



Frances R. Baker

April 6, 1934 - July 25, 2011

Frances R. Baker of Cadillac died Monday evening, July 25, 2011 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City with her family by her side. She was 77. She was born on April 6, 1934 in Muskegon to Hans Droste & Suze (Pfeiffer) Helling and they preceded her in death.

She graduated from Western Michigan University in 1956. Mrs. Baker started her teaching career working in Portage and Paw Paw for 4 years and had taught in Cadillac for 29 years and was a mentor for student teachers and other teachers retiring in 2000. After she retired she was a substitute teacher for 11 years. In 1988 Mrs. Baker was awarded the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cadillac where she sang in the choir for 39 years and also played in the Cadillac symphony Orchestra. Frances loved traveling, knitting and whittling and bicycling, and she with her husband Bruce biked across the United States from Boston to Los Angeles in 2001.

On August 4, 1956 in Muskegon she married Bruce G. Baker and he survives her along with their children: Nancy (Bruce) DeWitt of Cadillac, Sara (James) Nordlund of Ludington, and Eric (Susan) Baker of Cadillac; grandchildren: Nicole DeWitt & fiancée Lucas Johnson, Abigail & Luke DeWitt, Kate &

Emily Nordlund, Isaac, Hannah, and Ethan Baker; sisters: Marion (William) Roelofs of Noblesville, Indiana, Lieschen (Dr. Ronald) Hoeksema of Whitehall, Michigan and Susan (Robert) Hickman of Placitas, New Mexico; sisters-in-law: Connie (James) Grant of Tipton, Michigan and Shirley Cannon of Perrysburg, Ohio; many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her father & mother-in-law, Chester & Dorothy Baker; brothers-in-law: Charles Greenfield and William Cannon and nephews: Robert Greenfield and Jon Roelofs.

Memorial services will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, July 30, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church in Cadillac with Reverend Paul Tomlinson officiating. Friends may meet the family from 2-4 & 6-8 PM Friday at the Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac. Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church, American Heart Association or to the charity of your choice. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

KT

“ Bruce, Nancy, Sarah, and Eric: I was your neighbor growing up (4th & 5th grade). So sorry to hear of your loss. Your mom was a sweetheart. Love and Light to your families.

Karen Taylor - October 25, 2013 at 03:52 PM

GK

“ My thoughts are with your family. Take comfort in knowing that she had a profound and positive impact on her students.

George Korr - August 03, 2011 at 09:26 PM

RF

“ Dear Bruce, Nancy, Sara and Eric. I am so sorry for the loss of your wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. I remember our supper club parties, and the fun working at McKinley School in the " good old days"
. May your faith and friends help you through this painful time. God bless each of you.

Ricki Fox - August 02, 2011 at 06:35 PM

RR

“ My sincerest condolences to my dear old friends, Sara, Eric, Nancy and Mr B. Mrs. Baker truly had a life well lived, with such a positive impact on so many. I have fond memories of her second grade class and bicycling with her on Mackinac. Peace be with you.

Rob Ransom - August 02, 2011 at 11:24 AM

BJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. She was truly a remarkable woman and role model as a teacher for both our daughters, as a direct result of her nurturing we are the proud parents of a teacher..a great example.

Bruce and Deb Johnson - July 30, 2011 at 11:45 AM

NS

“ Bruce, my heartfelt condolences to you and your family.

Norman Schneiderman - July 29, 2011 at 11:01 PM

NC

“ We are so, so sorry for your loss! I have nothing but good, warm memories of Fran! Always a funny, kind, caring person to be around. I remember her as such a great encourager. As I think of it now, I never left her presence without feeling better. Such a special person she was and Rich remembers her warmly as his 2nd grade teacher. How she will be missed! Wish we could be there to give you all a hug! Thinking of you all with love and prayers.

Nancy and Rich Clinton - July 29, 2011 at 05:52 PM

BR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Baker family. She was an amazing woman! Love you Uncle Buck, Sue and Kids-

Brian & Melissa Ransom - July 29, 2011 at 04:42 PM

MS

“ *Baker Family*

i am so sad to hear of Frans passing. She made such an impact on my son Maxwell and my family as a whole. She was a wonderful teacher and person. The Schrank family sends all of our prayers to your wonderful family

Mary Jo Schrank - July 29, 2011 at 03:00 PM

DW

“ *You are in our hearts and prayers.*

Doug & Jill Wilterdink - July 29, 2011 at 11:03 AM

MM

“ *Very sorry for the Baker Family's loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Baker Family and all the people who Fran has influenced over the years. It is very evident she had a big impact on her community and she will be sorely missed.*

Michael McDonald - July 29, 2011 at 10:47 AM

RH

“ *Thank you for everything you did for me an everyone you taught. your life will always be celebrated. My heart is with you all miss you always Mrs Baker till we meet again.*

Ryan Hamilton - July 29, 2011 at 02:48 AM

SS

“ *What an experience growing up around the block from the Bakers! Whether we were delivering Ole Bolens to the neighbors, playing in the playhouse, or even learning to waterski, Fran and Bruce always included everyone in the fun. She had a big heart, a great sense of humor and a lovely family that she shared with all of us. My love and prayers to you all.*

Sherri (Fagerman) Seifert - July 28, 2011 at 09:09 PM

KK

“ *Our prayers are with you all during this time of great loss. Fran was truly a beautiful woman, inside and out. Our last conversation, only a couple weeks ago, was wonderful. She was such a great encourager and my heart grieves with yours. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.*

Kathy Kitson-Wheeler - July 28, 2011 at 03:23 PM

KW

“ *I feel extremely lucky to have been one of her students. Mrs. Baker will be greatly missed. My prayers are with your family.*

Kellie (Roy) Wells - July 28, 2011 at 02:50 PM

S(

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. You will always have the memories in your heart of Fran's beautiful soul. She had a beautiful life.*

Sandra (Winter)Gaia-Rae - July 28, 2011 at 12:12 PM

RA

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Ms.Fran was a very special person. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Rebecca Augustat - July 28, 2011 at 12:01 PM

CW

“ I have such great memories of time spent with your family as a child. Fran always inspired fun! We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

Carol Winter - July 28, 2011 at 11:52 AM

TK

“ My thoughts and my family's thoughts are with your family. My mother taught with her and always had the highest respect for her as a teacher and as a peer. We will keep you in our prayers.

Tom Klarquist - July 28, 2011 at 09:05 AM

BV

“ Our hearts go out to you and your family in the loss of this fine lady. Fran was a very kind person who had a way of making everyone feel special.

Bruce & Debbie Vennema - July 28, 2011 at 08:37 AM

RW

“ Our heart aches for your family in your loss. Fran was a wonderful person and a rare gem. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Ron and Anne Wohlford - July 28, 2011 at 08:24 AM

DB

“ A special lady who always had a smile and warm greeting. My best to the family.

Daniel Brooks - July 28, 2011 at 08:24 AM

PJ

“ *Bruce my prayers are with you and your family.*

Penny Jenema - July 28, 2011 at 08:13 AM