



Frances Hargrove Smith

July 19, 1937 - November 24, 2022

Frances Hargrove Smith, 85, of Birmingham, Alabama passed away Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2022. She was born July 19, 1937 in Chalkville to James Henry and Lillian Kathleen Hargrove in their family home.

Frances attended Hewitt Trussville High School. As the school's only acrobat, she took great delight in making up her own routines to go along with the marching band's performances. She also designed and sewed her own costumes. Frances loved riding horses bareback and exploring the creeks and fields near her home. An accomplished swimmer, she spent her summers as a lifeguard at Camp Cosby. Her first real job was at Kress' downtown Birmingham. After her high school graduation, she worked at State Farm.

Frances married the love of her life, Gary, on June 15, 1956. After a fun honeymoon in Miami, they took up residence in Center Point, eventually building a home next to her grandparents' original homestead on Old Springville Road. She and Gary loved family time at the lake, where she taught countless

children how to water ski. Frances instilled in her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren a love for playing games – always making everything fun, including chores. Even when in her late 70's, she and her great-grandson Isaiah would leap and bounce around the house playing pirates, brandishing the wooden toy swords Gary had made for them! She loved adventure and was quite proud of herself for riding a camel in the Holy Land after she had turned 65!

A dedicated Christian, Frances and her husband devoted themselves to ministry through Ridgecrest Baptist Church after becoming members in 1964. They acted in choir presentations, traveled on youth trips, served at the church's Camp Joy, and supported missions in every way possible.

But Frances' greatest gift and deepest passion was for children. Along with teaching Vacation Bible School and working as a pre-school teacher for the church's kindergarten, Frances faithfully taught children's church for four and five year olds for over 50 years! She had an amazing gift with children, who loved and adored her. Truly hundreds of children through the years sat mesmerized as she told detailed stories that made the Bible come alive to the children in a very special way. She regularly received cards and letters from her "kids" or their parents referring to the impact her love and her stories made on their lives – how it helped to "begin their spiritual journey," "taught them to love the Bible," and "gave them a deep and lasting knowledge that Jesus loved them."

She also taught the

children many special songs, but everyone knew her favorite was “Go Tell It on the Mountain” – not surprising for a woman whose prayers were always that all the boys and girls in the world would come to know Jesus.

As a real estate broker, Frances and her husband Gary owned and operated three Century 21 Real Estate offices in the Birmingham metropolitan area. She was always so happy when she could help someone find the perfect home just for them! In 2001, they followed their dream and moved to Logan Martin Lake, where she enjoyed working as an agent at the office of Fields Gossett Realty until her retirement from real estate. But she never retired from her love of praying for and investing in the lives of others, listening to, encouraging and believing in them. Frances was a safe harbor to all!

Frances was preceded in death by her loving husband of 65 years, Gary Lee Smith. She is survived by her daughter, Teri Lynn Smith; her son, Gary Alan Smith (Yulia); her four grandchildren Loni April Smith and children Madelyn, Isaiah and Moses; Lana Aubrey Smith Clark (Clayton) and children Camella, Kellen and Corrie; Chase Isaac Smith (Morgan) and children Anna Rose, Ada Lynn and Joseph Lee; and Caleb James Smith (Meghan). She is also survived by her brothers and their families: William Hargrove (Betty), James Hargrove (Susan) and by her first cousin Buddy Mewbourne. Visitation will be at Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home on Saturday, December 3, from 12:00 to 1:00

followed by the Memorial Service at 1:00 pm. Directly following the service, the internment will be at Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home and Gardens in Trussville, Alabama.

Cemetery Details

Jefferson Memorial Gardens

1591 Gadsden Hwy
Birmingham, AL 35235

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 3. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home
5360 Deerfoot Parkway
Trussville, AL 35173

Funeral Service

DEC 3. 1:00 PM (CT)

Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home
5360 Deerfoot Parkway
Trussville, AL 35173

Tribute Wall



“ 151 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home - December 02, 2022 at 12:19 PM



“ *By*

Buddy Mewbourne - December 02, 2022 at 07:06 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frances Hargrove Smith.*



December 02, 2022 at 12:52 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frances Hargrove Smith.*



December 01, 2022 at 07:55 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frances Hargrove Smith.*



December 01, 2022 at 06:09 PM

JY

“ When I heard that Frances had passed from this life to her eternal home I immediately thought of Phil. 1:3, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you". I can't remember when I first met Frances, but I got to know her and we became friends when we taught kindergarten and children's choir together at Ridgecrest. I remember her great sense of humor. She could find humor in almost every situation. We laughed a lot!

I remember her calm spirit. The lady personified another verse in Phillipians, "Be anxious for nothing". As we worked together in children's choir and preparing for performances, things would not always go as planned. I would be the one about to go into a panic and Frances, in her calm voice would say, "No problem. Here's what we are going to do." That creative mind always seemed to come up with the perfect solution. Sometimes it required being assertive and I discovered that she could be quite effective in that area. But always with calmness and kindness.

Frances was one of the most authentic persons I have ever known. There was no pretense about Frances. What you see was what you got. I admired and appreciated that quality in her life.

I remember Frances and her great faith and her great faithfulness. I remember asking her once if she never worried about Lynn living and serving God in the Middle East. Her response was that Lynn was doing what she felt God was calling her to do and she just trusted God would provide for and protect her. What faith!

Her faithfulness in teaching Little Church for preschoolers for decades was remarkable. She was so effective in teaching these little ones truth from God's word. I took my niece, who was a preschooler at the time, to church one Sunday and she went to Little Church. Afterward she was telling me the Bible story that she heard. She very excitedly told me the story of a man named "Lemonade". As I listened I could not relate the story to anyone in the Bible and especially anyone name "Lemonade". I later asked Frances who the story was about and she laughed that beautiful laugh and said it was Elimilech. Only Frances could make a story of Elimilech so interesting and exciting for a preschooler!

I did not see Frances very much the last few years and was very

sad to hear of her declining health and suffering. I know she was blessed to have such wonderful loving children and grandchildren who surrounded her with such loving care.

I apologize for such a long post but I will be having out of town company this week and will be unable to attend the funeral. I just wanted you to know how very much I loved Frances and what a great impact she made on my life. I thank God for the wonderful memories I have of her and because of the sacrifice He made at Calvary, I will see my friend again.

I will be praying that you will experience God's presence, power and comfort as you go through this difficult time.

Judy Young - November 29, 2022 at 10:39 AM