

Frances Arvilla Burkhalter, of Berne, Indiana, born on October 21, 1906 went to be with her Lord on July 27, 2007, after serving Him faithfully for 100 years. After having graduated from Berne High School, she attended Moody Bible Institute and completed degrees in Bible and music. She then returned to Berne to work at the family's Fair Store where she served the community and her Lord with exceptional grace and kindness. She also loved teaching piano to hundreds of students through the years. She played the piano frequently for church, for evangelistic revivals, and for Senior Citizens luncheons (although she never was one). She was also in charge of the music for the 5-week long community Daily Vacation Bible School. Frances and Freida Lehman organized the county-wide Youth for Christ in Berne, and Frances also served as the County Sunday School secretary.

At the First Mennonite Church, for more than 50 years, Frances taught Sunday School for teenagers and children, Children's Bible Hour on Sunday night, and Bible study on Wednesday night. Frances touched thousands of lives and was honored by the Berne community with a much-appreciated reception at Swiss Heritage Village on her 99th birthday.

Frances is survived by her sister, Lorraine Burkhalter, of Berne, Indiana.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents, Menno Burkhalter and Sarah (Gilliom) Burkhalter; brothers, Freeman and Edward; and her sisters, Florence and Gertrude. Frances will be missed by her many nieces and nephews and their families. Frances and Lorraine have wrapped loving arms around their nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and nephews, and great-grand nieces and nephews. They provided an accepting and open home for Edward and Ramoth's children when they returned to the United States for college while their parents were missionaries in India. Frances's favorite hymn was "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and by her life, she expressed this deep abiding faith in God.

Funeral Services will be held 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 31, 2007 at the First Mennonite Church in Berne, Indiana with the Rev. Dennis Schmidt officiating. Burial will be in the M.R.E. Cemetery, Berne, Indiana.

Visitation will be from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 30, 2007 in the Yager-Kirchhofer Funeral Home in Berne, Indiana.

Preferred memorials are to the First Mennonite Church Missions and/or Gideons International. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15.

Yager-Kirchhofer Funeral Home online obit (accessed 2-26-12)