



UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian

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OUR VISION: "Touching lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ."

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PRAY FOR:



- Rev. Bevis Byfield who is not well.
- Rev. Henley Bernard who is recuperating from eye surgery.
- Mrs. Carlene Andrade who lost her step-father.

ALL ABOUT 'THE UCME FAMILY!'

UCME—THE FAMILY OF UNITED CHURCH BUSINESSES.

Two years ago, (2016), the decision was taken to place some of the United Church business entities under the umbrella of one 'family, or holding company, now named the United Church Mission Enterprise (UCME).

The purpose was to manage the operations more efficiently, so that they would become income-generating and give necessary financial support to the Synod, which is responsible for funding the ministry and mission of the Church, inclusive of staffing costs for ministers and full-time workers.

The operations of the entity, Chaired by President of the Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS), Mr. Courtney Campbell, is managed by CEO, Ms. Ingrid Chambers,

The prime entities of the UCME are the Shirley Retreat Hotel, located at 7. Maeven Ave; off Hope Road in Kingston; a hotel which embraces some 13 suites, and which is reputed for its delectable cuisine. The hotel, managed

by Mrs. Shernett Smith, also offers accommodation for conferences and meetings, and has proven to be a popular choice for events such as its 'Mothers' Day' Lunch. Other events include 'Jamaica Night' planned for the last Friday of each month, and other celebrations such as "Fathers Day", and "Restaurant Week" have been identified as opportunities for a growing clientele for Shirley's to demonstrate its culinary skills in a cosy home-style setting.

Meadowrest Memorial Gardens, uniquely a cemetery owned and operated by the United Church, recently marked 22 years of operation under the management of Mr. Leoroi Lorde, most recently succeeded by Mr. David Parkes, continues to build on its successes, currently holding the number two position after Dovecot, among Jamaica's cemeteries.

Not satisfied to rest on its laurels, deemed Jamaica's most beautiful cemetery (see photo over-page), Meadowrest, will, within another month, be able to offer services such as above-ground inurnment, in its newly established

Columbarium which is to be located as an annex to its centrally located Chapel.

Along with this new offer, clients will be able to access Livestreaming Services, as well as live videotaping, that will allow, among other options, the congregation to witness the Inurnment Services 'live' as part of the Thanksgiving Service for their loved ones.

Apart from the unique Grief Counselling services which it offers to mourning families, Meadowrest, through the collaboration of its sister company, Shirley Retreat, is now able to offer families the convenience of the preparation and service of the Repast meal, as well as providing on-site, a place for these repasts if so desired. A Memorial Wall, and Platinum Vaults are other innovative options being offered to build customer preference and loyalty!

It could therefore be said, that Meadowrest is Jamaica's only full-service Cemetery!

Development plans are also apace for the Madge Saunders' Conference Centre, proposed to be renamed 'Madge Saunders Rooms and Events.

CELEBRATIONS



70:

Rev. Norlene Jackson,
June 2.

Rev. Margaret Downer -
Messias,
June 5.

**MT. OLIVET UNITED SALUTES
ITS OLDEST FAMILY MEMBER!**



Rev. Rohan Kong, (L.) Minister of the Mt. Olivet Charge, gives Mrs. Linette Duncan, a congratulatory hug on having achieved her 94th. Birthday on May 22, 2018.

**WHITFIELD UNITED
CHURCH**

The Youth Department invites you to our annual **Choirs in Praise** on June 3rd 2018, at the Whitefield United Church at 5:30 p.m. Admission: \$250 Adults, \$150 Children.

AD CORNER

Featuring the various ways in which our Church family worships!

**BENEFIT
CONCERT**
HELP NYLE BEAT CANCER

Greendale United Church
7 Content Drive, Spanish Town

June 2, 2018
Starting Time 5pm



Adm :\$1000

Featuring: Praise Singers from Greendale United Boulevard United, Webster United and many more...

MC: MARKLAND "ACTION" EDWARDS

CONTACT 5776015 FOR TICKETS

Meadowbrook United Church
Presents



"A Feast of Music"

Under the distinguished patronage of the Hon. Dale V.C. Holness
Commissioner, Broward County, Florida

Sunday June 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel

Contribution
\$3,000

Featuring:

- * RISHILLE BELLAMY- PELICIE
- * MARCIA GRIFFITHS
- * ASHE
- * NATHAN CAMPBELL
- * DESI JONES AND FRIENDS
- * PAULETTE BELLAMY - JON WILLIAMS
- CAROL BALL-THOMPSON

Compère: Evan Thompson

In support of the Church's Education Outreach

Ticket Outlets:

- * **Answers:** Tropical Plaza
- * **Music Mart:** 8 South Avenue
- * **Meadowbrook United Church:** 2 Flemington Drive, Kng .19

Phone: 969-6918...925-5860



**THE GREENDALE UNITED CHURCH &
THE COMBINED DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION**

PRESENT A

DISABILITIES AWARENESS SEMINAR
Saturday, June 16, 2018 9:00 am-12 noon.
CONTACT: 749-1737

THE UCME 'BUSINESS FAMILY'

(cont'd from page 1)

Plans are to market the Centre to the 'Backpackers' tourism market so as to fill the entity's unused capacity which exists after the usual Summer Conferences when it is used for United Church Camps. A recently constructed Cafeteria created for use by students of the neighbouring Iona Preparatory and High Schools, is currently being considered as a feasible source of meals 'on purchase' for the target audience being considered for the entity.

Its location, virtually along the Tower Isle coast, makes it an attractive proposition for the Tourism market and will along with current usage help to further boost the earnings of the entity.

It is firmly believed that the success of these entities could virtually be assured, with the support of UCJCI congregations,

Congregations could opt to see Shirley Retreat as a first 'port of call' for catering for their special events as well as give the Hotel its support for accommodation.

The outstanding Meadowrest product if promoted within each congregation, could I am sure could in short order cause Meadowrest to take the well-deserved #1 position among cemeteries by providing it with direct customers—an area of needed growth.

We could only stand to benefit from this type of approach, and I hope that it will be enthusiastically adopted by our Ministers, and congregations." says General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens.

BELOW: The beautiful Meadowrest Memorial Gardens, located in Shooters Hill, St. Catherine. (The Chapel at centre).



the sermon, based on the text 2 Corinthians 4:1-12.

"An induction marks a union of sorts, a kind of marriage in which a minister and a congregation/charge make commitments to each other about what each believe God is calling them to do together", said Rev. Chung.

Today, Portmore United and the Rev. Nevroy Francis along with his family are being joined in this union. They are being wedded together for the primary purpose of carrying out the ministry and mission of Christ for this congregation, in this place, at this time. Each of the parties in this union have had their own particular journey that has brought them to this commitment. **It is the hope of all involved that this union will be fruitful and rewarding for all the parties, to the glory of God and the advancement of God's kingdom.**

Today as we gather for this celebratory moment I invite our reflection around the text of scripture recorded in 2 Corinthians 4:1-12. Using that text as our guide we want consider this matter of **authentic Christian ministry in uncertain & troubled times.** We want to consider the question of what must constitute the essence of Christian ministry and witness, given the reality of the times in which we live. So, come with me on this journey. Let us see if together we can hear a word from God that will speak to us.

Speaking of the characteristics of what he termed '**Authentic Ministry**', he advised:

- We need to be **honest about the nature of ministry.** The text makes it clear that the ministry with which we are engaged is not our ministry, it is God's ministry. Since **by God's mercy,**

LEADERSHIP CORNER

**'A UNION OF SORTS'
SERMON BY REV. ANTHONY CHUNG, AT THE INDUCTION SERVICE FOR REV. NEVROY FRANCIS.**

It could be said that the **authentic ministry** was highlighted at the Induction Ceremony of Rev. Nevroy Francis, at which Rev. Anthony Chung, delivered



Rev. Nevroy Francis, (l) sits with his wife, and a large supportive congregation



**Rev. Anthony Chung,
Minister of Ridgemount/Hanbury Charge**

we have this ministry (v. 1). Serving in Christian ministry is a gift that God has given to us. It is not ours, as if we own it.

We also need to be **honest about ourselves in ministry**; self-awareness, being critical of one's self and being honest with ourselves promote a sense of humility. **The truth is, we are weak creatures who are prone to error and failures.** We all have our weaknesses and we must never forget that. Such honesty will save us from being judgemental and overly critical of others.

•We need to be honest about the perils of ministry (vv. 3-4)

There are many things that threaten our ability to be effective in ministry. It is a fool who would pretend otherwise. Some of these threats are external to us and some of them lie within us. In the text Paul talks about the "god of this age". The "god of this age" is our archenemy and the prime adversary of God's plan and God's people.

If we are going to be effective and authentic in ministry we must

understand that we are not simply wrestling flesh and blood. **Rather, as Ephesians 6 tell us, we are in a spiritual battle and the fight is against principalities and powers, spiritual wickedness in high places. Authentic ministry is about helping the light of Christ to shine through.**

•We must be **honest about the purpose of ministry.** This, I want to suggest speaks to our motivation in ministry. What are we called to do? and why do we do what we do? At our ordination, we made certain promises, through the ordination vows. **We have been called to make disciples of Jesus Christ, to preach and teach, and care for God's people** so that they can experience the transforming power of God and be reconciled to Christ.

•Finally, you need to be **honest in the practice of ministry.** My brothers and sisters how we conduct ourselves in ministry is crucial to any kind of success or impact we may have. In the text Paul talks about how he operated: **we have renounced the**

shameful things...we refuse to practice deceit...or to falsify God's word (v.2)

This is a statement of integrity; Paul wanted his ministry to be true to the character of Christ. We must never be associated with or known for any kind of bad behaviour or maleficence in our practice of ministry.

Honesty and integrity are not to be seen as optional extras reserved for the "super-spiritual" or "holy, holy". It is a non-negotiable for anyone who wishes to identify her/himself with the ministry of Jesus Christ. Honesty in our relationships with one another, honesty and integrity in doing our work, honesty and integrity in handling the financial affairs of the church. These are absolutely vital if we want to positively impact our world.

Authentic ministry in these troubled times require honesty and integrity!
said Rev. Chung.