



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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*Congregational
Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian*

Webster's Women's Fellowship: 75 Years of Exceptional Service!

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OUR VISION: "Touching
Lives, Nurturing Disci-
ples, Seeking Transfor-
mation through Christ"

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PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis Byfield** who is in hospital
- **Pastors Roger and Michelle Stewart** and **Rev. Nicole Ashwood**, as they grieve the loss of their son and nephew, **Nyle Stewart**
- **Rev. Ranford Hewitt** who is not well
- **Rev. Rohan Kong** whose mother, **Ms. Audrey Smith**, has passed on. Her thanksgiving service will be on October 13 at 12 p.m. at Pike United Church

The Women's Fellowship of Webster Memorial United Church (Jamaica) celebrated 75 years of faithful, spirited, and visionary service to their congregation, with a special service on Sunday, September 9, 2018!

The Fellowship, formerly named The Women's Guild, has had an especially noteworthy impact on the worship experience, administration, and life of the congregation. Indeed, their motto, "By Love Serve", has been actioned, with remarkable benefits to the mission of the church.

Through the work of its hard-working, effective, and financially savvy Executive Teams over the years, the Women's

Fellowship, by way of their fundraising activities, has offered financial support to the church through the following projects: The furnishing of the Webster office building and Board Room, acquisition of the church bus, re-roofing of the **Eden Gardens Centre**, carpeting of the sanctuary, paving of a section of the car park by the **Rolph Grant Home**, contribution to the audio-visual solutions and to the new Church School building, and the establishment of a greenhouse that supplies plants for beautifying the sanctuary.

Other activities have included: Outreach activities to the **Golden Age and Rolph Grant Homes** every Christmas, and to the **Women's Correctional**

Centre; as well as the hosting of the Annual Widows and Widowers' Fete at Webster.

Still others have included, the recognition of the Boys' and Girls' Brigades in May of each year, as well as the annual recognition of their fathers on Father's Day. They have won numerous awards for their involvement in Women's Fellowship competitions in the areas of Art and Craft and Culinary Skills, and for their fund-raising activities in the North-Eastern Regional Mission Council's (NERMCs) Lap-a-thon.

The Current Executive Members include: **Mrs. Winsome Young**, President; **Ms. Ann Shaw**, 1st Vice President; *(Continued on Page 2)*



Members of Webster Memorial United Church's Women's Fellowship in worship at their 75th Anniversary Service on September 9, 2018

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Trevor Hylton

October 4

Mr. Alex Hayden

October 5

(Continued from Page 2)

Mrs. Vanessa Quarrie, Secretary; Mrs. Doreen Smith, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Elvira Edwards, Treasurer; Mrs. Pauline Jones-Scott, Assistant Treasurer; Ms. Jackie Carter, Public Relations Officer; Mrs. Claudette Franscique, Group Leader; Mrs. Marjorie Haley, Group Leader; Ms. Joy Williams, Group Leader; and Immediate Past President, Mrs. Sam Rennalls.

Indeed, this team of women lead a movement that is quite a force to be reckoned with within the congregation, undergirding many of the efforts of the church that support its missional focus. Indeed, theirs is a movement that inspires action and that is grounded in their Wider National Vision to be *a relevant, dynamic, growing, and caring Christian organization, with empowered members, enabled to offer their skills and abilities in strengthening the Ministry and Mission of the Church.* Indeed, that is their practice, and we give God thanks for them!



Awards received by Webster Memorial United Church's Women's Fellowship

UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

The United Church Men's Fellowship will be hosting their Annual General Meeting on **October 6, 2018** at **Ridgenount United Church**, Manchester, at 9:30 a.m. The cost is: \$1,500 (includes lunch). Registration and coffee fellowship begin at 8:15 a.m.

Men's Fellowship Sunday will be observed on **October 21, 2018** under the theme: "Men Living Lives of Christian Witness and Service".

The North-Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC) will host their **Elders and Lay Pastors' Graduation Ceremony** on **Sunday, November 11, 2018** at 4 p.m. at **Webster Memorial United Church**.

Let's come and celebrate our new church leaders!

UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLAND
WESTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL YOUNG ADULTS

PRESENTS

CULTURAL explosion

SAV-LA-MAR UNITED CHURCH GROUNDS

Oct. 6, 2018

@ 10 AM

SHOWCASING

- FOOD
- FASHION
- MUSIC
- BOOTHs
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

CELEBRATION OF CULTURE
"come celebrate w/ culture"

TICKETS \$300

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
MT. OLIVET UNITED CHURCH
PRESENTS

OLE-TIME SINTING

Culture, music, Games, and food

No. 836 **HEROES DAY**
Monday
15 October
2018
From 10am-6pm

On sale-side orders

Manish water
Ackee & Saltfish
Blue Drawers
Jerk chicken & pork
And other baked products

Menu

- Curried Goat
- Escovitched Fish
- Fried Chicken
- Baked Chicken
- Stew pork

Cost: \$600

Venue:
@Knox Cobbla Campus

Additional Attractions:
Cultural concert, and other surprises

Adults: \$200 Children: \$100, Quadriple
Proceeds in Aid of church Building fund.

NERMC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Presents a
BENEFIT CONCERT

FEATURING
JCF BAND, JCF CHOIR
AND
OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS

SUN-7TH - OCT-5PM
@ WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
53 HALF WAY TREE ROAD, KGN.

TICKET: \$1000

TICKET

TEL: (876) 837-3369 / 577-6161

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Crucibles of Leadership

Why is it that certain people seem to naturally inspire confidence, loyalty, and hard work, while others (who may have just as much vision and smarts) stumble, again and again? It's a timeless question, and there's no simple answer.

However, it is believed to have something to do with the different ways that people deal with adversity. Indeed, research has led to the conclusion that one of the most reliable indicators and predictors of true leadership is an individual's ability to find meaning in negative events, and to learn from even the most trying circumstances. Put another way, the skills required to conquer adversity and emerge stronger and more committed than ever, are the same ones that make for extraordinary leaders.

Such leaders find meaning in—and learn from—the most negative events. Like phoenixes rising from the ashes, they emerge from adversity stronger, more confident in their purpose, and more committed to their work. Such transformative events are called “crucibles” – a severe test or trial.

Named after the vessels medieval alchemists used in their attempts to turn base metals into gold, crucibles are points of deep self-reflection that force us to question who we are and what matters to us. They require us to examine our values, question our assumptions, and hone our judgment; and, invariably, they are intense, often traumatic—and always unplanned. Indeed, research has found that top leaders—young and old—were able to point to intense, often traumatic, always unplanned experiences that had transformed them and had become the sources of their distinctive leadership abilities.

Leadership crucibles can take many forms. Some are violent, life-threatening events. These tend to illuminate a hidden and suppressed area of the soul. Others are more common, such as self-

doubt; yet others are somewhat positive, yet profoundly challenging (such as demanding bosses or mentors).

Let's consider the experience of prejudice. Being a victim of prejudice is particularly traumatic because it forces an individual to confront another person's distorted picture of him— or herself, and it often unleashes profound feelings of anger, bewilderment, and even withdrawal. For all its trauma, however, the experience of prejudice is for some a clarifying event. Through it, they gain a clearer vision of who they are, the role they play, and their place in the world.

Also consider King David in Scripture, – a wise and great King he became through the crucible of being targeted for murder by his father-in-law, then King Saul.

For years, he dwelt in the wilderness as he was chased by Saul, but his Psalms reveal that the experience served to strengthen his faith and resolve, deepened his trust and reliance on his God, shaped his character, and so developed his confidence that he sustained victory in battles fought with the enemies of his people! What a reward for persevering through the test, and allowing God to use it for his good! He became an empowered leader, rather than an embittered one. His enemy's cruelty was the crucible that, consciously or not, King David imbued with redemptive meaning. The experience shaped him, and taught him to lead.

Top leaders who were researched, described their crucibles as opportunities for re-invention—for taking stock of their lives and finding meaning in circumstances many people would see as daunting and potentially incapacitating. In the extreme, this capacity for re-invention comes to resemble eternal youth—a kind of vigour, openness, and

an enduring capacity.

So, what allowed these people to not only cope with these difficult situations, but also to learn from them? Great leaders possess four essential skills, and they happen to be the same skills that allow a person to find meaning in what could be a debilitating experience.

They engage their team around a shared meaning and purpose. That was the skill that allowed David to command a following even in the wilderness.

They have a distinctive and compelling voice. They are respected, and can often diffuse a potentially violent situation with only their words.

They have a sense of Integrity, including a strong set of values, and these values prevail even during the worst battles.

They have “adaptive capacity” or “applied creativity”—a remarkable ability to transcend adversity, with all its attendant stresses, and to emerge stronger than before. They are able to weigh a number of factors and put a situation into perspective. They have the hardiness—the perseverance and toughness—that enable people to emerge from devastating circumstances without losing hope.

These attributes allow leaders to grow from their crucibles, instead of being destroyed by them—to find opportunity where others might only find despair. This is the stuff of true leadership.

Source: “Crucibles of Leadership” by Warren G. Bennis and Robert J. Thomas

