

They Met to Read the Bible

D Ddim D A7 D

They met to read the Bi - ble, they ga - thered for a prayer,
 O God of love and jus - tice, we thank you for the nine.
 We grieve a wound - ed cul - ture where fear and ter - ror thrive,
 God, may we keep on sow - ing the seeds of jus - tice here,

F#7 Bm F#7/C# Bm/D B7/D# Em Bm/F# G6 G7 F#

they wor - shiped God and shared with friends and wel - comed strang - ers there.
 They served in their com - mun - i - ties and made the world more kind.
 where some hate oth - ers for their race and guns are glor - i - fied.
 till guns are si - lent, peo - ple sing, and hope re - pla - ces fear.

D D7/F# G B/F# B Em

They went to church to speak of love, to cel - e - brate God's grace.
 They preached and sang and coached and taught, and cared for child - ren, too.
 We grieve for sons and daugh - ters lost, for grand - mas who are gone.
 May seeds of un - der - stand - ing grow and flour - ish all our days.

A7 D D7/F# G D/A A7 D

O Lord, we trem - ble when we hear what hap - pened in that place.
 They blessed your church and blessed your world with gifts they used for you.
 O God, we cry with bro - ken hearts: this can't con - ti - nue on!
 May jus - tice, love and mer - cy be the ban - ner that we raise.

IN MEMORY



The Rev. Clementa Pinckney, 41: A state senator and the senior pastor of Emanuel, he was married to Jennifer Benjamin and the father of two children, Eliana and Malana. He was a 1995 graduate of Allen University and got his master's degree at the University of South Carolina in 1999. He served in the state Legislature starting in 2000. The Post and Courier says black fabric was draped over Pinckney's Senate chamber seat on Thursday.



Cynthia Hurd, 54: According to the Charleston County Public Library, she was a 31-year employee who managed the John L. Dart Library for 21 years before heading the St. Andrews Regional Library. Hurd "dedicated her life to serving and improving the lives of others." The system closed its 16 branches Thursday to honor Hurd and the others who died in the shooting. County officials also say the St. Andrews library will be named for Hurd.



The Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, 45: A pastor at Emanuel, she was also a speech therapist and high school girls track and field coach, both positions at Goose Creek High School, according to her LinkedIn page. Jimmy Huskey, the school's principal, called her "a true professional ... [who] cared about her students and was an advocate for them." Her son, Chris Singleton, is a baseball player and student at Charleston Southern University. Coleman-Singleton also had two younger children.



Tywanza Sanders, 26: He was a 2014 graduate in business administration from Allen University in Columbia. Lady June Cole, the interim president of Allen University, described him as "a quiet, well-known student who was committed to his education." Known as Ty, he had worked in sales at department stores such as Belk and Macy's.



Ethel Lance, 70: She had attended Emanuel for most of her life and worked there as a custodian, as well. From 1968 to 2002, she worked as a custodian at Charleston's Gaillard Municipal Auditorium. The Post and Courier quotes a former colleague as saying, "She was funny and a pleasure to be around. And she was a wonderful mother and grandmother."



Susie Jackson, 87: Lance's cousin, she was a longtime church member, and a member of the Eastern Light Chapter No. 360 Order of the Eastern Star, according to a community activist on Twitter.



Depayne Middleton Doctor, 49: The mother of four sang in Emanuel's choir, and previously directed a community development program in Charleston County. In December, she started a new job as an admissions coordinator her alma mater, Southern Wesleyan University. SWU President Todd Voss said: "Always a warm and enthusiastic leader, DePayne truly believed in the mission of SWU to help students achieve their potential by connecting faith with learning. Our prayers go out to family and friends. This is a great loss for our students and the Charleston region."



The Rev. Daniel Simmons, 74: Simmons survived the initial attack but then died in a hospital operating room. He had previously been a pastor at another church in the Charleston area. Simmons attended Bible study every Wednesday.



Myra Thompson, 59: She was the wife of the Rev. Anthony Thompson, the vicar of Holy Trinity Reformed Episcopal Church in Charleston.