



Mary Frances Covington

January 29, 1947 - October 11, 2025

Mary Frances Covington, lovingly known as "Mae," passed away peacefully, leaving behind a rich legacy of faith, service, and love. Born on January 29, 1947, in Cave Spring, Georgia, to the late David and Vivian (Neal) Shepherd, Mary moved with her family to Detroit, Michigan, around 1948. She was the third of eight children and was preceded in death by her brothers, David Jr. and Charles.

On June 12, 1966, Mary married Ben James Covington. Together, they shared two children, Tanya Denise and Ben James "Cubby" Covington Jr., who also preceded her in death.

A lifelong and devoted member of Lomax Temple AME Zion Church, Mary's faith guided every aspect of her life. Baptized in the mid-1950s, she became a pillar of the church community. She served faithfully through various ministries including the Y-Teens, the W.H.O.M. Missionary Society, and the Steward Board. In 2009, Rev. Brian Relford appointed her to the Steward Board, and in the 2011-2012 Conference Year, she made history as the first woman appointed as

Preacher's Steward at Lomax Temple. Mary served as Chairman of the Steward Board until her passing, leaving an indelible mark on the church she so dearly loved.

Mary graduated from John J. Pershing High School in 1965 and pursued further education at the Detroit Business Institute. Her professional career was wide-ranging and impactful, including roles with Federal's Warehouse, Detroit Public Schools, Alpha Family Counseling, Chrysler Corporation, and General Dynamics Corporation, where she retired. Never one to slow down, she began a successful second career in the tax industry, first with Jackson Hewitt and later as the proud owner of her own franchise in Southfield, Michigan, which she operated for over 25 years. Through this work, she became a trusted advisor and friend to many.

Beyond her remarkable career and spiritual commitments, Mary lived life fully and joyfully. She was known for her impeccable fashion sense, love of dancing, roller skating at Arcadia Roller Rink, bowling, attending R&B concerts, and traveling. Family reunions and time with friends many of whom she'd known since childhood-brought her immense joy. Among her dearest lifelong friends were Lanis Wimbley, Odie Burton, Lenore Iverson, Charlene Attles, Charlene Turk-Gibson, twins Betty and Irma Duffie, Barbara "Babs" Lenard, and Karen "Tootie" Adams.

Mary is survived by her loving daughter, Tanya Denise Mims; her cherished niece, Tiffany Jenai Shepherd (Preston); her beloved grandchildren, Corey Dickerson (MarQuisha), Jazzmin Mims, and Nevaeh Harris-Tucker; and her great-grandchildren, Brooklynn, Kyson, and Kyrie

Dickerson.

She also leaves behind her devoted siblings, Janice Warren (Larry), Matilda Ware (Floyd), Dorothy Grigsby, Carolyn Shepherd, and Richard Shepherd (Deborah); along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, her Lomax Temple family, and countless treasured friends. Mary Frances Covington's life was one of love, faith, resilience, and unwavering service. Her light will continue to shine in all those blessed to have known her.

Previous Events

Family Hour

OCT **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Lomax Temple AME Zion
17441 Dequindre St
Detroit, MI 48212

Celebration of Life

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Lomax Temple AME Zion
17441 Dequindre St
Detroit, MI 48212

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Frances Covington.*



October 24, 2025 at 04:02 PM



“ *Bernice Neal Jackson & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Frances Covington.*



Bernice Neal Jackson & Family - October 24, 2025 at 10:14 AM



“ *Prentice, Desiree, Gloria and Nerissa purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mary Frances Covington.*



Prentice, Desiree, Gloria and Nerissa - October 24, 2025 at 02:28 AM



“ *Kevin E Taylor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Frances Covington.*

Kevin E Taylor - October 23, 2025 at 12:38 PM

KT

“ Kevin E Taylor purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Frances Covington.



Kevin E Taylor - October 23, 2025 at 12:38 PM

TF

“ The Taylor Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Frances Covington.



The Taylor Family - October 23, 2025 at 08:01 AM

SC

“ Sandra Joseph, Alpha Family Counseling planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Frances Covington.

Sandra Joseph, Alpha Family Counseling - October 21, 2025 at 07:05 PM

SC

“ Sandra Joseph, Alpha Family Counseling purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mary Frances Covington.



Sandra Joseph, Alpha Family Counseling - October 21, 2025 at 07:05 PM

TW

“ I am so sorry 😞 about you lost keep in prayers



tina watson - October 19, 2025 at 09:32 PM

DJ

“ Mary was such a beautiful loving woman of God and her spirit will always be with us all. May her precious memories be a blessing to us all and may God bring eternal peace upon her beautiful soul. I love you Darryl A. Johnson

Darryl Johnson - October 18, 2025 at 12:54 PM

DJ

“ Mary was such a beautiful woman of God and a beautiful soul her physical presence will be missed down here; but her spirit will be with us all forever. May her precious memories be a blessing to us all and may the peace of God be upon her forever-everlasting. Love Darryl A. Johnson

Darryl Johnson - October 15, 2025 at 09:50 AM

KM

“ Thank you Cousin Mary Shepherd-Covington, for sharing your amazing love with us ❤️, you're still our beautiful Queen of Travel.. God has his holy arms around you. God bless my Amazing Family in Detroit, MI praying for healing and love ❤️ God bless you all.. 🙏❤️💖 Love you Cousin Kevin E Taylor ❤️



Kevin E Taylor MFA - October 15, 2025 at 09:38 AM

KV

“ Kyle and Brianna Veit purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Frances Covington.



Kyle and Brianna Veit - October 15, 2025 at 09:12 AM

JX

“ Justin, Dontia, Gabriel, Nicole, Xavier purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mary Frances Covington.



Justin, Dontia, Gabriel, Nicole, Xavier - October 14, 2025 at 07:58 PM

YM

“ I met Mrs. Coverington during Redford HS with her daughter Tonya. My Mom and her became friends love her energy and kindness such a Gem.
May God keep your family uplifted in prayers.



Yvette Mclaurin - October 14, 2025 at 07:49 PM

BE

“ I met Sis. Mae 13yrs ago at Lomax and she has a I ways treated me like family, I will forever remember my sister 💕



Bro. Robert Evans - October 14, 2025 at 06:20 PM

LI

“ Mary, we met at Cleveland Jr High and our sister friendship continued until God called you to His eternal Home...missing you is so easy to say because how do you miss part of your heart...I'll always love you my sister...never can say goodbye...Lenore 🙏💔

Lenore Iverson - October 14, 2025 at 05:43 PM

AM

“ I will miss Mary she and I were the same size for a moment and would love when she cleaned her closet. She had great taste in clothes and I loved receiving them. You will be miss. Love April

April Marsh - October 14, 2025 at 05:30 PM

JS

“ My condolences to the family. Mary was definitely a family woman. We met 16 years ago, she taught me to do taxes. Very smart, classy lady. Rest well



Julia Smith - October 14, 2025 at 03:42 PM

SJ

“ *Sending my condolences to family:
Mary had a beautiful spirit & smile.
I teased with her: she lived her life as a world traveler.
She will truly be missed.
Rest peacefully Mary!! ❤️💜 heartbroken 💔*

Sharon Spencer Jackson - October 14, 2025 at 02:59 PM