



Rev. Donel Todd Kelley

March 15, 1932 - May 15, 2026

Rev. Donel Todd Kelley, 94, of Greer, South Carolina, passed away May 15, 2026.

A native of Rural Hill, North Carolina, son of the late Beaman and Leona Mae Todd Kelley, he was a US Army veteran, completed three years in seminary earning a Master of Theology Degree, received a degree from North Carolina State University, a retired Southern Baptist minister, served as pastor of Abner Creek Baptist Church, as well as other churches, and was a member of Washington Baptist Church. Rev. Kelley was a member of the Kiwanis, Ruritan Club, and the Lions Club. His first wife was the late Caroline Garrett Kelley.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth Emory Lister Kelley of the home; one daughter, Marilyn Amick (Mark) of Ninety-Six, South Carolina; two sons, David Kelley (Lynn) of Willow Springs, North Carolina and Paul Kelley (Michelle) of Union, South Carolina; one stepson, Chuck Lister (Deborah) of Greer, South Carolina; one stepdaughter, Holly Yager (Doyle) of Rock Hill, South Carolina; one sister, Nan Wheeler (Bob) of Lillington, North Carolina; seven grandchildren, Kelley Candler (Brandon), Alan Amick, Anna Kelley, Jonathan Kelley, Jane Kelley, Cal Kelley, and Luke Kelley; one step-granddaughter, Brooklyn Yager; and two great-grandchildren, Hadlee Candler and Claire Candler.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m. Monday, May 18, 2026, at Washington Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. Trent Henson and Dr. Drew Hines. Burial

will follow in Abner Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Alan Amick, Jonathan Kelley, Cal Kelley, Luke Kelley, Brandon Candler and Mark Amick.

Honorary Escort will be the Joint Heirs Sunday School Class of Washington Baptist Church.

Visitation will be held from 12:00 until 1:45 p.m. Monday, May 18, 2026, at Washington Baptist Church, prior to the service.

The family is at the home.

Memorials may be made to Washington Baptist Church, 3500 North Highway 14, Greer, South Carolina 29651, or Greer Community Ministries, P.O. Box 1373, Greer, South Carolina 29652.

Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 18. 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

Washington Baptist Church
3500 North Highway14
Greer, SC 29651

Service

MAY 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Washington Baptist Church
3500 North Highway14
Greer, SC 29651

Tribute Wall

CD

“ I loved this man, his family. He was my pastor whom I loved hearing his sermons. Always there when you needed him. He married all of our children. I was blessed to do his and Caroline’s 50th anniversary and to also have a dinner forge and Ruth when they got married. I was blessed to have him as my friend.

carol Deshields - May 18 at 11:47 AM

PS

“ So grateful Preacher Kelley was my home pastor! Preacher Kelley also counseled and married us. Dale and Patti (Rumsey) Sutton



Patricia C Sutton - May 18 at 06:50 AM

AA

“ Angie AshmoreKruise lit a candle in memory of Donel Kelley



Angie AshmoreKruise - May 17 at 09:13 PM

CC

“ I enjoyed hearing him preach and loved his calming presence. He was a very good man, and you could see Christ in him. His first wife, Caroline was really funny. She had the cutest memories to share. I know Ruth will miss him terribly.

Charlene Waddell Campbell - May 17 at 04:31 PM

LP

“ *Ruth and Family: I was so sorry and surprised to learn at church this morning of Don's passing. You and he are and always will be two of the best friends I have been blessed with. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, and if I can help in any way you know I'm here for you. Thoughts, prayers, my sympathy and much love.*
Linda Parr

Linda Parr - May 17 at 03:13 PM