



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

January 20, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

UCJCI 42nd SYNOD THEME 2021 – **Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE** (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)



Women's Fellowship Week

January 24 – 30, 2021

Surely God is with Us!

By Mrs. Katherine Jackson

Our meditation for this week is based on the theme, “Surely God is with Us!” and I invite you to journey with me as we process this thought.

And the Angel said to Mary, “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a Son and you are to call him, Jesus” (St. Luke 1: 31-32). In the Gospel of St. Matthew, it is recorded that the angel also spoke to Joseph in a dream, explaining to him how everything would work out. Then the writer added: “All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet (who was Isaiah): “The virgin will conceive a Child! She will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel” (which means “God is with us”). These are all too familiar words, as we hear them every year when we celebrate Christmas.

Surely God is with us - I am sure that those of you who know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour can give testimony after testimony of various times, places, and incidents where you have known that Immanuel-God - has drawn close to you – your God has been with you ... but how often do we pause to reflect on this fact? How often do we look for God in our personal space? God does draw near ... to comfort and dry our tears, to hold us when the nights are long and hope is almost gone, to guide and to counsel us, to help us make good decisions ... and in amidst of it all we hear Jesus whispering to us, “do not be afraid ... for I am with you ... always” – the great I AM of all the ages is with us – and that is amazing!

I believe that, in this new year, we are being encouraged by the Holy Spirit to deepen our faith and allow God to draw close to

us – to allow Him to take away fear through His holy presence, to give us peace in our hearts, “*Let not your hearts be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me*”, Jesus said those words and they’re recorded in St. John 14:1.

We hunger and thirst for righteousness so let us make time to read the Bible and hear God speaking to us ... pray often and feel His presence ... look for Him in the early morning light ... or in the evening sunset ... hear his laughter in the bright sunshine, catch His whisper in the cool breeze, feel His presence in your office – or when you are driving along in your car. Offer him songs of praise and thanksgiving – for all things, great and small ... feel Him blessing you when you encourage a friend or extend a helping hand – “*the Lord of Hosts is with us – the God of Jacob is our refuge*”! (Psalm 24:11).

... but God is not only present with us as individuals ... God is present with us as a people. The Cayman Islands have been truly blessed by God during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are one of the safest countries on earth. We have proven ourselves to be a disciplined society ... we have made the sacrifices ... the Government and the Health Authority made wise choices and good decisions, and to date persons are responding well to the offer of the COVID-19 vaccine ... but all our efforts could have been in vain, had it not been for the presence of God with us.

... and then God is also present in the world. God’s love, salvation and redemptive power are available for all who call on God and all who come near to God. God’s promises are sure, and God has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. Despite the ravages and deprivation of the pandemic, God has not forsaken the world. God still loves the world, and Christ is still the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

God offers us as individuals, a nation, and a world, another opportunity to re-establish our relationship with Him – for us to draw near to Him and He to us – “*And you shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart*”. (Jeremiah 29:13) - so let us seek after Him, to grow in grace and so increase our faith, knowing that Immanuel – God with us - is surely with His people – and let us pray that He will find us faithful and name us among His saints.

“...let us seek after Him, to grow in grace and so increase our faith...”

Women's Fellowship Week



Women's Fellowship week will be celebrated January 24 to January 2021. On Sunday Fellowships will lead worship in most United Church congregations and a special Worship the Lord segment will air on Radio Cayman @ 7:45 am.

During the week various activities have been planned, including visits to older members who have contributed so much to this outstanding organization.

The week will be concluded with a prayer breakfast at the GT Yacht Club @ 8:00am. Tickets cost 25.00 and are available from women's fellowship members.

Mrs. Carol Ann Ebanks President CIRM

Tribute to Stella Louise Welcome (nee Wood)



There are so many ways to pay tribute to someone who lived, worked, and worshipped God all her life. Today we give thanks to God for the life and witness of Mrs. Stella Welcome. Ms. Stella as she was affectionately called by some, was regarded as the "life of the church" and the "life of concerts" held by the church. She was regular in attendance at worship services and events held by the church.

Ms. Stella was the oldest member of the East End United Church, The United Church in the Cayman Islands, and someone whose membership span many decades. Actually, she assisted in the building of the old church sanctuary that was made from wattle and daub. In former years she shared stories of her carrying baskets of stones and sand for the construction of the sanctuary. In varied ways, she also shared her passion for creativity and undying devotion to making the church a more beautiful place where everyone can experience the love of God.

She will be remembered for her participation in Christian Endeavour, Women's Fellowship, Choir, Garden Party, and caring for her neighbors' children. As an avid actor in concerts, Ms. Stella would wear pants and carry a pipe as she acted out her part to many applause and laughter.

We will always remember her leadership as an Elder and hospitality to the many Ministers of this church, ensuring the care of them and their families. Today, her legacy continues through her children and their families.

Even in death, her memory still inspires us to this day. This labor of love and service leaves a lasting impression on all who knew and heard of her. She was truly a Christian in deed!

East End United Church

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17, 2021
7:30 – 9:30am

Location: Savannah United Church

Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE
(Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 23. (Saturday)

Council meeting – 9:00am Elmslie Hall

January 24. (Sunday) 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Women's Fellowship Sunday

January 25. (Monday)

National Heroes Day – PUBLIC HOLIDAY

January 30. (Saturday)

Women's Fellowship Annual Breakfast – 8:00am GT Yacht Club

Girls' Brigade Officers Training – 9:00 am Prospect Youth Centre

January 31. (Sunday) 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Worship the Lord

-on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am-

January 24, 2021 Mrs. Kathrine Jackson and

Mrs. Jacynthia Anderson

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947 1963 Email: rdgs@ciucjci.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurch.org.ky