



Floral and Pall Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgment

The family of Frances Burney-Matthews wishes to express their sincere gratitude for every act of kindness, prayer, phone call, visit, and expression of love shown during this difficult time. Your support and compassion have brought comfort to our hearts and will never be forgotten.

May God bless each of you.



Professional Services

Entrusted to:

JOHN H. SHAW'S SON
FUNERAL HOME



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FUNERAL HOME

520 Red Cross Street

Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

910.762.2635 • www.jhshawfuneralhome.com

"Well done, thy good and faithful servant." – Matthew 25:23

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



Frances
Burney-Matthews

OCTOBER 15, 1941 – MAY 14, 2026

Saturday, May 23, 2026 • 1:00 PM

Warner Temple AME Zion Church

620 Nixon Street • Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Reverend Dr. Clifford Barnett, Eulogist

Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Soft Music

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Invocation Minister

Opening Hymn..... Choir

Scripture Readings..... Ellenita Blanton

New Testament: John 14: 1-3

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4

Prayer of Comfort..... Minister

Selection..... Choir

Acknowledgments and RemarksDuchess Hunter

Remarks Limit Two Minutes Please

Friends and Family

Inspirational Solo Toi Sparrow

Words of Comfort Reverend Dr. Clifford Barnett

Closing Prayer

Recessional



Ma, today I stand with trembling hands,
Trying to speak the love words cannot hold
You were the heart inside our home,
The steady light that never dimmed,
Even in life's darkest storms.
If love alone could have kept you here,
You would have lived forever.
Though heaven has called you home,
A daughter never stops needing her mother.
Thank you for every sacrifice unseen,
Every sleepless night,
Every prayer whispered for me
When I didn't even know I needed one.
So today I do not say goodbye.
I say thank you.
I say I love you.
And I promise to carry your love forward
In the way I live,
The way I love
And the way that I remember you
Every single day.
Rest gently, Mom.
Until we meet again.

— TOYA

REFLECTIONS OF HER LIFE



Frances
Burney-Matthews

Frances Burney-Matthews, daughter of the late Walter and Lila Fisher, was born on October 15, 1941, in Roseboro, North Carolina. She departed this life peacefully on May 14, 2026, in Pineville, North Carolina, at the age of 84. Frances lived a life filled with love, faith, kindness, and devotion to her family and friends.

Frances was a proud graduate of Fayetteville State University, where she earned her degree in 1964. A true and loyal Bronco, she loved attending homecoming celebrations and sporting events, always supporting her alma mater with pride and enthusiasm throughout the years. She was previously married to Arlee Burney, and to this union her daughter, Latoya, was born.

Frances dedicated 31 years of her life to teaching, serving students in Pender, Brunswick, and New Hanover counties. Her commitment to education and her students left a lasting impact on countless lives and reflected her passion for learning and service.

She was a devoted mother to her daughter, Latoya, and a loving mother-in-law to Michael "Champ." She was a proud grandmother to Dorien, Dominique, and Dez Andrews, and her heart overflowed with joy for her ten cherished great-grandchildren: Braylon, Kayelani, Zola, Malaya, Dream, Ariel, Khi'Aire, Destiny, Zalakai, and Alani.

Frances also leaves behind her only surviving sister, Lila Faye Williams; her nieces, Ellenita Blanton, Sonya Williams, Duchess Hunter, Nikki Blanton, Shara Sparkman, and Jaleesa Sparkman; along with many extended family members and friends who will forever cherish her memory. Frances shared an extraordinary friendship spanning more than 60 years with her best friend, Cynthia Sparrow. Their bond was a beautiful example of loyalty, laughter, and lifelong love.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Lila Fisher, and her sisters, Ellen Rose Blanton and Del Sparkman and niece Kim Blanton. Frances loved her church deeply and found comfort and strength in her faith. She enjoyed shopping, playing cards, and most of all, spending time with her family and creating treasured memories with those she loved most. Her warm smile, gentle spirit, and caring heart touched everyone who knew her.

Though our hearts are saddened by her passing, we are comforted by the beautiful memories she leaves behind and the love she poured into so many lives. Frances Burney-Matthews will forever be remembered as a strong, loving, faithful, and proud woman whose legacy will continue through the family she treasured so dearly.

She will be deeply missed and forever loved.