



Frank L. Whitington

June 12, 1949 - August 30, 2025

Frank L. Whitington's life of service came to a close on August 28, 2025. Francis Loren Whitington was born in Dallas, Texas on June 12, 1949, the last child of LeRoy and Irene Whitington. He grew up in the White Rock Lake area of East Dallas, attending both of his parents' churches. He sometimes remarked that the Whitington children never doubted there was a God, but they often wondered if He was Catholic or Assembly of God, or both? Either way, Frank Whitington was guided by a strong faith in God for his entire life, from his childhood to his time at Rice University, where he earned a degree in Architecture, to his varied career in architecture, building inspection, and home repair.

Frank was known for his good humor, his steadfastness, his joyful energy, and his reliable work. As a project manager, building inspector, and, in semi-retirement, as a handyman, Frank Whitington was a worker. Among some of his employers, he would talk about Trammel Crow, Louis Lloyd Oliver, Fischer-Spillman, the US Postal Service, and the US National Bureau of Standards, to name a few. Prior to moving to Corsicana, Frank Whitington was a fixture as a neighborhood handyman for more than three decades in Dallas' Bryan Place.

He was grateful to find a spiritual home in the Disciples of Christ Church—becoming a deacon and, eventually an elder and board chair at Central

Christian Church of Dallas; Frank also joined East Dallas Christian Church and took on various building repair jobs alone and with other members and volunteers. More recently, he was proud to have volunteered at and joined 13th Avenue Christian Church in Corsicana, a predominantly Black congregation, as one of its few white members. Those were but three of the many communities bolstered by his ethic of love in action. He could frequently be found painting, fixing, replacing, repairing, cleaning, or tending to some other need he had noted and felt called to take on. Frank sang as a member of the Turtle Creek Chorale for the first seven years of its existence, and continued to support it throughout his life, lending his partner, Mike, to them every Tuesday night, etc. As a storyteller, Frank was an excellent raconteur; he also greatly enjoyed opportunities for hospitality, often taking people out to eat and sharing thoughtful conversation, working to build bridges between groups of people.

Frank looked back on his life as one that had been so full of blessings. He was particularly grateful for a loving family, for good health, for the realization that “being gay was a blessing not a curse,” for opportunities to travel, for interesting work, for the years of love he shared with Mike, and for the love of Christ as his Savior.

Frank is survived by his partner of over 27 years, Michael Raines, his brother, David Whittington, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first partner, Charles Lee, and his sister, Leah Ruth, both of whom he cared for with tenderness and steadfastness in the years leading up to their deaths, as well as his eldest brother, George, and his parents.

Friends, family, and others whose lives have been touched by Frank are invited to celebrate his life on Friday, September 12, at 13th Avenue Christian

Church of Corsicana at 1 pm or on Saturday, September 13, at East Dallas Christian Church (629 N Peak St.) at 5 pm. Attendees are encouraged, if they so desire, to wear shorts in Frank's honor.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that anyone moved to do so should offer their time, share acts of kindness, or make a donation to a charity of their choice to honor Francis Loren Whittington (1949-2005).

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **12.** 1:00 PM (CT)

Thirteenth Ave Christian Church
817 E 13th Ave
Corsicana, TX 75110

Celebration of Life

SEP **13.** 5:00 PM (CT)

East Dallas Christian Church
629 N Peak St
Dallas, TX 75246

Tribute Wall

LE

“ *Michael, condolences to you and all the family and friends of your beloved Frank. May his memory be a blessing; I hope that eventually the years of happy memories will bring comfort to replace the pain. My heart is with you.* 🙏💔🙏

Linda Abramson Evans - September 11, 2025 at 02:26 PM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Frank L. Whitington.*



September 07, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Frank L. Whitington.*



September 07, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ Ok, let's start. A life and personality as full and abundant as Frank's should be celebrated with song and story. Let me begin with how we think Frank died and, from my point of view, some of his last moments with me:

Frank brought Molly up on the Wednesday before my Aug. 24 voice recital at First Christian Church of Fort Worth. Since he had moved to Corsicana, he had made a regular habit of coming up to Dallas every week and spending a night or two. I am glad we were able to enjoy five days together prior to his passing, and I am especially glad that he seemed impressed at the music he heard that Sunday. Before he left the church for a job he had to do in Dallas, I pulled him into the church parlor and gave him a quick kiss before returning to the reception. That was the last moment I saw him.

While I was in rehearsal with the Turtle Creek Chorale on Tuesday night, I received a call from him that I didn't answer, but he left a sweet voice message. I returned his call on Wednesday, but it went to voicemail. I called the next day and the next, and still no reply, but that wasn't all that unusual. On Saturday, I was informed by Navarro County Police that he had been found dead in his backyard. Molly was basically guarding him for four days. A neighbor and her dog had found his body that Saturday morning. He had been mowing the grass behind the house, so no one really saw him.

As best we can tell, he had finished nearly all the mowing, but for some reason there was one strip left. His grass-covered shorts and socks were by the shower, so he must have cooled off before going back out to finish the last strip of uncut grass. I was strongly advised not to view his remains; furthermore, when I planted a rose bush at the spot where his body was found, the stench was quite noticeable. Yuck. That's NOT what I wanted to remember about Frank. Luckily, I've had Frank's niece and nephew, Grace & Steve, amazing friends, co-workers, my Turtle Creek Chorale family, my Fort Worth and Dallas church families, and others to help me keep my sanity. I have so many questions unanswered, and I have many angry

conversations with God. But they can only end my eternal gratitude that I knew and loved him.

Frank, your work ethic always inspired me, but your love gave me life. You are irreplaceable. Enjoy your reward of eternal life in Christ, my love. I am greedy to want to keep you here.

Michael Raines - September 05, 2025 at 02:03 PM

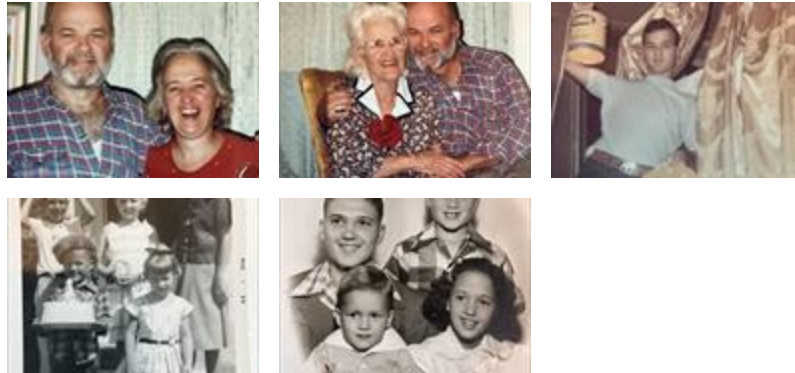
GS

Frank was a good friend for many years at Central as we worked together on various projects!

Gayle Strange - September 05, 2025 at 06:53 PM

GB

“ 5 files added to the album *Frank*



Grace Ellen Barber - September 05, 2025 at 01:45 PM



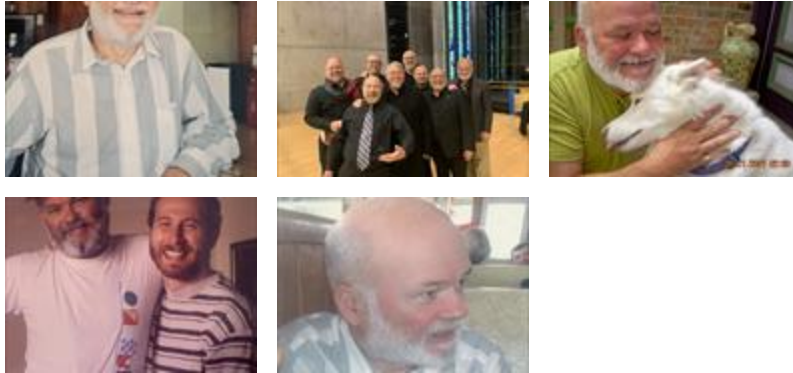
“ 1 file added to the album *Photos of Frank from Mike*



Michael Raines - September 05, 2025 at 01:08 PM

MR

“ 10 files added to the album Photos of Frank from Mike



Michael Scott Raines - September 05, 2025 at 01:02 PM

GB

“ 1 file added to the album Frank



Grace Ellen Barber - September 05, 2025 at 12:59 PM

LB

Whittington/Raines Family

My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time, Bro Frank was a really nice man and I glad I had the pleasure of knowing him, He will truly be missed.

Sis. Latasha Bolden (Thirteen Ave Christian Church Corsicana, Tx)

Latasha R Bolden - September 05, 2025 at 01:54 PM