voice and a beautiful smile yet you understood that he meant business.

To the Palmer Family, remember that earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. God be with you and bless each and every one of you.

Cheryl Kyler - October 25, 2018 at 06:35 PM

LB

“ *My sincere condolences to you all during the loss of such a great man. Mr. Palmer was a true gem and a hard core Viking at heart. To know hum was to love him. Always smiling and speaking positivity into others. May he rest well from his labors down here. Well done.*

Latisha Billie-Geter - October 22, 2018 at 04:03 PM

ME

“ *God placed a beautiful family on this earth to love one another. The family love you but God decided it's time to come home and be with him-the family, friends and love ones will truly miss you but knowing where you are is truly a Blessing. Our prayers are with the family-We love you.*

Melvin & Barbara Everson

Melvin Everson - October 21, 2018 at 08:02 PM



“ *12 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Palmer Memorial Chapel - October 21, 2018 at 10:27 AM

JD

*Oh my!
Mr. Palmer was a great principal When ever you see him in the
hallways in Mayewood High, he had a smile for you. My condolences
to his family, and friends...
S. I. P. Mr. Palmer*

JoAnn Daniels - October 21, 2018 at 08:59 PM

AR

“ *A model husband and father, an amazing educator and community
activist, an inspirational leader but most of all A Great Man of God.
Condolences to Mr. Palmer's family from the Rose family!!!*

Anthony Rose, Mayewood Class of 1978.

Anthony Rose - October 21, 2018 at 10:12 AM

CJ

“ *To my Uncle REV. ELLIE PALMER A
awesome man of God who always did and
always hold a special place in my Heart. To
my PALMER and Smith we haven't lost a King
we have grown a Awesome Angel. God Bless
All.*



Celeste Jones - October 21, 2018 at 09:22 AM

SB

“ *We send our deepest condolences to the Palmer family for the loss
of your loved one. May God's unyielding strength give you comfort
and peace and we pray you find some solace in a life well lived.
The Culbreath and Budden Families*

sabrina Budden - October 20, 2018 at 09:01 PM

JC

“ *Mr. Palmer was truly a great educator. I feel blessed that I had an opportunity to learn from him (Class of 1972). Praying for the Palmer family.*

Julie Ceasar - October 20, 2018 at 08:26 PM



“ *My Dear Uncle Ellie has been the rock for our family as long as I can recall. He has always been a calm, peaceful, and gentle GIANT. A man that believed in FAITH, family, LOVE and education. As a small child growing up, I would look up to my uncle as he was tall in statue as well as in wisdom and character. Uncle was a man filled with wisdom and LOVE. His infectious smile and character spilled over to his home, church, family and community. Rev. Dr. E.W. Palmer has been a pillar to the Sumter community as a Pastor, Educator, Coach, and Civic Leader to name a few. His name and memory will forever linger on in this community and abroad.*

My dear cousins Wanda, Ronald, Ellie and Larry and the entire Palmer family we will pray for your continued strength during this time.

*Lovingly,
Angela Taylor*

Angela Taylor - October 20, 2018 at 02:45 PM

GN

“ *Gloria Nelson lit a candle in memory of Rev Ellie Winfield Nathaniel Palmer*



Gloria Nelson - October 20, 2018 at 02:26 PM

EP

“ To the family of Mr. Ellie Palmer. We are saddened to learn of the death of your father and our high school teacher, principal, etc. When we lose someone dear and close to us it is never easy. Please accept the Pringle family condolences for your incredible loss. I can remember one day while attending school Mr. Palmer told me, “nobody will hardly mess with you when you have a good religion.” I found that to be very true up to this day. Mr. Palmer was very interested in the students welfare and education during those years. I am a 1975 graduate of Mayewood and other brothers and sisters knew him while teaching at Eastern. The family has many good memories of your father. Mr. Palmer always had a belief in God. Let’s look to the future when death will be brought to nothing according to the Bible and none of us would have to go through such a heartbreaking situation. Remember Jesus resurrected Lazarus from the dead. Put faith and trust in Jesus Christ that he will do the same for your father. Continue to take care of yourselves since Mr. Palmer will be missed from among you.

Eloise Pringle - October 20, 2018 at 09:46 AM

SL

“ My condolences and prayers goes to the Palmer's family.
Sarah Lesane class 1983

Sarah Lesane - October 20, 2018 at 08:53 AM

SG

“ Sharon Greene lit a candle in memory of Rev
Ellie Winfield Nathaniel Palmer



Sharon Greene - October 19, 2018 at 10:16 PM



“ *So sorry the lost of a great man*



Stacey AlwaysMurray - October 19, 2018 at 08:51 PM



“ *The South Carolina Disaster Recovery Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev Ellie Winfield Nathaniel Palmer.*



The South Carolina Disaster Recovery Team - October 19, 2018 at 02:27 PM