

*A Service of Thanksgiving
For the Life of*



Eldeen "Arlain" Connolly

25th December 1937 – 19th January 2025

East End United Church
Grand Cayman
Saturday 8th February 2025
10:00 am

Officiating Minister:
Pastor Ormond Williams

Organist: Mr. Olivaire Watler

Interment: East End Cemetery

Order of Service

Opening Remarks	Pastor Ormond Williams
Opening Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness	Congregation
Scripture Reading: Psalm 27.....	Mr. Eddinton Powell, JP
Prayer	Mr. Eddinton Powell, JP
Musical Tribute - Whispering Hope	Ms. Grenda Solomon
Obituary	Mr. George Anthony Powell
Musical Tribute - Ave Maria.....	Ms. Denise Tibbetts
Prayer - We Give Back Those You Gave Us	Mrs. Deborah Webb - Sibblies
Musical Tribute - Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)	Mr. McCleary Frederick
Song - Precious Memories	Congregation
Scripture Reading: Revelations 21: 1-4.....	Mr. Isaac Rankine
Sermon	Pastor Ormond Williams
Prayer for the Family	Pastor Ormond Williams
Closing Song - It Is Well With My Soul.....	Congregation
Blessing.....	Pastor Ormond Williams

Pallbearers

Mr. Craig Frederick
Mr. Romeo Frederick
Mr. Lynford Pandohie

Mr. Albert Rankine
Mr. Noel Webb
Mr. Gary Whittaker

Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Mark Connolly
Mr. Alan Ebanks
Mr. McDorn Frederick
Mr. Marvin Frederick
Mr. Omar McLean
Mr. Travis McLean
Mr. Vaughn McLean

Mr. Leonard Powell
Mr. Richard Powell
Mr. Charlie Powell
Mr. Ernest Powell
Mr. Barton Solomon
Mr. Tareq Solomon
Mr. Luis Webb

Ushers

Mrs. Crystal Ebanks
Mrs. Pamela Montoya

Guest Book Attendants

Ms. Lois Webb
Ms. Juliette Frederick

Service Hymns

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Precious Memories

Precious memories, unseen angels
Sent from somewhere to my soul
How they linger, ever near me
And the sacred scenes unfold

Precious memories, how they linger
How they ever flood my soul
In the stillness of the midnight
Precious, sacred scenes unfold

Precious father, loving mother
Fly across the lonely years
And old home scenes of my childhood
In fond memory appear

In the stillness of the midnight
Echoes from the past I hear
Old-time singing, gladness bringing
From that lovely land somewhere

I remember mother praying
Father, too, on bended knee
Sun is sinking, shadows falling
But their prayers still follow me

As I travel on life's pathway
Know not what the years may hold
As I ponder, hope grows fonder
Precious memories flood my soul

It Is Well With My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way;
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say;
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain: It is well with my soul; It is well,
it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come;
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin... Oh the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Oh my soul.

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life;
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
the sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh trump of the angel! Oh voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest for my soul!

And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend.
Even so it is well with my soul.

Obituary

Eldeen “Arlain” Marrie Connolly

Eldeen Marrie Connolly (nee Powell) was born in Breakers, Grand Cayman on the 25th December 1937, the daughter of Clarabell Perditha Powell (nee Pouchie) and Lawrence Alfred Powell. “Arlain”, as she was known throughout her life, was the eighth of ten children from this union.

Arlain was the loving and devoted mother of three children, Joy Vashti Solomon (deceased), Anna Clair McLean and Mark Robert Connolly.

In her early years Arlain attended school in Bodden Town with Miss Hilary Bodden. She often spoke of her school days with pride. In those days school was held in the Bodden Town Town Hall. Arlain would tell stories of her and three of the youngest of her brothers, Astor, Byron, and Roylin walking to Bodden Town from Breakers to attend school. They would often go down on the Sunday evening to stay with their Granny Adelaide, their paternal grandmother, Adelaide Powell, who lived close to the entrance of Manse Road in Bodden Town. They would spend the week with their grandmother while attending school and then the four would make the return journey to Breakers on Friday evenings.

Arlain later attended school in Breakers, under the tutelage of Mr. Haig Bodden. She fondly recalled the old schoolhouse in Breakers, which was located along the sand road that started in front of Lighthouse Restaurant and Bar. She also often reminisced about her classmates, especially Clinton Whittaker and his brothers.

One of Arlain’s favorite childhood memories was going in the sea on Saturday evenings during mango season with her siblings and neighborhood friends. She would also recall twisting thatch after school in the evenings, the Powell and Webster girls. Her mother, Perditha or “Ms. Pearlie” and her older sister Annis would go to Mount Cabbage and Frank Sound to cut silver thatch during the day and then in the evenings everyone would gather and twist. While this was hard work, Arlain had fond memories of those evenings spending time together with her mother, sisters and especially her childhood friend, Happy Webster. The money earned from twisting thatch would be saved to buy cloth and other treats from Mr. Ashford Panton’s truck, which served as the mobile general store in those days.

Growing up, Arlain also recalled spending time in North Side with her eldest sister, Vintress or Vinnie, who as a young adult was living in North Side at that time, taking care of their Grandma Betty. This would have been their maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Pouchie.

As a young adult, Arlain followed her sister Annis to George Town to seek employment. Annis was the sister that she was closest to at that age and the natural thing was that when Annis went to town she followed. Arlain secured her first job with By-Rite and worked there for a number of years. Throughout her adult life Arlain worked for several establishments, most of which are now in the local history books. In addition to By-Rite, she worked at Corita’s Copper Kettle, Miami Men’s Shop and Ernon Whittaker’s Canteen. She spent many years at 19th Hole Restaurant with her friend Clinton Whittaker and her sisters Annis and Vintress. She then spent many years with both Annis and Vintress, when Vintress established her own restaurant in Breakers, Reef Point.

On the 21 May 1969, Arlain married Robert Maxwell Connolly and soon thereafter moved to East End. Robert Connolly was an entrepreneur! In addition to being a sea man, heavy equipment operator, bus driver and truck driver, he tried his hand at several businesses, and his faithful wife, Arlain was there to assist. Before Arlain’s Restaurant, there was movies at the East End town hall on Friday and Saturday nights. There was also a small grocery store in the middle of the district, they also bought a truck to try the trucking business! Their most successful ventures were his taxi driving and their fried chicken and hamburger outlet in the centre of East End, which they operated in the night, after returning home from their day jobs.

After Robert had a stroke, Arlain’s children helped her with the construction of a building from which to operate the business next to her home. This was “Arlain’s Restaurant”, present home of La Casita Restaurant in Blakes, East End. For almost ten years Arlain managed and operated her own business, gaining loyal customers from all over the Island. Arlain’s Restaurant was her pride and joy. She was able to cook and maintain contact with the community. In 2012 she retired, only making her fried chicken, on special request for her favorite customers!

Between her various jobs, Arlain took time to assist with the early childcare of her daughter’s children. First there was Tareq, then there was Travis, Vaughn and Alyssa. These special assignments allowed her to develop that special grandmother bond with them all. Arlain was family oriented and opened her home at various times to family members. Robert’s sister from Jamaica, lived with them throughout her high school years. Her nieces and grandnieces always enjoyed spending summers in Sand Bluff.

As the youngest Aunt, Arlain had special relationships with many of her nieces and nephews. The older children were more like her younger brothers and sisters, some of whom she helped care for. There was Leonard, Richard, Washburn and Cindy. Those that were closer in age with her children were also very special, Carol, Diane, Dawn-Mae, Sabrina, Tony, Lynford, Jeff and Roger. A special Sunday evening past time was driving around Grand Cayman visiting her family from West Bay to Gun Bay and having friends and family visit her.

Arlain had the wonderful experience of living throughout the district of East End. When she first moved to East End with Robert, they lived in his house in the middle of the district, which has now been converted into the East End Post Office. On selling that property, they moved to Sand Bluff for about five years, while they built their new home in Blakes, where she lived for the last forty years of her life. Along the way Arlain made lifelong friends with many of her neighbors, she sewed and she cooked, and was willing to assist anyone with either task. She was a participatory member of the East End PTA, where her youngest daughter attended, providing her signature meat loaf for any school event. She contributed to district events, even though she was not a party goer. As a business owner she developed a respectful relationship with the younger people of the district, who kept asking her for her fried chicken recipe! In Blakes both Arlain and Robert developed special relationships with Edsel and Jen Panton, visiting them in Venice Florida, before the Pantons retired to live in Grand Cayman. In Sand Bluff she developed a close, "mother-daughter" relationship with Mrs. Olga Whittaker, sharing many recipes. Arlain was also close with many of Robert's family, especially Nancy and McDorn Frederick and their children. In later life she also developed special relationships with Hortencia Bell and Mary Bodden, both of whom were dear to her heart and part of her telephone network. Following the death of her husband Robert on 30th July 2005, Arlain also developed a very special relationship with her son-in-law Omar McLean, who she would call with any issue, or find her way to his office on Smith Road in George Town. It was then his job to sort it out with Anna, Joy or Mark.

As a young child Arlain attended Church of God in Breakers with her mother Perditha. As a parent she ensured that her children attended Sunday school and was a strong disciplinarian, ensuring that her children knew right from wrong, and the consequences of doing wrong. In later life, on the invitation of her friend Mary Bodden, Arlain attended the Countryside Church of God, East End, where she was baptized and was an active member until her illness curtailed her regular attendance.

In addition to sewing and cooking, like most of her sisters, Arlain loved to line fish from the shore. This was something that brought her and her sister Meldine close. During the week, at night when they were not frying chicken in East End, Arlain, Robert and Meldine and their children and grandchildren could be found along the shores, from Sand Bluff to Blakes. Even after retirement, Arlain would set her lines across the road from her home and loved to share stories of her catch, especially when she was serving you a plate of her rundown with last night's snapper. Shore fishing was definitely a Powell's thing, which one of her favorite nieces, Elizabeth "Cindy" Frederick (deceased) loved, as does her son, Mark.

Arlain was a hard-working woman of extraordinarily strong character. As a young woman she lost her favorite brother, Byron Powell in 1975. Arlain then lost her mother, Perditha Powell November 1993. In July 2005 she lost her husband of thirty-six years, Robert Connolly, after a pro-longed illness. Throughout the past fifteen years she has lost her remaining maternal siblings, her friends the Pantons, "Tenny", Mary, her special niece Elizabeth "Cindy" Frederick and her special nephews Washburn and Roger Powell. In addition to experiencing pain from loss of loved ones, Arlain has fought many health battles. Cancer, Heart disease, Parkinson's, she has dealt with these head-on. During the last ten years of her life she suffered from dementia, which was the biggest challenge for her, losing her independence.

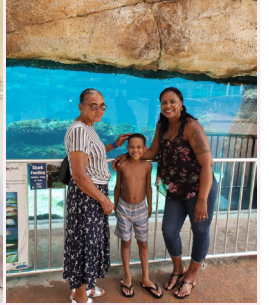
In June 2023 Arlain lost her first-born, her daughter Joy and this was a terrible, incomprehensible blow for her, leading to a rapid decline in her health. She passed away at home on Sunday, 19th January 2025, surrounded by her family and caregivers.

Eldeen Marrie Connolly, better known to us as Arlain, was preceded in death by both parents- Perditha and Lawrence Powell; her nine siblings from their union- Roy, Vintress, Macey, Annis, Meldine, Astor, Murphy, Byron and Roylin; her husband Robert Maxwell Connolly and her beloved, first child Joy Vashti Solomon.

Eldeen Marrie Connolly is survived by her daughter Anna McLean, her son Mark Connolly, daughter-in-law Simone Connolly, sons-in-law Barton Solomon and Omar McLean; five grandchildren- Tareq and Alyssa Solomon, Travis and Vaughn McLean and their wives Lily and Dayana, and William Kameka; six great grandchildren; three special nieces Carol Powell, Diane Rich and Sabrina Powell-Izquierdo; two special nephews Leonard and Richard Powell; six siblings- Patricia Stoll, Randy McLean, Alfred McLean, Laura Bodden, Vadonna McLaughlin and George Powell; eight sisters-in-law, and a host of other nieces, nephews, family and friends.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Precious Memories



Graveside Hymns

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

I Come To The Garden Alone

I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses

Refrain: And He walks with me and He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the Joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever know

He speaks and the sound of His voice,
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me within my heart is ringing

I'd stay in the garden with Him,
though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best, for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: 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.

O, the old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above, to bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.

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, when His glory forever I'll share.

Graveside Service

Prayer Pastor Ormond Williams
Song What a friend we have in Jesus
Committal Pastor Ormond Williams
Hymns - Congregation
I Come to The Garden Alone - Old Rugged Cross - There is a Place of Quiet Rest - Softly and Tenderly
Benediction Pastor Ormond Williams

There is a Place of Quiet Rest

There is a place of quiet rest
There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where sin cannot molest,
Near to the heart of God.
Refrain: O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before Thee,
Near to the heart of God.
There is a place of comfort sweet,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where we our Savior meet,
Near to the heart of God.
There is a place of full release,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where all is joy and peace,
Near to the heart of God.

Softly and Tenderly

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain: Come home, come home;
ye who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me.

O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

Acknowledgements

The family of the late Eldeen "Arlain" Connolly would like to thank each of you for joining us, especially those participating, in this Service of Thanksgiving.

*We have been touched by the outpouring of love and support in this time of bereavement.
Your visits, phone calls and messages are all appreciated.*

*We would also wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the staff of the HSA,
the East End Health Centre; her Caregivers- Vivienne Reid,
Johalette Ellis Williams and Roselyn Johnson for their compassionate care.*