

Active Pallbearers

Charles Brown
Henry Brown
Kenny Maybank

Delbert Brown
William C. Brown
Isaiah Williams

Honorary Pallbearers

Isaiah Brown
Ronald Brown
Willie J. Chisolm
Elijah McCants, Jr.
Joseph C. Sanders

Jacob Brown
Thomas J. Brown
Charles Hamilton
Nathanael Reid
Thomas Vandross, Jr.

Floral Bearers

Ushers of Wesley United Methodist Church
Former Students of Mrs. Thelma G. Richardson

Interment

Old Nazareth Cemetery, Pinopolis, SC

Expressions of Gratitude

The family of the late
MRS. THELMA GRANT RICHARDSON
is grateful for all expressions of love, kindness and comfort shown
during the passing of our dear loved one. May God's blessings be with you.

Special Acknowledgement – Home Care Team and Barber

Barbra Bennett
Leslie Davis
Joann Grice
Inetha Smalls

J. Louise Brown
Asia Gillians
Mackie McGhee
Natalie (Toni) White

Nicolo Bobo
Octavene Gray
Shelley Manigault
Carla Williams

Professional Services Entrusted To:



Gethers
FUNERAL HOME

200 Grace Street | Moncks Corner, South Carolina
221 Church Road | St. Stephen, South Carolina
Telephone: 843.761.8519 or 843.567.4046
"Committed To Excellence and Integrity"
www.gethersfuneralhome.com



A Service of Celebration

FOR THE LATE

THELMA
GRANT

Richardson
OCTOBER 10, 1926 – JANUARY 6, 2025

Saturday, January 11, 2025 | 11:00 A.M.
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1008 Sugar Hill Dr. | Moncks Corner, SC

THELMA GRANT Richardson LIFE STORY



Mrs. Thelma Grant Richardson, a woman of unwavering faith, boundless love, and enduring service, was born on October 10, 1926, in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. As the eldest child of the late Willie and Maggie Davis Grant, Thelma's life became deeply intertwined with the families and communities of Broughton Road, Kitfield, and Moncks Corner. Her extraordinary impact touched countless lives across Berkeley County and beyond.

A proud graduate of Berkeley Training High School (BTHS) in 1944, Thelma was inspired by remarkable educators who shaped her path, including Mrs. Emmaline Session, Mary Cooper, Anita Cole-Haynes, Mary Jefferson, and James McIver, under the leadership of their principal, Reverend R.A. Ready. She continued her academic journey at South Carolina State University, graduating in 1948, and immediately began teaching 7th and 8th grade social studies at her alma mater BTHS. Known for her high standards, she required all her students to memorize the U.S. states and capitals—a lesson that resonated far beyond the classroom.

Over the next 30 years, Thelma devoted herself to education, teaching in the Moncks Corner and Macedonia areas. Her passion for learning and commitment to excellence inspired generations of students, many of whom became leaders in their communities. Even after her retirement from the Berkeley County School District, her influence continued to shape the hearts and minds of those around her.

Beyond the classroom, Thelma's entrepreneurial spirit and love for history made her a beloved presence in the communities of Cross, Huger, Jamestown, Russellville, Pineville, Alvin, Cainhoy, and Highway 41. Her personal connections and thoughtful engagement with others enriched countless lives.

Thelma was also a gifted orator with a deep appreciation for literature. She brought life to works such as *The House by the Side of the Road* by Sam Walter Foss, *A Psalm of Life* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and *In the Morning* by Paul L. Dunbar. Her eloquent recitations and insightful guidance made her a sought-after speaker for family reunions, memorials, funerals, and special occasions. As the family historian, she preserved and celebrated the stories of the Grant, Frazier, Richardson, Thompson, Gibbs, Kitfield, and Moncks Corner families.

Thelma shared a beautiful partnership with her late husband, Jesse Richardson, the respected owner of Richardson Shoe Repair Shop in St. Stephen. Thelma and Jesse were devoted members of Wesley United Methodist Church where they served faithfully. Together, they created a legacy of faith, love, and service. Thelma was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

On January 6, 2025, Thelma peacefully transitioned into eternal rest at her residence, surrounded by love.

Those left to cherish her legacy are: her nieces, Shelby Vanessa McCollough of Elgin, SC, and Latitia

Order of Service

Reverend Jerry Harrison, Presiding

PRELUDE

Brother Jerome Carter

PROCESSIONAL

THE WORDS OF GRACE

OPENING HYMN #526

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Wesley Choir

PRAYER

Deacon Richard Brown

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Old Testament – Psalm 23

Reverend Lillian Washington

New Testament – II Timothy 4:6-8

Reverend Dr. Leon G. Brown

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881

The Apostles' Creed

GLORIA PATRI #71

SELECTION

Sister Gwendolyn T. Bishop

REFLECTIONS: Please limit your remarks to Three minutes

Community Sister Deloris T. Duncan

Family Brother Walter Bernard Brown

INSTRUMENTAL SELECTION

Brother James Curry

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

REMARKS-RESOLUTION

Sister Betty Jones | *Wesley United Methodist Church*

SELECTION

Sister Janice Fennick Green

MESSAGE OF COMFORT

Reverend Shelia Brown Butler

SELECTION

Reverend Delbert Brown

COMMITTAL

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL



The House By The Side Of The Road

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn
In the place of their self-content;
There are souls like stars, that dwell apart,
In a fellowless firmament;
There are pioneer souls that blaze the paths
Where highways never ran-
But let me live by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the road
Where the race of men go by-
The men who are good and the men who are bad,
As good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorner's seat
Nor hurl the cynic's ban-
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road
By the side of the highway of life,
The men who press with the ardor of hope,
The men who are faint with the strife,
But I turn not away from their smiles and tears,
Both parts of an infinite plan-
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead,
And mountains of wearisome height;
That the road passes on through the long afternoon
And stretches away to the night.
And still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice
And weep with the strangers that moan,
Nor live in my house by the side of the road
Like a man who dwells alone.

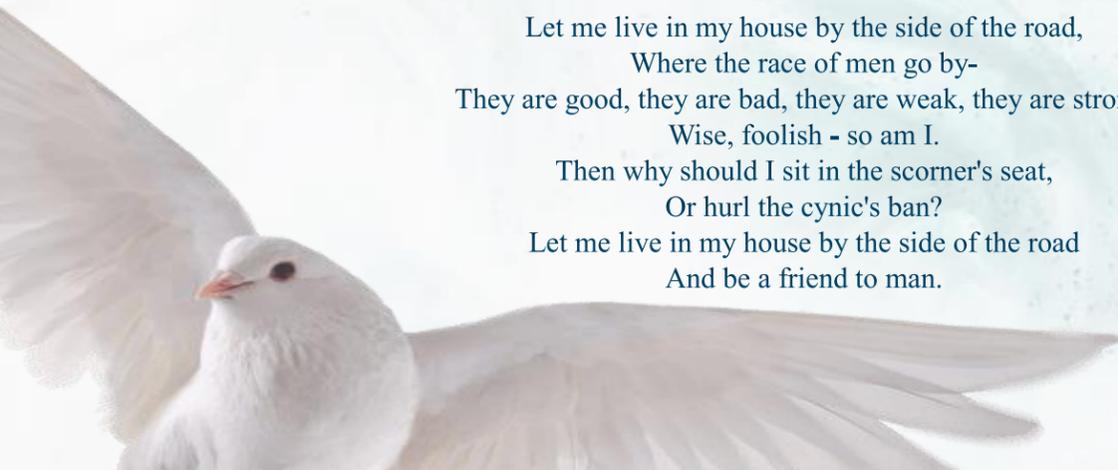
Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
Where the race of men go by-
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong,
Wise, foolish - so am I.
Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,
Or hurl the cynic's ban?
Let me live in my house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

Nesbitt of Columbia, SC; her nephew, Michael Lawyer of Moncks Corner, SC; her sister-in-law, Jackie Grant of Moncks Corner, SC; her grandnephew, Courtney R. Williams (United States Navy); her grandniece, Chaquita Williams of Britton's Neck, SC; and a host of extended family and friends who will deeply miss her presence.

She was preceded in death by her siblings, Maggie M. Grant and Willie "Rigby" Grant, Jr.

Thelma's life is a testament to the power of love, service, and unwavering integrity. As Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote:"It matters little where I was born or if my parents were rich or poor, but whether I live an honest man and hold my integrity firm in my clutch—I tell you, my brother, as plain as I can—It matters Much."

The life of Mrs. Thelma Grant Richardson will forever be celebrated by those who had the honor of knowing her.



Precious Memories

