

### WHEN I MUST LEAVE YOU

*When I must leave you for a little while  
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears  
And hug your sorrow to you through the years.  
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;  
And for my sake and in my name  
Live on and do all things the same.  
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,  
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,  
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer  
And I in turn will comfort you And hold you near;  
And never, never be afraid to die,  
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

### I'M FREE

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.  
I took His hand when I heard him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found that peace at the close of day.  
If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee  
God wanted me now; He set me free.*

### PALLBEARERS

Donald Lockwood  
Terrance Lockwood  
Randy Prioleau

Eric Smalls  
Christopher Singleton  
Henry Cromedy

### HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Gary Bess, Sr.  
Gary Bess, Jr.  
Carl Bess

Benjamin Bess  
Brandon Heyward, Jr.  
Motahri Stone

### FLORAL BEARERS

Family and Friends

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of the late  
**GENNALEEZA JANE BESS HEYWARD**  
would like to thank you for your visits, gifts, phone calls and  
prayers. May God forever bless you!

### AFTERGLOW

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;  
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.*

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## CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



*Gennaleeza*  
*Jane*  
**BESS HEYWARD**

NOVEMBER 15, 1949 - OCTOBER 25, 2024

Sunday, November 3, 2024 | 1:00 PM

New Hope United Methodist Church  
152 Heywardridge Lane  
Huger, SC 29450

Reverend Cheryl Johnson, Pastor

# Gennaleeza's LIFE AND LEGACY

*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6 (KJV)*

## A TIME TO BE BORN

Gennaleeza Jane Bess Heyward is the daughter of the late Mr. Rufus Guy Lockwood (Huger, SC) and the late Ms. Thelma Bess (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). She was born on November 15, 1949, in Charleston, SC.

## A TIME TO PLANT

Gennaleeza received her formal education at Cainho Elementary/High School in Huger, South Carolina. She moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to further her education and care for her family. Gennaleeza then moved to New York City, where she worked at Alexander's, a high-scale business, clothing, and retail department store with the passion of becoming a fashion designer. Gennaleeza always had creativity and passion for fashion design which allowed it to transform into a new, beautiful way. She loved to shop for fashionable clothing and styled them elegantly. After working at Alexander's for 13 years in New York City and spending time in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Gennaleeza returned to Huger, SC, to start a family.

## A TIME TO EMBRACE

On June 20, 1978, Gennaleeza married William Heyward, Jr. To this union, three children were born: Jamie, Brandon, and Randy. She also mothered Bernard Heyward III, Shawn H. Bess and Elizabeth Gant. Her children made her a happy grandmother of 15 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren.

Gennaleeza was employed at Sandpiper Village of Mount Pleasant, S.C. as a dietary assistant in the early 90's. She loved feeding the disabled senior adults good, nutritious food. She also worked for Cainho Elementary, High School and the Berkeley County School District (for over 20 years until she retired in 2009). The children that she worked with gave her so much joy and happiness.

Post-retirement, she continued to work as a private home health aide for disabled, senior adults and children.

Gennaleeza was always known as a humble, loving, and straightforward person who loved GOD with a passion. Gennaleeza accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior in 1985.

Gennaleeza became a member of New Hope United Methodist Church at a young age and continued to be called on by the Lord to do missionary assignments. She was a Sunday School teacher and an Evangelist who loved to teach bible scriptures and talked about living a life for the Lord. She was also a Lay Servant, served on the Stewardess Board, and a called-on prayer warrior for the Interdenominational Women's Prayer Group for 7 years at God's Way World Outreach Church, Mount Pleasant, SC. She always ministered to people every place she went. Gennaleeza's passion and goal was to travel internationally to foreign places to pray for God's children and to carry on missionary assignments.

## A TIME TO TRANSITION

Gennaleeza, transitioned to a new life in Glory on Friday, October 25, 2024.

Gennaleeza was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. Rufus Guy Lockwood and Ms. Thelma Bess; son, Bernard Heyward III; grandson, Tyrell Bess and brother, Charlie Burns.

## A TIME TO KEEP

Gennaleeza Jane Bess Heyward is survived by her husband, Mr. William Heyward, Jr.; her children, Mr. Shawn H. Bess, Mr. Jamie B. Heyward (April), Deacon Brandon J. Heyward (Devonia), Mr. Randy M. Heyward (Shayla) and Ms. Elizabeth Gant; her siblings: Ms. Debra Bess, Mr. Gary Bess (Karen), Mrs. Vanessa Bess, Mr. Carl Bess, Mrs. Monica Bess, Ms. Stacey Bess, (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Ms. Gayle Lockwood, Mr. Gary Lockwood (Lorrie), Mrs. Ezora Frazier (Anthony), Ms. Sheryl Murrah, and Ms. Alfreda Lockwood; special aunts, Anna Watson and Albertha Simmons; special cousins: Apostle Dr. Helen Kinloch, Juanita Bess, Valerie Bess, Ann Bess, Carolyn Bess, Louise Smalls, Beatrice Robinson, Louise Geathers, Ella Mae Dupree, Geraldine Lockwood, Kathleen Lockwood, Tom Lockwood, Pastor Melvin Wright, Sr. and Mrs. Kathy Wright; special nieces: Monique Bess, LaShawn Heyward-Ellington and Jennien Heyward; special friends: Pastor Geneva Stafford, Pastor Stephanie Stafford, Eliza Stafford, Thelma Cromedy and Mildred Cromedy; special pet cat, Furby; and a host of grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

# Loving Memories



# Order of Service

**Pastor Lee Johnson, Officiating**  
**Associate Pastor**

Prelude	Musicians and Combined Choir
Processional	The Clergy and The Family
Hymn	Combined Choir
Prayer	Pastor Melvin Wright
Scripture Readings	
	Old Testament: Psalm 34:1-19—Pastor Smalls
	New Testament: II Corinthians 5:1-8—Pastor Geneva Stafford
Solo	Jaunwanna Johnson
Remarks	Sister Christine McCallister, <i>Lay Leader</i> Vanessa Bess, <i>Sister</i> Shawn Bess, <i>Son</i> Brandon Heyward, <i>Son</i> Juanita Bess, <i>Cousin</i>
Selection	Combined Choir
Affirmation of Faith	UMH #881
Gloria Patri	UMH #71
Solo	The Singing Voices of Joy
Words of Comfort	Apostle Dr. Helen R. Kinloch
Solo	"I Won't Let You Fall"
Committal	
Benediction	
Parting View	
Recessional	

## INTERMENT

New Hope United Methodist Church Cemetery

