

**PALLBEARERS**

SC Midlands Chapter of the Charmettes, Inc. - Charmers  
Nephews

**FLORAL BEARERS**

SC Midland Chapter of the Charmettes, Inc.  
First Nazareth Baptist Church Pastor's Aid Ministry

**Acknowledgement**

The family of the late *Frances Lenora Nelson Blanding* extends heartfelt thanks to each of you for your love, prayers, overwhelming support, visits and calls during our hours of bereavement. Your kindness has helped to carry us through this very difficult time and we are deeply grateful. May God's presence continues to comfort each of us.

**A Service of Remembrance  
Celebrating the Life  
of  
Frances Lenora Nelson Blanding**



**Thursday, April 23, 2026  
11:00 a.m.**

**First Nazareth Baptist Church  
2351 Gervais Street  
Columbia, South Carolina**

**Reverend Dr. Blakely N. Scott  
-Pastor-**



**CONTACT US:**  
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803-771-7799  
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803-776-6922  
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# The Life and Legacy of Frances Lenora Nelson Blanding

Frances Lenora Nelson was born on February 2, 1937, in Camden, South Carolina. She was the seventh of nine children born to the late Frances and Duncan Nelson. Frances lived a full life and departed this world on April 14, 2026, at the proud age of 89.

Mrs. Blanding graduated from St. Matthew High School in Camden, South Carolina, in 1954. She was part of the final graduating class before the school closed due to the pending Supreme Court case regarding integration. Afterward, she relocated to Brooklyn, New York, where she earned an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts from New York City (NYC) Technical College.

Upon arriving in New York, Mrs. Blanding began working at the Virginia Dare Stores just two weeks later. Four years into her stay, she joined the NY Telephone Company as an Information Operator, where she served for six years and was among the few Black employees at the company. She continued her professional journey with the New York City Board of Education, dedicating twenty-eight years as a Paraprofessional. Her distinguished career in education culminated with her retirement in 2002. Additionally, Mrs. Blanding worked as a Leader and Facilitator at Weight Watchers for thirty-five years, retiring in 2013.

From a young age, Mrs. Blanding was active in church life. She was baptized by Oscar Alexander at Union Baptist Church in Rembert, South Carolina, and served on the Usher Board, in Sunday school, and in the Young People's Program. In New York, she became a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Brooklyn, where she served in the Young People Choir and the Baptist Training Union. Later, she joined St. Paul Community Baptist Church and enjoyed Bible Study and contributed to the Jewel Ministry, specifically The Peridot, a Senior Women's Group. After moving to Columbia, South Carolina, in 2018, she joined First Nazareth Baptist Church and became involved with several ministries, including Senior Citizens Ministry, Cancer Support Ministry, Pastor's Aide Ministry, Care Takers Ministry, and Women's Working Ministry.

In 2019, Mrs. Blanding joined the South Carolina Midlands Chapter of The Charmettes Incorporated, where she was an active and dedicated participant. Frances enjoyed jogging and running and was engaged in her community. She was a lifetime member of Weight Watchers and also loved reading.

Mrs. Blanding met her beloved husband, Mr. Zacharia Blanding, at her first job more than sixty-two years ago. They were married in July 1960. Frances leaves behind two sons: Derek Nolan Blanding of Columbia, South Carolina, and Dexter Gervase (Donna) Blanding of Atlanta, Georgia. She is also survived by one sister, Beatrice Richardson of Columbia, South Carolina; five grandchildren; Brandon, Derek Nolan II, Ashley, Alexa, and Aaron; five great-grandchildren; three sisters-in-law; one brother-in-law; a host of nieces, nephews, loving relatives and devoted friends, all will miss her dearly.

## *Mother Is Always With You*

*She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street.*

*She's the smell of certain foods you remember, flowers you pick, the fragrance of life itself.*

*She's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well.*

*She's your breath in the air on a cold winters' day.*

*She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep, the colors of a rainbow.*

*She is Christmas morning.*

*Your mother lives inside your laughter.*

*She's the place you come from, your first home.*

*She's the map you follow with every step you take.*

*She's your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy.*

*But nothing on Earth can separate you.*

*Not time.*

*Not space.*

*Not even death*





# Memories



# Memories

