



## Lillian Black Nunnelly

March 7, 1925 - June 14, 2019

The Reverend Lillian Black Nunnelly, age 94, passed away in Lexington on Friday, June 14th, 2019. A Memorial Service will be held at First Christian Church, Frankfort on Sunday, June 30th at 3:00 P.M. The family will receive friends at the church on Saturday, June 29th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Lillian was born in Hagerstown, Maryland and was the first in her family to graduate from college. After Lynchburg College, while in graduate school at Lexington Theological Seminary, she met the love of her life and 67-year partner, Don. Together, they forged a partnership that served numerous churches and causes across Kentucky and throughout the Disciples of Christ ministries — from Frankfort and Henderson to Florence and Stamping Ground.

Lillian was a strong-willed leader and gifted educator by nature, whether it was in her work teaching elementary school, directing the Kentucky Coalition for Literacy for the State of Kentucky, spending summers at the Chautauqua Institution in New York, or starting multiple adult education programs. Her passion for these programs was contagious, having enlisted and trained over 600 volunteers in Frankfort's Thorn Hill program alone. Chief among the moments by which she marked each year's calendar and nourished her spirit: Thorn Hill's graduation ceremony. She loved watching her students accomplish such an important milestone — attaining the equivalent of a high school diploma — and forging ahead in their lives with the benefit of this education and the infectious spirit of the Thorn Hill community.

Together with her work in education, Lillian was also an ordained minister, serving local congregations as well as state and national units of the Disciples of Christ. She served as Moderator of the Christian Church in Kentucky and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Lexington Theological Seminary for 22 years. Her voice was a part of church choirs for over 50 years, several of which she directed.

Above all, "Gran" was a beloved wife, mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother! There

was no greater cheerleader for those she loved and of whom she was so proud. Always quick with a compliment and slow with critique — but nevertheless always setting the high bar for optimism, ethics, and civic duty for all those around her. Known far and wide for her charitable spirit, she loved to entertain and cook, famous for her spaghetti bolognese, cranberry relish, and the best cinnamon rolls you have ever had. She will be mightily missed, but always with us.

Lillian is survived by her husband Dr. Donald A. Nunnely, her daughter Martha Royster (Maurice) of Johnson City, TN, sons Dr. David Nunnely (Jane) of St. Petersburg, FL and Mark Nunnely (Denise) of Dover, MA, as well as eleven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and her sister Mary Stains of Hagerstown, MD.

Memorial contributions in memory of Mrs. Nunnely are suggested to First Christian Church, Frankfort, KY or the Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **29**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

First Christian Church  
316 Ann Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

## Service

JUN **30**. 3:00 PM (ET)

First Christian Church  
316 Ann Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lillian Black Nunnelly*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ 61 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - June 26, 2019 at 07:10 AM



“ *I was so sorry to see about Mrs. Nunnelly passing. Both of you were so nice and always there when my parents and brother, Martah, Leroy and Butch had needs. Our blessings are with you during this time. Allen Fincham.*

Allen Fincham - June 22, 2019 at 01:26 PM



“ *Mary Lou Philpot lit a candle in memory of Lillian Black Nunnelly*



Mary Lou Philpot - June 22, 2019 at 11:25 AM