

Mr. Frank Addrell Nelson

July 13, 1949 - January 28, 2022

Frank Addrell Nelson, loving father, grandfather, uncle, nephew, cousin, and cherished brother entered his rest on January 28, 2022, after a brief illness. He was born July 13, 1949, in Newport News, VA. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sallie and William A. Nelson, Sr., and a precious grandson, Jordan Nelson at age 3.

Affectionately known as "Frankie" to many, he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age. He grew up in St. Timothy Church of Christ (Holiness) USA, attending services and Holiness Young People's Union. After completing piano lessons under the tutelage of Elizabeth Brunson, Frankie played piano at an early age for St. Timothy, later offering his gifts and talents as Minister of Music to Ivy Baptist Church, under the pastorate of the late Dr. Henry Maxwell, Sr., First Baptist Church East End, under the pastorates of the late Drs. Woodrow Brown, Sr., and Woodrow Brown, Jr. and later to New Mount Olive Baptist Church for more than 37 years, under the pastorate and spiritual leadership of Dr. W. Randolph Rylander.

Frank attended Dunbar Elementary School, where he played "B" flat clarinet in the band with the late John W. Stewart. In 1962, when Frank was in the 7th grade, he played the leading role as Captain Georg von Trapp in "The Sound of Music" musical. He attended Huntington High School and was the woodwind section leader for the Huntington High School Marching Sound of

100, under the leadership and music mentorship of the late Wray R. Herring, Sr. He graduated from Huntington High School in 1967. Following high school, he attended two years at Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA with a major in music performance.

Frank had a passion for music and loved the hymns of the church. He gave his life to teaching choirs the importance of worship and entering into and experiencing the presence of God through worship. He adopted the name Maestro FAN and played masterfully and melodically whenever given the opportunity. Frank produced "The Frank Nelson Project" in 2009. He was thankful to God for blessing him with the gift and vision to produce the CD Project. He was appreciative to the vocalists, who with their dedication to the Project made it successful. Frank also enjoyed teaching piano and taught many students over his lifetime. He knew every song in John Thompson's Modern Course for the Piano Book and how they were supposed to sound and knew if the song and notes were being played correctly. His most challenging students were his family members.

Frank was a dedicated member of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference serving in the HU Choir Directors' & Organists' Guild for more than 40 years. He was faithful and was the current President of the HU Choir Directors' & Organists' Guild until his passing. He also was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Frank was formerly married to Vera Simmons. During this marriage, they raised two daughters, Traci and Alana.

In 1992, Frank married, VeElla "Candi" Hicks. Frank and VeElla worked to blend their families with his two daughters and VeElla's two sons, Samuel and Nicholas.

He leaves to cherish his memories, his devoted wife of 29 years, VeElla Nelson of Newport News; two brothers, Dr. William A. Nelson, Jr. (Glen Allen, VA) and Dr. Jeffrey K. Nelson, Sr. (Tisha) of Hampton; two sisters, Janet B. Harrison (William) and Dr. Saundra N. Cherry of Newport News; two daughters, Traci Coleman (Travis) of Sandston, VA and Alana Nelson of Newport News; two sons, Nicholas and Samuel Hicks; six grandsons, Joshua, Jeremiah, Jaquan (Nelson); Dwight Hawkins, Jr., and Cincere Hicks; six granddaughters, Jada, Jessica, Tianna (Nelson); D'Laysiah Hawkins; Nia (Nelson), Mi'Angel Hicks; one great-grandson, Kayson (Nelson); his "favorite aunt," Addie Threatt, three sisters-in-law, Samantha Johnson (Vernon), Vonda Carter-Wilkins, and Wanda Wills, a "family strong of cousins, nieces, nephews," a host of loved ones and friends, and his New Mount Olive Baptist Church family.

Cemetery Details

Hampton Memorial Gardens

155 Butler Farm Road
Hampton, VA 23666

Previous Events

Nelson Public Viewing

FEB 10. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

M.E. Fisher Funeral Home
2117 Madison Avenue
Newport News, VA 23607

Nelson Celebration Service

FEB 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Hampton Roads Convention Center
1610 coliseum Drive
Hampton, VA 23666

Tribute Wall



“ *M.E. Fisher Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Frank Addrell Nelson*



M.E. Fisher Funeral Home, Inc. - February 10, 2022 at 06:20 PM

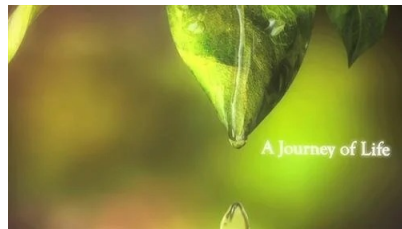
LV

*Precious memories of Mr Nelson while at Ivy Baptist. A life well served.
Linda Vanhook*

Linda Vanhook - February 12, 2022 at 06:16 PM



“ *M.E. Fisher Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Frank Addrell Nelson*



M.E. Fisher Funeral Home, Inc. - February 10, 2022 at 10:15 AM

DY

“ To Sandra & Family

Thoughts are with you. Although there are never any right words for a time like this, may you take comfort in knowing that many are thinking of you. Praying for you and the family. Cherish the memories.

With Sympathy,

*Diane Young
(Classmate HHS)*



Diane Young - February 27, 2022 at 07:25 PM

QW

“ Sending my condolences to the Nelson Family. Mr. Nelson left an impact my life and I will never forget that.

Quinterra Winnegan - February 10, 2022 at 09:10 PM

VS

“ This is Frank and and his former wife Vera with the oldest grandchild Joshua when he graduated from college.



Vera Simmons - February 10, 2022 at 05:08 PM



Sharonda Hollomqn - February 10, 2022 at 11:12 PM

HW

“ Dear Family --

My sincerest condolences on the passing of your loved one Frank Nelson. Keeping the family lifted in daily prayer for comfort, strength, peace and love now and in the days ahead in Jesus's Name. Blessings and Love! Helen White



Helen White - February 10, 2022 at 01:10 PM

KW

“ *Attending Ivy Baptist Church and singing in the Young Adult Choir was truly an awesome experience! Frankie, was a musical genius, and very instrumental in my love for gospel music today. I thank the Lord for him & his family, he will be truly missed. My prayers go out to his daughters, Traci & Alana, & family. May God continue to comfort & keep you!*

*May God Bless,
Kathy Cooper-Wright*

Kathy Wright - February 10, 2022 at 09:52 AM

BF

“ To Dr. Sandra N. Cherry and Family: We are greatly moved in our hearts to learn of your brother’s transition. My family and I continue in our prayers for you and your family, as we extend our sincerest, heartfelt sentiments and condolences in light of the uniquely impactful season. Equally, we join in the resounding celebration of Mr. Frank Nelson’s radiant life, outstanding legacy, and eternal victory.

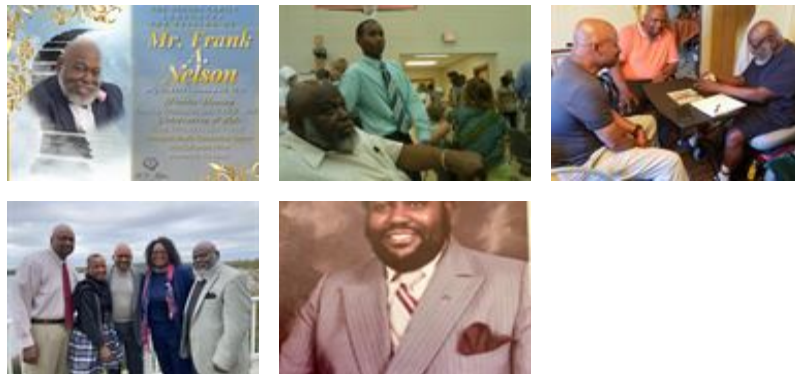


Where our words may fall short of expressing our profound care and support, we pray the plentiful prayers of God’s overwhelming peace, comfort, and strength will reach and blanket you and your family. May God’s promises in Deuteronomy 31:8 of the Lord’s enduring presence render an even greater measure of hope to you, your family, and loved ones in this season. Much love and bountiful blessings always. - Brittany G. Suggs and the Suggs Family of Hampton, VA -

Brittany G. Suggs and the Suggs Family - February 10, 2022 at 09:50 AM



“ 54 files added to the album LifeTributes



M.E. Fisher Funeral Home, Inc. - February 09, 2022 at 03:12 PM

MT

“ *THE FAMILY OF FRANK NELSON
We are so sorry to hear of your loss.
DENISE, HOTSHOT, SCARLETTE Mathis*



Maggie Mathis Twine - February 07, 2022 at 09:19 AM

MJ

“ *Frankie was a dear first cousin of mine. We grew up together along with his siblings as one big happy family. We were at Dunbar and Huntington at the same time. I loved watching him and his sister Sandra (NeeCee) play dominoes with my mom every Sunday. That was PRICELESS. He will be missed. Will continue to pray for his family.
Love, Marcella & Howard Jones*



Marcella & Howard Jones - February 05, 2022 at 10:27 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Frank Adrell Nelson.*



February 03, 2022 at 03:20 PM

NA

“ *Such a wonderful guy! It has been far too long since we last saw each other, but my memories of Frank bring a big smile to my face. May he now rest well forever, and may the family know the joy that he gave the world.*

Nelson Armstrong - February 03, 2022 at 02:27 PM

JB

Vella so sorry for your loss of Frank such a wonderful person,my Condolences to you and family,and prayers of comfort.Joyce Brown NN,Va

Joyce Brown - February 06, 2022 at 03:21 PM

LF

“ *Traci and Alana, I am praying constantly for the both of you for comfort and strength during this time. Your dad was my dad too and I hold such fond memories of him, us and 27th Street. He loved his girls and I pray that knowing that will bring you peace and comfort. I love you both and I am here for you for whatever may be needed. I will continue to keep the entire family in prayer. RIP Daddy Frank! Well done they good and faithful servant.*

LeVonda Whitfield and Family - February 03, 2022 at 02:09 PM

VH

It has been a joy to have known and experienced the wisdom and musical talents of Frank Nelson. A great spiritual maestro has received his crown.

Velma Hendrick - February 04, 2022 at 09:23 PM

AR

“ *Mr. Nelson, God Rest Your Beautiful Soul. You met me as a shy, sheltered, small and timid 17 year old student and was a major part of my development as a young person anchored in music ministry. You fostered my sense of security in the Body of Christ and years later continued to do so for my now 17 year old daughter Ariel. We both love you for all of the joy and kindness you showered us with, and you will forever have a special place in our hearts. Rest In Heaven. Until we meet again.*

Love From Adrienne Warren Rylander and Ariel Rylander

Adrienne Warren Rylander - February 03, 2022 at 01:06 PM



“ My condolences to the family. Heaven has gained an awesome musician and vocalist. I still have fond memories of the duets we sang together when Frank was Minister of Music at Ivy Baptist. Until we can sing a duet again, rest well Frank.

Yvonne Smith - February 03, 2022 at 02:54 AM

RW

“ To the family of Mr. Frank, he was our daughter Quinn vocal coach. He became family to us after one road trip to a singing competition. We had the best time fellowshiping and laughing with him. Our condolences and prayers are with you all.

Rex, Sherri and Quinterra Winnegan - February 03, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I send love to Frank's family whom you shared with the community. I met Frank as our choir director at Ivy Ave Baptist Church in the 1960s. He loved music and tried to help others master it through voice or instrument. I cherish the wonderful memories I have of Frank.
Frank was also a jokester. His responses could be so quick and humorous and would crack you up. 😊
I pray that your wealth of memories made with Frank will bring you some peace and comfort. 💔🙏

Beulah Mitchell-Davis - February 02, 2022 at 08:48 PM

MH

“ *My sincere condolences to Traci, Alana and grandchildren in the loss of their dad and granddad; Frank loved them so much. He will be missed by so many with his jovial personality. Praying for their strength.*

Marie Hill - Yesterday at 07:11 PM

Marie Hill - February 02, 2022 at 07:24 PM

LB

*Offering our heartfelt Condolences to the Nelson Family.
HUNTINGTON HIGH School ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.*

Lloyd Barner - February 03, 2022 at 04:35 AM



“ *Candi, Frank never did let me sing my solo. Every time I reminded him, He would tell me that " I made a good usher". I would remind him that he said " everybody could sing". He would come back with " Nita, you make a great " usher and I'm going to keep sending you ushers" . That became our private joke. As we both knew I could not carry a note :)*

Arnita Woods - February 02, 2022 at 03:57 PM

DT

I remember Frank coming up at St. Timothy. We all started in the youth choir, his sisters and I played the Band at school. I was a family friend, he was ways someone I look up to and and a great pianist and choir director. Later in life he played at my wedding. I will remember him as Great Man, as well as a "Great Friend" Rest Will.

David Tynes - February 03, 2022 at 05:24 AM

JG

“ ...” Still mine, that cannot but deplore,^[L]^[SEP]That beats within a lonely
place,^[L]^[SEP]That yet remembers his embrace,^[L]^[SEP]But at his footstep
leaps no more,
My heart, tho' widow'd, may not rest,^[L]^[SEP]Quite in the love of what is
gone,^[L]^[SEP]But seeks to beat in time with one,^[L]^[SEP]That warms another ...”

*My pa pa...the grandfather many would be more than lucky enough
to have.....It is hard to accept that you are no longer here,
however you have taught me, my siblings and cousins what love
really is. We are so thankful to have shared a life with you and will
never ever forget the things you've done for us or the people you've
helped in your journey. You were a giving person always looking out
for others no matter the circumstances and blessed so many
people.*

*We have shared many laughs together and I'll personally never
forget how you would ask meYou need something Puh-Puh (
poo-poo)? And I'd say listen pa pa I'll never turn down a blessing
and we would just laugh because that was just a clever answer. I've
always enjoyed being your grandson especially growing up when
you used to take me to school we would listen to classical music
and we always stopped at Hardee's to spend some time before
school and eat breakfast. If I could go back and do anything
different it would be to learn how to play piano from you because
the time you tried to teach me we got through 2 pages and then yea
that was it (lighten the mood with this joke but this really happened).
Pa pa you were really a blessing that God allowed us to have and I
just want to let you know your grandkids love you more than it's
possible to love another person and we are so thankful to have had
you as a part of our life. We love you papa*

Love always, your grandchildren and #1 grandson

Joshua Nelson 1st grandson - February 02, 2022 at 02:08 PM

TC

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Traci Coleman - February 02, 2022 at 11:40 AM

TC

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Traci Coleman - February 02, 2022 at 11:35 AM

TC

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Traci Coleman - February 02, 2022 at 11:34 AM

LW



LeVonda Whitfield - February 03, 2022 at 01:32 PM

TC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Traci Coleman - February 02, 2022 at 11:18 AM

TC

“ *Unforgettable*

That's what you are,

Unforgettable

Tho' near or far.

Like a song of love that clings to me,

How the thought of you does things to me.

Never before

Has someone been more...

What can I say about my dad? I would be here the rest of the year. We have so many memories; from playing jack rocks on the kitchen floor as kids to walking me down the aisle at my wedding. I will miss his stories that he told over and over and over again. "Tra, did I tell you?" and then he would go into the story without me having a chance to say yes, dad 100 times. I would listen like it was my first time hearing it. You have made a true impact on my life and will be forever grateful for the years I got to call you dad.

Love Always, your #1 daughter :)

Traci

Traci Coleman - February 02, 2022 at 11:01 AM

KJ

“ *My friend Mr. Nelson. I will truly miss this man of God! We had some great times at NMO, eating breakfast, lunch and sometimes dinner. We always laughed a lot and praised the Lord!! Several things I know about him is he loved his wife, his children, grandchildren and siblings dearly.*

Mr Nelson you will truly be missed by many.

K Jones

Kim Jones - February 02, 2022 at 10:12 AM

JL

“ *A great Musician of playing and teaching vocal Mr Frank Nelson you will be missed... My condolences to his wife and family...*

John Lassiter - February 01, 2022 at 07:50 PM

EH

“ *Frank Nelson Family,
Sorry for your loss. You have my condolences.*

Earlene Meekins Harvey - February 01, 2022 at 02:55 PM

YS

“ *Yvonne Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Frank Addrell Nelson*



Yvonne Smith - February 01, 2022 at 04:03 AM

HT

I'd like to extend my deepest sympathy to the Mr. and Mrs. Nelson family and friends. From Holly and Antonio Thomas Family.

Holly Thomas - February 01, 2022 at 12:01 PM

MJ

“ *I would like to extend my condolences and sympathy to the Nelson Family in the loss of Frank. God bless you with strength and peace in this time of sorrow.*

Mrs. Faye James - February 01, 2022 at 02:19 AM

JB

*Extending my deepest condolences to Mrs. C Nelson and the family. May God saturate each and every family member with comfort and strength most of all peace. Thank You, Sis. Nelson for sharing your wonderful talented husband with the world. Thank you for being a Good Thing to Mr. Nelson because clearly, he obtained the favor of the Lord. God Bless you in Abundance ❤️❤️❤️
Jakki Baker*

Jakki Baker - February 08, 2022 at 12:55 PM

RH

“ *I would like to extend condolences to my 1st cousin VeElla Nelson on the loss of her friend for life her husband. We understand that it is never easy to lose a loved one. They will live forever in your heart. Renita Lassiter Howard*

Renita Lassiter Howard - January 31, 2022 at 02:39 PM

JJ

My prayers and condolences to the family and Aunt Candi. The childhood memories of Uncle Frankie will ever reign how he and my brother Rickey would get me to sing songs as they played them on their favorite B-3 organ and piano, from a teenager to adulthood. Well now Uncle Frankie, you, Rickey and Cynthia are reunited and playing for the Heavenly Choir.

Jamil Yakub (Jimmy) - January 31, 2022 at 06:27 PM



What a great lost to the "Body of Christ".....Our Lord is comforting and restoring even now. Much love and compassion to the family and all who loved "Mr. Nelson " our brother.

Arnita Woods - February 02, 2022 at 04:07 PM

VM

To the family of the Frank (Frankie) Nelson. We are so sorry for your loss. May God add a special blessing, healing & comfort to all of you, love Aunt Vergie & Jo Ann & family. 🙏🙏💕

Vergie McLaurin - February 02, 2022 at 05:35 PM

TC

*My life and ministry have been blessed and greatly enriched by knowing and working with Mr. Nelson. I will always remember those wonderful songs and his teachings! We grew in Christ together and we shared many laughs! I'm so thankful for his friendship and for all the memories. You can rest now, my brother. My prayers are with the family. We love you and we share in your loss. Proverbs 3:5-7.
Tezella Cline*

Tezella Cline - February 02, 2022 at 09:32 PM

EM

*Family, know that Heaven has received an Awesome Gem. May God's Love and Peace uphold you during this difficult time.
Mega Love & Blessings! Elder Brenda Morst*

Elder Brenda Morst - February 03, 2022 at 11:21 AM

LH

With deepest Sympathy and condolences to The Nelson Family. I am very grateful for you sharing your husband, father, grandfather, uncle , Minister of Music at New Mount Olive Baptist church . Thank you for your out pour of ministering music to my soul, and spirit. You are one of a kind. There is no one to replace your ministry of music.. You finished your mission. I believe God used you to impart and bless me and my Son. Rest in Peace . Love in Christ. Linda Hodges and Son ❤️

Linda Hodges - February 04, 2022 at 10:26 PM

VT

To the family of this great warrior who touched so many lives with his wonderful talents. We thank God for lending him to all of us. To each of you, his family, loved ones, friends, he has taught us a lot. We all have laughed with him many times and we have heard his testimonies in word and song. Frankie has been on the battle-field for a long time, yet he will rest for a short while because, Soona will be done with the troubles of this world and we can all go to live with God. Family, stay faithful and let's stay close to our Lord and Savior, so we can see him again.

Let's keep praying for each other,

~Vanessa T. W.~

Vanessa T - February 06, 2022 at 11:52 PM

FG

We offer our sincere condolences and prayers to the Nelson family.

Ferenzo & Deborah Gainey - February 09, 2022 at 09:22 PM