



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

May 19, 2021

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OUR CHILDREN'S HOMES

A Ministry of Healing

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
ASCENSION

ACTIVISM AGAINST
VIOLENCE

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 20

Our Vision: Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ

A Ministry of Healing

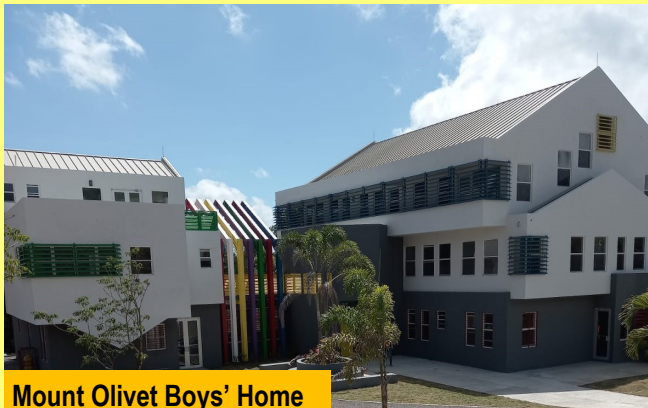
UCJCI Children's Homes

For 99 years, UCJCI has been providing shelter, protection, spiritual and physical nurture and socialization for children who are wards of the State. UCJCI operates two Children's Homes—the Mount Olivet Boys' Home in Manchester, and the Pringle Home for Girls in St. Mary.

Pringle Home for Girls is a grand lady of 99 years, established by Rev. and Mrs. James Mc Nee and their daughter Kathie. Money to construct the building was donated by the then Custos, Dr. John Pringle, hence the name of the Home.

Mount Olivet Boys' Home is of younger vintage at 54 years old and between both institutions 65 children are embraced in UCJCI's arms of ministry with children.

According to Jeanette Rose Bryan, Director, Pringle Home, "Sometimes families are unable to function effectively and sometimes the development of the children is affected negatively. When this happens, the Child Protection and Family Services Agency intervenes. There is a legal process through the courts that determines the outcome of each case. Our children come to us through this system as Children in Need of Care and Protection."



Mount Olivet Boys' Home

Touting the vision: *To transform the lives of hurting children in a safe and secure family oriented environment, where faith in God is developed and hope is restored*, the Director continued, "Children whose self esteem has been damaged need special nurturing. And so our children at the Pringle Home for Children are emotionally fragile. All aspects of their development become important in designing interventions. The special needs are many, but we could begin by ensuring that their physical environment is aesthetically pleasing; that the caregivers are committed to our mission to children by providing a stable family environment at the Home; that there is an adequate budget to provide not only basic but other necessary provisions."



Pringle Home for Girls

In addition to the forty boys at Mount Olivet Boys' Home, there are 2 rented facilities which accommodate 8 youngsters. The rent is paid for the Transitional Living Programme (TLP) which is a unit of the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA). All the youngsters in the rented facilities are in HEART training institutions, colleges and/or fulltime or part-time employment. Patrick Newman, Director of Mount Olivet Boys' Home stated that, "There are 14 Desktop computers at the Home, 10 of which were donated by the Buju Banton Foundation recently."

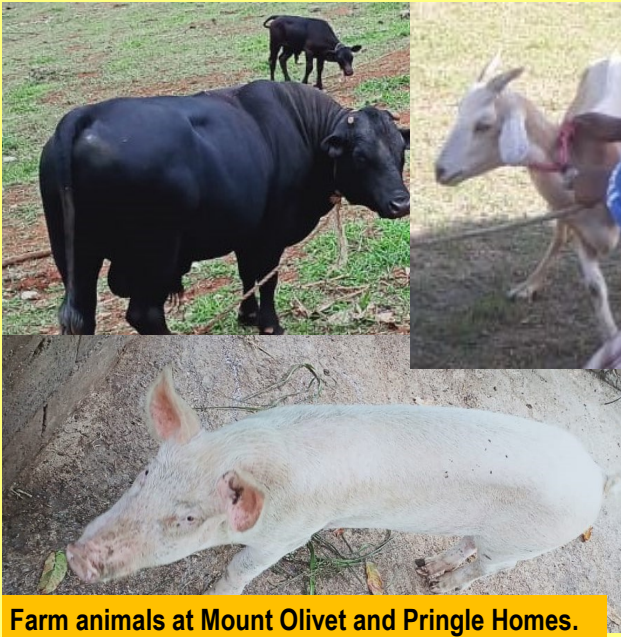
He said, all the boys at the Home have tablets donated by the CPFSA and partners of the Home. The Mount Olivet Boys' Home has benefitted from the generosity of the Yohan Blake Foundation under the *YB Afraid initiative* to help children in need.

Pringle Home facilitates the holistic development of children through group and individual counselling, recreational activities, social skills training and educational opportunities. These interventions are facilitated through a clinical psychologist who visits the home weekly; attendance at Child Guidance Clinics; individuals and groups who visit the Home; and the staff at the Home.

The spiritual needs of the children are not neglected.

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Farm animals at Mount Olivet and Pringle Homes.

Rev. Donald Burke who is the Minister at the Carron Hall United Church is the Chaplain for Pringle Home. He has regular sessions with the girls. He has also organized the girls to participate in the worship experience at the church through the music ministry and also through the United Church Youth fellowship. Time is also set aside for morning and evening devotion in the Home.



Play area at Pringle Home for Girls.

A section of the greenhouse at Mount Olivet .



Rev. Rohan Kong, Minister of the Mount Olivet charge of United Churches indicated that the boys are integrated into the life of the church through regular attendance at worship services prior to COVID-19 pandemic. He said, "They participate and use their gifts at special events such as harvest. They are involved in the church school of the

congregation where they interact with other children and understand more about the Christian faith and the importance of serving God. From time to time, they would share their testimony of how God came through for them."

Rev. Kong said, members of the church contribute to their life and well-being by giving them encouragement and celebrating them on achievements. "As church, through the wider charge, we contribute financially to the home. Members would also donate to the home. In addition, the young adults, through the SRMC would give back especially through the birthday party initiative."

Both Homes make efforts to feed themselves through farming. Mount Olivet Home plants and sells cash crops such as cassava, cucumber and plantain. Income-earnings are also generated through rearing pigs, cows and goats. There is also

a greenhouse. At Pringle Home Irish potatoes are grown as well as vegetable for the girls. At both homes, the children participate in the farm work in addition to employed farm hands.

WHAT HELP IS NEEDED?

PRINGLE HOME FOR GIRLS NEEDS:

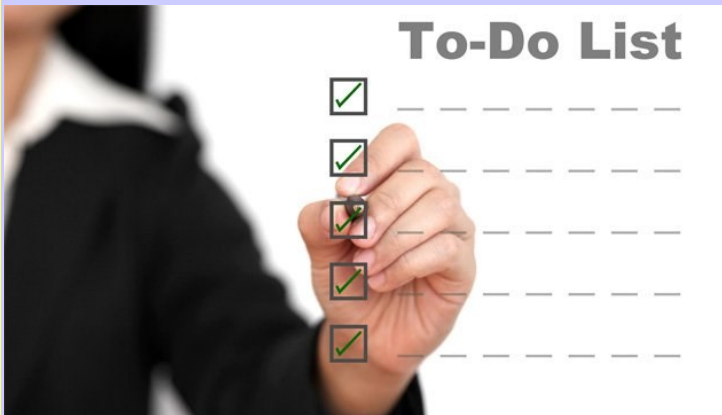
- **Volunteers for mentorship**
- **Assistance for girls in transitioning at age 18**
- **Financing e.g. to re-start chicken farm and egg production for sale**
- **Help to renovate the aging infrastructure**
- **Repairs to the solar electrical system**

MOUNT OLIVET BOYS' HOME NEEDS:

- **Caregivers**
- **Skilled staff to provide essential intervention—Social Worker, Counsellor**
- **Psychological Services for boys and staff**

UNITED CHURCH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2021—Part 2

What has the United Church targeted for action in 2021 arising from the 42nd Synod?



Synodical priorities are the areas of focus which have been identified from the leading of the Holy Spirit through reflection on the reports tendered at the Pre-Synod Consultations in regions, the deliberations in groups and plenary during Synod, discerned through worship, prayer, bible study and sermon challenges during the week of Synod, all impacted by the contextual realities of Cayman, Jamaica and the wider world. In the coming issues of Update, these priorities will be featured, and the channels indicated through which they will be pursued. Please pray for our church, pray for our congregational leaders, leaders of

institutions and auxiliaries, members of Commissions and Synodical committees, the staff and general membership, that we will be diligent and faithful in taking on these challenges and will experience the favour of God in accomplishing them.

WITNESSES

Level	Witness Priorities
Congregation	Community outreach ministries Peace initiatives Food security Education support
RMC	Land use - identifying locations for leases, development Peace initiatives Education
Synodical	Food Security Advocacy regarding education issues (connectivity, best practices) Moral issues Peace initiatives

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Webster at 80!

On Sunday May 16, 2021, Webster Memorial in Kingston, Jamaica celebrated 80 years of ministry with the theme: Rooted, Resilient, Relevant. Here are scenes from the time of worship.

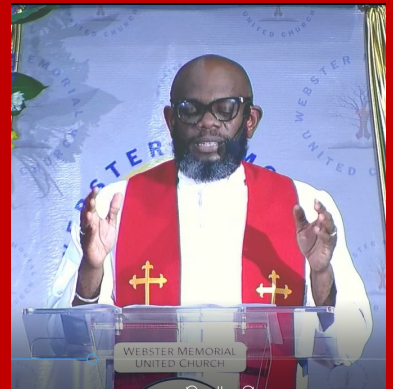


(Left) Anniversary logo designed by Elizabeth Benjamin.



(Above) Praise team leads the praise.

(Right) Rev. Astor Carlyle, Minister of the Webster charge offers welcome.



Dancers reflected joy as the Word is symbolically carried into the sanctuary.



Joyce McKenzie

The scripture readings were done by one of the oldest members of Webster, Miss Joyce McKenzie, (above) and Pia-Kristina Edwards, the youngest. (right)



Pia-Kristina Edwards

JOHN 17:6-19



The children played their part with an Anniversary blessing adapted from Psalm 1: 1-3

(Right) 'Glorious is Thy Name' - musical offering of the Chancel Choir.





THURSDAYS IN BLACK

CHILDREN, YOUTHS, YOUNG ADULTS, WOMEN AND MEN JOIN THE SOCIAL MOVEMENT!

Take a picture or video wearing black (10 persons maximum, observing Covid-19 protocols) before a Parish Council Office, Courthouse or Church on Thursday May 13, 2021.

AND BE A PART OF THE SOCIAL BLAST BY

ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE THURSDAYS IN BLACK —SOCIAL MEDIA BLAST

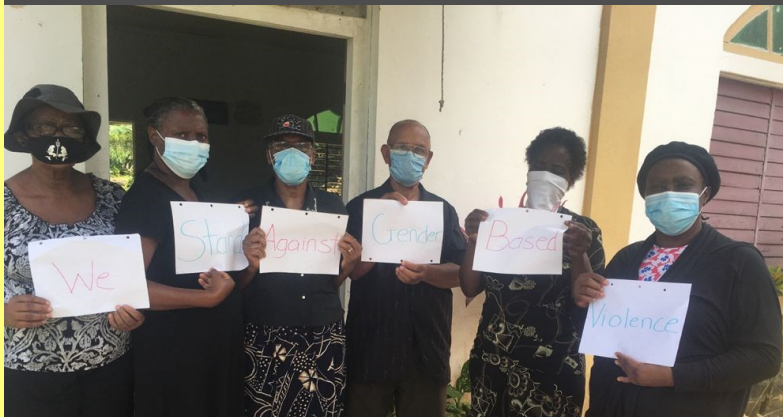
PORTMORE UNITED CHURCH

invites you to join the social movement

#THURSDAYSINBLACK for a world without rape and violence



Runaway Bay United



Askenish United

Remember to wear BLACK tomorrow. Engage someone in conversation on Violence in community and family.



Mount Olivet Charge



Duke Street United

The Significance of Ascension

by Rev. Otto Menko

The 7th Sunday of Easter – also the last in the Season of Easter – is observed in Western Christianity as Ascension Sunday, by virtue of being closest to Ascension Day, the 40th day after Easter (Thursday, May 13 this week). While the major landmarks of Jesus' life (His birth, death, and resurrection) are very much present in the public consciousness, His ascension to heaven seems to hold less significance even among Christians, and maybe more so in our modern days. Nevertheless, there are plenty of references in the Scriptures emphasizing the importance of this event and its relevance for our faith. Jesus himself made several references to this during His ministry. Without attempting to provide an exhaustive discussion on this topic, let us consider a few key points that can guide our thoughts and maybe help us better appreciate why Jesus' ascension matters.

He is not here and yet He is here.

Following His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples while inhabiting a special 'resurrection body'. Although His body was not subject to the laws of nature, He 'confined' himself to a specific place and time. His Ascension and the subsequent outpouring of the Holy Spirit made Him accessible to one and all. Jesus is not here in His physical body anymore, yet he is here through the Holy Spirit. He said, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." – John 15:8

His reign is real and yet it is to be actualized.

Jesus' ascension also signaled His enthronement at the right hand of the Father for His obedience, suffering, and death on the cross. "Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." – Philippians 2:9-11 Nevertheless, His reign must be made real in our own lives day after day, and ultimately it will come to full circle upon His second coming at the end of times.

His ministry continues, both in Heaven and on Earth.

Jesus' ministry has not finished with His death and resurrection but continues. On one hand, as our faithful High Priest, He represents us in God's presence, - "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess." – Hebrews 4:14 On the other hand by the presence of the Holy Spirit He remains actively involved in and through the life and ministry of the Church Universal and the believers. - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."- Acts 1:8 on Earth. Jesus' ministry has not finished with His death and resurrection but continues. On one hand, as our faithful High Priest, He represents us in God's presence, - "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess." – Hebrews 4:14 On the other hand by the presence of the Holy Spirit He remains actively involved in and through the life and ministry of the Church Universal and the believers. - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."- Acts 1:8

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS LAY TRAINING
INSTITUTE



Training for Lay Leaders

Persons interested in
the topic on this
training
day may register with
their Regional Mission
Council

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR GROWTH

JOIN VIA ZOOM

Lecturer:

Mrs. Elaine Commissiong

MAY 22, 2021

9:00 AM - 4:00 P.M.



Children
You're
Invited to



Dynamic Kids in Action

Sunday
May 23rd
& 30th
@5pm

Zoom
I.D.: 852 4367 7858
Passcode: 774164

UPCOMING



EVENTS



Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission & St. Augustine Mutual Mission (JEMM & SAMM) Virtual Covid-19 Conversation II

"Envisioning the Church in the Post Pandemic Period"

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott
Moderator
United Church in Jamaica & the Cayman Islands
Facilitator



Mrs. Jennifer Martin
Education in Mission Secretary
Caribbean & North America Council for Mission (CANACOM)
The Laity Perspective



Rev. Astor Carlyle
Minister
Webster Memorial United Church
The Pastoral Perspective



Rev. Dr. Neville Callam
Jamaica Baptist Union
The Administrative Perspective



Mrs. Janeil Panther-Kelly
Moravian Church in Jamaica & the Cayman Islands
The Millennial Perspective



ID: 950 7482 1900
Passcode: 849344

May 20th / 5:30 PM

PRAY ♦ PRAY ♦ PRAY PRAY

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 (NIV)

LET US BE DILIGENT IN PRAYER

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.- 1 Chronicles 16:11

- ◆ Persons challenged with decision-making about taking the COVID 19 vaccine
- ◆ Rev. Hyacinth Edwards, Minister of the Salem charge in SRMC, has lost her mother Mrs. Melvina Edwards.
- ◆ Families and communities broken by tragedy and violence.
- ◆ The Clarendon College community.
- ◆ Members, leaders of the United Church and the wider communities in Cayman and Jamaica who have experienced bereavement
- ◆ Children in Jamaica and other parts of the world dealing with uncertainties in their education.
- ◆ Persons struggling with the impact of COVID 19 on personal, family, community and work levels.
- ◆ The people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- ◆ The people of India.
- ◆ The people of Palestine and Israel.

HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY

This coming Sunday...



May 23, 2021

These Bones Will Live!

It's not over until God says it is over... There is nothing impossible with/for the Holy Spirit's power

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 104: 24-35;
St. John 15: 26-27; 16: 4-15





MAY 19



Mrs. Doreen Barnett



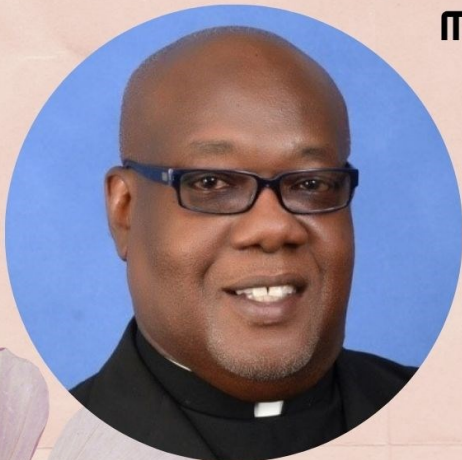
Rev. Kimberley Hines

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Rev. Raymond Coke

MAY 20



Rev. L. Christopher Mason



MAY 22

Rev. Lembe Tontela Sivile

UCJCI VALUE S

“In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value :

Evangelism:

Sharing the story of God’s amazing love demonstrated by Jesus Christ, in a relevant manner, to those without Christ in our community and beyond (Matthew 28:18-20).

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

**Our Ministry
with Children
- Our Educational
Institutions**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Rev. Norbert Stephens (Interim)
Southern Regional Mission Council

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry

SYNODICAL THEME:

“Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E. (Health - Opportunity - Peace - Evangelism)”