



HOMEGOING CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF

THE REV. DR. GRADIS M. EGGLESTON, JR.

FEBRUARY 16, 1935 - AUGUST 29, 2025

HOMEGOING AND LIFE CELEBRATION SERVICE
IN HONOR OF THE

REV. DR. GRADIS M.
EGGLESTON, JR.

Saturday, September 13, 2025
8:00 AM Viewing 11:00 AM Service

Second Baptist Worship Center
857 Lumber Street | Coatesville, Pennsylvania
Rev. Dr. James L. Smith, Pastor

PALLBEARERS

Marcus Shepard	Brandon Shepard	Charis Lopes
Christopher Shepard	Jordan McCants	Jeremy Shepard

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Bryan Parr	Julius Eggleston, Jr.	Sheldon Eggleston, Jr.
Darren Parr	Ronald Jennings	William Kelley Jr.

FLOWER BEARERS

Nieces and Granddaughters

REPAST

Hutchinson Memorial UAME Church
R. L. Davis Fellowship Hall
825 East Chestnut Street | Coatesville, Pennsylvania

INTERMENT WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS

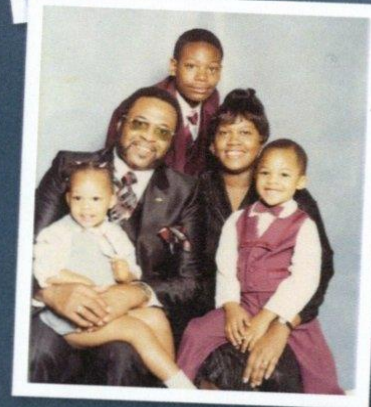
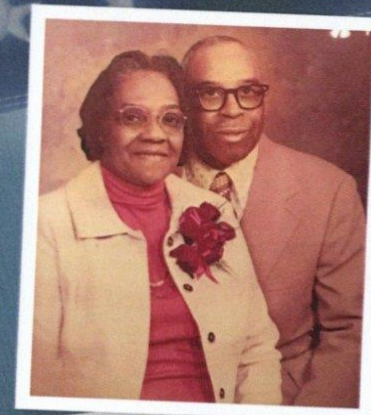
10:30 AM Monday, September 15, 2025
Washington Crossing National Cemetery
830 Highland Road | Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The family of Rev. Dr. Gradis M. Eggleston has been blessed by the love and kindness of all of you. We thank you so much for the food, visits, flowers, phone calls, and monetary gifts. All of this has helped make things smoother on our family. Thank you again.

Love,

The Eggleston, Parr, Brown and Lewis Families



Wright
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.

725 MERCHANT STREET
COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
610-384-0341 | wrightfunerals@aol.com
Ventnor T. Wright, Funeral Director, Supervisor

life story

The Reverend Doctor Gradis Matthew Eggleston, Jr., 90, of Coatesville, PA, was called home to be with the Lord, surrounded by his family, on Friday, August 29, 2025, at Chester County Hospital.

Born on February 16, 1935, in Warrenton, North Carolina, he was the son of the late Gradis Eggleston, Sr. and Mamie (Alston) Eggleston. He was the oldest of seven children born to their union.

In 1937, his parents relocated to Pennsylvania and settled at 909 Coates Street with their two little boys, Gradis Jr. and William. As a young boy, "AlMatthew," as he was affectionately called, attended the historic James Adams School on the corner of 8th Avenue and Merchant Street in Coatesville, PA.

Early in the mornings before school, young Matthew delivered the Coatesville Record newspaper. His paper route extended as far as Newlinville, on the southwest end of the city. He rode his blue and white bicycle everywhere to complete his deliveries, and no one was allowed to ride that bike but him! Sometimes he brought along his younger brother William. As he grew, Matthew became a strong and handsome young man, helping his hard-working parents raise his five younger siblings, especially his baby brother, Julius.

Even as an active youth, his love for cars was evident. He enjoyed washing them and worked at Freeman's Auto. He had his heart set on owning a Ford whistle top!

He received his secondary education at Scott Senior High School in Coatesville before beginning his military career.

In 1954, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. There, he furthered his education and became a certified medic. He traveled the world and experienced life beyond Coatesville before retiring after 20 years of service. During his second decade in the Air Force, **Staff Sergeant Eggleston** was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for selflessly saving the life of another.

On August 31, 1974, Matthew retired honorably from the United States Air Force. It was a bittersweet time, as he also mourned the loss of his beloved mother, Mamie. What he didn't know was that God was preparing him for his testimony.

After returning home to Coatesville, he was reinstated at Tabernacle Baptist Church.

God placed a beautiful young woman, Alice Lewis, in his path. They courted and fell in love, and on June 5, 1976, Gradis and Alice were married at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Coatesville, PA. Together, they raised a family.

In 1979, under the watchful care of his pastor, the late Rev. Charles V. Willis, Gradis became an ordained Deacon and was later called by God to preach the Word. He preached his initial sermon in December 1980. In 1982, he was confirmed and received his license in ministry. Soon after, in 1985, he was ordained as a preacher.

Gradis began working at the Coatesville V.A. Medical Center in 1975 as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor. He retired in 1995 after a 20-year tenure.

Over the years, while raising a family, Gradis and his wife raised and cared for a total of 36 foster children. **"Minister" Eggleston** continued his education, earning both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree.

He served faithfully for years as an associate minister at Tabernacle Baptist Church under the tutelage of Rev. Willis. Well-groomed and newly ordained by God, **"Rev. Eggleston"** preached the Word with power and dedication.

He enrolled in the Full Gospel Institute, later attending Philadelphia Biblical University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He continued further by enrolling in New Life Theology, ultimately earning a Doctorate of Ministry.

In 1995, he was called to pastor the First Baptist Church of Bernardtown in South Coatesville, where he served faithfully for 18 years. In 2006, while pastoring at Bernardtown, he earned and was ceremonially awarded his Ph.D. in Divinity. Also during his pastorship, he taught at the Lancaster Bible College evening institute.

The Lord blessed **Dr. Eggleston** in tremendous ways. Under his shepherd's care:

- Souls were saved
- Deacons were ordained
- Ministers preached their initial sermons
- Deaconesses were trained
- New members were instructed and baptized
- Prayer meetings and Bible studies continued
- Couples were counseled before marriage
- and babies were dedicated to the Lord.

Dr. Eggleston served as President of the Ministers' Alliance of Coatesville and Vicinity for 8 years and was a member of the Salem Baptist General Association and the Delaware/ Chester and Adjoining County Sunday School Union.

On July 2, 2017, Rev. Dr. Gradis M. Eggleston, Jr. was appointed Interim Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church. Most recently, he was a faithful member of Holy Dove Fellowship Church.

He loved to sing, especially with his brothers, and loved to teach the Bible. In all that he did, God and family were foremost in his life.

Dr. Eggleston leaves a legacy of love to his devoted wife, Alice L. Eggleston; his children: Silvia (Reggie) Brown of Reading, PA, Martin Eggleston (Lanette) of Ohio, Bishop Gradis Matt Eggleston III of Coatesville, and Audra M. Eggleston of Coatesville, PA; his sisters: Clotell (Billy) Kelley of Texas and Evangelist Charlotte Parr of Thorndale, PA; brother-in-laws, the honorable Harry Lewis, Sr. (Regina), Elder G. Steven Lewis (Emma), Gergome Lewis (Ruth), Robert Lewis (Willamae), Anthony Lewis, Larry Lewis, Douglas Lewis (Krista), Talmedge Lewis; sister-in laws, Audrey Woodward and Diana Lewis.

He is also survived by 10 grandchildren: Dontae, Renika, Reginald Jr., Chanel, Amber, Tori, Janeé, Jedda, Jordan, and Makaya; one bonus grandchild, I'Amina; 22 great-grandchildren; 13 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his brothers: Julius Eggleston, Sheldon Eggleston, and William Eggleston; his sister, Audrey Eggleston, who died at a very young age; brothers-in-law, Elder Ronald S. Parr, Glen Lewis; and sisters-in-law, Alinda J. Eggleston and Phyllis Eggleston.

Submitted with Love and Respect, The Family



Order of Service



Officiating Clergy Elder G. Steven Lewis
Pastor of Souls for the Kingdom, Lancaster, PA

Processional Clergy & Family

Music Prelude Bro. Keith Lewis

Veterans Tribute Local Veterans

Final Viewing

Opening Hymn "Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior"

Pass me not, O gentle Savior
Hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by

Chorus
Savior, Savior
Hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by

Let me at Thy throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief
Kneeling there in deep contrition
Help my unbelief

Thou the spring of all my comfort
More than life to me
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?
Whom in Heav'n but Thee?

Scripture Reading

Old Testament - Psalm 23 Rev. Dr. Randall Harris
Pastor of Siloam Baptist Church, Norristown, PA

New Testament - St. John 14:1-6 Elder Elijah Robinson
Holy Dove Fellowship, Coatesville, PA

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Steve Deveaux
Pastor of First Baptist Church of Port Deposit, MD

Remarks Rev. Dr. James Smith
Pastor of Second Baptist Worship Center, Coatesville, PA

Music Selection - "He'll Welcome Me" The Celebration Choir

Reading of Cards & Condolences Sis. Pamela Deppte

Tribute Rumeal Eggleston, nephew

Reflections Donald Austin, friend
Representative from Tabernacle Baptist Church
Representative from the First Baptist Church of Bernardtown

The Obituary Presentation

Reflections Apostle Bobby G. Duncan
Pastor of Greater Deliverance International, Coatesville, PA
Rev. Dr. James Lightfoot

Selection Brian Parr, nephew

Family Reflections (2 minutes) Bishop Ronnie Eggleston, cousin
The Children

Roll call of churches- *Pastors only

Music Selection - "Walk In the Light" The Celebration Choir

Eulogy Bishop Gradis M. Eggleston, III
Pastor of Holy Dove Fellowship, Coatesville, PA

Recessional Directives Ventnor Wright
Funeral Director

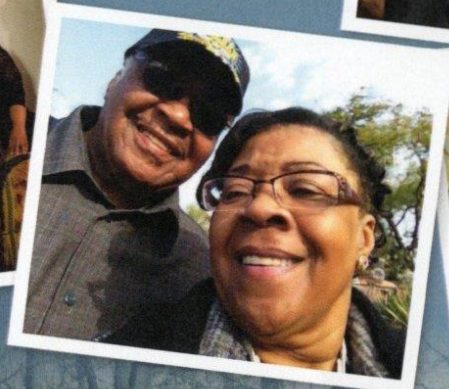
Benediction

Recessional Clergy & Family



*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 paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6



A Fallen Limb

A limb has fallen from the family tree.

I keep hearing a voice that says,

"Grieve not for me.

Remember the best times,

the laughter, the song.

The good life I lived

while I was strong.

Continue my heritage,

I'm counting on you.

Keep smiling and surely

the sun will shine through.

My mind is at ease,

my soul is at rest.

Remembering all,

how I truly was blessed.

Continue traditions,

no matter how small.

Go on with your life,

don't worry about falls.

I miss you all dearly,

so keep up your chin.

Until the day comes

we're together again."

