

*Celebration of Life for*



*Bessie M. Clark*

*January 24, 1933 - June 16, 2020*

Service

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 - 12:00 Noon

**CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME**

256 Rosa Parks Blvd. • Paterson, New Jersey

*Rev. Kenneth D.R. Clayton, Officiating*

*Johnetta Bush, Organist*

Interment

Benevolence Church Cemetery • Benevolence, Georgia

# Reflections of Life

**Bessie Mae Clark** was born January 24, 1933. She was the second child of twelve children of Ike Clark and Essie Clark. Bessie is the mother of three children of her own, Larry Holt, Ronald Holt, and Michelle Holt, two of whom preceded her in death. All her children served in the military. She has eleven grandchildren. She is the Godmother to : Min. Kimberly Brown-Hinton and Eniara Brown and Quasim Starling. Bessie received all of her education in the Randolph County School system in Georgia. She has resided in the city of Paterson for over 60 years and worked as an Anesthesia Aide at St. Joseph Medical Center Paterson for 25 years.

Bessie's favorite activities included bowling, going to the mall, and theater shows. She really enjoyed dancing the electric slide at social family events. She was known by family members for dancing completely out of her shoes in the most literal sense! The family also knew Bessie for being the first to book at every family reunion all the family and friends gave her the nickname of Aunt Bessie . Every year family members gave her a large celebration dinner for her Birthday. She was also known as a secret giver amongst family and friends.

Over sixty years ago, Bessie joined and became a faithful member of St. Luke Baptist Church Paterson where she served under the leadership of the late Rev. AM Tyler and Pastor Kenneth Darryl Ray Clayton. Until the very end, She served as a faithful and dedicated member of the following ministries: Hospitality, Floral, and Birthday. She also attended the weekly noonday prayer and Bible study. She was also a member of the AM Tyler Chorus and the MASS Choir. She was a member of the Senior VIP's at St. Luke. She was also a member of the AARP and a member of Paterson Branch NAACP.

Her favorite scripture was the 23rd Psalm and her favorite hymn was At the Cross. Everyone knew Bessie for her loving heart and how much she she loved to pray. She would read her Bible daily. She also really enjoys the community activities with the church family. Bessie leaves to cherish wonderful memories; one son, Ellis Holt, eleven grandchildren; two sisters, Mary (Joseph) Brown of Paterson, NJ and Sarah (Otis) Starling of Roselle, NJ; three brothers, Isaac (Valeria) Clark of Atlanta, Georgia, Fady Clark of Cuthbert Georgia, and Homer (Karen) Clark of Linden, NJ; and a host of sisters-in law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, very loyal friends, and her beloved St. Luke Baptist Church Family.

## *Psalm 23*

*The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

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