

## “A Living Bridge to the Founding of Faith: Honoring the Legacy of Mother Pearl Westbrooks Hines”

Mother Pearl Westbrooks Hines



**Memphis, Tennessee Mar 12, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](http://Issuewire.com))** - In the rich history of the Church of God in Christ, there are individuals whose lives become woven into the very fabric of the church’s legacy. Mother Pearl Westbrooks Hines was one of those individuals. Her life represented faith, devotion, service, and a deep spiritual connection to one of the most influential religious movements in American history. With her passing on March 4, 2026, in Memphis, Tennessee, the Church of God in Christ

community mourns not only the loss of a beloved member but also the closing of a remarkable chapter that linked generations of believers to the early foundation of the denomination.

Mother Pearl Westbrook Hines was more than a church member; she was a living witness to the early days of the Church of God in Christ. As a child, she grew up attending the historic Mother Church under the leadership of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, the founding father of the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Mason's influence shaped the spiritual identity of millions, and Mother Hines had the rare opportunity to experience that leadership firsthand. After Bishop Mason's passing, she continued her faithful service under the leadership of his son, Elder "Bob" Charles Harrison Mason, Jr., maintaining a connection to the family and leadership that guided the church through its formative years.

Over time, Mother Hines became one of only five surviving members of the early Mother Church congregation. This distinction placed her among a small group of individuals whose memories and experiences preserved the living history of the denomination. For many within the Church of God in Christ, Mother Hines represented a bridge between the past and the present—someone whose life story connected the modern church with the faith, sacrifice, and vision that built its foundation.

One of the most historic moments associated with Mother Hines occurred when she was just 23 years old. At that young age, she was chosen to sing the powerful and beloved hymn "It Is Well" at the funeral service of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. The hymn, known for its message of peace and trust in God even during times of hardship, became a fitting tribute to the man who had founded the denomination. For those who attended that historic service, Mother Hines' voice carried a message of comfort and faith during a moment of profound loss for the church. Her role in that moment secured her place in the historical narrative of the Church of God in Christ.

Throughout the decades that followed, Mother Hines remained deeply devoted to ministry, worship, and service. Her faith was not confined to a single moment or a single memory. Instead, it was expressed daily through her commitment to church life, her encouragement of others, and her willingness to support the spiritual growth of those around her. Many who knew her describe a woman whose presence brought both wisdom and warmth, someone who carried herself with humility while embodying the strength of her faith.

Beyond her dedication to the church, Mother Hines also lived a life devoted to education and community service. She served as a teacher within the Memphis City School system, helping to shape the minds and futures of countless young people. Her career in education reflected the same values that guided her spiritual life: discipline, compassion, and a commitment to helping others reach their full potential.

Mother Hines also exemplified leadership and service through her membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. As a member of this historic organization, she embraced the ideals of scholarship, service, and sisterhood. Her involvement in Alpha Kappa Alpha allowed her to extend her influence beyond the church, contributing to initiatives that uplifted communities and promoted education and civic engagement.

Those who encountered Mother Hines often spoke about her quiet strength and unwavering belief in the power of faith. Her life was marked by a deep spiritual conviction that guided her actions and interactions with others. Whether through ministry, music, education, or service, she consistently demonstrated what it meant to live a life grounded in purpose and devotion.

Within the Church of God in Christ community, her passing represents the loss of someone who embodied the church's spiritual heritage. For many members, she was not only a respected elder but

also a storyteller whose memories provided valuable insight into the early years of the denomination. Her experiences helped preserve the history of Bishop Mason's ministry and the growth of the church from a small movement into one of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the world.

Church leaders, family members, and members of the Memphis community continue to reflect on the remarkable life Mother Hines lived. Her legacy is one of faith in action—a life dedicated to uplifting others, honoring tradition, and strengthening the spiritual foundation of the Church of God in Christ.

Though Mother Pearl Westbrooks Hines has departed this life, the legacy she leaves behind will continue to inspire generations to come. Her story reminds us that faith, service, and devotion can shape not only individual lives but entire communities. In honoring her memory, the Church of God in Christ celebrates a life well lived, a voice that once comforted a grieving congregation, and a faithful servant whose influence will remain etched in the history of the church she loved so dearly.



## Media Contact

ENZO ENTERTAINMENT

\*\*\*\*\*@gmail.com

9012162689

665 S RIVERSIDE DR

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