

## Order of Service

Reverend Carnell Hampton, Officiant

Musical Prelude ..... Mrs. Hope Evans

Processional ..... Clergy and Family

Final Viewing

Call to Worship and Invocation ..... Reverend Carnell Hampton

Hymn of Praise ..... **“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”** ..... Choir

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

Eternal God, guardian of our lives, we confess that we are children of dust, unworthy of your gracious care. We have not loved as we ought to love, nor have we lived as you command, and our years are soon gone. Lord, God, have mercy upon us. Forgive our sins and raise us to new life, so that as long as we live, we may serve you until dying, we enter the joy of presence, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

The Mercy of God ..... Reverend Carnell Hampton

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament ..... **Psalm 121** ..... Reverend Arthur Ford, Pastor  
Greater St. Mark AME Church

New Testament ..... **Revelation 21: 1-4** ..... Reverend Mary R. Hagan

Duet ..... **“Beyond the Shore”** ..... Deacon Vanessa Witherspoon  
Elder Joseph Bennett

Expressions of Love ..... Reverend Carnell Hampton  
Elder Chars G. Kennedy  
Minister Dianna Hilliard  
Ms. Adelaide Staton

Solo ..... **“I Won’t Complain”** ..... Ms. Carrie Dell Myers

Words of Comfort ..... Reverend Dr. Ella F. Busby, Pastor

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Directions of Funeral Director ..... Samuels Funeral Home

Recessional ..... **Medley of Songs** ..... Choir

Committal

Benediction

Interment ..... Melina Presbyterian Church Cemetery

## Active Flower Bearers

Family and Friends  
Melina Presbyterian Women

Honorary Floral Bearers  
Willing Worker Chapter No. 319

## Pallbearer

Family and Friends  
Melina Presbyterian Men

## Ushers

Melina Church Usher Board



## In Appreciation and Gratitude

The family of **Gladys Sarah Collins Cooper** acknowledges with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, kindness, and support shown to us during this hour of bereavement. With a grateful heart, we extend a special “Thank You” to Reverend Dr. Ella Busby and Melina Church Family. The Greater St. Mark Church Family, Pocatlico Senior Living Health and Rehabilitation, Manning, South Carolina and Amedisys Hospice of Sumter, South Carolina. May God bless and keep you all.

**-The Collins-Cooper Family**

Scan  
For  
Obituary



~ Services Entrusted To ~

SAMUELS FUNERAL HOME, LLC., MANNING, SC

Hayes F. Samuels, Jr., Past Owner and Mortician

**Yvonne J. Samuels, Owner**

Charles H. Jackson, Mortician/Business Manager

(803) 435-2297 or (803) 435-2483 - Fax (803) 435-4757

E-mail: [samuelsfuneralhome@yahoo.com](mailto:samuelsfuneralhome@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.samuelsfuneralhome.com](http://www.samuelsfuneralhome.com)

IN LOVING  
*Memory*

*Gladys Sarah*  
**COLLINS COOPER**

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026  
11:00 AM

MELINA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
3539 BLACK RIVER ROAD  
GABLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

REVEREND DR. ELLA F. BUSBY, PASTOR  
REVEREND CARNELL HAMPTON, PRESIDING

## *Her Journey*

### ***A Life Well Lived: The Story of Gladys Sarah Collins Cooper***

**Gladys Sarah Collins Cooper**, a beloved daughter of the late Junious Collins and Carolyn “Caroline” White Collins, was born October 1, 1939, in Clarendon County, New Zion, South Carolina. Three sisters, Fannie Collins, Julia Collins Weaver, Ellie Collins Lowery, and six brothers Walter (WJ) Collins, Jerome Collins, Sr., David Collins, Daniel Collins, John Collins, II, Kelly Bennett, Sr., and her husband Eddie Cooper preceded her in death.

At a youthful age, **Gladys** “Jad” as she was affectionately called, by her youngest sister, nieces and nephews, accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and joined Friendship Presbyterian Church in New Zion, South Carolina, where she participated in Sunday School and youth activities.

As an adult she relocated to Gable, South Carolina and joined Melina Presbyterian Church, under the leadership of the former Pastor Reverend Carnell Hampton. Gladys was a faithful and devoted servant of the Lord. During her years at Melina, she served in many capacities, including Financial Secretary, Worship Leader, a member of the Presbyterian Women. She was a dedicated member of the Senior Choir and was ordained Elder of Melina Presbyterian Church.

After marriage she relocated to Lake City, South Carolina and joined Greater St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church located in Hemingway, South Carolina under the leadership of the Reverend Arthur W. Ford, where she served as President of the Senior Choir and a member of the Women’s Missionary Board.

She was a faithful member of the Willing Worker Chapter No.319, District 9, Order of the Eastern Star in Lake City, South Carolina, and took pride in its mission of service and community.

After the death of her husband, Gladys reunited with Melina Presbyterian Church under the leadership of Reverend Larry Hill and received a certificate of membership on July 24, 2022. She remained a faithful member until her health declined. At the time of her death, she was under the pastoral care of the Reverend Dr. Ella F. Busby, Pastor of Melina Presbyterian Church.

Her strongest attribute was her love for her entire family, church, and cooking. She loved cooking her favorite Sunday dinners, which included barbecue chicken, butter beans, collard greens, potato salad, mac & cheese, sour cream pound cake, and fruit cake for Thanksgiving and Christmas. She had a reputation for her buttery delicious homemade biscuits, a tradition for Easter Sunday breakfast at Melina Presbyterian Church.

**Gladys’** educational journey began at St. Michael Elementary School located in the Corner Community of New Zion, South Carolina. Classes at St. Michael were held in the Church, grades 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>. After completing the fifth grade and continuing through the seventh grade at Lodaba/Friendship school, Gladys went on to attend Melina Parochial School, which was located on the grounds of Melina Presbyterian Church, Gable, South Carolina. The community Church Schools provided an education for black youth at a time when education for black students was deficient.

**Gladys**, along with her older siblings walked to school. On rainy days she did not attend school because of the distance; however, around 1950, a school bus was finally provided for the African American children in the east area of Clarendon County, South Carolina.

**Gladys** attended Walker-Gamble High School in New Zion, South Carolina, and graduated on June 6, 1957. After graduation she followed her passion for cooking and was employed by Green Gable Restaurant in Gable, South

Carolina as a chef, and later promoted to head waitress, a trailblazer for black waitresses in South Carolina.

**Gladys**, a quiet no-nonsense woman, was a lady of strength, dignity and strong convictions guided by the principles of peace, love, and understanding. Whether at home, in the community, or within the church, she stood firm in her values. Her love for God and her family remained the foundation of everything she did.

**Gladys** did not have biological children but was a nurturing mother figure to many. Along with the help of her late mother Carolyn “Caroline” Collins she raised nieces/nephews and made a profound impact on their lives. Marsha, Libby, Patricia, Necole, Jerome Jr., Daryl, James, and the late John (Lil’ John) Collins.

In her final days, as her body grew weaker, Gladys never complained. Instead, she glorified God, allowing His strength to shine through her.

On Friday, May 1, 2026, Gladys peacefully received her wings, embraced in divine love.

**Gladys** leaves to treasure her memory two devoted sisters, Anna B. Wheeler and Margaret Rose; one brother-in-love Nathaniel Rose; two sisters-in-love, Sue Collins and Mary Wallace; goddaughter Mary Jones; fifteen nieces, twelve nephews; countless grandnieces, grandnephews, and other relatives and friends. All who knew her shared in the joy she brought into their lives, and she will be deeply missed.

“Well done, thy good and faithful servant.”

### **To My Loving Family**

Dear Family and Friends:

I want you to know that I have moved. I received my call from GOD, the Chief Architect, who informed me that my new house was ready and that it was time for me to move.

I have been sending up my timber in my own way, packing up a little at a time, getting ready to go someday. But, there were some minor things to do – some finishing touches to make that only my Savior, Jesus Christ, the Chief Carpenter, could help me do. Some of the timber was too broad, too thick or not even long enough. So, I waited on Him daily, to let me know when He had completed the final touches.

Well, my new home is finished and it’s such a beautiful sight to behold. It’s located in an exclusive estate area and sits behind beautiful Pearly Gates, just off God’s celestial shore. Of course, the streets are paved with gold and every day is Sunday here, I have been told.

I have lived several places before my new home was prepared but none of the others could compare. There is peace, joy, and happiness here with no more pain, suffering, or cares of the world to bear. No strife or exploring around my new home, for I have to be fitted for my wings and golden crown that God has promised.

Let me give you the address of this new city, because I highly recommend you make plans to meet me here:

**Heaven Rejoice Center  
Redeemed Saints Boulevard  
God’s Way, Heaven 77777**

Oh yes, let me tell you this... you can’t reach me the old earthly way, but call on GOD because He knows exactly where I am. If you don’t know His number, I urge to you memorize it, as He is listed in the Good Book on every single page; just call Him up on the main line and He’ll answer every time. This is not Goodbye, just so long, until we meet again.

~Love, “**Jad**”

## **Tributes**

### **To Our Sister**

Sometimes the things that seem the worst,  
turn out to be the best.

So think of this as just a time  
to get a little rest.

And while we cannot understand,  
why things happen as they do,  
the one who hangs the rainbow out,  
has His own plan for you.  
And may it comfort you to know  
that you are all a part of God,  
and God is everywhere!

~Your Loving Sisters

### **To Our Aunt**

We didn’t want to give you up,  
We’ll miss that smile on your face.  
But comforted are we by this thought,  
In Heaven you will take your place.  
We didn’t want to give you up,  
Your passing though doth make us sad.  
But still we’re consoled with this thought,  
In Heaven you will be glad.  
We didn’t want to give you up,  
Yet we know you’ve gone to rest.  
So comforted are we by this thought,  
To be in Heaven is the best.

Love, Your Nieces and Nephews

### **To “Gladys”**

We thought of you with love today  
But that is nothing new  
We thought about you yesterday  
And days before too,  
We think of you in silence  
We often speak your name  
All we have are memories  
And your picture in a frame.  
Your memory is our keepsake  
with which we’ll never part.  
God has you in our hearts.

~Love, The Family