



Ms. Mary Frances Ross

May 29, 1936 - May 12, 2014

Ms. Mary Frances Duncan Ross, 77, of Royston, GA passed away on Monday, May 12, 2014, at Brown Health and Rehab in Royston, GA.

Ms. Ross was born in Marion, NC on May 29, 1936, daughter of the late Claude A. Duncan and the late Sara Mae Duncan Duncan. She was a music instructor and a member of the Royston First United Methodist Church where she was the former organist.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Ross was preceded in death by her sisters, Shelbie Jean Pentecost, Claudia Ann Duncan, and Rebecca Elizabeth Duncan.

Survivors include her brother and sister-in-law, Dennis L. and Doris Duncan of Royston, GA; nieces and nephew, Carolyn Boleman, Robert Duncan, and Amy Haynes.

Funeral services for Ms. Ross will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at the Royston First United Methodist Church with Rev. Mac Enfinger officiating. Interment will follow in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Royston, GA.

The family will receive friends at Royston First United Methodist Church from

11:00 a.m. until funeral hour on Wednesday. The family is at the home of Dennis and Doris Duncan, 648 Dawkins Road, Royston, GA 30662.

Flowers are optional; memorials may be made to the Royston First United Methodist Church Music Department, 137 Franklin Springs Street, Royston, GA 30662 or to the Royston Baptist Church Music Department, 767 Church Street, Royston, GA 30662.

Pruitt Funeral Home in Royston, GA is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

CB

“*Mrs. Ross came to Emmanuel College my freshman year of 1962. She taught me so much music theory and adopted me as her student choral director assistant. Over the years each time I hear pipe organ music I think of Mrs. Ross and shall do so as long as I shall live. She taught us to really appreciate sacred music. She is no doubt now teaching the angels.*

Calvin and Leola Pope Ballington - September 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

DD

“*Mary Frances was such a classy and precious lady. She always greeted me as if I were someone very special and I always felt loved and cared for. Her love for music meant so much to me as I served as a Minister of Music and play the piano. I smile every time I think of her and Shelbie Jean. They have already found each other in Heaven and enjoying the celestial sights and sounds of Glory. Such sweet and close sisters!*

Shirley and I were just in Marion, NC and the home place of her roots. The air was so pure and clean and the mountains so beautiful. We enjoyed tremendously the rocks and creeks of nature and good down home country people who really knew how to cook old-fashioned food.

Our love and prayers are with the family. Mary Frances will be greatly missed!

*David and Shirley Duncan
Hephzibah Children's Home
Macon GA*

David and Shirley Duncan - September 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

KG

“ *Mary Frances was a precious cousin. . Ready with a smile and sincere interest, she always asked me about my teaching and my family members who were not present at our annual family reunion. Though she was very, very talented, Mary Frances was humble-- a true servant and Master Teacher. I enjoyed being her relative, her sister-in-Christ, and her friend. I look forward to seeing her again in Heaven ; I know she was eagerly greeted in Heaven by her loving parents and her dear sisters.*

Kathy Duncan Grant - September 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

JS

“ *Dennis and Doris:
I am so sorry to hear of Mary Frances' passing. I remember what a wonderful musician she was.*

Please know that I am thinking of you both during this very sad time in your lives.

Looking forward to seeing you again at the reunion in August!

*Sincerely,
Kutz*

James M. Strickland - September 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

JR

“ Without question, Mary Frances Ross was the most inspirational musician and teacher we ever knew. Her choral conducting was unlike any we had known up til that time. Her organ playing literally swept us up and away to a new level. Music just flowed from her body and fingers and feet. We would watch and marvel how she managed to change stops on the organ with the total flow of the music and without a single skip. She left us with a desire to conduct and play like her. And so for many years her teaching and inspiration lived through us and still does. God rest her soul. Know she is playing the biggest pipe organ in heaven to the praises of our GOD.

John & Faye Reece - September 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

GJ

“ Mrs. Ross was a very talented and outstanding lady, and so pleasant to know. She will be long remembered. With Sympathy, Gail & Sammy Johnson

Gail Johnson - September 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

JM

“ Ms. Ross was my music instructor in theory and piano/organ at Emmanuel College 1969-70. I learned so much from her! Not only was she a wonderful teacher but a great example of a dedicated Christian who loved her music, but most of all, loved her Lord! She was such a blessing to me as she was to so many others.

Joyce Moore - September 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

WS

“ I decided to apply to Emmanuel College in the spring of 1965 after hearing the Emmanuel College choir under the inspired direction of Mrs. Ross. I didn't even know that the church had a college at the time. After several interventions by God, I arrived on campus and auditioned for Mrs Ross. I was so ignorant about music that I did not know one could read music to sing it. I thought I had to hear a song before I could try to sing it. She was so kind that she tanked me for my effort and placed me in chapel choir. I asked if I could listen to college choir practices since I had a free period if I didn't say a word. She agreed and I learned the Christmas concert by memory. I worked hard in chapel choir and took music elements and when I was registering for the second quarter, she told me "save a slot for college choir." I was a part (very small) part of the 1966 and 1967 tours which were two of the happiest years of my life. I even progressed enough to take music theory under Mrs. Ross. She changed my life by opening my mind and heart to the great beauty of music. I will always treasure her memory. She may not have remembered me, but I will never forget her and her pure witness for Christ. The light on her face and the movement of her beautiful hands as she directed us in "The Eyes of All, Wait Upon Thee" are still an inspiration to me.

Weldon Slayton - September 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

EL

“ When I was a teenager I switched piano teachers from my first piano teacher to Ms. Ross. I already loved music and had hoped to make music my career. Becoming a student of Ms. Ross changed my life and she was a wonderful teacher. She took students go to Piano Festivals through GMEA and All-State. She was a serious Music instructor for serious students. Ms. Ross was an accomplished pianist, organist, and choral instructor. She was also a wonderful, sweet and kind woman. She will be missed by all who knew her.

E. Link - September 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

EC

“ *Ms. Ross was my Music Theory and Organ Teacher. She was absolutely the most organized teacher I ever sat under. She also taught piano to my two daughters. She was such an accomplished musician. Her abilities were phenomenal and inspiring.*

Ernestine Cochran - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM