



## Deacon James C. Simuel Sr.

May 14, 1920 - December 20, 2015

Deacon James C. Simuel, Sr., son of the late Lonnie L. Simuel and Helen Fox Simuel, was born on May 14, 1920 in Columbia, South Carolina. He transitioned on December 20, 2015 at Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital, Columbia, SC with loved ones surrounding him.

James was the last surviving child of eight children. His siblings were Lucious, Heyward, Robert, Leroy, Joseph, Gertrude and Catherine Copeland. He cherished his siblings dearly and they, along with his parents, helped to shape him into the wonderful family man that he was.

James attended Columbia area public schools and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1944. Education was a very important aspect in his life. He continued his studies at Benedict College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1950. James later received his Masters Degree in Education from South Carolina State College in 1962. He went on to become an elementary and high school principal and taught in various counties throughout South Carolina for over 34 years. James retired from the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, West Columbia, SC.

James had accepted Christ into his life at an early age and was devoted to the Word of God and to service for his church. He was a dedicated and committed member of Bethlehem Baptist Church of Columbia, Inc., where he was a Deacon for over seventy years and held various positions within the church. Deacon Simuel was Chairman of the Deacon Board, Secretary of the Deacon Board, Secretary of the Trustee Board, Chairperson of the New Members

Orientation Committee, and had membership in many other organizations within the church. With his faithful service and dedication, the church honored him with the title Deacon Emeritus.

During James' time at Benedict College, he met, and later married his wife, then Mamie Lou Rickenbacker. To this union they were blessed with four beautiful children; three daughters, Jacqueline, Gwendolyn, Darlene and one son, James Carroll, Jr.

Deacon Simuel is survived by his loving wife of over 67 years and his children Jacqueline (Sammie) Simuel Gaines, Gwendolyn (George) Simuel Jamison, James (Vernetta) C. Simuel, Jr., and Darlene (Bobby) Simuel Schumpert; five grandchildren, Whitney (Omari) Gaines Hall, Brittany Jamison, Briana Jamison, James Carroll Simuel, III, and Summer Simuel; one great-grandchild, Omari Hall-Brown, Jr.; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins, all who will truly miss him dearly.

James always thrived to have a decent and respectable life. He was a loving Christian, a dedicated husband, wonderful father and grandfather, and most of all a genuinely great man of God. His motto was "do the right thing" and when something was not going as planned, he would remind us to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path." -Proverbs 3:5-6

Deacon Simuel's daily prayers always ended with, "God if you would be so kind to honor my partisan, I will be careful to give you the praise, the honor, and the glory in Christ Jesus' name." Amen

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 27. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 786-6300  
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

## Funeral Service

DEC 27. 1:30 PM (ET)

Bethlehem Baptist Church of College Place  
1028 Eastman Street  
College Place  
Columbia, SC 29203

# Tribute Wall



“ *Deacon James C. Simuel Sr.*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *On behalf of the membership of The United Baptist Deacons of Greater Columbia, we offer his family our sincerest condolences. We know as a humble servant who love his family, church and community.*

**Rufus Watts** - December 27, 2015 at 11:12 AM



“ *Gwen Simuel Jamison lit a candle in memory of Deacon James C. Simuel Sr.*



**Gwen Simuel Jamison** - December 23, 2015 at 04:30 PM



*I'm sorry for your great loss, Gwen, which you must feel even now. I miss my parents, who left in 1979 and 2001. Blessings on your father's long and solid life.*

**Carl B. Strange** - August 16, 2024 at 04:31 PM