



## Frances Leora Judson

June 22, 1937 - February 22, 2021

### The Life & Times of Frances L. Judson

God called Frances Leora Judson into being on June 22, 1937 in Pompano Beach, Florida. She was born to the parentage of Robert W., Sr. and Emily Durham Judson. Frances was the first female grandchild and the first child in her family. Her parents moved from Pompano Beach to Miami, Florida when she was a toddler and while in Miami, 5 other children were added to their household.

Frances' formative years were started in the public schools of Miami/ Dade County, but her family returned to Pompano Beach when she was about 10 years old. After moving back to Pompano, the family attended Mount Calvary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Collie Pete. During a revival service Frances gave her life to the LORD and was baptized. Because of our mom's prodding we all became active in the youth ministry at Mount Calvary, by this time Frances had begun to take music lessons. As her music lessons progressed, she started to play for the Sunday School.

She and all of the other siblings attended Coleman Elementary school and subsequently finished high school at Blanche Ely High School, each graduating with honors. Frances graduated in 3rd place with the class of 1955 and from there continued her education at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music in 1959. She later would receive a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Wisconsin, in Madison, Wisconsin. She also did some course work at Fairfield University in Connecticut.

While at FAMU she was a member of the renowned FAMU Choir under the capable leadership of the late Dr. Rebecca Steele. She also pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She became a lifetime member of this sorority. She was also a lifetime member of Phi Delta Kappa.

After college she returned home and became the Youth choir director in her home church of Mount Calvary. She taught elementary school music for several years at Sanders Park Elementary School until she got married and moved to Fort Lauderdale. While in Fort Lauderdale she taught elementary school music.

Frances later found that she could no longer stay in Ft. Lauderdale and moved to

Bridgeport, Conn., where she lived and worked in the schools of the City of Bridgeport for over 40 years. Frances joined the First Baptist Church of Stratford, Connecticut and immediately affiliated herself with the music ministry. By the time that she relocated back to Florida in 2014, Fran had become the director of the senior choir of First Baptist and was an integral part of the music ministry of First Baptist. Upon making the decisions to (come back home) from Connecticut, she rejoined Mount Calvary again. Her family, friends and sorority sisters will sorely miss Frances because she made her presence felt in whatever the endeavor.

She leaves to cherish her life, 2 sisters, Gloria Lovell (Rudolph) of Orlando, Florida and Betty Judson, of Kissimmee, Florida. Two brothers, Richard Judson of Boca Raton, Florida & Kerry Judson (Emelia) of Pompano Beach, Florida. 13 nieces, Carlynn, Carol (Lynwood) Kathy, Melanie, Lauren, Robbin, Tresha, Carmen & Emily. 3 nephews: Ronald, II, (Janay), Shawn & Daran, 19 Grandnieces & Nephews and a plethora of cousins.

# Cemetery

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## Forest Lawn North Cemetery

200 W Copans Rd  
Pompano Beach, FL, 33064

# Events

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**FEB** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 09:00PM

**26**

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L.C. Poitier Funeral Home

317 NW 6th Street, Pompano Beach, FL, US, 33060

**FEB** **Service** 10:00AM

**27**

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Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church

800 NW 8th Avenue, Pompano Beach, FL, US,  
33060

# Comments

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“ Frances was in a class of phenomenal Black women that were and are the lifeblood of the Black Community. She was the essence of class, service, courage and integrity.

Shirley Love Joyner

Shirley Love Joyner - March 04 at 01:06 PM

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“ Emmajmohorn lit a candle in memory of Frances Leora Judson



emmajmohorn - March 02 at 09:08 AM

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“ Frances was a beautiful and caring person. She was my sorority sister, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc., and a music mentor to me. I play better today because of her guidance. Frances was dependable and dedicated to what she did. She loved God and loved people!!! Jackel Robinson

Jackel Robinson - February 27 at 10:42 AM

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“ My name is Lucinda Moore . Ms Judson know me as Lucinda Simmons! remember Mrs Judson being my music teacher at the Samuel Johnson/Park City Magnet School in Bridgeport CT. I've learned so much from her because o loved music! I want to thank you ms Judson for teaching me music. Now I am a national Gospel recording artist who listened to her advice when I was 10 and 11 years old. Sleep in Heaven and we will see you on the other side. I will never forget you

lucinda moore - February 26 at 02:56 PM

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“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Frances Leora Judson.



February 26 at 12:55 PM

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“ My deepest and most sincere condolences to the family of Ms. Frances Leora Judson. Such an amazing person and teacher. Her compassion and love for music help so many. I have so many great memories of her teaching and instructing from Park City Magnet, she will always hold a special place in my heart as she gave so many the courage to sing and make a joyful noise!

**Octavious (Johnson) Pratt** - February 26 at 12:50 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Frances Leora Judson.



February 26 at 09:14 AM

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“ My very deepest sympathy to all of the family.

**Bermer Ridenhour** - February 26 at 08:36 AM

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“ My sincere condolences and prayers for comfort, strength and peace to the family, friends and loved ones of Ms. Judson. Although she was known to many of my South Florida family members (and a schoolmate of my aunt, Nettie Jean LeGrier Ransaw), I had the pleasure of meeting her through her niece (and my beloved friend), Melanie, while she still lived up north in Bridgeport, CT. As a New Yorker, I often visited Melanie (who lived in CT for a spell) and was the recipient of her warmth (once she realized she knew "my people" - LOL!), hospitality and generosity, often spending time in her home and enjoying light-hearted banter and meals. Her kindness toward me will never be forgotten, and I thank God for the opportunity I had to meet and spend time in her company and lovely home. Her spirit is in God's Hands now, but fond thoughts of her will also ever be in my memories and heart.

Praying the Father of mercies and God of all comfort will be just that - and more - to all those who are grieving her death, but also will choose to celebrate the "gift" that was her light, love and life, as well...

Aubrey LeGrier,  
Harlem, NYC

**Aubrey LeGrier** - February 25 at 07:39 PM



“ To the Judson Family our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. My fondest memory of Miss Judson is when she would pick me up each week for Choir Rehearsal. Miss Judson was the Youth Choir Director. I really loved and admired her a lot. May God continue to bless the entire family. Deborah and Malcolm Roberts members of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

**Deborah Roberts** - February 26 at 12:54 PM



“ Thank you for the kind words Aub!! Aunt Fran enjoyed getting to know you too, and she loved that you were connected to her hometown friends..

Melanie

**Melanie Cook** - February 26 at 01:14 PM



“ Amazing loving teacher. Greeted everyone with a joyful hello. One of PCMs greatest!!

**Gloria Alicea** - February 25 at 07:04 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tiffany Ladson-Lang - February 25 at 01:12 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Tiffany Ladson-Lang - February 25 at 01:09 PM

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“ As a member of the First Baptist Church of Stratford, Connecticut Senior Choir, I would like to express my sincere condolences and gratitude for Ms. Judson’s many years of service (1987-2014.) Her love for Christ was consistently demonstrated in her self-discipline regarding the ministry of music, her choice of songs, and her desire to have them sung properly. I am grateful for her sacrifice of time and energy to rehearse us over and over again and most importantly her willingness to both laugh and cry with us.

On a more personal note, Ms. Judson let me know at my very first Bridgeport Public Schools staff meeting, that she was there for me if I ever needed her, and she meant it. Her words of wisdom helped me deal with both my job and personal life. I could tell her things I couldn't admit to anyone and thought (for awhile) that not even Jesus knew :) and know they wouldn't be repeated. Especially after the loss of my mom, she helped me with everything from questions regarding kids (school and my own,) to marriage/divorce, to being not just a Christian woman but a disciple of Christ, to celebrating successes and to praying together through trials. Yes, there were plenty of resources online and books I could have turned to, but nothing was the same as talking to Ms. Judson. She wasn't afraid to tell me the truth even when she knew it might hurt. She allowed me to make mistakes that she knew would end up growing me. She was a mentor, a true friend and a true disciple.

One Sunday after service ended Ms. Judson asked me to wait and walk out with her. I said sure. As she took off her organ shoes and switched to her heels, she started talking about errands that she had run on that Saturday. I was trying hard to listen but struggling. I was in a dark place and while the sermon had touched my heart, I needed a miracle fast. As we got to the car she said, “I was in the store and went to pick up some toilet paper and something said to me, put that back and get the larger pack, so I did.” She said she was guided to pick up a few other things as well and proceeded to hand them to me along with an envelope. She said she didn't know who it was for at the time but since then had been led to believe it was me. She laughed as she said she felt a little foolish handing me toilet paper. I laughed too and began to cry. I had driven to church on fumes and didn't know how I would make it back home, I had less than half a roll of toilet paper at home and could not afford to get more. I had no clue how I was going to feed my children that day or the upcoming week and had been too proud to ask anyone for help. As I write this, the tears we shed that day, have returned. Ms. Judson didn't just believe in God, she allowed Him to use her in such a mighty way. This is just one example. She helped me grow as a teacher, a musician, a mother and a Christian... I will forever love her.

My sincere condolences to the family. Although I never got a chance to meet many of you, I feel like I know you through the stories Ms. Judson would tell me as we worked on your reunion booklets and family tree. My prayers are and will continue to be with you.... Much love always, Sheena Graham



“ Grace and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. My condolences to family of Mrs. Judson. As a parent, it delighted me to see her express compassion for music and her joy to teach her students were just astounding. Then to be in our women’s day choir (Ms. Judson, the Director) for numerous years at First Baptist Church. She could hear and play every note and definitely know when you sang out of key. Ms. Judson didn’t play. .Play on and rest my sister in your heavenly home,

God’s Blessings, Deacon Doris J. Thurman

**Deacon Doris J. Thurman, FBC of Strtfd**, - February 25 at 05:17 PM

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“ What to say....I loved you so much. You were my mom and my kids grandma. O will never forget the day you introduced my son as your grandson. You may not have any biological children, but I was your adopted kid and you treated my kids like they were yours. I have been searching for you for the past couple of years to no avail. I do know why. I will miss laying in bed with you while you dropped nuggets of wisdom. I will never forget the glass of wine before you went to bed. I love you soooo much. God sent me you because he knew I needed you to survive. I will never forget that you rode a Greyhound bus from Bridgeport, Ct to Sierra Vista, Az to help me take care of my son, my firstborn child. Who does that??? A true mom. You will always be remembered in my heart. I hope I can make it to your funeral, if not, know that I haven't stop thinking of you. Honestly, since you have moved to Florida, I have been searching for you. Paid someone to find you, to no avail. Now here we are. I love you Frances!!! My children will always remember you as their grandma because that is exactly who you were.

**Sylvia Perez-Watley** - February 25 at 05:56 AM



“ Thank you Sylvia for the kind words!! Aunt Fran loved you and the kids just as much..  
Melanie (Fran’s niece)

**Melanie Cook** - February 26 at 01:08 PM

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“ I remember Ms. Judson from Sanders Park Elementary School and believe I last saw her in 1968. I was in Mrs. Townsend's 6th grade class and she would visit the class for our music lesson. She was a great music teacher and a firm disciplinarian. I truly learned a lot about music from her and enjoyed learning from her. I pray that she has entered eternal rest and her soul is at peace. Thank you Ms. Judson for what you did to help all the young African American children during your time with us.

Fondly submitted,  
Jacqueline Kay Thomas Dennis  
Sanders Park Elementary Alumni (1968)  
Trophy Club, Texas



Jacqueline K Dennis - February 24 at 11:38 PM