

## Active Pallbearers

### The Grandsons

Jonathan D. Parnell  
David F. Parnell, Jr.  
Jason L. Parnell

Seth M. Perpena  
John K. Parnell, Jr.  
Lawrence Murray, Jr.

Jerome Dumas

## Honorary Pallbearers

### The Sons

James S. Perpena  
Joseph N. Parnell  
Rodney W. Parnell

John K. Parnell, Sr.  
David F. Parnell, Sr.  
Freddie Simon

*son by name*  
*made himself a son and*  
*brother to her*  
*son*  
Flower Bearers

Grand-daughters and Daughters-in-law

## Final Arrangements Entrusted To:

Morris Funeral Home, Inc.  
12700 Hamilton Avenue  
Highland Park, Michigan  
Mr. James Henry, Co-Owner and President

## Interment

Detroit Memorial Park, West 13 Mile Road, Warren, Michigan

## Acknowledgement

The entire family of Thelma Naomi Parnell would like to thank everyone for their expressions of love, so beautifully demonstrated by your prayers, cards, comforting words and other acts of kindness. Please remember each of us in prayer. A more personal acknowledgement will be made very soon. God Bless You and We Love You!!

*read inside*

We Praise The Lord with a Service  
of Promotion  
Celebrating the Life of



Thelma Naomi Eugenia Clark-Parnell

November 8, 1916 - May 14, 1991

Monday, May 20, 1991

At Ten O'Clock A.M.

In the Main Sanctuary of The  
Messiah Baptist Church  
8100 West Seven Mile Road  
Detroit, Michigan

Officiating: Dr. William Revely, Pastor





WHAT MANNER OF WOMAN IS THIS ...  
Thelma Naomi Eugenia Clark-Parnell

Proverbs 31:10-30

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

She considereth a field, and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of the snow for her

household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Thank you for a job well done!!  
Your Children

## Service of Celebration

ORGAN PRELUDE ..... Mr. Charles Ayers, Musician  
The Messiah Baptist Church

PROCESSIONAL

HYMN ..... The Combined Choirs of The  
Messiah Baptist Church  
Mr. John H. Reese, Jr.  
Minister of Music

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ..... John Kenneth Parnell

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ..... Jonathan David Parnell

PRAYER ..... Reverend Lenn Caldwell

HYMN ..... Mrs. Emma Fair and the Combined  
Choirs of The Messiah Baptist Church

POEM ..... Miss June Naomi Parnell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CHURCH CONDOLENCES ..... Mrs. Nola Settles

REMARKS AND EXPRESSIONS ..... Deacon James Moss  
(Two minutes each) The Messiah Baptist Church

Dr. Bernadine Denning, Retired Director  
Community Relations, Detroit Public Schools

Charles Edward Henry, Manager  
Comerica Bank - Edison Plaza

Cassandra Beverly Woods,  
Senator Carl Levin's Office  
State Legislature, Lansing Michigan

The Reverend David Fox, Pastor  
Highland Church of Christ

SOLO ..... Mr. Glynnis Martin

OBITUARY ..... Mrs. Carol Turnbough

SOLO ..... Mrs. Diana F. Reeves, Minister of Music  
Faith Emmanuel Cathedral Christian Center  
Reverend Rodney W. Parnell, Pastor/Founder

EULOGY ..... Dr. William Revely, Pastor  
The Messiah Baptist Church

RECESSIONAL ..... "When We All Get To Heaven"  
Reverend Roderick Edwards  
Pastor/Founder Powerhouse Temple

ORGAN POSTLUDE



I can't write all but God be  
willing I'll send a program  
that was not copied off.

This one was  
as I foresaid most all of her  
children attend her church  
messiah Baptist where they  
were brought up in this  
church right on the corner  
from her home on Humboldt  
They built a much nicer  
and larger Building.

She her husband and all  
the family moved to this new  
church Building Praise God  
I'll have to write some  
another time. As it is this  
letter will be too thick for  
the envelope. Love Irma



You might know some  
of these places in Detroit  
Minister Rodney Parnell  
address is

11519 Monterey Drive  
Van Buren Township  
Michigan

Phone

313-699-1794

48111

Founder of  
Faith Emmanuel Catholic  
Mission Center

I think they moved since this time.  
I am sure they brought him the  
keys to a new Building the  
Saturday before Helma's  
mother passed. She had told  
him that God would give him  
this big building while we  
were on the phone Saturday  
before mother's Day he came in  
to show and tell us the good news



## The Obituary

She believed in the biblical principle of "spare the rod and spoil the child", a factor well known by her children and everyone in the community, that if you were Thelma Parnell's child, "you'd better behave yourself or else"!! and you did!!

In addition, Thelma Naomi Parnell was a physician who healed the hurts of others, particularly children, with a hug, a kiss and band-aid when necessary.

She was an attorney, who could mediate differences amiably and have even enemies speaking to one another with a new found respect. She was also bold and fearless. She could speak her mind and wasn't afraid to share with anyone exactly what she thought of a situation. *Stavre M-A*

She was a teacher who shared her wisdom with others in many ways, especially young girls who needed the guidance, direction and benefit of old-fashioned mother-wit and good common sense.

She was a friend to everyone, and she quickly developed a rapport with all people, regardless of their station in life. Thelma Parnell, without any urging or pressure applied to others, enjoyed free home delivery of juice, fish, eggs, vegetables and numerous other services because she enjoyed people and they simply enjoyed her. *Stavre M-A*

Her legacy is one of devotion, commitment, and abiding love to others. Following the death of her second oldest daughter, Pat, Thelma adopted Pat's then 11 year-old son, Little Jonathan. With her own children practically out of the nest, every effort was undertaken to ensure that Jonathan would also receive the very best that she could offer. She refused to shrink from her responsibility.

Once again Thelma Naomi Parnell proved that she was well fitted for the task. She nurtured, encouraged, applauded, complimented, and corrected her budding youngest son. Despite changing times and a social mind-set that dictated that her methods were out-dated, Thelma Parnell remained undaunted and gave her all to ensure Jonathan's success. For her efforts, she was well rewarded and greatly blessed with yet another well trained, mannerable, educated, respectable, clean-cut young man thus quickly evoking the affirmation, "you must be Mrs. Parnell's son".

Thelma Naomi Parnell loved her home of worship, namely Messiah Baptist Church. She was active as a member of the Senior Choir, where she served faithfully over the years.

In March of 1991, she became seriously ill and was hospitalized. She was released in early April and was recuperating well, but for reasons known only to God, she was called from labor to reward on Tuesday, May 14, 1991 at 12:40 p.m.

She leaves to rejoice in her memory: Six sons, Jim, Joseph, Rodney, John, David and Jonathan; Three daughters, Dorothy, Eleanor and Elaine; Four daughters-in-law; One son-in-law; Three sisters, Roberta Johnson, Irma Lee Faison and Nevada Williams; Thirty grandchildren; Three great grandchildren and a great host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many many friends

*She adopted her Grand Son  
Jonathan  
Nevada now deceased*

Thelma Naomi Eugenia Clark-Parnell was born on November 8, 1916 in Fernandina Beach, Florida. She was the third eldest of six children born to the late John Clark and Sallie Byrd.

Thelma was educated in the Parochial schools of Fernandina Beach and enjoyed reading and teaching others. Thelma was raised in a Christian home and, as a result, she accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Savior at the early age of eleven. Shortly thereafter, she united with the Episcopal Church in Fernandina Beach, Florida.

As she matured in wisdom and stature, her steps were ordered by the Lord; a fact that was very evident in all areas of her life and especially in her selection of a husband.

This very beautiful woman of Indian and African-American origin, met a unique man. He was strong, tall, handsome, godly and wise. The late Joseph N. Parnell, Sr., was an excellent husband, provider and father. To this union, the Lord gave 13 children; five of whom preceeded her in death as did her beloved husband following 28-1/2 years of marriage.

Life for Thelma Naomi Parnell has always been filled with challenges. She could have easily opted to pursue other interests; however, she loved her career as a wife and mother.

She was an early riser, who read the word of God, communed with the Lord and received divine directions for each day.

She was an excellent cook who prepared numerous meals, washed and ironed clothes, maintained a home, planted gardens, nursed her children, read bedtime stories, and walked the floor of her home praying many nights for her household as they slept.

Determined to train her children in the ways of the Lord, Thelma made sure that the word of God was read aloud in her home. She took her children to church, and Sunday School was an absolute must. This was fairly simple due to the fact that the Messiah Baptist Church was, at that time, located approximately one quarter of a block away. It was through her efforts that everyone of her children met the Lord and became members of Messiah which greatly enhanced their lives.

To the community, as well as her family, Thelma Naomi Parnell was a tremendous lady. She not only sent her children to school, but she was actively involved in the educational process at three different Detroit public schools. She attended Parent Teacher Conferences, making her presence known, and later served as the President of the P.T.A. She attended numerous evening school programs and assisted the local school community agents whenever possible. She demanded excellence from her children and she got it. Everything else was unacceptable!!

She never missed a Honors Program or any Special Program that involved her children or grandchildren, nor did she resist correcting them when it became necessary, even if it meant the use of corporal punishment!!