

*A Celebration of Her Life, Love and Legacy*  
*Deaconess Dr. Emogene Stroman*  
*Middleton*

Sunrise: November 8, 1937

Sunset: November 28, 2024



Thursday  
December 5, 2024  
11:00 A.M.  
HISTORIC  
FIRST BRYAN  
BAPTIST CHURCH

575 West Bryan Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
Reverend Christopher Pittman  
Pastor, Eulogist



# *The Life and Journey of Deaconess Dr. Emogene Stroman Middleton*

***“I was born, I was reared, I strived to reach certain goals and I arrived”***

## ***In the Beginning:***

*On November 8, 1937, in the Garden City of Orangeburg South Carolina, in a little white house in the hands of a local midwife, Moses and Johnetta Maxwell Stroman welcomed into the world a daughter, Emogene Gertrude. At the age of two, Emogene was taken to Savannah Georgia to live with her maternal grandparents John and Emma Maxwell. Savannah offered what was believed to be life and accompanying opportunities of the big city as compared to her humble birthplace. According to Emogene “no one told us we were poor.” Life was rich because of our deep family relationships, Sunday school, church, and school activities. Raised in a home ruled with discipline, strong Christian values and unlimited love, Emogene was immersed in the value of family.*

## ***Passport to the Future:***

*Educated in the public schools of Savannah, Emogene displayed a natural thirst for learning and always wanting to excel. After her primary education was completed, she attended Mather Academy, a private boarding school in Camden, South Carolina attaining the rank of third in her graduating class of 26 students. Strong Christian values led Emogene to attend Morris Brown College in Atlanta where she graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology. Always believing that there was more to learn, she continued her formal education becoming the first African American to earn a Master’s Degree (Counselor Education) from Georgia Southern College in Statesboro, GA. The challenge became clear... why stop...off she went back to Orangeburg’s South Carolina State University earning a Doctor of Education Degree.*

## ***Social Activism***

*Believing that “to whom much has been given, much is required,” it was only natural that Emogene would choose a life of service to others. After college graduation, she moved back to Savannah at a time when sit-ins and wade-ins for equality and social justice were at their peak. Her contribution was serving as the first secretary for the newly formed Chatham County Crusade for Voters under the guidance of the great Hosea Williams. The goal of the organization was to register Savannah’s black residents and get them out to vote. The test was the roadblock of the time, voters with limited education were routinely denied the right to vote. Emogene, being the problem solver that she was, became Chatham County’s first literacy teacher. Sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Emogene was trained by the great educator and civil rights activist, Septama Clark of Charleston, SC.*

## ***Professional Journey***

*Having touched the lives of thousands of students and educational professionals, Emogene began her career as public-school educator serving at the Broad River Elementary School in Beaufort County, South Carolina. Over her 50 plus years of educational service, she served as both a teacher and administrator in*

*the Savannah-Chatham County Georgia Public Schools, Jasper County South Carolina Public Schools and Savannah State University.*

### **Religious and Social Engagement**

*As a member of the Historic First Bryan Baptist Church of Savannah, Emogene has served in most of the church's ministries and organizations, among them the first female Sunday School Superintendent. A dedicated Deaconess, her service extended beyond her home church to spread and teach the word of God at numerous Women's Retreats and other churches throughout Georgia. Locally, she served on the Executive Board of the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, was a member of the local NAACP, raised community awareness of the plight of young African American males through her membership in the Savannah-Chatham Public School System African American Male Achievement Group and as an officer in Nu Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. among her many civic contributions and activities.*

### **A Love Story**

*It could simply be said that Emogene Stroman Middleton first and foremost loved God, her husband of over 60 years Carl, her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her family and friends but nothing about her depth of love was simple. Emogene met her husband and life partner Carl on the campus of Morris Brown College and they married in 1961. Her strongest supporter and cheerleader, the love and light of her life, they were blessed with three children, Carl Jr., Carlton and Carla. Her passion for motherhood and being a grandmother was unsurpassed. Her love of family was on full display through the "wall of fame" that she kept in her home. Pictures of parents and siblings, her children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren were a celebration of achievements large and small. She loved and was loved unconditionally. Her love of cooking, baking and gardening was well known and appreciated by those who were benefactors of her skills.*

### **A Closer Walk with Thee**

*I am in heaven loved ones, oh so happy and so bright, there is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light. Do not grieve for me dear loved ones, for I love you dearly still. Try to look beyond earth's shadows, pray and trust our father's will. When your work is all completed He will gently call you home; oh the rapture of that meeting oh my joy to see you come.*

*On November 28, 2024, God dispatched angels to escort Emogene to her reward. Standing at the gates of heaven are her parents, Moses and Johnetta; grandparents, John and Emma Maxwell; brothers, Hercules, Samuel, Ibrahim (Abe), George, Tommy, and Johnny; and sister, Mary.*

*Left to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy are her loving and devoted husband, Carl Middleton; children, Carl Middleton, II (Shannon), of Atlanta, GA, Dr. Carlton (Tamala) Middleton, and Carla Halls (Brodrick), both of Savannah, GA. Her grandchildren, Carl Middleton, III (Ashley) of Atlanta, GA, Brejhe Halls of Atlanta, GA, Carl Middleton, IV of Savannah, GA, Bahari Halls of Savannah, GA, Zion and Caleb Middleton of McDonough, GA, Hannah Middleton, and Zoe Middleton, both of Savannah, GA. She also has 3 great grandchildren, Rachel, Taylor, and Elijah Middleton. Emogene has 3 siblings, Ahmad Shabazz (Henry Stroman) of Anderson, SC, Faye Bridgeforth and Rossie Caldwell, both of Savannah, GA; two adopted sisters, Johnetta Green and Hilda Johnson, both of Savannah, GA; 3 sisters-in-law, Earline Hall of Atlanta, GA, Mary Stroman of Orangeburg, SC, and Shafequa Abdullah of Savannah, GA; and two special sisters-in-law, Lily Middleton, Savannah, GA and Bettye Budin of Sheldon, SC. Emogene also leaves fond memories to over 40 nieces and nephews, over 60 grand nieces and nephews, along with a host of great grand nieces and nephews, friends; and a godchild, Laura Wiggins.*

# *Make Joyful Noise*

*Processional*

*"He Knows My Name" FBBC Music Ministry*

*Scripture and Invocation*

*"Psalm 100" Reverend Dennis Akins*

*Duet*

*Ms. Hannah & Miss Zoe Middleton  
(granddaughters)*

*Poem*

*"Ms. Brejhe` Halls (granddaughter)*

*"Joyful Praise"*

*Ms. Beatrice Williams*

*Mrs. Audrey Bonaparte Johnson*

*Mrs. Trish Garvin*

*Proclamation & Resolutions*

*Ms. Sebrina Caldwell (niece)*

*Thank you*

*Mrs. Carla Halls (daughter)*

*Song of Preparation*

*Mr. Zion & Mr. Caleb Middleton  
(grandsons)*

*Words of Comfort*

*Pastor Christopher Pittman*

*Recessional*

## *And She Shall Rest*

*Service of Interment*

*Beaufort National Cemetery*

*1601 Boundary Street | Beaufort, SC 29902*









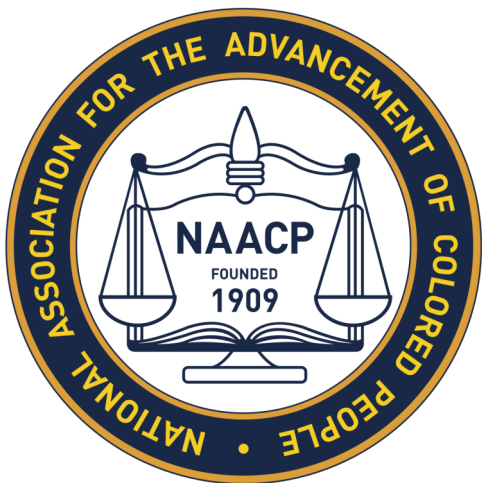




# Thank You

*In loving memory of Dr. Emogene S. Middleton, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Candler Hospital, Georgia Hospice, and Eunice Feagin for their compassionate care during her final days. Your kindness and support meant the world to us.*

*Thank you!*



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