

**Homegoing Celebration
For
Mrs. Frances Lou Emma Pogue Benson**



**Saturday, January 8, 2005
1:00 p.m.**

**Memorial Presbyterian Church
2600 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216**

**Reverend Doctor Edward B. Newberry
Pastor / Officiating**

Obituary

Mrs. Frances Lou Emma Pogue Benson was born on October 7, 1917 in St. Charles, South Carolina, the third child of Rev. Isaiah Prince Pogue and Mrs. Sadie Marie Wilson Pogue. She was raised in Sumter, South Carolina and graduated from Lincoln High School. After graduating from Barber-Scotia College, she enrolled in Johnson C. Smith University. While at Smith, Lou was a soloist in the touring choir and in 1938, she was crowned "Ms. Johnson C. Smith." She majored in French and social studies and graduated *magna cum laude* in 1939. She later completed a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1991, she was inducted into the Johnson C. Smith Hall of Fame. She was married to the late Jack Gerard Benson, Sr., who preceded her in death. To their union, three children were born. On January 3, 2005 she died peacefully at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Lou Emma fundamentally believed in living a life that was inspired by God; a life full of dignity, grace, joy, service, and love.

Her thirty-year career as an educator started with a teaching position at Coulter Academy in Cheraw, South Carolina. She then began a career with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System as a teacher at Second Ward High School and later, as a guidance counselor at West Mecklenburg High School. From 1967-1971, she served as the Dean of Women and Counselor at Johnson C. Smith University. In 1993, former students recognized the contributions that their teachers Jack and Lou Benson had made in their lives at a Coulter Academy Alumni Reunion.

Lou was an active member of Memorial Presbyterian Church where she served as an elder and a deacon. She served on various church and presbytery committees including the Global Mission Committee of the Charlotte Presbytery. This work included visiting people in need in Nicaragua and Mexico in 1983. She was a Board Member and Volunteer for Crisis Assistance Ministry and she generously supported several charitable organizations.

Lou enjoyed the fellowship of several social organizations. She was a Charter Member of the Charlotte Chapter of Jack and Jill, Inc. She was also a member of the Les Savantes, the Modernettes, the Monday Evening Bridge Club, Our Bridge Club and the Kappa Alpha Psi Silhouettes. She was actively involved in the Memorial Presbyterian Church Retirees Fellowship, the McCrory Heights Neighborhood Association and she belonged to the Charlotte Chapter of the Johnson C. Smith Alumni Association. Lou Benson also loved and supported the fine arts.

Survivors include her children: Jack Gerard Benson, Jr. (Louise Parker) of Charlotte and Dr. Donna J. Benson of Winston-Salem; beloved siblings Dorothy Pogue Watkins and Claude Arthur Pogue of Philadelphia, PA; and one aunt Bertha Pegues of Florence SC. One daughter, Jacqueline, preceded her in death. Survivors also include: dearly loved nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends.

In lieu of flowers, contributions should be made to the Memorial Presbyterian Church Building Fund or to Johnson C. Smith University Office of Institutional Advancement in the name of Lou P. Benson to provide scholarship support for students who are pursuing careers in medicine.

