

Elnora Smith

Elnora Virginia Crenshaw came into the world on February 12, 1931.

She was born and raised in Baltimore on Stockton Street in the Sandtown-Winchester community. As a child she was more of a tomboy and played marbles, basketball, baseball, and football with the boys (she didn't bother much with the girls). However, that all changed when she reached her teenage years. She attended and graduated from Douglass Jr. High School and took courses in cosmetology at Carver Vocational.

Ms. Elnora lived in several different locations in the community, including Whatcoat Street and North Gilmor Street (next door to Pastor Wy & Shirley Plummer) for 23 years in a 3-story rowhouse. Currently she lives on Druid Hill Avenue in a more "knee-friendly" one-floor apartment.

Ms. Elnora married Clarence Smith in 1953. She raised 10 children of her own and also found time to raise three foster children, all by herself, while working as a cook on Frederick Road for Meushaw's Restaurant in the 1950s. She lived on Pulaski Street at the time and could walk to work while the older children would take turns staying home and watching the younger children. (Talk about juggling your schedule!) Departing from Meushaw's in the 1970s, she then worked as a housekeeper for the University of Baltimore for another 15 years before retiring.

Ms. Elnora is also a proud grandmother and great-grandmother to over 82 grand- and great-grandchildren - so many that she's lost count - and there are more on the way!!

One of our very first members, Ms. Elnora fondly remembers her first encounter with New Song Community Church. She was looking for a church to join and, having been raised Catholic, was on her way to St. Gregory's when something said "go there." So she went to New Song and really liked it and has been with us ever since. "Pastor Mark Gornik and the congregation were all very nice, and Pastor Gornik would visit homes and talk to everyone. It was like family." She became a member of the church in our first year!

Ms. Elnora enjoys spending time socializing with her family and friends and playing bingo, cards and dominos. She hates "nothing."

Oh, and we certainly can't forget her much-loved furry (and we do mean furry) companion: a beautiful, blue-eyed Himalayan cat named "SPIKE." He keeps her on her toes and gives her lots of love!