



Homegoing Celebration



Alpha
March 28, 1935

Omega
January 19, 2025



Mother Kathryn Brantley

Saturday, February 1, 2025

9 AM: Viewing, 10 AM: Homegoing Service

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church, 336 Oakwood Ave., Orange, NJ

Bishop Malachia Brantley, Jr., D.Min., Eulogist





Order of Service

Pastor Clarence Wright & Pastor Patricia Brantley-Moore, Officiating
Zion Holy Church, Newark, NJ St. John Holy Church Estill, South Carolina

Processional

Final Viewing

Placing of the Pall

Praise & Worship
Pastor Darlean Cohen

Hymn of Praise—"When We All to Get to Heaven"

Invocation
Pastor Clarence Wright

Scriptures
Psalm 23 ~ Donnell, Jr., Brantley Cruz and Demi Cooper
Genesis 12:1-3 ~ Elder Annabel Cobb
2 Corinthians 5:2-5 ~ Pastor Charles Williams
Gospel of John 14:1-7 ~ Pastor Vicki Halls

Prayer of Comfort
Deacon Brock Brunson

Solo
Reverend Janice Williams

Tributes from Clergy (2 minutes)
Bishop Loretta Smith Johnson, *One Fire Church Barnegat, NJ*
Pastor Clarence Wright, *Zion Holy Church Newark, NJ*
Reverend Charles Williams, *St. Mark CME Birmingham, AL*
Deacon Les Robson, *Shiloh Baptist Church Newark, NJ*

Solo
Elder Nathaniel Lofton, *Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church Dayton, OH*



Order of Service

Tributes from Family (2 minutes)

Goddaughter ~ Missionary Azarine Newman

Brother- & Sister-In-law ~ Lloyd Brantley & Catherine Brantley

Great Grandchildren & Grandchildren

Children

Acknowledgements

Bianca Howell Cooper, *Granddaughter*

Obituary *(To Be Read Silently)*

Sermonic Solo

Elder Nathaniel Lofton

Eulogy

Bishop Malachia Brantley, Jr., D.Min, B.C.C.

Recessional

I N T E R M E N T

Hollywood Memorial Cemetery

1621 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, New Jersey

REPAST & FELLOWSHIP

Galloping Hill Caterers

“WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN”

Refrain: When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!

When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!

1: Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.

2 While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sigh. [Refrain]

3 Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving ev'ry day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay. [Refrain]

4 Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open—
We shall tread the streets of gold. [Refrain]



Life Story

Mother Katheryn King-Jones Brantley, 89, passed away peacefully in her home on January 19, 2025, after a long illness. Katheryn was born on March 28, 1935 in Pittsview, Alabama to Lewis Jones and Serilla Rose King.

Katheryn was the tenth of eleven children born to Serilla. Although Serilla gave birth to eleven children, only five lived: two boys, Jimmy ("Bud") and Lawrence ("Spoot"); and three girls Katie Bell, Mary Lizzie, and Katheryn. She spent her girlhood living in rural Alabama helping her family with their little farms where they grew corn, cotton, peanuts, sweet potatoes, collard greens, turnip greens, peas, potatoes, peanuts, and watermelon. Katheryn was educated in the Alabama school system until the 11th grade.

One morning while she was working at Tally Ho's Grill, Katheryn met Malachia Brantley Sr. For Mal, he was instantly smitten and pursued her until she accepted a date. Later, when they were courting Mal asked Katheryn to hold on to some money for him. When he needed it, she had it in full. He knew he could trust her and that cemented his love for her. On July 28, 1956, Mal and Katheryn married and together, they raised six children: Ike, Betty, Melvin, Thelma Ann, M.C., and Tim.

In 1958, Malachia's brothers, David and Sydney with their wives, Gracie and Lizzie were living in Newark, NJ. David talked to Malachia about moving up to New Jersey; David said he could get him a job at the place where he was working. The family decided to join in the Great Migration and to move up North to New Jersey.

Upon moving to Newark, Mal and Katheryn joined Zion Holy Church under the pastorate of the late Elder Minnie Stith, where Katheryn remained a member for over 60 years. She served faithfully under the leadership of Elder Minnie Stith, Bishop Leonard R. Williams, Bishop Evelyn Williams-Gordon, and current pastor Elder Clarence Wright. With Zion, Katheryn traveled to churches on youth missions throughout the United States, the Caribbean, and South America. Unable to travel, she continued to financially support these missions down through the years. Known as a supporter and encourager in Zion, she served in various capacities including the Women's Department, Pastor's Aid, Missionary Board, Noon Day Prayer, Sunday School, and as a church mother. She started the Willing Workers' Auxiliary to compliment the efforts of the missionary dept.

With encouragement from Pastor Stith, Mal decided to start his own company. On February 10, 1967, Brantley Moving became a reality. Mal bought an inoperative van, refurbished it, and began moving people. Later, in 1970 with his younger brother Thomas, the company became incorporated and was known as: Brantley Bros. Moving & Storage Co., Inc. and the rest is history.



Mother Kathryn King-Jones Brantley

In a Black Enterprise Article, Mal thanked Kathryn for working full-time at Brantley Bros. and juggling part-time jobs while maintaining their home. Although Kathryn was not formally trained, she served as the company's bookkeeper for many years. When the accountant would come for audits, he gave accolades to Kathryn for the level of expertise, accuracy, and attention to detail. Brantley Bros. today is still thriving and is a leader in the market.

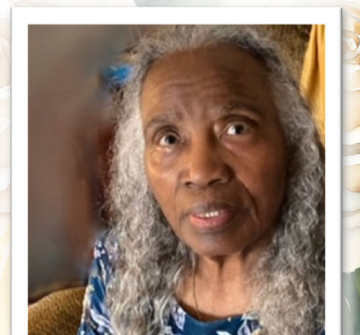
Kathryn was multifaceted with many talents and gifts. She was known for her resilience ability to accept a challenge. Finding a desire to become a seamstress, Kathryn learned how to sew. Her first dress was a disaster! However, with determination and time, her skills increased. She would "window shop" at Bamberger's or The Tall Girl Shop then run to Woolworth buying a Simplicity pattern to make the same dress. Kathryn was an exceptional Southern cook. Kathryn could cook almost anything from scratch. Some of her most outstanding dishes: collard greens, syrup bread, sweet potato pie, lemon meringue pie and banana pudding (not banana box pudding) from scratch.

Kathryn took delight in gardening. The envy of her neighborhood for the flowers and detail to colors. Nevertheless, she was an expert on vegetable gardening. From tomatoes to okra, Kathryn would grow or tell you how to grow yours!

Kathryn loved the Lord and sought to serve him in every aspect of her life. She was a good steward for what He had given her as a wife, mother, daughter, aunt, sister, cousin, grandmother, great-grandmother, great great-grandmother, godmother, friend and more. She sought to live a life that was pleasing to God. She leaves a legacy of love, generosity, and resilience. Her coined phrase was, "It is, what it is!" She had confidence that whatever life may bring, God is always in control.

Kathryn leaves to cherish her memory, her children Issac King, MBA (Juanetta), Thelma Ann Brantley-Howell, BMS and Bishop Malachia Brantley, Jr. D.Min; 18 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; 12 great-great grandchildren; daughters-in-laws: Verdell Jones, Barbara Murphy, Robyn Brantley; cherished nephews, nieces; great-nephews; great-nieces; cousins; in-laws; and goddaughter Azarine Newman.

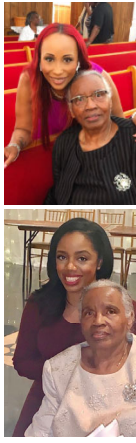
Kathryn is preceded in death by her husband, Malachia Sr.; her brothers Jimmy and Lawrence, sisters Katie Bell, Maybelle, Estella, Annie, and Mary Lizzie; by her sons Melvin Jones (Verdell) and Timothy Brantley Sr. and daughter Betty Jones; her grandchildren Little Horacio Isaac Howell and Tara Best; her sons-in-law Horacio Howell and Daryl Barnes; and her daughter-in-law Carol Byrd-Brantley.



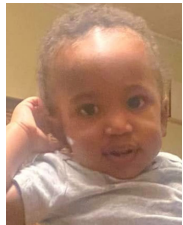
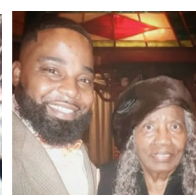
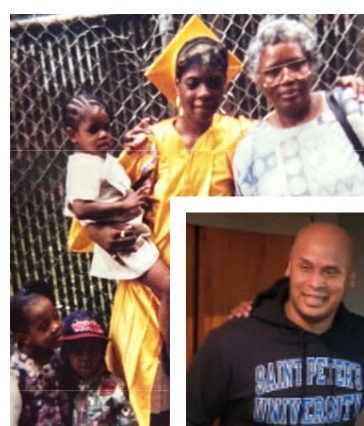


Wife & Mother





Grandmother



Reflections of Zion

~ Written by Mother Brantley (Black History Month & 90th Church Anniversary)

In 1995, Bishop Evelyn Williams-Gordon appointed me as the first president of the Willing Workers Auxiliary, a role I continue to embrace with dedication. The auxiliary was founded to support the church's ministries, helping other auxiliaries, providing care for our pastor, and helping the sick, shut-in, and bereaved members of our congregation. Through financial contributions and acts of kindness, the Willing Workers have strengthened Zion and ensured its ministries flourish.

Over the years, the Willing Workers and I have extended our generosity to the Youth Department while also organizing a beloved back-home reunion cookout in the church yard. I fondly remember the many devoted members who have served alongside me, including Missionary Gertrude Armour-Hicks, Mother Mary Nicholson, Sis Lucy Chapman, Min Delacey Stith, Bro Lewis Stith, Sis Irene Stith, Dr. Mary Cohen Williams, Sis Priscilla Brown, Sis Cynthia Morgan, Sis Azarine Newman, and Sis Dawn Brunson.

My journey of service was shaped long before Zion. Raised by my devoted mother, Rilla King, I learned early on what it meant to care for others. My mother would leave home for weeks at a time to care for the sick, entrusting the older children with household responsibilities. At the time, I did not realize this was missionary work in its purest form—a foundation that would later define my own path. I cherish the memories of missionaries I met along the way, such as Elder K. E. Agard, Evangelist Ethel Young, Mother Dabney, Mother Watson, and Bishop Melynn Murphy.

Noon Day Prayer holds a special place in my heart. Initiated by Mother Flossie Cohen while working at Zion's Day Care, it became a pillar of spiritual strength within our church. Bishop Williams-Gordon later requested that the prayer meetings be held at the church, and today, thanks to modern technology, we continue our prayer meetings on Zoom, allowing shut-in members like myself to stay connected to the ministry. Before her passing, Mother Cohen entrusted the leadership of Noon Day Prayer to Evangelist Evans, ensuring its continuation.

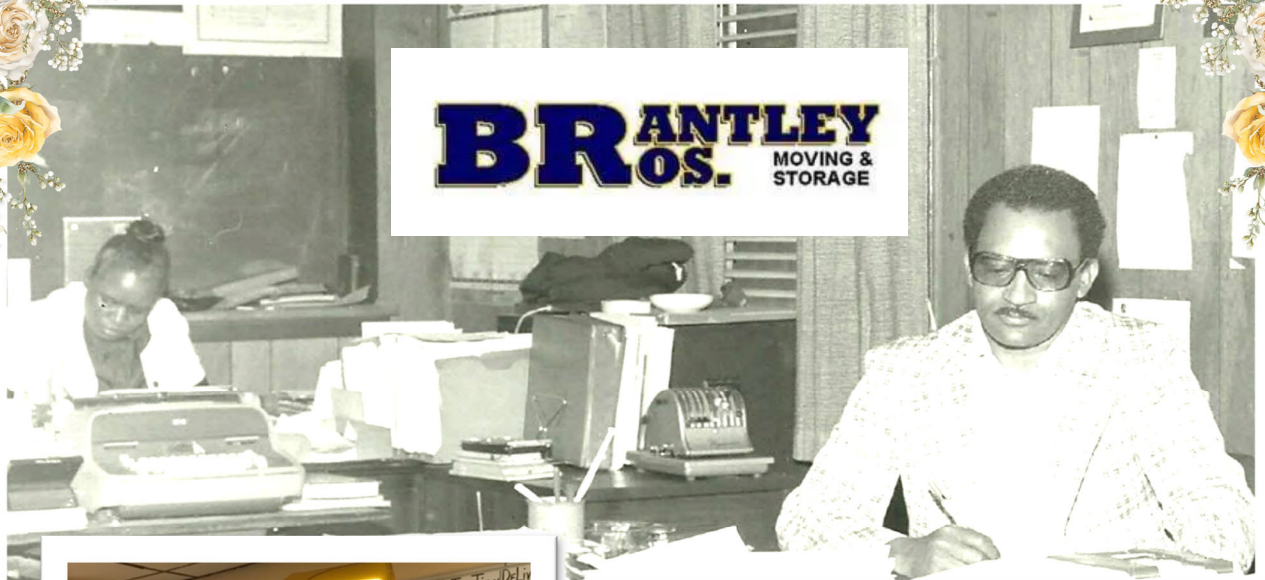
I have always loved attending missionary conventions, and one of my most cherished memories was my last convention in 2010 in Ocean City, MD. It brought me great joy to sponsor missionaries for foreign missions, seeing it as an extension of my lifelong dedication to service.

Reflecting on my 65 years (plus), I am deeply grateful for the leadership of Elder Minnie E. Stith, under whom I served for 12 years. The missionary training I received at Zion, coupled with the faith I built over the years. A moment of unexpected recognition came when I was called upon to sing during a Sunday morning radio broadcast. Joe Crane, the manager of the local radio station, had allowed Zion to hold a 6 AM program. When the scheduled soloist failed to appear, Pastor Minnie Stith turned to me. Though surprised, I sang **"I Know My Robe Is Going to Fit Me Well."**



Brantley Brothers

BRANTLEY
BROS. MOVING & STORAGE





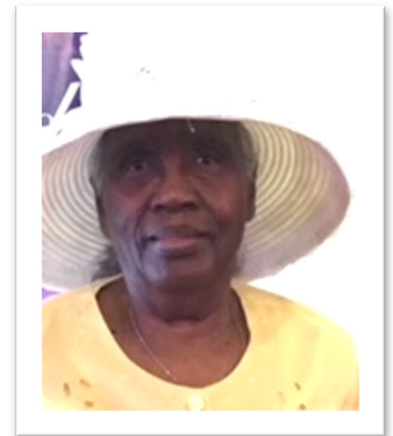


Thank You

Thank you for helping us celebrate a life well lived today. Thank you for every prayer, act of kindness and love during this time.

It is deeply appreciated and will be remembered.

~ **The Family of Mother Katheryn Brantley** ~



Pallbearers

Willie Dixon, Sr.
Malachi J. Brantley, III
Jamal Dixon
Robert A. King
Timothy M. Brantley, Jr.
Jonathan A. Brantley

Honorary Pallbearers

Donnell Cooper
Erick Ramos
Christopher James
Jace Brantley
Christopher K Sumner
William Wolynic





When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

Excerpt from – David Romano

But when I walked through Heaven's Gates,
I felt so much at home,
For God looked down, smiled at me,
And told me, "Welcome Home."
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.



When tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand that an angel came
and called my name
And took me by the hand.
The angel said my place was ready in
Heaven for above
and that I'd have to leave behind
all these I dearly love.

Professional Services Entrusted to: Ferguson-Rayam Funeral Home

Programs: Dawn Brunson, Grand Goddaughter

