

Celebrating the Life of



Iona Elliot Thomas

Sunrise
September 9, 1927

Sunset
September 26, 2021

Saturday, October 2, 2021 - 11:00 a.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

66 S Grove Street
East Orange, New Jersey

Rev. Dr. Joseph Oniyama, Officiating

Obituary

Iona Elliot Clapp Thomas, daughter of the late Arthur and Iona Clapp was born on September 9, 1927 in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. She departed this life on September 26, 2021 at Brookhaven Healthcare Center in East Orange, New Jersey at the age of 94.

She is preceded in death by her brothers, Arthur Jr., John William, Monte Cristo and sisters Alice Mae and Claud Undine.

Iona was baptized at Shiloh Baptist Church in Scotland Neck at an early age. She was a graduate of Brawley High School in her hometown of Scotland Neck and following her graduation, she attended Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina where she met Charles Martin Thomas. They both migrated north, she to stay with to her Uncle Dan in Brooklyn, New York and he returned back home to Jersey while continuing their courtship. Iona married Charles in 1953 and they set up house in Newark, New Jersey.

Iona also found a new church home and joined Calvary

Baptist Church in nearby East Orange where she has been a faithful member for over six decades. At Calvary, she was an active member of the Senior Choir and The Young Lady Ushers. She was known for her preference for the old familiar hymns and classical repertoire of the Senior Choir and she had a special fondness for the Sunbeams Choir, which she declared as her favorite choir. Iona and her longtime good buddy, the late Sis. Thelma Greene, served faithfully together on the usher board over many decades and, as they matured, they would often laugh and tease each other about still being called The “Young” Lady Ushers.

Iona, affectionately called “Ellie”, was well known to enjoy sharing a good laugh, a good song, and a good meal served up with her hot homemade rolls.

Iona leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Lynne, three sisters, centenarian Mary Hale Thomas of Scotland Neck, NC, Helen Campt and Evelyn Henderson of Annapolis, MD. Three nephews, John William Clapp, Jr. of Gaithersburg, MD, Gregory Clapp of Nashville, TN, Larry Thomas of Clinton, MD, one niece Sybil Randolph of Crofton, MD, faithful friend Mamie Knight of Wilmington, DE and a host of other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude..... Larry Thomas, Nephew

Processional Hymn.... ‘God of Our Fathers’ (G..Warren) page 609

INVOCATION..... PASTOR

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Old Testament-Psalms 94:1-4..... Sybil Randolph, Niece

New Testament-John 4:7-10..... Matiwilda Farley, Cousin

OBITUARY..... John W. Clapp

Solo..... ‘Fill My Cup Lord’ Larry Thomas (R. Blanchard)

Eulogy..... Rev. Joseph Oniyama

Solo..... ‘Comfort Ye’ from Messiah Larry Thomas

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL..... When We All Get to Heaven
(Wilson)



Interment
SCOTLAND NECK, NORTH CAROLINA







Acknowledgment

Caregiving – It takes a village

For All That You Did I Am Beyond Blessed

MATTIE FARLEY

REBECCA BAMFO

LARRY GREENE

Dr. BEVERLY GREENE

TONY SMITH

MS. BERNICE THURMAN

THE TANIS FAMILY

Dr. ALVIN SCHMIDT

And

Those Special Residents at 220 Prospect Stree

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