



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

March 24, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 12

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

Are You Available to be Used?

Ms. Camile Watt
(Youth Minister – Savannah Charge)

“Rejoice greatly, O my people! Shout with joy! For look—your King is coming! He is the Righteous One, the Victor! Yet he is lowly, riding on a donkey’s colt!”
Zechariah 9:9

The prophet Zechariah, many years before Jesus walked the Earth declared that a great King would come riding on a colt and that He would lead the people into great victory.

Matthew’s account of this fulfillment is seen in chapter 21:1 -3 where it states:

“Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, near the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of them into the village ahead. “Just as you enter,” he said, “you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them here. If anyone asks you what you are doing, just say, ‘The Master needs them,’ and there will be no trouble.”



It was customary in those days for the lower-ranked citizens to ride camels, oxen, and donkeys. Donkeys were known as beasts of burden. They were also known for their strength and ability to carry heavy weights and were often used to carry merchandise and valuables for their masters. A donkey was not considered fit for a king, as kings would travel in chariots or ride on horses. A donkey was seen as a lowly creature, one that always walked with his head down and could carry heavy burdens for many miles. The donkey in this story was a colt, a young donkey never ridden before but yet, with no resistance, humbly carried the Lord on its back. Let us look at some lessons we can learn from the life of a donkey.

Beast of Burden

The donkey wasn’t an esteemed or respected animal in those days. They were not as beautiful and graceful as horses. The donkey was a burden bearer, he knew what it was to endure hardship and suffering. This ability to endure hardship is what made the donkey more valuable to his master because he could carry the burden of others.

Many times as children of God we see our flaws and inadequacies, we focus on our imperfections, and doubt our potential for greatness in the sight of God. The pain and suffering we endure help to mold us into persons of compassion as we identify with the pain and suffering of others. Like the donkey, we may not see our beauty but we are given the opportunity to carry the burdens of others.

Meek and Lowly

The donkey carries his weight in humility. He walks with his head down and slowly paces himself. Jesus riding on a donkey was symbolic of His servanthood and humility. For a King to ride on a donkey it spoke to His love and compassion for the people He came to save. Jesus’ rule was not for wealth, land, or power, it was an extension of God’s love for all men to save us from sin. God wants us to use what we have in humility and servanthood knowing that the ultimate cause is for the love of Christ to be seen in and through us.

What I love most about the donkey, is his availability. It is said that a donkey is very intelligent and it is never too quick to panic in the eyes of danger. Donkeys are often used by shepherds to guide sheep because they are very alert to predators like lions and wolves. Unlike a horse that will rail up and even run from a predator, the donkey will kick the predator or brae to alert its master.

A donkey is also known to be stubborn, if it decides it will not move because it detects danger then nothing you do will get that donkey to move. But it also senses trust and is known to be a loyal companion. Despite his strong will and stubbornness, the donkey will not resist his master. Can God (your master) depend on you to trust Him and to be loyal in doing His will? God requires our willingness and availability for service. He desires a willing heart, one determined to bring Christ to the world.

The young colt on that glorious day didn’t know his strength, to be the bearer of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour to the world. He did not know that the weight of the world he would share, as Jesus took the sins of the world by paying the ultimate price of sin and suffering on that cross. Because of His everlasting love God sent His only son to reconcile us to Himself. The colt did not know he would carry the weight of a King who would, in turn, carry the weight of the world.

Are you willing to be as meek and lowly, unworthy and unseen, a burden bearer for Christ? Are you available to be used by God for His Glory? Will you share in the burden of Christ today and

take up your cross and follow Him? Like that colt on that marvelous day, will you say, 'yes Lord, here I am, use me'?

I encourage you today to use what you have. God will meet you where you are and go forth to fulfill the mandate of bringing Christ to the nations.



Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield (RDGS-CIRMC)

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands remains one of the two United and Uniting Churches worldwide which exists in two nations, the other being the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom. As such, the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council's existence in the Cayman Islands is geographically, economically, and socially different from that of the three Regions in Jamaica. However, we must never forget that we are one Church in two nations.

We note that during this COVID-19 pandemic the realities though different, call for us to consciously support and pray for persons both here in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica. We note that the new and additional restrictions in Jamaica have stymied worship activities and have had an impact on the Lay Leadership Training programme which is being done jointly across the Church. With the arrival and distribution of the AstraZeneca Vaccine in Jamaica, the hope is that the spread of the disease and the adverse situation in the hospitals and at health care facilities will improve over time. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Jamaica and indeed around the world as together we live through this COVID-19 pandemic.



Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield (RDGS-CIRMC)



Thirty-two of the fifty Candidates contesting the April 14, 2021, General Elections paused from the campaign trail on Sunday, March 21, 2021, to join in worship at the Elmslie Memorial

Church. The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands started the tradition of inviting Candidates to worship together in the 1990s in keeping with our public theology and public witness polity and ethos which are integral to the Reformed faith.

The United Church believes and confirms that national leaders are God-ordained and accountable to God and that the Church is called to pray for and pray with our leaders. As a Church, we also believe in the establishment and maintenance of a just and peaceful society where persons are respected and where the dignity of all is honoured.



The Rev. Rohan Forrester preached a challenging sermon based on the Isaiah 6:1-8 text in which he reminded the Candidates to be conscious of their relationship with God, self, and others. Pastor Torrance Bobb, Chairman of the Cayman Islands Ministers Association, and Fr. Jerome Small of St Georges Anglican Church participated in the service along with Liturgist

Mrs. Debra Humphreys. Rev. Euthman Wray offered prayers and Lay Pastor John Macmillan read the scriptures. The Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade and the Scouts formed the color party. Music was provided by musicians and choirs from our United Church congregations. The National Anthem was led by Mr. Rudy Myles and Ms. Anika Connolly rendered the National Song.

RDGS, Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble -Bloomfield warmly welcomed the Candidates and along with the other members of the Clergy presented each Candidate with a book of Daily Devotions. It was gratifying to sense the reflective mood of many of the Candidates and also their response in offering a greeting of peace to each other during the singing of the hymn 'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace'.



CI Girls' Brigade Day Camp



The 2021 Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade Week concluded last Saturday with an island-wide day camp held at the Prospect Youth Centre. Over 110 Girls and their leaders from companies across the island participated in a wide variety of activities. The day camp opened with praise and worship, devotion and ice-breaker.



The rest of the day offered the girls a colorful and exciting blend of arts and crafts like 'Be Faithful' painted frame, coat of arms, mason jar craft; games such as dodge ball, musical chairs and scavenger hunt, and presentations on topics which included 'Dangers of Social Media' and 'Healthy Eating'.



Congratulations Renita!



Renita Barnes has become the first young Caymanian to start a new employment initiative inside the Governor's Office as she recently began a six-month to one-year secondment working as corporate services and media officer.

Renita is an active member of the Savannah United Church. Before joining the Cayman Islands Government Civil Service in July 2019 as an assistant in the Protocol Office she worked in our Regional Mission Council Office as Programme Secretary and Communication Officer from 2016. She is the granddaughter of Rev. Raymond and Ruth Cooke. We wish God's continuing blessings on her life, work and witness.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27. (Saturday)

Lay Leaders Certificate Course 4/13 – POSTPONED!

March 28. (Sunday) Palm Sunday

Children & Youth Synodical Rally – 5:00pm-7:00pm – Savannah UC.

March 29 – April 3 (Mon.-Sat.) HOLY WEEK

April 2 (Friday) GOOD FRIDAY – also Public Holiday

April 4. (Sunday) Easter Sunday



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

March 28, 2021
Ms. Camile Watt

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UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUTH SYNODICAL RALLY!




SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021
Savannah United Church
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Refreshments will be provided




THE 42ND SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

APRIL 11- 18, 2021

**THEME: ROOTED, RESILIENT, RESPONDING
IN
H.O.P.E**
HEALTH, OPPORTUNITY, PEACE, EVANGELISM

APRIL 11th Opening Service including Installation of Moderator-elect Rev. Gary Harriott
4:00 p.m.

APRIL 12 Celebration of Life and Witness
4:30pm

APRIL 15 Public Lecture (on Pastoral Care in recognition of Rev. Raymond Coke)
5:00pm

APRIL 12-15 Bible Studies
6:00 am each day

APRIL 18 Closing Service
4:00pm

BUSINESS SESSIONS FOR DELEGATES ONLY
Monday to Thursday at 10:00 a.m. each day
via The United Church Zoom platform

All these events will be livestreamed on The United Church YouTube channel
Made with PosterMyWall.com




WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tea Party

APRIL 24, 2021 | 3PM TO 7PM
266 BODDEN TOWN RD.

Tickets: \$10.00



THE 42ND SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Rooted, Resilient, Responding in
H.O.P.E.

HEALTH, OPPORTUNITY, PEACE, EVANGELISM

OPENING SERVICE

PRaise, CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING

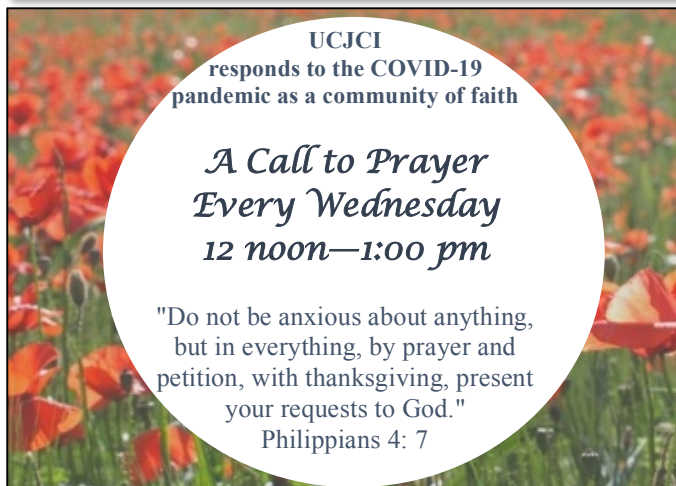
FORMAL CONSTITUTING OF SYNOD

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD
RT. REV. DR. GORDON COWANS

THE CALL AND INDUCTION OF MODERATOR
REV. GARY HARRIOTT

SUNDAY APRIL 11 AT 4PM
Worship will be livestreamed on UCJCI YouTube channel

ALL ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP AND CELEBRATE



UCJCI
responds to the COVID-19
pandemic as a community of faith

*A Call to Prayer
Every Wednesday
12 noon—1:00 pm*

"Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything, by prayer and
petition, with thanksgiving, present
your requests to God."
Philippians 4: 7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7