



Ruth Ethlynn Bodden

September 13, 1948 - March 5, 2025

Service of Thanksgiving

Saturday, March 29th, 2025, at 11:00 am
Elmslie Memorial United Church
George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Officiating:

Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Pastor Ryan Worth Oelschlager

Pianist:

Mr. Antonio Sanchez

Organist:

Olivaire Watler

Pallbearers

David Bodden
Dean Scott
Clement Dela Cruz
Fraser Smith
Joel Shawn Campbell
Joseph Watler
Robert Ebanks
Rod Watler
Michael Watler

Usher

Barbara Bodden

Guest Book Attendant

Emily Scott
Jennifer Scott
Terri Merren

Order of Service

Introit and Hymn - "Because He Lives" Congregation, Led by Antonio Sanchez
Opening Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Hymn - "How Great Thou Art" Congregation, Led by Antonio Sanchez
Prayer Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Tribute in Song....."You Get to Curate Your Life"Isadora Ferrao
Life Story of Ruth Ethlynn Bodden Read by Elder Betty Ann Mobley
Song "Heaven Sounding Sweeter all the Time"
Francis Barrows and Georgia Swaby Segree
Tribute from Joan and Colin Wilson Read by Colin Wilson
Tribute Neil Hamaty
Song "Bless the Lord oh my Soul, 10,000 Reasons" Lisa Welman
Scripture Reading - I Samuel 2: 1-8 Read by Tim Coak
Sermon..... "Risen Meekness" Pastor Ryan W. Oelschlager
Prayer Pastor Ryan W. Oelschlager
Prayer of Commendation Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Hymn - "Amazing Grace" Congregation, Led by Antonio Sanchez
Benediction Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Three-Fold Amen..... Congregation, Led by Antonio Sanchez
Recessional - "Amazing Grace" Instrumental only, recording - Scottish Bagpipes

Graveside Service

Opening Sentence Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Hymn The Lord's my Shepherd"
Committal Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Prayer Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Hymn "When we all get to Heaven"

Hymns

Because He Lives

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He bled and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.

Refrain: Because He lives; I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives; All fear is gone
Because I know, I know, He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives,
But greater still that calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain,
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joys shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

When We All Get To Heaven

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.

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!

While we walk the pilgrim pathway, clouds will over-spread the sky
But when traveling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us then be true and faithful, trusting, serving every day
Just one glimpse of Him in glory, will the toils of life repay.

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.

The Life Story of Ruth Ethlynn Bodden

Ruth Ethlynn Bodden was born on September 13, 1948 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ruth was the first child born to her parents, Ruth Marion Bodden nee Watler and John Theodore Eden Bodden, of Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. Ruth was named after her grandmother Etheline Bodden.

Ruth's parents were residing in New Orleans because her father was employed as a Captain on a ship and they made the main port of New Orleans their home base for a period of time before moving to New Jersey where John, Debra and David were born. The family later moved to San Francisco where Ruth and her siblings attended school.

Ruth assisted her mother with the care of her brothers and sister, particularly her younger brother, David. The young family was devastated when their father died suddenly of a heart attack in 1964 in New York, while in port, visiting his brother. Ruth supported her mother with the care of her siblings and continued her studies and graduated from high school in 1966. Ruth went on to attend college in the city and stayed at home with her mother and the children. Ruth loved living in San Francisco and remained there after her mother moved to Santa Cruz to manage a hotel.

Ruth worked for United Foundations for Medical Care as an Administrator in San Francisco and in that role she assisted with the annual meetings and travelled to Hawaii to assist in the organization of the events.

Ruth visited her family in Cayman as it was important to her to catch up with her aunts and uncles and cousins and learn and learn about her heritage. She learned a lot about cooking from her Aunt Shelia and Uncle Jose and treasured their sons, Donnie and Ladner who lived next door to Ruth's grandparents' family home off North Church Street. Ruth's grandfather Major Joseph Rodriguez Watler known as Roddy passed away in 1965. Ruth visited and spent quality time with her grandmother, Blanche sitting in the swing on the front porch. She loved to go boating and fishing with her cousins Donnie and Ladner Watler. Her Uncle Joe and Aunt Sheila would cook the fresh caught fish and lobster for Ruth and the family.

After a few years her mother sold the hotel and moved to Cayman. Ruth also moved to Cayman in 1990 and worked for British Caymanian Insurance until 2000. For a period she worked for the Beach Club Colony. Later she worked as the Receptionist for the Television Centre for five years. Ruth started a new job working for Dr. Elaine Campbell's local medicines being sold at the Craft Market. She enjoyed meeting the cruise ship tourists and made many new friends.

Ruth always had such a good disposition and an excellent work ethic. Everything that Ruth did was done to the best of her ability with diligence and a positive attitude. She was popular with her work colleagues.

Ruth had a great respect for the environment and believed everyone should do their part to reduce plastic use and preserve the marine and natural environments. She did volunteer work for the National Trust and the Cayman Drama Society.

Ruth and her mother attended Elmslie Memorial United Church where Ruth was part of the Womens Fellowship and participated in their meetings and events and attended their retreats. Ruth bonded with the women and a few of them became life long friends.

Ruth and her mother were very close to Eulene, Madge, Helen and Joan and were often at the beach together. Ruth's mother and Madge could be seen swimming at the Coral Caymanian and enjoying the company of the late Alex Foster. The five sisters, who were Ruth's aunts, held family get togethers and enjoyed entertaining the grand nieces and nephews. When Ruth's mother passed away in 2010, this left a void in her life and she found comfort with her many relatives and friends and Church and community activities.

Ruth was baptized in the sea in 2019 by Pastor Ryan Oelschlager of the Sunrise Community Church in Grand Cayman. Ruthlynn committed her life to the Lord and was filled with peace and contentment. She prayed faithfully for her brothers and sister and family members and embraced others who were in need.

Ruth was admitted to Health City Cayman Islands for medical treatment on January 23, 2025. She held onto her faith in the Lord and she passed away peacefully in her sleep on the morning of March 5, 2025.

Ruth was predeceased by her loving mother and father, Ruth M. Bodden and John T. E. Bodden, respectfully; her brother, John Bodden and her niece, Allisson Bodden and her cousin Donald Watler.

Ruth is survived by her sister, Deborah O'Hara and her brother, David Bodden, her niece, Colleen O'Hara; her nephews, Steven and Evan; grand nieces, Janigh and Destiny; grand nephew Mycale Jr.; brother in law, Sean O'Hara; her aunt, Joan Wilson and her husband, Colin Wilson; first cousins, Ladner Watler, Suzan Merren, Gregory Merren, Paula Ebanks, Lisa Merren, Jennifer Scott, Christine Ogilvie and Garry Phillips; her special friends, Neil Hamaty, Joanna Farley, Isadora Ferraro, Margaret Rewalt and Francis Barrows and a host of other relatives and friends as well as her church family at Sunrise Community Church and her friends and family at Elmslie Memorial United Church.

May her soul rest in Peace with Jesus Christ her Lord and Savoir.







THE LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONS GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES

1877 S.W. Gore	1908 A.W. Gore	1949 F.R. Schroeder	1980 B. Borg
1878 J.K. Hadler	1909 A.W. Gore	1950 B. Patty	1981 J.P. McEnroe
1879 J.T. Hartley	1910 A.F. Wilding	1951 R. Savitt	1982 J.C. Conners
1880 J.T. Hartley	1911 A.F. Wilding	1952 F.A. Sedgman	1983 J.P. McEnroe
1881 W. Bannister	1912 A.F. Wilding	1953 V. Selaes	1984 R. Becker
1882 W. Bannister	1913 A.F. Wilding	1954 J. Drobny	1985 R. Becker
1883 W. Bannister	1914 R.E. Brookes	1955 T. Trabert	1986 B. Becker
1884 W. Bannister	1915 G.L. Patterson	1956 L.A. Hodson	1987 P. Cash
1885 W. Bannister	1920 W.T. Tilden	1957 L.A. Hodson	1988 S. Edberg
1886 W. Bannister	1921 W.T. Tilden	1958	1989 S. Becker
1887 H.F. Lawford	1922 G.L. Patterson	1959	1990 S. Edberg
1888 E. Renshaw	1923 W.M. Johnston	1960	1991 M. Stich
1889 W. Bannister	1924 A. Bonitta	1961	1992 A. Agassi
1890 W.J. Hamilton	1925 R. Lacoste	1962	1993 P. Sampras
1891 W. Bannister	1926 J. Borotra	1963	1994 P. Sampras
1892 W. Bannister	1927 A. Cochet	1964	1995 P. Sampras
1893 J. Pin	1928 R. Lacoste	1965	1996 R. Krajicek
1894 J. Pin	1929 M. Coste	1966	1997 P. Sampras
1895 W. Bannister	1930 W.T. Tilden		1998 P. Sampras
1896 H.L. Hobbes	1931 S.B. Wood		1999 P. Sampras
1897 R.P. Doherty	1932 M.E. Miles		2000 P. Sampras
1898 R.P. Doherty	1933 J.H. Crawford		2001 G. Ivanisevic
1899 R.P. Doherty	1934 P.J. Parry		2002 L. Hewitt
1900 R.P. Doherty	1935 P.J. Parry		2003 R. Federer
1901 A.W. Gore	1936 P.J. Parry		2004 R. Federer
1902 H.L. Doherty	1937 G.D. Budge		2005 R. Federer
1903 H.L. Doherty	1938 J.D. Riggs		2006 R. Federer
1904 H.L. Doherty	1945 V. Riva		2007 P. Federer
1905 H.L. Doherty	1946 V. Riva		
1906 H.L. Doherty	1947		
1907 H.L. Doherty	1948		
1908	1949		



Tribute to My Sister, Ruthlyn, from David

Ruthlyn was not only my sister but also my friend. From the very beginning of my life, she cared for me with the love and devotion just like a mother would do, showing me affection and guidance all through my childhood and well into my teenage years. Her presence was a constant source of comfort and strength. She gave me my first baseball which inspired my love for sports. Ruthlyn had a way of lifting up those around her, and her impact on my life is immeasurable.

Though we had our differences, I regret that we didn't have the chance to fully reconcile them. Nonetheless, my love and gratitude for her will never fade.

Ruthlyn, you will always be missed, and I will carry you in my heart for the rest of my days. Rest in peace, Sister Ruth Ethlyn Bodden.

I will forever cherish the moments we shared, and I will love you always.

Love,
David

TRIBUTE TO RUTHIE

John 14: 2-6

In my fathers house there are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you shall be also. And where I go you know and the way you know. Thomas said to Him. Lord we do not know where you are going and how can we know the way. Jesus said to Him. I am the way the truth and the life No one comes to the Father but through me.

We met that blazing hot cloudless day when Pastor Ryan galvanized a small band of heroes from Sunrise Community Church to help root out the mold that had been growing in the dark spaces of your ceiling ever since hurricane Ivan had damaged your roof, Our connection was instant. We bounded towards each other and you planted that big kiss smack dab on my mouth in that brassy irreverent Ruthie way that only you could do and get away with it. Ever since then we shared our stories and laughed and cried over occasional rum and cokes in the spaces where memory now lives.

When you lived in San Francisco in the 80's, you were champion and warrior for the defenseless and the outcast providing refuge and love for those dying alone of AIDS at a time when love and compassion lay frozen beneath fear and judgement. How could you have known then that God stored up all that love you selflessly gave others so He could lavishly pour it out when you needed it most.

I will never forget you my precious girl. Your honesty your determination, your grit your independence and determination and your kindness but most of all your faith. In your darkest times it was Jesus Christ who became your anchor your refuge and your shelter. In 2019 after you lay paralyzed in hospital, drowning in despair, you told me about your deep conversations with God in the early hours of the morning and when you felt like giving in and giving up His voice rose up on the wings of your spirit and lifted you and restored you and refreshed you. I was a witness to the fulfillment of His promise because through it all He never deserted you, He never abandoned you.

Your life on this earth brought me and so many others such joy. I will cherish your raucous belly laugh, your 20 minute text messages and the way you always ended them with your signature sunshine “bye” that always sounded more like a “hello” than a goodbye, I will miss our pool parties and our trips to Sunset House, I will miss you flirting with the bartenders, and our trips to Eastern Star in East End for fried fish and lobster.

It is a curious paradox that even though your illnesses brought together a delightfully quirky band of misfits to help you traverse wheel chairs and diapers and hospitals, I have realized that far from me helping you, it was you who really was helping me. Loving you deepened my capacity to love and care for others. My girl you don't know how much you were preparing me for life NOW.

Through all of the challenges you faced in your life what will always comfort me is that you sailed out of this world KNOWING that you were lovedloved by God and loved by so many..... Your menagerie of friends came from every walk of life, from every part of the world, from every age group. People were drawn into your orbit because you were authentic and honest (even painfully so) In the end this is what really counts doesn't it.... LOVE..... and in this respect Ruthie you LIVED AN ABUNDANT LIFE

I will forever treasure the privilege of walking this little piece of life with you. I will always throw my head back and laugh when I think of how proudly alive you were of your Caymanian heritage and your family. You never missed an opportunity to tell anyone you met that you were a 9th generation Caymanian. The daughter of the soil whose family were one of the foundational builders of these amazing islands.

Your child like enthusiasm for sports especially your beloved 49ers who you supported to the hilt (whether they lost or won) and your patience with me Francis, Izzy who (despite your best efforts) could never understand the game, even though we faithfully attended the Super Bowl half time shows with you I will miss our trips to Prospect Playhouse, to “Red Sky at Night” and Boogie Nights where you danced in your wheelchair to Elton John's “I'm Still Standing” and yes Ruthie, I am still Standing.

I will miss our talks, especially the thorny and difficult ones, where we confronted our own fears, our own mistakes especially those that hurt ourselves and others. When you saw that you made a mistake, I always marveled at how quickly and how willingly you raised your eyes to heaven lay it all on the line and let God's forgiveness wash, purify and restore you. That as I told you is the true mark of HUMILITY and my darlin you had that in spades.

And with that my Ruthie pops, it's time to say goodbye. So sail on silver girl... on to that glorious Kingdom, into the arms of your saviour and Lord, and into the arms of your precious Mama who you loved the most in this world. I know she is there waiting on you. Give Dwight a big hug for me. I know how much you wanted to meet him. Now you will.... and save my place at the table beside you'all. As you always said “Good on Ya”

Love you eternally.
“Bye”
Love you
Neil Hamaty



Tribute from Joanna Farley

I've known Ruthie for around 13 years. We first met in a Sunrise Community Church community group. Ruthie says that the first time she saw me, God told her that we would become very good friends, and I can honestly say that Ruthie has been one of the most important friends of my life. She called me her "Jo-Jo" and I knew without a doubt that she loved me, and my girls, wholeheartedly.

She had such an amazing relationship with "her Lord" and loved to talk about Him to everyone she met. Rain wasn't just rain to Ruthie, it was "God's rain", and she would often tell me about her chats at night with "my Lord", as she always called Him. God became Ruthie's anchor, and no matter what happened to Ruth, she had complete faith that God was with her and gave her the strength to endure the many challenges that she faced. I was thinking of dear Ruthie as I read today Psalm 28:7, "The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." and I feel this is reflective of what Ruthie believed.

Ruthie absolutely loved to give and receive hugs! She had such a great capacity for loving people, and it was important to Ruth that she let people know how much she loved them. Voice messages from Ruth would regularly end with, "I love you so much my sweetie. Kiss yourself, kiss the girls, kiss the cats and kiss your Mum and Dad! Byeeee!", and it always made me smile.

In 2019, Ruth came and stayed with the girls and me for three weeks in the UK. It was an incredible trip, and we visited so many places. Highlights included a tour round the gardens of Highgrove, King Charles' country estate, a visit to Sudeley Castle, where Katherine Parr is buried and a trip to see Brunel's SS Great Britain in Bristol where we also met up with dear friends from Cayman, Ralda, Paul and their son. Ruth and I had a fantastic day at Wimbledon and Ruthie got to sit on Henman's Hill watching her beloved Federer play. On the way back to Paddington Station, we made a quick stop so Ruthie could see Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye.

We also had three nights in Scotland. Ruthie had said she desperately wanted to go to Scotland owing to the connection with the Watler side of her family. We had a wonderful time visiting the golf course at St Andrew's, The National Wallace Monument, Loch Leven and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. On the way back to Edinburgh Airport we went on board the Royal Yacht Britannia which Ruthie was so excited about, and we ended our trip on board with a delicious cream tea.

Just today as I write this, I saw the couple who kindly hosted us in Scotland. The first thing the husband asked me was, "How's your larger-than-life friend from Cayman?" I had to explain obviously that dear Ruthie had been "promoted" to be with her Lord, but I really felt that sums Ruthie up. She was larger than life! There really is no one like our Ruthie and she will be greatly missed by all those who know and loved her. One thing that I can be certain of, is that she would want us all to go on and really live our lives, and I know undoubtedly that she would say to me, "Jo-Jo, keep looking UP!" I love you dear Ruthie and I am so thankful that you came to be a big part of my life! – JOANNA FARLEY, UK



Tribute to Ruthlynn Bodden from Suzan Merren

My first glimpse of the Golden Gate bridge was when I was visiting Ruthlynn for a weekend in San Francisco, during my college years in Southern California. She was driving me around the city and she said "there it is". The spectacular bridge was in full view and Ruthlynn drove across it to Sausalito. I will always remember the excitement of that drive across the bridge and how much fun we had in her yellow Fiat Spider X1/9 with the licence plate, KAYMAN. I had my first taste of San Francisco sourdough bread! Ruthlynn was such a great host and we were so happy to catch up on family news. At that time she worked with United Foundations for Medical Care in San Francisco.

Occasionally, Ruthlynn visited our Aunt Madge in Santa Monica and I joined them on several visits and enjoyed picnics in Ocean Park, going to concerts at the Los Angeles Music Center and the Hollywood Bowl, shopping at the Brentwood Country Mart, walking around Venice Beach, Westwood and Beverly Hills. There was never a dull moment as Aunt Madge had a packed itinerary for us and included her friends in a few of the activities. Aunt Madge and Ruthlynn liked Neil Diamond's songs and would often play records on Aunt Madge's stereo.

I have fond memories of Ruthlynn's visits to Cayman when we were children. She would pick us up in Aunt Eulene's Cadillac and take us to the Beach Club Colony to swim. We looked forward to her annual visits to Cayman.

Ruthlynn and I were close and stayed in contact. I was happy when she moved to Cayman to be with her mother. We did volunteer work for the National Trust George Town District Committee events and fund raising. She loved to research her family history and was interested in the historic buildings in George Town and the importance of preserving them. Ruthlynn had a great love for her family and friends. She was such a kind and forgiving person. It was a joy to see her at church and family get-togethers. The children and young members of the family loved her and she adored them. She had a special way with the children and could keep them entertained.

I am so proud of Ruthlynn and her life in Cayman. She worked hard and accomplished a lot. She attended Church, was baptised and surrounded herself with the good things in life and good friends. She took care of her mother and together they enjoyed a good life in Cayman.

It was heart-breaking to see her in the hospital but she was strong and such a good patient. The doctors and nurses said she was always smiling and told them she was grateful to them. She watched basket ball and football and made herself as comfortable as possible always saying that "when the Lord takes me I am ready to go". It was encouraging to see the improvements she made in the hospital in response to the medical treatments and in the fourth week she was talking about getting back to her place and seeing her little dog. Our family has lost a special cousin and we will never forget her smile and her love and kindness to all of us.

With gratitude to God for giving us such a special cousin in our family from,

Suzan Merren



Tribute to Ruthlyn from Joan and Colin Wilson

We both were in our earlier years of married life when Ruthlyn (Ruthie) arrived back to Cayman with her mother Ruth (Jo's sister) leaving the USA for good.

It was immediately revealing how Ruthie was of a vivacious and happy countenance. She made you feel warm inside and laughed most of the time.

This happy nature never stopped even when she went through her various serious illnesses throughout her life.

I (Colin) was more close to her than (Jo) because Ruthie joined the Cayman Drama Society, a local group of thespians, to which I was a prominent member - Acting, writing, directing plays and for a number of years -Chairman.

Ruthie was always eager to help in any capacity as long as it didn't involve in her appearing on stage.

She did wardrobe, help paint sets, and worked front of house (her best role as it involved meeting people). Yes, meet and greet was Ruthie's strength. Whether it was at the door ushering people in to their seats, or working the bar, her cheerful manner was intoxicating.

Often during the week when tourist ships were in port Ruthie was there to help tourists find there way around and she even had a stall by the dock as well. In fact she was the one that did the most talking.

When Jo and I opened the television station CITN/Cayman 27, Ruthie was the Receptionist. There was another reception desk, much larger, where customers paid there cable TV bills and of her own iniative, when there were lines of people waiting to be served her voice would ring out, "Anyone with cheques I can deal with you and give you a receipt."

Now for an incident that happened which could have had very serious consequences but for Ruthie. A serious accusation was made against a close family member which was not true but was made to cover up someone else's misdeed. What was worse the husband of the woman who had help spread this accusation confirmed it was true. Ruthie had been present to all this and her voice rang out loud and clear.

"None of this is true and I am a witness to it." She turned immediately to the man who had confirmed it and angrily said, "Mr. XYZ, I was there the same as you were. Why have you agreed everything as being true when you know full well it isn't."

He replied, "I have to back up my wife."

Ruthie's voice rang out loud and clear, "Mr XYZ Your Father in Heaven, will never back up a lie."

He said, "I don't believe in a God or Heaven."

"Then." Said Ruthie, "I will pray very hard tonight for both you and your wife."

Darling, Ruthie, I will never, never forget you, your smile, your honesty, your faith in God and your love.

Heaven will rejoice that you are there.

Jo & Co. – Aunt Joan and Colin

Tribute to Ruthlyn from Gregory Merren and Family

We were deeply saddened to receive the news of the passing of our beloved cousin, Ruthlyn. She was a rare gem, full of thoughtfulness and love. Ruthlyn had a special way about her, always remembering us during important occasions. Whether it was Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas or New Year's, she would send us sweet voice recordings, lovingly calling us her "honeys," and never forgetting to say, "I love you so, so much." Ruthlyn was not one for writing lengthy messages but, when it came to voice recordings, she knew how to pour out her heart. One of the last voice messages she sent was a perfect example of this. It was a Valentine's Day message she left for Terri, which said: "Happy Valentine's Day, Terri. Have a great day today and a wonderful evening with my Gregory. Kiss him for me, will ya?! Keep looking up. God loves you, and so do I." Ruthlyn loved her family dearly, especially her grandfather, Roddy, whom she and her cousins affectionately called "Pa." She enjoyed reading his memoirs which she said "made her cry" and seeing old pictures of the family. She cherished her cousins - particularly Gregory - and fondly remembered swinging him in the hammock when he was a young boy at their grandparents' house in George Town. She would say how "Ma didn't like having her picture taken," but Ruthlyn relayed to us how she managed to capture her when photographing little Greg.

A passionate football fan, Ruthlyn shared our love for American football. We will especially miss her during football season and her hilarious messages about her beloved 49ers or our cherished Alabama team, and always signing off with her famous, "IIIEEEEE!" Roll Tide and Go Niners, Ruthie! (We sure hope there is football in Heaven.)

We will all miss your fun-loving, boisterous spirit. You were an inspiration, teaching us the true meaning of love and how to express it. Though our hearts are heavy, we take comfort in knowing that you are no longer suffering and are now safely resting in the arms of Jesus.

Gregory, Terri, Joshua and Zachary

Tribute to Our Dear Cousin, Ruth Bodden

It was with great sadness when we heard of your passing as we certainly did not expect to lose another cousin so soon after your beloved Aunt Helen Merren's passing in December, 2024, who was also another one of our cousins, descended from the Bodden Family.

We always found Ruth to be a very nice and pleasant person with a big smile for everyone. We remember seeing the joy and pleasure that Ruth felt when assisting Cruise Ship passengers at the small business she worked for on the waterfront in George Town, and believe that when the business area from where Ruth and others operated their small businesses from that time, which was next to where the late Dr. Roy McTaggart's house once was, left a void in Ruth's life.

Ruth, you are greatly missed and we will always love and remember you. May your soul Rest in Eternal Peace. With love from your Cousins, Mrs. Chasteen Bodden, Mrs. Aline Wood & James Merren

Tribute to Ruthlynn Bodden from Jennifer Scott

Ruthlynn was such a joy to be around. She loved my sisters and brother and our children the same in the present as she did when we were young children swimming in the sea with her. I admired her strong resilience and her faith in God. Ruthlynn was a rock and she stood up to many difficulties and triumphed through her Christian faith. I am truly Blessed to have been with her holding her hand in the hospital during our visits. Her beaming smile was still so strong to the end when Suzan and I stayed with her in ICU. My family will miss our sweet Ruthlynn.



1 Samuel 2 Verse 1 NIV

“My heart rejoices in the Lord;
in the Lord my horn[a] is lifted high.
My mouth boasts over my enemies,
for I delight in your deliverance.

Acknowledgement

*A grateful thanks to all of the nurses and critical care Team at Health City Cayman Islands, Dr. Cyril Alex, Dr. Archita, Dr. Tarun for the exceptional medical services and care for our dear loved one.
Special thanks to her friends, Neil Hamaty, Joanna Farley, Margaret Rewalt, Julie Adams, Isadora Ferraro, Christine Dolbeare and Francis Barrows for your kindness, great support and friendships to Ruth for many years.
Thanks to Josie Abejuela and her caregivers for their love and care.
May the Lord Bless all of you.*