



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

May 26, 2021

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

Reflections on Pentecost

U
P
D
A
T
E

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

MODERATOR'S
MOVEMENTS

Uniformed Groups
After School
Programmes

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 21

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

Ministry with Children

Uniformed Groups—The Girls' and Boys' Brigade



Boys' and Girls' Brigade in worship in 2019 at St. Andrew's Scots Kirk.

The first company formed outside of Europe was at Brownsville Presbyterian (now United) Church in 1923. The organization was actually Girl's Guildry as the movement was named in Scotland. The company in Jamaica was founded by Mrs. Brooks, wife of the Rev. Phillip Brooks, a Scottish Minister who came to Jamaica to work.

In 1949 the Rev. Madge Saunders (then Miss Madge Saunders) returned to Jamaica from the United Kingdom and took over the Girls Guildry in Jamaica as Organizing Training Officer.

Uniformed groups are a part of UCJCI's ministry with children. The Girls' and Boys' Brigades are both international non-denominational organisations with companies located within some UCJCI congregations. In this issue Update features the Girls' Brigade in Jamaica.

UCJCI Company, the first outside of Europe

Girls' Brigade—Girls Lives Transformed, God's World Enriched.

Founded in 1893 in Ireland by Margaret Lyttle, Girls' Brigade is described as 'a relational, relevant and

the girls' brigade
girls' lives transformed
god's world enriched



responsive worldwide movement focused on working amongst girls and women'. The empowerment of girls, children and young women is the goal and they are encouraged to 'be themselves, to develop and use their gifts and skills and to discover what it means to have life in full in their generation'. <https://gbworldwide.org/>

International Vice-President for Caribbean and the Americas, Quindell Ferguson, member of St. Andrew's Scots Kirk, recalls learning mottos, doing bible study, drilling, playing games as she went up the ranks. She started the 6th Kingston company at Scots Kirk

(cont'd on page 10)



Brigaders at the National Arena in Kingston for a flag-raising ceremony in August 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Ministry with Children	2
What Will we Do Together (Work)	4
News from Congregations	5
Moderator's Movements	6
Reflections on the Holy Spirit	8
Opportunities for Worship and Prayer.....	9
Upcoming Events	11

After School Programmes

After school programmes in UCJCI have traditionally been a means of supporting families by providing space, creative and helpful engagement of children in the hours after school before parents finish work. This has been pursued in different ways in various congregations. Some focus on homework assistance, others on play and others on furthering Christian nurture.

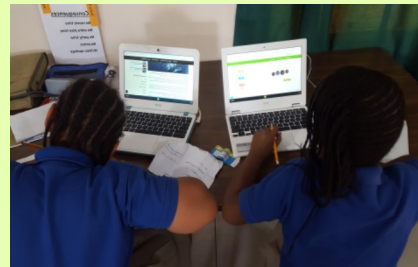
Savannah United Church in Grand Cayman is one such congregation which partners with parents through the Savannah After School Enrichment Programme (SASEP).



SASEP students are channeled into the church's Youth Ministries e.g. Girl's Brigade and Youth Fellowship. Here are our students in the Girl's Brigade doing Sign Language song on Youth Sunday under the tutelage of Ms Camile Watt (Youth Minister). A few parents attend church regularly because of SASEP students' involvement.



Homework is a key component of the SASEP programme, and is guided by qualified teachers in the primary school system



Students at work - researching online. SASEP has Chromebook laptops for students to use.

SASEP is in its twelfth year of existence and in 2020 suffered disruption all places. After the COVID 19 crises subdued in the Cayman Islands and the government gave the green light for schools and educational institutions to reopen, our resilient staff was determined to reopen our doors. We quickly advertised our 2020-21 academic year. However, by then some parents had made alternative arrangements, while others were apprehensive about the reopening and concerned about risk factors.

The church recruited a janitorial company to conduct a full sanitization exercise of the buildings. SASEP staff put protocols in place and sent out letters to parents. Our doors were open a few weeks in the school year and has remained so to date. The average attendance is 16. That is half or regular number over the years.

Devotions in drama with Mr. Noel, Music Minister. Each evening begins with devotions which are conducted by the Church staff, including Rev Euthman Wray, our Minister.

Hall of Fame awards given to students who excel in work and deportment



UNITED CHURCH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2021—Part 3

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.

WORK

LEVEL	WORK PRIORITIES
Congregation	Maximize training opportunities Use technology to maximize ministry efficiency Recruitment for ministry Assessing technology needs Assessing data needs/gaps
Regional Mission Council	Assessment and realignment of congregations and charges Assessment of leadership and resource needs
Synodical	Data gathering forms Assessment instruments Work of the RMC Leadership recruitment Training Guide for year to year ministry Ministry benefits

GREENDALE UNITED CHURCH PREPARES YOUTH FOR THE WORKING WORLD

The Greendale United Church Youth Fellowship
 PRESENTS
 SELF DEVELOPMENT
MARKETING ME!

GETTING READY FOR THE WORKING WORLD?
NERVOUS ABOUT THAT INTERVIEW?
 JOIN US AS WE DISCUSS AND PRACTICE
RESUME & C.V WRITING
INTERVIEW TIPS
HOW TO PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD AND ELEVATE

PRESENTER



ANNETTE MORRISON
 GROUP HEAD OF PEOPLE & INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AT WISYNCO

MAY 22, 2021 at 6PM 

Made with PosterMyWall.com

‘Marketing Me’ Self-Development Session

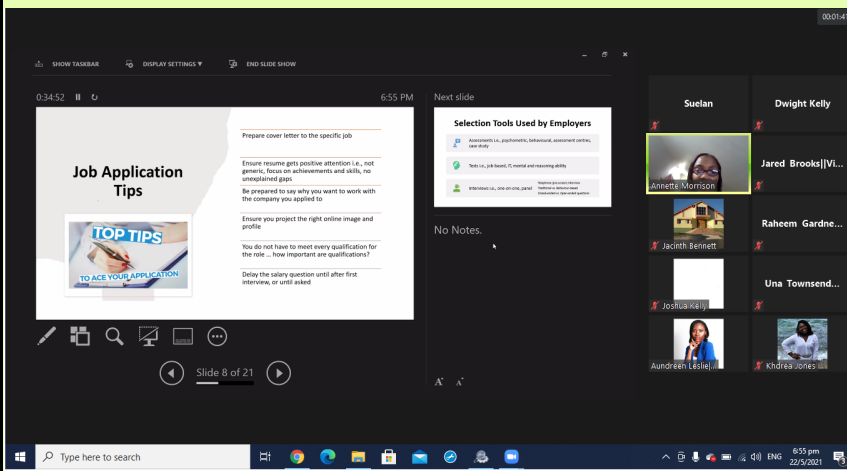
On Saturday May 22, the Greendale United Church Youth Fellowship hosted a self-development session under the theme 'Marketing Me'. It was the second in a series of sessions geared towards helping youth within the church and across the region develop their professional selves. The evening’s presenter was Mrs. Annette Morrison of the Wisynco Group.

The presentation focused on key areas such as; *Preparing the Resume, Applying for the Job, Tips on Preparing for the Interview, Ensuring a Successful Interview, After the Interview –The Next Steps, The New Job – Being Your Best from Day 1, and Mastering the Dynamics of the New Workplace.*

The session was very engaging and well received. It is expected to have a part 2 to give participants the opportunity to create resumes and apply the information that was shared.

If you missed the session, please feel free to contact the GUC office for a copy of the information that was shared.

Contributed by Khdrea Jones



Moderator's Movements

Children's Day
at Pringle
Home for Girls



A Digicel employee paints an external wall.



On Children's Day, Friday May 21, Mrs. Rose Wedderburn—Deputy General Secretary for the North Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC), and Rev. Anthony Chung, Moderator's Chaplain accompanied me on a Moderatorial visit to Pringle Home for Girls in St. Mary. A number of volunteers from the Digicel Foundation were there installing a much-needed kitchen, as well as giving the external walls of the facility a face lift. Thank you Digicel.

In photos above:

1. Moderator, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott (left) talks with some of the girls at the Home.
2. Mrs. Jeanette Rose Bryan—Director, Pringle Home updates the Moderator.
3. Mrs. Rose Wedderburn—RDGS NERMC joins the conversation.

Moderator's Movements



We had the opportunity of visiting the sanctuaries within the Carron Hall charge—Carron Hall, Seafield and Cedar Valley United Churches under the leadership of Rev. Donald Burke.



A PLEA FOR CEDAR VALLEY— 'SON OF MAN, CAN THESE BONES LIVE?'



'Sovereign Lord, you alone know'. (Ezekiel 37:3).

Cedar Valley United Church in St. Catherine was once upon a time the place where the Good News was proclaimed, souls were saved and discipled. That is no longer the case. There is no congregation, yet there are possibilities. A primary school is there, the church has a nice, flat yard space just begging for landscaping, the community is growing and asking for its restoration; and new homes and businesses are being established.

I pray that 'the chords that are broken will vibrate once more.'

Did you benefit from this ministry? Do you know anyone who did? Are you interested in seeing lives touched and transformed for Christ? If yes, join with your hands, heart and resources and let us 'rebuild the broken walls' just as the people did with Nehemiah. The Regional Mission Council will first assess the structural integrity of the building. In the meanwhile, get yourself ready to jump in. **Cedar Valley is beckoning for help to revive that ministry.**





Reflections on Pentecost

From the Cayman Regional Mission Council Weekly Update

Pentecost Sunday marks the end of the liturgical season of Easter and commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, following the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven. It is also recognized as the birth of the Church and the beginning of the Church's mission to the world.

In Acts 2:1-4 we read the following,

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues [flames] of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues [languages] as the Spirit enabled them."

This account of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is rich in scriptural symbolism through the metaphors of wind and fire, both pointing beyond themselves to the presence of God's Spirit.

Wind

The wind represents God's breath that brings life and vitality. At the creation of the world, God breathed into the first human being, Adam, who came to life. In the prophet Ezekiel's vision, God's breath/wind reanimates the dead bones. Here, in Acts 2:2 it is described as 'violent'. This translation is unfortunate because the word 'violent' has a negative connotation, suggesting something destructive and unwelcome. A better translation would be 'mighty' or 'forceful'. The Spirit of God came full of power and enabled the disciples to look beyond themselves and fulfill their mission, to present the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.



Fire

The tongues or flames of fire symbolize love/passion, purging, and light. We remember God speaking to Moses out of the burning bush. When the Israelites wandered through the

desert, they were guided during the night by a pillar of fire. The angel touched the prophet Isaiah's lips with a lump of burning coal when he received his commission. The purpose

of a burning oil lamp is to give light and not to be hidden. The presence of God's Holy Spirit indicates an irresistible and burning desire to be part of God's plan, to be in God's hands and be shaped, molded, and used according to God's will and for God's glory.



The 'mighty' wind and the flames of fire as symbols help us better understand and appreciate the purpose of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the ways He works in and through us.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit the potentials are unlimited!

What are we filled with?

Being filled with something means that our hearts and minds are being dominated by certain emotions or thoughts. It can be good or bad. It can be a momentary, short-lived experience or something that stays with us day after day, leaving a deep mark or impression on our being, on our behaviour, on our interactions with others, and our view and perspective on life. Let it be resentment, anger, envy, greed, worry, fear, uncertainty, or a dream, an enticing goal, a grand project - when they take hold of our life, it is usually not for the better. We suffer and as collateral damage, others suffer as well. Pentecost reminds us that it is not only good to be filled with God's Holy Spirit but even more, it is necessary, in order to be a fully committed disciple of Jesus Christ and to live our life for God's glory.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a single event, but rather a continual, life-long process of spiritual growth and maturity. It is the result of submitting ourselves to the authority of the Holy Spirit, being shaped by the Word of God, walking in faith and obedience as He leads us. As the result, something truly amazing happens! We are slowly being conformed to Jesus' image and likeness in our human nature.

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

- ♦ Rev. Delroy Harris whose sister had surgery.
- ♦ Social workers and counsellors who work with persons in situations of struggle.
- ♦ Children all over the world facing important examinations..
- ♦ Persons challenged with decision-making about taking the COVID 19 vaccine
- ♦ Families and communities broken by tragedy and violence.
- ♦ Members, leaders of the United Church and the wider communities in Cayman and Jamaica who have experienced bereavement
- ♦ Persons struggling with the impact of COVID 19 on personal, family, community and work levels.

HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY

This coming Sunday...



May 30, 2021
TRINITY SUNDAY

Spiritual Purity vs Human Piety

As we seek to discern God's call for this time, may we see ourselves through God's eyes.

Isaiah 6: 1-8, Psalm 29;
St. John 3: 1-17



(Cont'd from page 2)

and served as captain for 36 years.

The companies in Jamaica and Cayman are a part of the Caribbean and the Americas. Fellowship. Through the

commitment of Christian volunteers who meet with girls throughout the region, as a Christian Youth Organisation, Girls' Brigade in the Caribbean & Americas provides activities designed to help girls attain physical, mental and spiritual maturity, and encourage them to exercise what they learn through practical services to the home, church, community and the world.



Girls' Brigaders participate in GB Rally.

The GB programme is based on four pillars - Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service. In regard to spiritual, GB is intentionally evangelistic. Quindell noted that "When we get the girls, we also get the parents and friends".



Workshop preparing leaders to train others in healthy lifestyle.

One of the programmes undertaken by GB in the Caribbean this year focusses on climate change. The planting of trees and vegetables has been encouraged. There are currently 30 companies in Jamaica in UCJCI.

Girls' Brigade is a very important organization and avenue of ministry in Cayman.

The upcoming issue of UCJCI UPDATE will feature Girls' Brigade in Cayman and the Boys' Brigade movement.

Upcoming Events



MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH
PRESENTS

YOUTH *Big Day*


THEME: Matchless Hope - No Cap

FEATURING


FAITH THOMAS | MONROE WISDOM | KEVIN BAILEY

May 29TH | In Concert | Start Time 10AM
JERMAINE EDWARDS

Tel: (876) 969-6918 or (876) 925-5860
Website: www.meadunited.org
Meadowbrook United Church @meadunited



Statistical Institute of Jamaica



POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS 2022
YUH COUNT, MI COUNT, ALL A WI COUNT!

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica is currently in the field conducting a **pilot** for the 2022 Population and Housing Census
(April 19, 2021 - June 11, 2021).

You are encouraged to participate if your community is selected.

The information you share is:

- Confidential
- Secure
- Protected by the Statistics Act
- Only used for statistical purposes

To find out if your community is among the areas selected visit:
www.statinja.gov.jm

YUH COUNT, MI COUNT, ALL A WI COUNT!

Remember to wear black on Thursday.

Take a Stand! Work for a world without violence.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rev. Garwell Bacchas
MAY 28

UCJCI VALUE S

The UCJCI Value Statement

“The United Church represents a people called by God, to love and worship God as Creator, Jesus the Saviour, and the Holy Spirit the Comforter; to make a difference in people’s lives by actively loving and serving those around us; to bring the good news of the Gospel to all people; to nurture each other in faith; to pursue God’s justice and peace in all areas of life, so that ‘God’s kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.’”

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

**Our Ministry with Children
—The Brigades cont’d**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational, Disciples of Christ ,Presbyterian

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10

Tel: 876 926-8734

E-mail: synod@ucjci.com ♦ Website: www.ucjci.com

Moderator

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Southern Regional Mission Council
Rev. Norbert Stephens (Interim)

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)”