



## Rev. Dr. Simon P. Bouie

October 3, 1939 - June 12, 2026

"Well done, good and faithful servant." — Matthew 25:23

With profound sorrow and hearts filled with gratitude for a life extraordinarily well lived, the family of Reverend Dr. Simon P. Bouie announces his peaceful transition from labor to reward on June 12, 2026.

Reverend Dr. Simon P. Bouie was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, pastor, educator, author, civil rights pioneer, social worker, and community leader whose life embodied faith, courage, service, and justice. For more than fifty-six years, he faithfully served the African Methodist Episcopal Church and dedicated his life to advancing civil rights, educational opportunity, affordable housing, social services, and the spiritual development of countless individuals across the nation.

Born in Columbia, South Carolina, on October 3, 1939, Rev. Bouie was baptized, joined, and raised at the historic Chapelle Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. Bouie was a proud 1957 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia, South Carolina. He attended Allen University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree, and later attended the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia, earning both his Master's Degree and

Doctorate Degree. He also completed postgraduate studies at the Atlanta University School of Social Work and the South Carolina State Hospital Clinical Pastoral Education Program.

A trailblazer in multiple professions, Rev. Bouie was recognized as one of the first African American licensed social workers in the South.

At the age of twenty, while a sophomore at Allen University, Simon Bouie participated in the historic 1960 sit-in at Eckerd's Drug Store in downtown Columbia. His arrest led to the landmark United States Supreme Court case *Bouie v. City of Columbia*, decided on June 22, 1964, which became one of the most significant legal victories of the Civil Rights Movement.

Throughout his ministry, Rev. Bouie faithfully served Emmanuel AME Church, Bishop Memorial AME Church, Bright Temple AME Church, St. Paul AME Church, Mt. Olive AME Church, Mother Bethel AME Church, Metropolitan AME Church, Bethel AME Churches in Buffalo and Copiague, Zion AME Church, Union AME Church, and St. Mary's AME Church.

He was a Life Member of the NAACP, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, 100 Black Men of America, Operation PUSH, the 1000 Plus Club of Allen University, Hollywood Lodge No. 93, and the Booker T. Washington High School Alumni Association.

Just weeks before his passing, Rev. Bouie shared his life story through his autobiographical chapter, "The AME Boy from Oak Street," published in the anthology *The Passion of Our Culture*.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Willie Omia Bouie; his mother Evelyn Bouie; his identical twin brother Samuel P. Bouie; his sister Abbie Jean Bouie Wheeler; his aunt Claudia Bouie; and his grandmother Henrietta Bouie.

He leaves to cherish his memory his sons Erich Bouie and Harold Bouie, Sr. (Mika Kakehashi); grandchildren Yu Bouie Wilson (Justin), Sasha Bouie, and Harold Bouie, Jr.; nephews Michael Jameson, Samuel Bouie, Jr., and Renaud Bouie; cousins Brenda Moffett Worku, Rudolph Moffett, Sr., and Ruth Bowman; nieces Toschia Moffett Young (Alex) and Donzetta Moffett Faulk (Rence); and a host of cherished members of the Bowman family, extended relatives, church family members, lifelong friends, colleagues, former parishioners, and community leaders.

Memorial Contributions:

Allen University Office of Institutional Advancement  
<https://allenuniversity.edu/institutional-advancement>

USC Center for Civil Rights History and Research  
<https://civilrights.sc.edu/support-the-center>

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."  
— 2 Timothy 4:7

# Upcoming Events

## Visitation

JUN **26**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Wake

JUN **26**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Alpha Phi Alpha Omega Ceremony

JUN **27**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul A.M.E. Church  
835 Kennerly Road  
Irmo, SC 29063  
[http:// www.stpaulameirmo.com](http://www.stpaulameirmo.com)

## A Celebration of Life

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JUN 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul AME Church - Irmo  
835 Kennerly Road  
Irmo, SC 29063