



*A Celebration of the Life of*  
***Olive Loretta Blair***

**Sunrise**  
March 27, 1919

**Sunset**  
December 6, 2015

*Saturday, December 12, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.*

**OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
820 Broad Street • Newark, New Jersey

## Obituary

**Olive Lucille Loretta Hamilton** was born on March 27, 1919, in Hopetown Village, West Coast Berbice, Guyana, South America to Edwin and Julia Hamilton. She was the fourth child and the eldest of three daughters in a family of seven children, five of whom have pre-deceased her. As a child, she acquired her early education in Hopetown, and although extremely smart, she became known as the kindest child in the village as she could always be seen helping out a friend or neighbor. As a youth, Olive found the most pleasure in taking care of her youngest sister, Elaine. With her signature Chinese umbrella in hand, Olive took Elaine everywhere she went. She was also tasked with making sure that Elaine completed her homework, was appropriately dressed and ready to attend school each day.

As a young lady, Olive was sent by her parents to Pleasance Village, on the East Coast of Demerara, to live with her cousin, Mrs. Hilda DeSantos, whose responsibility it was to teach Olive to become an accomplished seamstress. It was at the DeSantos' residence that John Blair, a handsome, recent Scotland Yard graduate, saw Olive and approached his parents about marrying her. The Blair parents and the Hamilton parents were soon planning the most extravagant wedding Hopetown had ever witnessed, and on December 26, 1936, Olive and John were married at St. Michael's Anglican Church in Fort Wellington, West Coast, Berbice. From this union, nine children were born - Daphne, Ned, Brenda, Leyland, Newton, Barnett, Elaine, Cheryl and Olive.

The growing family moved around quite a bit and lived in Georgetown, the capital of Guyana, New Amsterdam and Fort Wellington. Olive relocated to Mackenzie in August of 1957, where her husband accepted a position as head of the Demerara Bauxite Association - DEMBA Constabulary. She arrived in Mackenzie with seven of her eight children; Daphne, her eldest daughter remained in New Amsterdam where she pursued a career in nursing. Olive, her namesake and youngest child, was born in March of 1958. During her early days in Mackenzie, the elder Olive was responsible for feeding, clothing, and educating eight children, ranging from pre-kindergarten through high school. She single-handedly provided three square meals daily for her husband and children, while doing their laundry by hand. She did the necessary planning, grocery shopping, and house cleaning. Being an accomplished seamstress, Olive made most of her daughters' clothing and also made shirts for her boys.

She was an avid baker and baked fresh bread and cakes several times each week. Her two best friends, Mrs. Alfred and Mrs. Chung visited frequently during the evenings. She never worked outside her home, but one of the social outings she enjoyed was going to the market square on Saturday afternoons where she spent several hours at the family store with her daughter Brenda, socializing with acquaintances. She really enjoyed her annual vacation during the summer months when she took the four youngest children to Berbice to visit with friends and family. She also enjoyed hosting visitors at the family home in Mackenzie. Olive was an amazing woman who devoted her entire life to her family. She was grateful and proud to see each of her nine children grow up to be decent, responsible, professional adults contributing to society in important ways.

No life, however, can remain untouched by sadness and Olive's was no exception. On July 3, 1966, she watched as her eldest daughter Daphne left Guyana for the United States to further her education in nursing. A mere four days later, Olive's husband of 29 years and the love of her life died suddenly, leaving her to finish raising their children. Little could she have expected it would be 49 years before she and John Blair would be reunited in Heaven. Rather than dwell on her loss, Olive turned her thoughts and energies to ensuring that her young children completed their education and had the best start in life she could provide. To meet these ends, Olive turned her focus from Guyana to the United States, eventually relocating there. In almost no time, all of her children were living in either the U.S. or Canada, completing their educations, finding good jobs, and helping each other up the ladder of life as their mother had shown them to do.

With her own children grown, Olive entered into one of the longest and happiest periods of her life. She would spend the next twenty plus years helping her children raise their children until her eyesight began to fail. Living with or near the child who needed her most, Olive brought her many years of child rearing expertise to bear fruit in the lives of her grandchildren and they in turn have achieved so much and are such fine individuals. This is, in no small part, the result of the influence their loving Granny had in their lives. Even with her failing eyesight, as great grandchildren came along, Olive did what she could to help bring her special love into their lives. Just this past October, she attended the wedding of one of her grandsons and spent much of the weekend surrounded by many of her children, sixteen grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. It was the sort of gathering that meant everything to her. She glowed with happiness being surrounded by those she loved dearly. A staunch pillar in our family has gone home to God and we remain grateful for her incredible life, love and legacy. **Rest in Peace.**

# Order of Service

**The Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick, Presiding**

Organ Prelude ..... James McGregor

Musical Selection ..... “*The Lord's Prayer*” ~ Chelsea Fingal

Processional

Invocation

Hymn ..... “*What A Friend We Have In Jesus*” #385

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 90 ..... Lindsay Kijewski

Psalm 23 ..... Jennifer Blair

John 14:1-6 ..... Sonja Blair

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection ..... “*I Trust in God*” ~ Chelsea Fingal

Tributes ..... Daphne L. Fingal, Ned E. Blair,  
Rydel Fingal, Marcia Fingal, Nicole Blanchard, Stanley Hamilton

Acknowledgements ..... Leyland John Blair

Obituary ..... Cheryl Kijewski

Hymn ..... “*Abide With Me*” #64

Eulogy ..... Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

Final Viewing

Recessional

**INTERMENT**  
*Graceland Memorial Park*  
*Kenilworth, New Jersey*

## Pallbearers

Ned E. Blair  
Isaac Newton Blair  
Rydel Fingal  
Christopher Blanchard

Leyland John Blair  
Paul Linehan  
Stephen Fingal Jr.  
Cameron Fingal

## *The Lord's Prayer*

*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us  
our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

## Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a floral piece if so, we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

### **Professional Services Provided By**

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