



## Frances R. Paige

March 28, 1926 - December 15, 2016

During the early hours of December 15th 2016, the “angel of mercy” came and opened death’s door so the soul of our beloved Frances Revell Paige could “take flight” from the cares and concerns of this earthly existence and enter into the presence of God and Eternal Rest.

A native of Suffolk, VA, she was a devoted family matriarch, a dedicated teacher, and a devout Christian. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in English from Virginia Union University and a master’s degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh, she began her teaching career.

In addition to teaching English and forensics, she spent a major portion of her life helping young people of the Portsmouth Schools to build a personal philosophy, based on moral and spiritual principles. As a result, she was the recipient of many awards and honors. She was one of four African-American teachers selected to integrate the public schools in Portsmouth in the 1960’s. She received her highest accolades as a teacher the year she retired when she was honored with an outpouring of love from co-workers, students and friends during a two-hour “This Is Your Life” assembly program.

In addition to her educational endeavors, she was an active member of Community Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth, Virginia for thirty-two years. During this time, she served as an elder, Sunday school teacher, leader of the Inter-faith Bible class, and co-administrator of the Thomas B. Hargrave Day Care Center. The first Commissioned Lay Preacher in the Presbytery of Southern Virginia, she served as pulpit supply and was often in demand as

guest speaker for religious organizations and churches.

After her retirement from teaching, she rejoiced in the opportunity to give full time to Christian service as Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. One of the greatest fulfillments of her Christian aspirations was her appointment as a member of the Pastoral Care Team at Messiah Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, Virginia.

This confirmed Christian firmly believed that Bible study and prayer were the two most important forces in her life, and she was deeply grateful that God had chosen her as one of His servants to share His love with others.

Those who will treasure her memory include her devoted husband of fifty-five years Oliver Paige, daughter Hadiyah Muhammad, son Rev. Keith Paige, five grandchildren, four great-grand-children; nieces Janie Thornton, Bertha and Delores Smith; nephews Elder Leroy and Carlton James; other relatives, former students, and all who were touched by her ministry.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd  
Chesapeake, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **21**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

## Visitation

DEC **22**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Community Presbyterian Church  
801 Tazewell Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23701

## Service

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DEC **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Community Presbyterian Church  
801 Tazewell Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23701

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Remembering my Mother Frances Revell Paige on Memorial Day 2025, Joan Revell Muhammad & the Muhammad Al-Bari Robinson families.



Joan Muhammad - May 16, 2025 at 08:38 AM

JM

In a Memorial Day tribute for my Mother, the Dearest and Blessed, we share this video presentation in thanks for all, who knew and loved her. She remains forever in our hearts. Sincerely, from her Daughter Joan & The Muhammad Al-Bari Robinson families.

Joan Muhammad - May 16, 2025 at 01:09 PM

JH

“ Remembering my Beloved Godmother today and always... 🙏🌹☀️  
May her Gentle soul rest in Peace and Glory 🌹



Jason Harvey - May 30, 2022 at 01:19 PM

JH

“ Jason Harvey lit a candle in memory of Frances R. Paige



Jason Harvey - December 28, 2021 at 03:59 PM

KM

“ *Ma Paige was my 11th grade English teacher. She taught me to have integrity, and she was one of the inspirations who encouraged me to be an English teacher. She introduced me to Richard Wright, Countee Cullen, James Baldwin and many more. Family please know that she lives on and her values shine through the lives she affected. Her crown is heavy with jewels... I wish we had many more teachers like her. Rest well Mrs. Paige.*

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**Kimblyn Clanton Moore** - December 22, 2016 at 07:10 AM

JH

*Mrs. Paige was also my 11th grade English teacher at Wilson in 82-83. I was very troubled at the time and Ma Paige reached out to me with the Good News about Jesus Christ. I'm forever grateful to Mrs. Paige for my salvation.*

*Jason Harvey*

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**Jason Harvey** - December 28, 2021 at 03:54 PM

CJ

“ *Mrs. Paige was my senior English Teacher @Woodrow Wilson High School for the year 1972/73. She was a great human being, a great Teacher and mentor for students. She was determined to take all of us on a learning adventure together, so we just had to go with her. The Lord really blessed my life and heart because of her influence on me. I was one of her Caucasian students and she was the Best English Teacher that I ever had. I loved her. I am praying for the family and I know she is at the feet of Jesus now, rejoicing.*

*Cheryl Jennings  
Roanoke, VA*

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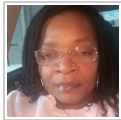
**Cheryl A. Jennings** - December 22, 2016 at 01:20 AM

NS

“ As one of the four teachers selected to integrate Woodrow Wilson High School in the 1960's, I will always appreciate Mrs. Paige's calming and wise wisdom during those times. She was also very loving and kind to my children when they attended Thomas B. Hargrave Day Care Center. God grant love and peace to her family.  
N. Stephenson & family

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**Nettie Stephenson** - December 21, 2016 at 09:56 AM



*I was one of her caretakers the year I've known her she inspired me to be the best I can be at what I did so thank you for your inspiration Ms Paige you'll be truly missed at Morningside*

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**Clareese Nicholas** - December 24, 2016 at 08:50 AM

DD

“ Mr. Paige and Keith,

*Norvis and I extend our deepest condolences to you. Mrs. Paige was a dear neighbor who had a kind, gentle soul. I will forever cherish the assistance she provided me with my first resume for federal employment and all the times she shared her holiday cooking with the Dabney-Bynum family.*

*I pray the memories you shared brings you comfort during this time of bereavement.*

*With love,  
Donna & Norvis Dabney*



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**Donna Dabney** - December 21, 2016 at 08:39 AM

DM

“ Dan Mooney lit a candle in memory of Frances R. Paige



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Dan mooney - December 21, 2016 at 06:20 AM

JP

“ I was one of many white students Mrs. Paige touched in the 1960's at Wilson High school as our schools became integrated. She was a wonderful role model of kindness and acceptance and she will be remembered with love by many. This is proven by the many beautiful sentiments shared on Facebook when we learned of her passing. She touched so many and God has a special place for her In heaven. May her memory eternal.

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Judy Pantelides - December 21, 2016 at 04:38 AM

RS

“ Mr. Paige you have our deepest sympathy due to the passing of your wife, Mrs. Francis R. Paige. You have 55 years of precious memories to carry in your heart. Be of good courage, joy will come in the morning.

Sincerely,

Jewel Long

Regina Long Southall

I.C. Norcom High School 12th Grade English Students ( 1965 and 1966 Graduates)



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Regina Long Southall - December 21, 2016 at 01:17 AM

TR

*I met Ma Paige in the early 80s, as she did what educators did during that time, making a home visit. She was a teacher to my sister Shelia and brother Frazell but family to us all, from day one!! I can remember seeing this lady walking up the sidewalk in the community "Ida Barbour" we lived in as I sat on the porch. I had no idea that this lady who exuded class and elegance was coming to our home but I thank God for leading her into our lives. A few visits later, we met Pop Paige and from that moment on they were a constant in the Riddick/Brown family! Every occasion and celebration, we could count on their presence and love. Ma Paige, I sincerely pray that I have made you proud. I thank you for the spiritual and educational nuggets that you have planted in our lives. I will never forget you telling me that your brain & heart will never get full so don't ever stop learning and loving!!! I promised you that I wouldn't and I won't. Pa Paige, we love you and will forever be here for you and the family. Thank God for the life and legacy of Frances R. Paige*

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**Tomecia Riddick** - December 22, 2016 at 09:58 AM

DJ

“*Ms. Paige was my English. She was a great teacher as was her husband. God bless her family.*

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**David E. Jordan** - December 20, 2016 at 11:31 PM

CD

“*Mr. Paige my prayers are with you and your family.*



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**Caren Dunston** - December 20, 2016 at 07:55 PM

SS

“ *Sis and siblings purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Frances R. Paige.*



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**Sis and siblings** - December 20, 2016 at 06:51 PM

BO

“ *Brenda Lee Ownby lit a candle in memory of Frances R. Paige*



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**Brenda Lee Ownby** - December 20, 2016 at 06:40 PM

BO

“ *You will be greatly missed by all. You touched me in away I'll never forget. Rest in Peace Mrs. Paige.*

*Brenda O.*

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**Brenda Lee Ownby** - December 20, 2016 at 06:36 PM

JH

“ *Joyce N Harrell lit a candle in memory of Frances R. Paige*



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**Joyce N Harrell** - December 20, 2016 at 04:01 PM

JH

“ *With Deepest Sympathy*

*To My Wonderful Cousins,*

*Elder Oliver and Rev. Keith Paige & Family*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

*(Matthew 5:4) May it be a source of inner strength to know that there's a loving God watching over you, and that, throughout this time of need, He'll stay close by your side.*

*And our Elder Frances is in Jesus' arms Thanking Him for the Wonderful Husband and Family He gave her.*

*Love you*

*Joyce Nadine Harrell*

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**Joyce N Harrell** - December 20, 2016 at 04:00 PM

CW

“ *Crystal M. Wilder lit a candle in memory of Frances R. Paige*



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**Crystal M. Wilder** - December 20, 2016 at 01:00 PM

AW

“ *Ashley N. Wilder lit a candle in memory of Frances R. Paige*



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**Ashley N. Wilder** - December 20, 2016 at 12:58 PM

PN

“ To the Paige family, the class of I.C Norcom class of 1966 send our heartfelt sympathy for the loss of Mrs. Paige.

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**Paulette Walker Newsome** - December 20, 2016 at 12:38 PM

CB

“ Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, Usher Board, purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Frances R. Paige.



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**Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, Usher Board,** - December 19, 2016 at 09:22 AM