

**SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
For The Life of**

Lorna Valma Hew



23 January 1928 – 21 August 2023

**First Baptist Church
920 Crewe Road, Grand Cayman
Saturday, 2 September 2023
10 a.m.**

**OFFICIATING MINISTER
Pastor Steve Brady**

Order of Service

Opening Prayer and Remarks	Pastor Steve Brady
Opening Song - " How Great Thou Art"	Cynthia Hew
Scripture Reading: Proverbs 31	Deborah Ebanks
Obituary	Shane Foster
Tribute	Gan Gan's Babies
Scripture Reading: Mark 10	Liz Walton Thompson
Hymn - Amazing Grace"	Congregation
Sermon	Pastor Steve Brady
Closing Hymn - "It is Well"	Congregation

Participants

Pallbearers

Andrew 'Andy' Bodden
John Bodden
David Dilbert
Matthew Moss-Solomon
Joshua Hew
Thompson Hew

Honorary Pallbearers

Bessanio Dilbert
Nino Dilbert
Armand Dilbert Jr
Harrison Hew
Aidan Hew
Jacob Hew
Bryan Dilbert
Gianluca Hew
Cleveland Dilbert
Brian Hydes
Eric 'Busha' Clarke

Ushers

Brian Barnes
Dena Thompson
Mark Whiteside
Tonia Ebanks
Imelda Conolly
Michael Day

Special Mention

Tina Kasing
Joy and Raul Umantal
Beverly Smythe

The Life of Lorna Valma Hew

Lorna Valma Hew (nee Walton) was born in Spott Bay, Cayman Brac on the 23rd of January 1928, the second child of John Crosby Walton and Edith Maude Ritch. Early in her life she would suffer significant tragedy, the first being the loss of her father at sea in the 1932 Hurricane. She would overcome this tragedy as her mother Edith and grandmother Lizzette Walton were strong, independent women, who cared for her and from whom she undoubtedly learned a valuable lesson about the caring and raising of children during difficult times. Growing up in Spott Bay, Valma was a self-proclaimed tomboy, attending the Spott Bay Primary School and spending a lot of time in the sea including sailing catboats, which her uncle Lionel Walton taught her to sail. At age 14, having completed the Cayman Brac public education offering, Valma entered an exciting time of her life sailing the open seas with her grandfather Captain Theophilus Ritch and her mother Edith on the JT Taylor. The Seranilla keys off the coast of Nicaragua, where her father was lost, became her worksite and playground. She collected bird eggs and manure for sale in Jamaica and maintained the camp on the main key as her grandfather and uncles fished for turtles in the outer keys. This was hard work but an adventure for a young Valma, however there was evidence of her lifelong balance of hard work with wit and humour. One of her favourite pranks would be to imitate the tracks of a nesting turtle by crawling on the beach and digging in the ground at the end of her tracks. This would lead the men to dig into this apparent nest for the turtle eggs.

At age 20, Valma married Murphy William Dilbert, who was the younger brother of her mother Edith's husband, Alexander (Dutchie) Dilbert. Valma and Murphy settled in the Bight, Cayman Brac and had two children, Andree (Annie) and Armand, and were expecting their third child, Lorna when tragedy struck again in the sudden death of Murphy. This was the most trying period of her life as she buried her husband and was left with a six-year-old daughter and five-year-old son, while expecting a third child. In her later years she spoke of the hardships of raising the children with little or no income as jobs were hard to find in those days. She also spoke of the kindness of people in the Brac community who helped her through that difficult period. Valma was very proud however and did not want to rely on handouts from the government or individuals and insisted on finding work to sustain her young family.

Paid work was very hard to come by in the Brac in those days and Valma struggled to support her family. Her greatest helping hand on earth came through her aunt Sylvia Goldstein (nee Ritch) who was only three years her senior, but who had moved to the United States and married and settled in Miami. Aunt Sibbie as she was known, offered for Valma to stay with her in Miami and arranged for her to attend the Lindsey Hopkins school of hospitality. This opportunity started Valma's long career in tourism and the service industry, but to take it she had to make the difficult decision to leave her children with their grandmother. On her way through Grand Cayman to Miami in 1958, Valma went to the Government telegraph office to send a message to her family in the Brac to let them know she had arrived safely. It was here that she met her future husband of 63 years, Leonard (Lennie) Hew, the young telegraph officer, who had recently arrived from Jamaica. She would later say that it was indeed love at first sight.

Valma continued on to Miami however and completed her hospitality studies three months later. From then until her Aunt Sibbie's passing in 2017, Valma and Aunt Sibbie enjoyed a close and special relationship. Having completed her hospitality course, Valma now needed a job, and another life-long friend came to her aid. Mr. Burns Rutty was managing the Pageant Beach Hotel in Grand Cayman at the time and he offered her a job in room and restaurant service. She moved to Grand Cayman to start her new job, residing in a room above Mr. Ainsley Bodden's home on the waterfront in George Town. Younger sister and brother Cicely and Cleveland would always be thrilled to visit from the Brac and Valma would also secure a job for Cicely at the Pageant Beach Hotel. Valma was always the leader of the family and although she did not have much, she took care of everyone with the kindest heart.

During her time at Pageant Beach, Valma rode a bicycle to work. It was this young lady on the bicycle that caught the young Leonard's attention and when she returned to the telegraph office to send another telegram, their courtship began. Valma and Lennie were married in 1960 and shortly after Annie, Armand and Lorna were blessed with another brother and sister Christopher and Victoria. Lennie completed his contract with the Government as telegraph officer in 1963 and the family moved to Jamaica where son Richard was born. After four years in Kingston, first at Fort Nugent Drive, Harbour View, where other Caymanian families lived at the time, and then at Lawrence Avenue, Constant Spring, Valma and Lennie moved back to Grand Cayman in 1967, where they would remain for the rest of her life. Two years later, in 1969 the family was complete with the arrival of baby Joseph, born at the George Town hospital.

Returning to Grand Cayman, Valma worked at the Beach Club Colony Hotel, owned at the time by John and Andy Hatch. She then went on to work in insurance with Morris Muse before a stint in the financial services industry at Citibank and Worldwide Helicopters. Her stay at Citibank in the seventies was the longest and would both start many friendships with coworkers as well as stimulate her interest in business. From there she served as relief manager for hotels and condominiums and managed the Cayman Sands Condominiums full time for a few years around 1981. This would be her last employment by others, as Lennie and his brother Donald (Danny) needed help with a growing family business so Valma joined as managing director of Hew's Janitorial. She would build that company with deep love and affection for her staff before she retired in 1999, handing the reins to her son Chris.

Valma found strength in the Word of the Lord, praying regularly, and reading her bible which she kept at her bedside. She was a very charitable person and would give freely to those in need, particularly children. During her working life, Valma found time to help charitable organisations. She was a founding member of the First Baptist Church of Grand Cayman, was a member of the Pink Ladies, and an original member of the Cayman Islands Red Cross. She also received the Melvin Jones Fellow award for contribution to the Lions Club and was a lifetime member of the Cayman Catboat Club.

Lennie was a renown sports figure particularly in football and when he started the club Naya Sporting in the 90's, she became the number one fan and mentor to many of the young men that played for Naya. She also established the reputation for being one of the most demonstrative spectators, flipping from her normal demure nature to an audible antagonist of the referees and opposing teams. (George Town Sports Club against Naya was always interesting with Miss Fannie of North Side, George Town's number one supporter, up against Miss Valma in the stands!)

Throughout her life and into her retirement years Valma continued her role as matriarch of her family, guiding, supporting, and nurturing all members and particularly helping to raise her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her home and kitchen on Northwest Point Road fed many a family member and friend and she was known to whip up sumptuous meals for anyone that dropped in to visit unannounced. The special meal however was her brunch which the extended family looked forward to every Sunday morning. It gave her special joy to see everyone enjoying the meal and talking about the past week, but her greatest joy of all was having all of the children brought to her. She was their Gan Gan and she showered them with love and affection that will remain with them forever.

Despite a difficult beginning, God blessed Valma with enough years that she would be able to spend time with Lennie in their retirement cottage on Walton Drive, Spott Bay near to her cousins that she spent her early life with, particularly Sheridan Walton who was like a brother to her. Sadly, in her later years she suffered with the dreadful effects of Alzheimer's and would return and remain in the family home in West Bay. Here she could still host the children of the family and continue to enjoy their company. She loved her family dearly and was very proud of all their individual accomplishments no matter how small. She accepted all as they were. Perhaps the only benefit of the dreadful disease is that it spared her the grief of the passing of her oldest son Armand in 2017.

On Monday, August 21, 2023, Lorna Valma Hew, passed away peacefully at her home in NorthWest Point West Bay, her home of 53 years, which she built with her husband Lennie.

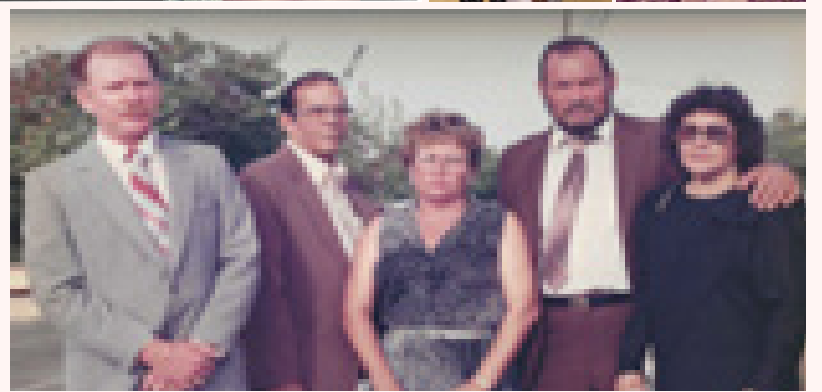
She was preceded in death by her mother Edith Ritch and father John Crosby Walton, brothers Allenby Bodden, Ordway Bodden and sister Cicely Ebanks (nee Dilbert) and son Armand.

She leaves to mourn her husband of sixty-three years, Leonard Hew, and six children, Andree Bodden, Lorna Hampson and Christopher, Victoria, Richard and Joseph Hew, and brother Cleveland Dilbert, 24 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many other relatives and friends.

'Love what you do and do it with love. And don't be afraid of tough love as it teaches valuable lessons.'

– Lorna Valma Hew





Graveside Service

Prayer Pastor Steve Brady
Hymn “Old Rugged Cross”
Committal..... Pastor Steve Brady
Hymn..... “Morning has Broken”
Benediction Pastor Steve Brady

Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suff’ring and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I’ll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown
To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He’ll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I’ll share

So I’ll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

Morning has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God’s recreation of the new day

Thanks & Acknowledgement

The family of the late Lorna Valma Hew wishes to extend sincere appreciation for the outpouring of love and support from family, friends and members of the public. Special thanks to Jasmine, HSA’s doctors, nurses , the ambulatory services, Dr. Mon Desir and the Lions Club of Grand Cayman.



MUMMY YOU LEFT US

Beautiful memories, your love is still our guide, although we cannot see you, you're always at our side!

Your children

TO MY LIFES PARTNER – VALMA

We had similar dreams. You desiring to be a Captain of a ship and I wanting to sail the seven seas. Who would have thought that sixty-three years ago we would begin to be the crew on the ship of life. You were my captain and I your chief mate through rough and calm seas. I am blessed to have shared the journey with you. You have provided undivided love, not only for me and a wonderful family, but for everyone throughout the years with us.

Goodbye is such a painful word, but your legacy of caring love will be a comfort and an eternal presence in my heart.

Sail on safely to your saviour.

Your Chief Mate Leonard

OUR GAN GAN

In Spot Bay's embrace, a legend was born,
A grandmother cherished, her love gently worn,
Gangan, we call her, a heart pure and free,
A matriarch's spirit, a sailor of the family sea.

With seven children as crew, she set her course,
Navigating life's waves with love as her force,
Her stories, a treasure, like sails unfurled,
Guiding her kin in the wisdom of her world,
With a laughter that echoed, a light in her eyes,
Gangan spun tales that reached the skies.

Sundays united in West Bay's warm nest,
A gathering of hearts, for this we are blessed,
She cooked and she fed, a feast for the soul,
Nourishing bonds that would forever hold.

She sailed on life's ocean with courage and care,
Just as her Catboat sailed through wind's embrace,
She held family close in love's sacred space.

Now at ninety-five, her journey finds rest,
Her legacy lives on in every beating chest,
Her Catboat of love still sails in our heart,
Guiding us through life's seas, never to part.

Gangan, dear Gangan, your voyage is done,
But your love's light in us, forever will run,
Through stories and laughter, in each gentle breeze

Love from your grandchildren