

Obituary

Rosa Lee Vinson Whitley lovingly called "Bouncy" by her family and all who loved her, was born on January 1, 1934, in Clayton, North Carolina, to the late Carrie Belle Vinson. She transitioned peacefully to be with the Lord early Sunday morning, April 6, 2025, at the Smithfield Manor Rehabilitation Center, where she was faithfully and lovingly cared for by her niece, Michelle Dobbin of Selma, NC.

Rosa spent her childhood in Clayton, North Carolina, living with her grandparents, Clara and Jonny Vinson. She was educated in the Clayton school system and had a passion for reading and crossword puzzles. In 1953, she married Lynwood Whitley, and from their union, Gary Vernon Whitley and Cary Bernard Whitley were born.

Rosa was a devoted member of St. Augustine A.M.E Church in Clayton from her Sunday school days until she joined the prestigious "Golden Girls" club. She attended regularly until she became ill.

Rosa was a member of the junior and senior choir and one of the original ushers, serving in various ministries at St. Augustine. She cherished her church and church family deeply.

Rosa was an outstanding cook, often the first one in the kitchen at church. She worked for years as a cook at Dorthea Dix Hospital and Clayton High School. Rosa was known for her steamed cabbage, trotters, and salmon cakes. She also worked at a daycare center as a cook, where the children eagerly awaited her delicious meals.

Bouncy was a beloved neighbor, often sitting outside with her long-time neighbor, Mildred Ray, affectionately known as Biddy. She enjoyed watching her favorite sports teams and wrestling. Above all, she loved her family, especially the children. Bouncy was the Mama, Grandma, Auntie, and sister who would spoil the children, young and old, whenever she had the chance.

Rosa was predeceased by her mother, Carrie Belle Vinson; her brothers, Lawrence Edward Vinson (Doris) and Jessie Willow Vinson; her sons, Gary Vernon Whitley and Cary Bernard Whitley (Naomi); and her grandson, Gary Vernon Whitley, Jr.

She leaves to mourn her brother, Carlton Vinson (Evelyn) of Rochester, New York; sister, Betty Jean Vinson Corbin (Bernard) of Tinton Falls, NJ; brother, Robert Elton Vinson of Clayton; two sisters-in-law, Susie Vinson of Fayetteville, NC, and Virginia Hinton of Clayton; two grandchildren, Cary (BJ) Bernard Whitley (Davina) of Alabama and Sonya Imhotep of Clayton; five great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends who will miss her dearly.



Order of Service



Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional (clergy and Family)

Musical selection:

Hymn: Leaning on the Everlasting Arm

Scripture Reading: (Pulpit directed)

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort: Robin Clark

Musical Selection: Tony Jenkins

Family Reflections:

Juanita Hinton

Acknowledgements/Reading of the Obituary:

Sheila Corbin Williams

Musical Selection: Charlene Atkinson

Eulogy: Elder James Sinclair

Recessional: Officiant / Sanders Funeral Home

Pallbearers: Nephews & Grandsons

Flower bearers: Nieces

Family

Musical Postlude

Internment immediately following service

Forest Hill Cemetery

Little Creek Church Road

Clayton, NC 27520



Repast: St. Augustine AME Church

Acknowledgements

The family of our dear Rosa Lee Vinson Whitley wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to all for the numerous acts of kindness, love, sympathy, and prayers extended to them during this time. May God continue to bless each one of you!

Special thanks to

St. Augustine AME Church
Smithfield Manor Nursing and Rehab Center
Three C Hospice, Smithfield, NC

Saved

(I Found a Friend)

sung by Bouncey, St. Augustine AME Church, Junior Choir

I've found a Friend, who is all to me, His love is ever true;
I love to tell how He lifted me And what His grace can do for you.

Refrain: Saved by His pow'r divine, Saved to new life sublime!
Life now is sweet and my joy is complete, For I'm saved, saved, saved!
He saves me from every sin and harm, Secures my soul each day;
I'm leaning strong on His mighty arm; I know He'll guide me all the way.

When poor and needy and all alone, In love He said to me,
"Come unto Me and I'll lead you home, To live with Me eternally."

Funeral Entrusted to:

Sanders Funeral Home 806 East Market Street
Smithfield, NC 27577
919.934.8416 / www.risandersfuneralhome.org

A TRIBUTE TO OUR

"BOUNCEY"



ROSA LEE VINSON WHITLEY

January 1, 1934 - April 6, 2025