



## Rev. Leonard Bryant

March 12, 1935 - March 31, 2026

On March 12, 1935, Linton (Leonard) Bryant entered this world with a quiet strength

through the bodily vessel of the late Charlie “Clus” and Amanda “Mandy” Pearl Bryant.

As the youngest of their second set of twins, he was affectionately called “Lil Bae”.

Growing up in a home filled with love, music, and deep-rooted faith, he quickly fit right in.

He joined the choir, served faithfully on the usher board, and found purpose in every role

he took on. It was during these formative years that he accepted Christ into his life under

the leadership of Rev Garrett at Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church — a decision

that shaped his character and planted the seeds of the calling he would one day fulfill.

Leonard joined the military at the age of 22, where he carried the same discipline,

seriousness, and sense of responsibility that had defined him since boyhood.

But he quickly returned home to marry the love of his life, Mary Helen Dumas, on

October 6, 1957. A connection that started in church, at the age of fifteen,

grew steadily

into a lifelong partnership where they raised four beautiful girls.

To support his growing family, Leonard started work at Pepperell Mill and stood on

principle that led to a boycott of fair wages and work conditions. He wasn't afraid to

stand up for what he believed in or walk alone.

He later joined Uniroyal Tire Plant where he loyally worked for nearly 30 years until he

retired.

Even as he worked diligently, he never let go of his passions. His family pass-time

evolved into the official formation of the Twin Spirituals as they began to travel across

the southeast. In the group made up of his identical twin Clinton Bryant, Charlie B.

Bryant, Rollie "Dandy" Bryant, Rosie Lee Baker, Frank Burton, and Rev Willie Baker he

was the leader and manager of the group. They went on to cut three 45s and one album,

connecting their audiences with their harmonious voices and love of Christ.

Despite his involvement with the group, he still maintained his commitment to his home

church by serving as Green Chapel's Clerk/Secretary, Deacon, Groundkeeper, and

Senior Sunday School Teacher for nearly 15 years.

Leonard's traveling with the group began to take a back seat in 1975 when he accepted

the call into the ministry. On December 14, 1975, he received his certificate of ordination

and started preaching at Elizabeth MBC in Ft Davis, AL and Pleasant Valley in

Camp

Hill, AL. He went on to preach at Mt Traveler MBC in Waverly, AL where he served for

21 years.

At Mt Traveler he always preached the importance of Christian Education. He led the

local level at Ebenezer District as Vice Moderator and Dean and at the state level as

Sunbeam Supervisor. While he did not serve at the national level, he hauled bus loads

every year to the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. For nearly 35 years,

he traveled across the country to California, Virginia, Oklahoma,

Pennsylvania, Missouri,

Maryland, Texas, Kansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, etc. to name just a few.

Leonard attended Selma University, a Baptist school, also where the Women's State

Convention was located each year. He became a liaison for the University and even

hosted exchange students from Nigeria Africa in his home.

His value of education wasn't limited to only Christian Education; he also knew secular

education could take you far. And his commitment to both wasn't just spoken, it was

lived. He enjoyed reading and often read the dictionary, synonym books, and the

encyclopedia. Leonard also encouraged young people to do well in school by rewarding

students in the community with money for grades earned; \$5 for every A and

\$4 for

every B. It wasn't about the money; it was about encouragement and showing young

people that their hard work mattered. Many children grew up remembering how he

celebrated their achievements, how he pushed them to do their best both inside and

outside of the walls of the church.

Throughout his adult life, Leonard devoted himself not only to his family and work, but

also to the community he loved. Long before retirement, he poured his time and energy

into roles that uplifted and supported those around him. He served as a Boy Scout troop

leader of Troop #340, guiding young boys with the same seriousness, discipline, and

steady encouragement that had shaped his own youth. He fostered a deep passion for

gospel music. With the determination to share that passion with the world daily, not just

on Sunday, he founded, produced, advertised and hosted the 1 st weekday gospel radio

show, The People Gospel Hour, broadcasting songs of faith and messages of hope with

listeners near and far. In his professional life, he took on leadership roles as a union

representative, advocating for fairness and respect in the workplace, a board member of

Department of Human Resources, and later as a recruiter for Royal Federal Credit

Union, later known as Four Seasons FCU at its inception helping individuals

and families

take steps toward financial stability.

Leonard officially retired in 1993, but retirement did not slow him down; it simply gave

him more time to do what he loved most.

He remained deeply involved in the lives of his grandchildren, attending their events and

offering the same wisdom and encouragement he had given his daughters.

His

generosity reached far beyond his family. Leonard often repaired furniture from the side

of the road, restoring pieces that others had discarded and giving them freely to those in

need. He also volunteered at the hospital, offering comfort and companionship to

families, worked as Lee County voter registration, and later became a familiar, welcoming face as a Walmart door greeter. No matter where he was, he

carried himself

with humility and kindness.

On March 31, 2026, after a life lived with generosity and unwavering faith, Leonard

Bryant transitioned from this earthly home to be with the Lord at the age of 91.

Though he is no longer with us in body, his spirit, his teachings, and the love he poured

into others will continue to shine brightly in the lives he touched as his life was a

testament to faith, dignity, and service.

“Let the works I’ve done speak for me” – Leonard Bryant

He is preceded in death by his granddaughter: Erica (Donald) Cotton, son-in-

law Andrew

C Payne and 14 siblings: Mattie Lue Bryant; Moses (Hattie) Bryant; Charlie (Iola) Bryant;

Aaron Bryant; Annie Mae (Jodie) Bryant-Minard; Lester (Luella) Bryant; Rosie Lee (Rev

Wille) Baker; Chester (Stella) Bryant; Clinton (Alice) Bryant; Rollie (Lottie Pearl) Bryant;

Oscar Lee Bryant; Gertrude (Amos) Nunn; Phillip (Carrie Pearl) Bryant, Taylor (Essie

Rene) Bryant.

He leaves treasured memories to be shared by his loving wife and caregiver of 68 yrs,

Mary Helen; four daughters Lindie Payne of Opelika, AL, Carnella "Vonnie" McGhee of

Opelika, AL, Dale (Darnell) Williams of Hoover, AL, Janyce Bryant of Opelika, AL; six

grandchildren, Martavise (Stacey) McGhee of Mobile, AL, Amber McGhee of Atlanta,

GA, Amanda Payne of Atlanta, GA, Meagan Bryant of Los Angeles, CA, Morgan Bryant

of New York, NY, and Parker Williams of Hoover, AL, six great grandchildren, two great-

great grandchildren, sister-in-law Essie Bryant of Gary, IN and a host of nieces,

nephews, and cousins.

# Cemetery Details

## Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

390 Lee Road 106  
Auburn, AL 36832

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 7. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Peterson and Williams Funeral Home  
1016 McCoy Street  
Opelika, AL 36801  
(334) 745-6473  
pw1016mccoy@hotmail.com

## Lie in state

APR 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
390 Lee Road 106  
Auburn, AL 36832

## Service

APR 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

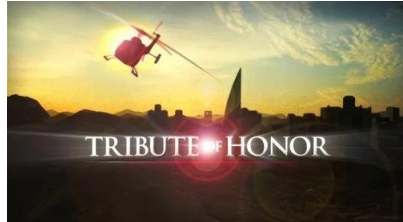
Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
390 Lee Road 106  
Auburn, AL 36832



# Tribute Wall



“ Peterson and Williams Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Leonard Bryant



Peterson and Williams Funeral Home - April 07 at 04:35 PM

AC

Our heartfelt condolences to the Bryant family during this difficult time. May God saturate everyone with His supernatural peace and comfort. May the sweet cherished memories and the love of those around help everyone through the days ahead. Sending our love and prayers.

Abraham Jr. and Pandora Cherry

Abraham Jr. and Pandora Cherry - April 08 at 10:49 AM

CH

My condolences to the Bryant family. Rev and Mrs. Bryant were good friends of my parents Rev. O. D. and Naomi Hill. I always enjoyed their visits.

Cheryl Hill - April 10 at 09:36 PM

SM

“ Rev. Bryant-a truly wonderful man! Rest peacefully.🙏 Continued strength and comfort, Mrs. Bryant & Bryant Family.🌸🌺



Sherri Billingsley Moore - April 26 at 08:36 AM

SF

“ *My Condolences and prayers to the Bryant Family. For years, I worked with Rev Bryant at Uniroyal tire plant. A wonderful person. (PEACE)*  
*Sylmar (Cookie) Frazier*

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**Sylmar Frazier** - April 18 at 04:35 PM

AN

“ *Encouragement for the Bryant Family:*

*"We are often conditioned to think that the most difficult part of losing a loved one is 'having to say goodbye' - and while that is certainly true, I also believe that as we grow older and become more dedicated to God and our faith, we find that the hardest part of losing someone is 'learning how to live without them'.*

*As you go through this period of adjustment, hold tightly to your faith and the precious memories in your hearts, because those memories will allow you to continue to occasionally visit with Rev. Bryant,...even if only for a moment."*

*God bless you all...Nigel Andrews*

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**Andrews** - April 08 at 07:48 PM

CJ

*Sincerest condolences to the Bryant family in the transitioning of Reverend Leonard. My family and I have fond memories of him in his dedication to Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. How we missed him when he left, but were grateful that he put us in the hands of the late great Reverend Stephen Carson. My family especially enjoyed Reverend Bryant's discussions about the history of the Bryant family tree. He now rests in the bosom of our Lord and has earned the peace that he preached. So family be comforted knowing he is at rest and that we will see him one day. God bless.*

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**Catherine Bryant Jackson** - May 01 at 09:25 AM

CT

“ Our condolences and prayers to the Bryant family, May the Lord give peace that surpasses all understanding to his precious wife, children and family. 🙏🙏 Larscene and Carolyn Turk



Carolyn turk - April 08 at 01:20 PM

AB

“ Azzie B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Leonard Bryant.

Azzie B. - April 08 at 08:14 AM

LT

“ LaShaun Trimble lit a candle in memory of Leonard Bryant



LaShaun Trimble - April 07 at 08:52 PM

MB

“ Melissa Bynum lit a candle in memory of Leonard Bryant



Melissa Bynum - April 07 at 08:26 PM

SF

“ Condolences to the Bryant family



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**Shirley Pruitt Frazier** - April 07 at 08:03 PM

LP

“ Lester/Marketa, James/Dana, Pete/Cynthia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Leonard Bryant.

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**Lester/Marketa, James/Dana, Pete/Cynthia** - April 07 at 04:41 PM

LP

“ Lester/Marketa, James/Dana, Pete/Cynthia purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. Leonard Bryant.



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**Lester/Marketa, James/Dana, Pete/Cynthia** - April 07 at 04:41 PM

RS

“ We are saddened to hear of the passing of Rev. Leonard Bryant. We are praying for comfort and peace for the Bryant Family during this difficult time. Please accept our deepest condolences. Reggie and Priscilla Strickland.



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**Reggie Strickland** - April 07 at 01:43 PM

PH

*Sending condolences from the family of the late Gussie Baker Harris (mother of Rev. Willie Baker) and my grandmother. She loved this entire family with her whole heart. I recall spending a lot of time traveling with her to hear the TWIN SPIRITUALS sing. I felt like family too. May the Lord grant you the strength and peace like only HE can, for all the days to come. We love you all, Pamela Harris.*

Pamela Harris - April 08 at 10:32 AM



“ 41 files added to the album Life Tributes



Peterson and Williams Funeral Home - April 07 at 01:12 PM

VC

*So very very sorry for your loss. I loved 😍 Mr. Leonard. Loved traveling with them to the conventions.*

Viola Colquitt - April 08 at 10:24 PM

AG

“ *Our thoughts & prayers are with you all during this hour and in the days ahead. Cherish the wealth of memories afforded each of you in the life of Rev. Leonard GCMBC sure has an abundance*

Atoska Gentry - April 07 at 12:52 PM

AG

“ *Atoska Gentry lit a candle in memory of Leonard Bryant*



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**Atoska Gentry** - April 07 at 12:46 PM

MM

“ *Thoughts and prayers with the Bryant family. With love, Mae Doris Melton and Family .*



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**Mae Melton** - April 06 at 11:39 PM

TF

“ *The Bryant Family in CT and FL purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. Leonard Bryant.*



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**The Bryant Family in CT and FL** - April 06 at 02:28 PM

DF

“ *Dorothy Billingsley and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. Leonard Bryant.*



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**Dorothy Billingsley and Family** - April 06 at 11:26 AM

DB

“ Doris B. purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Rev. Leonard Bryant.



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**Doris B.** - April 06 at 11:26 AM

AA

“ Sorry for your loss

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**Ashley Alexander** - April 06 at 11:16 AM

JS

“ Rev. Leonard Bryant was one of the true Gospel leaders of my generation and a true Christian! I condole with his family and friends 🙏🏾✝️🙏🏾 He will surely be missed but he will be singing in the Heavenly Choir with the rest of the Twin Spirituals!



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**James Strickland** - April 04 at 07:16 PM

JL

“ Rev. Leonard Bryant was our Spiritual Advisor for Larscene Turk Movement #1. May his legacy forever be remembered.



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**Judy Lockhart** - April 04 at 02:13 AM

JP

“ *My condolences to the Bryant Families and special tears of sadness from me to his wife and daughter Janyce. Janyce and my deceased daughter Gina were born around the same time and in the same hospital and sweet Janyce was named after my wife. I grew up around the Twin Spirituals. My heart is heavy but memories will forever be with the Reverend and his family! The Lord will carry you during these weakest moments!*

James Strickland, PhD - April 04 at 12:21 AM

CC

“ *Deepest Condolences to the Bryant family*



Corlis Colquitt - April 03 at 11:58 PM

AW

“ *Adele Holmes Wilborn lit a candle in memory of Leonard Bryant*



Adele Holmes Wilborn - April 03 at 07:29 PM

AS

“ *♥♥♥♥♥ Pastor Shealey & the MTZBC family of Loachapoka ,Al and the Auburn District Association sends our condolences prayers & love*



Anthony Shealey - April 03 at 05:55 PM

RD

“ *Ruth Dowdell lit a candle in memory of Leonard Bryant*



Ruth Dowdell - April 02 at 05:25 PM

SY

“ *Sarah Young lit a candle in memory of Leonard Bryant*



Sarah Young - April 02 at 05:17 PM

MB

“ *Melissa Bynum lit a candle in memory of Leonard Bryant*



Melissa Bynum - April 02 at 10:29 AM

WL

*may. the. lord. god. keep. his. arms. around the. Bryant. family. williard. Lewis*

Williard Lewis - April 02 at 06:37 PM

AR

*Sending prayers for the Bryant family he will be missed. Allean Reese*

Allean Reese - April 06 at 02:24 PM

GM

*I am sending love, hugs and my sincere condolences to Mrs. Bryant, the daughters and their families. May God wrap his arms around you all as Rev. Bryant is laid to rest. 🙏*

**Gwendolyn Mitchell** - April 07 at 06:09 PM

JA

*My deepest condolences to the family*

**Janice Askew** - April 08 at 10:59 PM

MF

*Deepest condolences to the entire Bryant family. Our prayers are with you. Minnie Frazier*

**Minnie Frazier** - April 09 at 08:11 AM