

# 101<sup>st</sup>

Birthday Celebration  
Honoring



*Mother*  
**Ione Braithwaite Ortiz**

**Sunday, December 23, 2018 • 1:30 P.M.**

**Community Baptist Church**  
234 N. New Jersey Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
Rev. Elias Thomas Pastor



*I will sing of your love and justice;  
to you, Lord, I will sing praise.*  
*Psalm 101:1*

## December 19, 2018 • Celebrating 101 Years

**Ione Gertrude Braithwaite Ortiz** daughter of the late Zaccheus and Louise Braithwaite, was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on December 19, 1917. She is the proud mother of two children Bernard Tullis now deceased and Urylene Judy Grate of Mays Landing, New Jersey; grandmother of Mrs. Cheryl Belle and Keith Tullis of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Tanay Anderson of Norfolk, Va; great-grandmother of Kerklyn Tullis, Carmen Moore, Jamal and Alea Tullis of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Donald and Demond Hawkins of Atlantic City, New Jersey; 12 great-great-grandchildren; one niece Mrs. Marie Grate Alexander; two nephews Howard Bey and Earl Brock; numerous great nieces, nephews, cousins an extended family.

A graduate of New Jersey Avenue School and Atlantic City Girls' Vocational School, she majored in dressmaking and designing. She was later employed by the U.S. Marine Corps where she received a Certificate of Merit for Outstanding and Dedicated Service (Hmmm...That's probably where she learned to give orders and cut those corners so well as an usher).

Ione often spoke about her experience marching with the US Army Soldiers before starting her day making uniforms. In the early 60's thru 70's Ione worked in local sewing factories here in Atlantic City; she also used her culinary skills with the Atlantic City Board of Education at the old Chelsea Jr. High School cafeteria cooking lunches for the children and adults.

The Morris Child Day Care Center was another place of employment that she cherished dearly making nutritional meals for the kiddies and staff. After leaving the Day Care Center, Ione continued her cooking skills at J.J. Newberry's with her buddy Eddie Mae Paxton. The two of them had a secret recipe for J.J. Newberry's "Famous Fried Chicken", and to this day no one but Eddie Mae knows the ingredients.

Anyone who knows Ione knows that she has been a faithful member of Community Baptist Church from the ground up literally speaking. She would often tell the story of Reverend Arthur Lee Morris (1st pastor of Community Baptist Church) standing in the doorway of an empty building at 234 N. New Jersey Avenue asking her to help him get the building together to start a church. In surprise to his request she asked, "In what?", because it was just a trash house - no doors, no windows..., but she started helping him get the trash together: They got all the trash out and finally got to the dirt; that was the floor. Together, they and others put windows, doors, and a floor in that old trash house which now stands as Community Baptist Church.

Formerly, Mother Ione sang on the Senior Choir under the direction of Mrs. Lucille Howard, she organized and was the first president of the Rosary Club and orchestrated her culinary talent as senior cook.

Her affiliations included: member of the Senior Ushers' Ministry of Community Baptist Church, member of the New Jersey State Ushers Association, New Jersey Church Ushers Unit, Advisor to the Jr. Usher's Ministry of Community Baptist Church, past president and trustee of the former United Sons & Daughters of the Island Organization, member of the Hostess Ministry of Community Baptist Church (which she previously served as president for many years), president of the Tenants Association of Shore Park Hi-Rise and served as a Foster Grandparent for approximately 30 years with Atlantic Human Resources.

In 1996, Dr. D. Samuel L. Madden, Jr. and members of Community Baptist Church conferred upon her the title "Mother of the Church," and what a befitting title it is for she has mothered many whether they thought they needed it or not.

Ione is a very caring person who reaches out to others without them even realizing it. It was not unusual for you to miss the Jr. ushers after they have performed their service on the 3rd Sunday and find them in the Fellowship Hall eating danish and juice or hot dogs, chicken wings and macaroni salad compliments of Mrs. Ione and her endearing "sister," Mrs. Nellie Wilson; or, perhaps, to pop your head into Pastor Madden's office on Sunday morning and find him eating breakfast prepared by her especially for him.

She would give you wake up calls as early as 4:00 A.M. and tuck you in at night with her call to make sure you returned safely. One of Ione's favorite pass times was shopping early in the mornings going to Pathmark on the bus at 6:00A.M., many times her son Bernie would accompany her. As time passed Ione's health prevented her from attending church on a regular but she was sure to get her spiritual uplift from watching various TV ministries on Sundays.

Now at 101 Ione is relaxing with new friends at Seashore Gardens Senior Living Center, Galloway, New Jersey.



## *Birthday Celebration Time*

### **Honoree**

*“Mother Ione Gertrude Braithwaite Ortiz”*

### **Mistress of Ceremonies**

Mrs. Toshira McIntosh

### **Blessing**

### **Lunch is served**

**Happy Birthday To You, “Mother Ione”**

### **Serving Dessert**

### **Reflections**

Rev. Jodi L. Burroughs

Rev. Stephen Mays

Rev. Maria L. Brooks

### **“This Is Your Life”**

Mrs. Donna Clinton

### **Reflections**

Family & Friends

### **Remarks**

Ms. Judy Grate & Rev. Elias Thomas

# *Our Story*

*We* come from a long line of women,  
who have always been workers and strivers,

*Women* of color and courage,  
of spirit and spunk – true survivors,

*Women* whose dreams light their journey  
at even the darkest of hours,

*Who* trust in their ultimate purpose  
and have confidence in their own powers,

*Women* whose faith keeps them going,  
who prayerfully lift up their eyes

*To* the Lord, who they know will be with them  
all the way as they reach for the prize.

*Through* strength of character, self-confidence, and lots of hard work,  
women of our community have earned a place of honor and respect.

Thank you for being one of these mighty women.

