



REMEMBERING THE

# Emmanuel NINE

## SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION

Gone for a Decade  
Remembered with Deference  
2015-2025

Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor



Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. As did DePayne Middleton-Doctor. And sometimes, love to sings in a heavenly alto soprano, the voice her four daughters keep in their hearts. Her life was a praise hymn.

Mrs. Cynthia Graham Hurd



She loved the "Word," and loved words. A gifted and beloved librarian, Cynthia Hurd knew the power of words to transform lives. Books were sacred to her. So was family. Always caring, sharing, encouraging, helping, giving. She lived full of hope.

Mrs. Susie Jackson



Susie Jackson gathered her big family around a table of love and fed them the bread of life. She was always cooking, always saying grace, a blessing across the generations. Everyone was welcome. Hers was an abundant, overflowing heart.

Mrs. Ethel Lee Lance



Ethel Lance made things sparkle. She sparkled. Jazzy, joyful, full of life, empty of regret. She even met Martin Luther King once who said I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear. The same was true of Ethel Lance.

The Honorable Reverend Clementa C. Pinckney



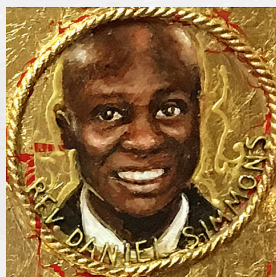
Reverend Pinckney was ordained into the ministry at 18 and became the youngest member of the South Carolina State Legislature at 23. He was leading Mother Emanuel into the future with education and achievements enough for several lifetimes. He loved his family infinitely. Clementa Pinckney lived on God's time.

Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders



Beloved. That's Tywanza Sanders. Son, grandson, best friend. Ty was a grad student, a barber, a thinker, a doer and a seeker who wrapped his arms around life like a hug. A beautiful young prince of a person, his smile matched his soul.

Reverend Daniel Lee Simmons, Sr.



The prophet asked what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God? This was Daniel Simmons' life. Holy man, family man, military man, highly educated man. Studying was his hobby. So was kindness.

Reverend Sharonda Coleman-Singleton



Speech pathologist, teacher, track coach, doctoral student, minister, mother extraordinaire. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton ran circles around life. Beautiful inside and out, she was a true champion. God was her finish line.

Mrs. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson



A Licentiate Minister, she scattered seeds of faith wherever she went, as a teacher, counselor, minister, wife, mother, friend. Myra Thompson was a giver and helper. She grew up in the church and beautiful flowers grew in her yard. So did love.

An anti-black mass shooting and hate crime occurred on June 17, 2015, in Charleston, South Carolina. Nine people were killed, and one was injured, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest black church in the Southern United States. **In remembrance of this heinous act, Dr. Joseph Cohen, a member of the Robert R. and Ora B. Kelly Lay Organization of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington, DC, in the Second Episcopal District, authored 2016 Legislation which created the Connectional-wide annual remembrance of the Emanuel Nine.** A member of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church since 1979, Dr. Cohen was a Pharmacologist by profession. He transitioned on June 30, 2024, in his hometown of Charleston, SC, and was funeralized on Saturday, July 6, 2024 at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, SC. He was 76 years old. The legislation that he authored is shown below.



Dr. Joseph Cohen  
November 29, 1947 - June 30, 2024

### SECTION VII. TRIBUTE TO THE EMANUEL 9 | REMEMBERING THE EMANUEL MARTYRS AND SURVIVORS

Every congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church will conduct yearly a brief ceremony to remember the nine members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, S.C., who were brutally murdered on June 17, 2015, during Bible Study: Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton (45); Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd (54); Susie J. Jackson (87); Ethel Lee Lance (70); Rev. DePayne Middleton (49); Honorable Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney (41); Tywanza Sanders (26); Rev. Daniel L. Simmons, Sr. (74); Myra Singleton Thompson (59), as well as the survivors Felicia Sanders, Polly Sheppard, Jennifer Pinckney, Rev. Anthony Thompson and two minors. This ceremony will be conducted during Sunday worship service, in perpetuity. Each congregation will conduct the ceremony under independent guidelines. The ceremony will be conducted on the immediate Sunday following June 17, except those years when June 17 is on Sunday, in which case the ceremony will be held on June 17. (p.22, 2016 Doctrine and Discipline of the A.M.E. Church)

**In honor the Emanuel Nine, a memorial was constructed on the grounds of Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church, and on Saturday, May 31, 2025, nine bronze busts were unveiled at Allen University.**