

Fraiser and Irvin Francis, Sr. She will also be cherished and remembered by her six (6) grandchildren, Irving Francis, Jr. (Ida), Tracey Francis, Keisha M. Layne, Claudette V. Bazile, Kevin Francis and Kyla McNear. "Gentle Ben", as she is affectionately known by her nieces and nephews in McKeesport, PA, will be remembered by James Francis (Vivian), Sara Lee Lane, Robert Francis, Frank D. Francis (Damita), Marvin Francis, Elenora Francis, and Warren Allen Francis. Her memory will also be cherished by her niece, Mabel Storey of Allentown, NJ. She is further survived by nine (9) great grandchildren. For Florence the word "friend" is synonymous with "family". Thus she also leaves to cherish her memory a host of family members too numerous to name.

#### Pallbearers

Irvin Francis, Jr.  
Frank D. Francis  
Robert Francis

Warren Allen Francis  
Marvin Francis  
Irvin D. Francis

#### Floral Bearers

Shantel Francis  
Tracey Francis  
Sheila Francis

Claudette V. Bazile  
Sara Lee Lane

#### Acknowledgment

The family wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all who offer their condolences, prayers, and gifts. Please know that you have been a source of comfort during this time of our bereavement. A special thank you is extended to our church family at Rush Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion Church, Raleigh, North Carolina.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

*Professional Services of Dignity and Compassion Entrusted to:*



#### FUNERAL & CREMATION

*"Providing Premier Professional Services of Comfort"*

699 East Street  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Ph. (919) 542-1096

#### SERVICES

200 Hawkins Avenue  
Sanford, NC 27330  
Ph. (919) 777-0898

[www.cewilliefuneralservice@earthlink.net](http://www.cewilliefuneralservice@earthlink.net)

## Homegoing Celebration

For

*Ms. Florence Francis*



*Tuesday, April 24, 2007  
11:00 A. M.*

*Rush Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion Church  
Raleigh, North Carolina*

*Rev. C. E. Willie, III, Pastor, Presiding*

## Order of Service

*Prelude*

*Processional (Congregants Standing)*

*Words of Assurance.....Rev. C. E. Willie, III*

*Hymn of Praise.....Choir*

*The Scripture Lesson*

*Old Testament*

*New Testament*

*The Prayer of Comfort*

*Solo.....Sheila Francis*

*Tributes.....Bro. James McCall*

*Acknowledgments & Remarks.....Frank Francis*

*Irvin Francis, Jr.*

*Elizabeth Warner*

*Shantel Francis*

*Obituary (read silently)*

*Solo.....Sheila Francis*

*The Eulogy.....Rev. Claude E. Willie, III*

*Musical Selection.....Choir*

*Benediction*

*Recessional*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Interment will be held on Johns Island in  
South Carolina on Wednesday.*

## Obituary

Ms. Florence Francis departed this life on Wednesday, April 18, 2007. She passed away at Wake Medical Center after a long battle with congestive heart failure.

Florence was born on November 6, 1919 on Johns Island, South Carolina. She was the youngest child and only daughter of the late John and Florence Francis. She was predeceased by her brothers, Willie Francis, Oliver Francis, Samuel Francis, and Alonzo Francis. As a young adult, she moved to New York, where she worked as a beautician. She became an active member of Moores Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in 1954 and remained a member in good standing until she moved to Raleigh in 1999. She served as the Secretary of the Young Women's Department of the Missionary Society and was a lifetime member. She also served as a delegate to both the District and Annual Conferences for several years. She was appointed as the President of the Friends Club and served in that capacity until she left Moores in 1999. The Friends Club raised funds for the church with their annual Tea and Friends Club Anniversary. One of Florence's major contributions to the Friend's Club Tea was her famous chicken salad. In 1999, she moved to Raleigh and joined Rush Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church.

Part of Florence's ministry was the beautification of the church. As the official Church Decorator for Moores A.M.E. Zion Church, she ensured that the worship of God was surrounded in beauty. She was an avid decorator and filled every room with vibrant color. Her favorite color was purple and if she could, she would find a way to integrate it in everything. She also beautified her neighborhood through the use of her gardening skills. On more than one occasion, she was the recipient of awards from the former Mayor Edward Koch of New York City for her beautiful "Garden of Faith". Her cooking skills were second to none. Any family or church gathering would be graced with her famous red rice, fried chicken, and most importantly, her MACARONI AND CHEESE!

Florence had a quick wit, a hearty laugh, and a keen mind. She was a voracious reader and delighted in conversations about current events and politics. She loved to laugh and any story or quality time involving her grandchildren or her great-grandchildren brought a twinkle to her eye and her bright and beautiful smile. Always one to get a laugh, she was a fantastic storyteller who ensured that at the end of her story you were brought to tears of laughter.

Florence was the matriarch of an extensive family and leaves to cherish her memory: her daughters, Carutha F. Bazile, Trudell F. McNear (Bobby) of Palmdale, CA and Sheila Francis of Charlotte, NC, who she affectionately referred to as, "My Sheila". She was preceded in death by her sons, John

***Florence  
Francis***

***Sunrise  
Nov. 6,  
1919***



***Sunset  
April 18,  
2007***

## Psalm 121

*I will lift up mine eyes  
unto the hills, from  
whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the  
Lord, which made  
heaven and earth. He  
will not suffer thy foot  
to be moved: he that  
keepeth thee will not  
slumber. Behold, he that  
keepeth Israel shall  
neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is thy keeper:  
the Lord is thy shade  
upon thy right hand.  
The sun shall not smite  
thee by day, nor the  
moon by night. The Lord  
shall preserve thee from  
all evil: he shall preserve  
thy soul. The Lord shall  
preserve thy going out  
and thy coming in from  
this time forth, and even  
forever more.*