



# UCJCI UPDATE

OCTOBER 4, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 20

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



THE UNITED CHURCH SADLY ANNOUNCED THE DEATH OF REV. HYACINTH EDWARDS OF SALEM CHARGE OF UNITED CHURCHES, THIS PAST MONDAY. REV. EDWARDS WAS THE THIRD WOMAN TO BE ORDAINED TO THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT IN THE UNITED CHURCH. SHE WAS NAMED AMONG THESE WOMEN LEADERS IN UPDATE PUBLISHED JUNE 28, 2023. P. 1

## ON THE INSIDE

- PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE THIRD WOMAN ORDAINED IN UCJCI
- NEWS FROM SRMC
  - LIFE AFTER SALVATION
- NEWS FROM CIRMC
  - HARVEST AT WEBSTER MEMORIAL
- NEWS FROM NERMC
  - IMMANUEL RECOGNISES WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY
  - WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

## UCJCI UPDATE

UPDATE IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. THE PUBLICATION PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT THE DENOMINATION, NEWS OF HAPPENINGS IN REGIONS, MATERIAL TO FACILITATE WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY, ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRAYER, AND SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

CONTEMPLATION ABOUT LIFE AFTER MAKING THAT CRITICAL DECISION TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN WAS THE MAIN FOCUS OF A RETREAT FOR YOUNGSTERS AND LEADERS IN THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL. THE FOCUS BRINGS INTO VIEW THE NECESSITY TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL ACCOMPANYING OF PERSONS WHO MAKE COMMITMENTS TO CHRIST. ROBUST PROGRAMMES OF DISCIPLESHIP ARE NECESSARY TO HELP THEM WITH PERSONAL DECISION-MAKING, SUSTAINING THEIR FAITH AND BEING AUTHENTIC BELIEVERS. READ ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF THE EBENEZER, ANDREWS MEMORIAL AND THE ALLIGATOR POND UNITED CHURCHES. (PAGE 3)



MEMBERS OF IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH ON WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY P. 6



**Our dear Sister, Rev Hyacinth May Edwards,**  
transitioned this life on Monday October 2, 2023 at the University  
Hospital.

On October 11, 1981, she became the third female to be ordained in the  
United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Rev Hyacinth served Christ and the Church faithfully and well for  
almost forty-two years. Her pastoral assignments included the Salem  
Charge in St. Mary, the Giddy Hall Charge in St. Elizabeth, the Eltham  
Charge, and since 1996, the Salem Charge in Clarendon.

She served quietly and lovingly, and these qualities endeared her to the  
members and adherents in her Charges and the wider UCJCI.

For twenty-five years, she served as the Chaplain and teacher of  
Religious Education at Clarendon College, where she was well-loved  
and respected by the staff and students.

She was a stalwart of the faith, a powerful Preacher, a dedicated Pastor,  
a friend, and counsellor. Rev Hyacinth was known for her humility,  
cheerfulness, and generosity of spirit.

We extend our sincere condolences to her family, particularly her  
siblings Rose Marie, Norma, Annetta, Reynold, Patronie, Maxine and  
Herrica.

We also surround the Salem Charge and the Southern Regional  
Mission Council with our prayers and condolences at this very tender  
time.

Rev. 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the  
dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that  
they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them.

May her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her. Amen

# NEWS FROM SRMC



Youth, leaders and Minister, Rev. Khureen Wilson Bailey from the Ebenezer, Andrews Memorial and Alligator Pond United Churches with Minister Kevin Heath in the background.

## I'M SAVED: WHAT'S NEXT?

From September 22 to 24, 2023, twenty-one (21) youth from the Ebenezer, Andrews Memorial and Alligator Pond United Churches were engaged in a retreat focusing on their Christian walk. Held at the Hillcrest Diocesan Retreat Centre in St Ann, the youth participated in a purpose driven weekend of discussion, prayer, praise and team building under the theme "I'm saved: What's next?"

The young people determined the theme for the retreat as they felt they wanted to deepen their faith and understand how to live as Christian youth. With this in mind, they were engaged in sessions such as *Understanding your Purpose*, which looked at their future, *Red Flag*, which encouraged developing discernment and avoiding pitfalls of sin, *Salvation*, and *Around the Ring of Discipleship*, which dealt with prayer, identity, accountability and service. Gospel artiste, Minister Kevin Heath, also shared his testimony and words of encouragement for the youth.

The youth appreciated the sessions and made strides in understanding aspects of their Christian walk. From the *Around the Ring of Discipleship* session, they were helped to identify some things to put in place to help them strengthen their faith. The youth fellowship at Andrews, for example, were inspired to host Bible study evenings in the fellowship at least twice per month as opposed to once. The group from the different congregations will also come together for fellowship at least once a month.

It was observed, that the time with the youth was short and so the leaders have committed to continuous conversations, which should include a follow-up in October and another in December.

**"I am saved: what's next?" is perhaps a question that many young people have asked on their Christian walk.**



Rev Wilson-Bailey (2nd from left) and other leaders at the retreat pose with Minister Kevin Heath.

"How do we guide our young people in what it means to be a Christian in practical ways—without being legalistic? How can we as a church journey with our youth to reflect Christ and to make wise choices in a way that is impactful and relatable? The reality is that saved youth may not be of the world but they still exist in it. Our youth crave the gospel. They crave understanding. They require discipleship. Let us create more opportunities for connecting with our young people.

# NEWS FROM CIRMC

---



Contributed by Rev.  
Donovan Myers

*A happy  
return.*

## THEIR PATHS LED THEM HOME!

On Sunday, September 24, 2023, the John Gray Memorial Congregation "welcomed back" three members, Ms. Elena Jacob, Ms. Dana Brandon, and Ms. Elaine Rivers, into fellowship. Elders and congregants joyfully embraced them as their paths led them home! We look to the future as they live and serve among us!

## HARVEST CELEBRATION AT WEBSTER MEMORIAL

Webster Memorial United Church (Bodden Town) held its Harvest Service on September 24, 2023. A table overflowing with produce showcased the bounty of God's creation. Rev. Euthman Wray, Minister of the Congregation, pointed out that the Bible speaks frequently about thanksgiving and worship and God receives praise and adoration from creation, which is a testament to God's glory.



*Harvest  
display at  
Webster  
Memorial*

# NEWS FROM CIRMC cont'd

---



*D'Leah Cardoza offered a special item during the Harvest Service.*

Such expressions like "head of cabbage," "ear of corn," or "hand of banana," etc. aren't mere descriptions, but they also serve as reminders to offer ourselves, our eyes, ears, hands, and heads - our entire selves - to the glory and service of God.

---

# NEWS FROM NERMCMC



Dr. Sharon McKenzie addresses the group.

This month's meeting was held under the theme, "Never too early, never too late". The session included self-care session with Dr. Sharon McKenzie UWI / Alzheimer's Jamaica and a presentation by Ms. Sandra Latibeaudiere UWI and Alzheimer's Jamaica, on the signs, symptoms, risk factors and legal and financial tips.



Physical exercise was a part of the programme.

It is our prayer at the Immanuel United Church that the Memory Club will continue to grow and that the needs of its members and by extension our community will be met in a dignified way. Attendance is completely free.

## IMMANUEL UNITED HOSTS TRIPLE-H MEMORY CLUB

On World Alzheimer's Day, September 21, the Immanuel United Church in association with Alzheimer's Jamaica supported the Memory Club in commemorating the day. The Tri H-Help, Hope & Health Memory Club, is a safe, stigma-free environment where caregivers, families and persons living with early stage of Alzheimer's come together. The group meets every third Wednesday from 10 am-12 noon to share memories, encouragement, health tips and self-care strategies in a serene atmosphere and with light refreshments.



A section of the group at Immanuel.



# NEWS FROM NERMC

## UCJCI WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IN NERMC COMMEMORATES 30 YEARS OF WITNESS

A letter dated September 24, 1992 invited the women of the Women's Guild Executive to attend a meeting with the Executive of the Disciples of Christ Women's Fellowship.

This meeting brought together the leadership of both organizations. Led by Presidents Vernice Fuller (United Church) and Hermena Davidson (Disciples of Christ) the women engaged in very fruitful discussions which paved the way for future dialogue and sharing of programmes.

December 13, 1992 was a day of celebration as the two denominations merged into one. This brought about the merging of the WOMEN'S GUILD and the WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.

Much thought was given to naming the entity. For women this is a significant event. After much thought and prayer the overall membership agreed that GUILD should be replaced with FELLOWSHIP.

And so it happened that the newly merged Women's Organization was named "The Women's Fellowship of the UCJCI with President General, Vernice Fuller. Since then we have had eleven Presidents General. She was followed by Sisters Hermena Davidson, Francine Jackson, Mercilia Mallet, Ruth Coke, Lorna Jackson, Norma Sinclair, O. Rose Henry, Evelyn Jones, Pauline Bryan and our current President General, Cheryl Shaw.

## CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS



Mrs. Norma Mallett of Castleton United, at 101 years old is the oldest member of NERMC Women's Fellowship. She was recognised for her sterling contribution. She is seen here with the Moderator of Synod, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

These are many and varied and have served to strengthen the work of the Fellowship. In the NERMC we have formalized the various committees responsible for the on-going work of the Fellowship.

~Programme/Literature committee chaired by Sis. Joy Williams

~Recreation - Sis. Ferona Thomas, Service - Sis. Cynthia Loney and Treasurer- Sis. Sharon Simmonds.



Sis. Joy Walker Edwards was instrumental in rebranding the WF. All programmes were refocused and new projects and programmes were introduced. The mission and vision of the WF were defined and documented, and younger women were encouraged to become members.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Some of our contributions over the years - Scholarship involvement, Women's Centre involvement, Health Fair involvement expanded to include Men and Women in Partnership. Pringle Home Involvement - quarterly visits, supplies, donations of cash and kind.

Our Major Fundraiser to finance our projects is credited to Sis. Elvira Edwards who is the mover and shaker of our NERMC lapathon which closes our Fellowship Week activities each January.

Let us together keep on praying for our fellowship and for each other so the will of God can be fulfilled in our lives.



For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.  
Hebrews 6:10

Contributed by Mrs. Winsome Young, President NERMC Women's Fellowship and Ms. Joy Williams, NERMC Programme Secretary.





**MODULES  
2 AND 3  
BEGIN IN  
NOVEMBER**

## **TRAINING LAY LEADERS - A NEW BEGINNING**

### **UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE - MODULES 2 AND 3 COMING**

**The Training of Lay Leaders for specialised ministries in the United Church will be advanced through the addition of Modules 2 and 3 to the offerings of UCJCI Lay Training Institute in November 2023.**

Modules 2 and 3 will begin in November 2023. It is planned that both will run concurrently with the early topics in Module 3 being those without a corresponding pre-requisite in Module 2.

Topics will include Ministry with Children, Evangelism and Discipleship; Ministry with Youth and Communication. Both modules will include periods of practicum.

Module 2 will end in March 2023 and Module 3 will end November 2024.

**For more information**

**Email:**

**[ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com](mailto:ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com)**

# MINISTERS AND LAY PASTORS LET'S SHARE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES



United Church congregations engage in vibrant and thought-provoking BIBLE STUDIES on a variety of topics each week.

Some congregations do not have those regular studies but their members would like to join in such a study.

Can we work together to bring the Word to those who are thirsting for it?

Let's reach beyond our communities by sharing the links to our online bible studies, with DATE, TOPIC, TIME, LINK Ministers and Lay Pastors, if you want to participate, please send information to [ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com](mailto:ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com)

## MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH WEEKLY WEDNESDAY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



### FOCUS: THE BOOK OF ACTS

6:30 P.M.

JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 882 3148 7638

PASSCODE: 028540

OR VIA MUC YOUTUBE CHANNEL



## RIDGEMOUNT UNITED CHURCH WEEKLY WEDNESDAY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

TOPIC:

THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN

5:30 P.M.

JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 894 9305 3068

PASSCODE: RIDGEMOUNT



**REV. TREVOR HYLTON**  
**OCTOBER 4**



**REV. ALEX HAYDEN**  
**OCTOBER 5**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Praying  
God's  
continued  
blessings  
on you*



# OUR HOMES ARE PLACES OF WORSHIP



**Rooted and Resilient:  
Re-ignited  
by the Spirit to  
RE-IGNITE**

## RE-IGNITE - GATHER THE KINDLING

### SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Matthew 21:33-46

Having removed the dross, God's Law is the kindling needed to re-ignite the flame. Removal of dross is an ongoing process, as is the addition of kindling, if the fire is to keep burning brightly in our lives.

**Theme song:  
'Light the fire'**

*Let us  
pray  
for:*

- The family, friends and members of the Salem charge at the death of Rev. Hyacinth Edwards.
- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson who is unwell.
- Peace in the face of mounting instances of violence in schools in Jamaica.
- Communities impacted by crime in Jamaica.

# For Your Health



## Pink October



### Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer and cancer-related deaths in Jamaican women. In Jamaica, women often present with advanced stages of breast cancer, despite the availability of screening mammography for early detection. The utilization of screening mammography for early breast cancer diagnosis seems to be limited, and this study investigated the national patterns of mammographic screening and the impact of mammography on the diagnosis of breast cancer in Jamaica.



# EVENTS PAGES



## SUPPORT WITH PRAYER AND PRESENCE

The following pages carry notification of events. Please send your posters and flyers in pdf, j-peg or png format to [citc@gmail.com](mailto:citc@gmail.com) for promotion in UCJCI Update.



WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

# WOMEN'S *Conference*

**21**  
OCT



START  
**4PM**

## WHEN ROOTS RUN DEEP

COME & BE ENCOURAGED BY TESTIMONIES  
AND WHAT THE WORD SAYS ABOUT YOU

*Our Speakers*



REV. EVON  
BLAIR



MRS. DANELLE  
PINNOCK



MRS. ERICA  
MACDONALD

*Our Host*

MS. CLOVER  
ANDERSON



53 HALF WAY TREE ROAD, KINGSTON 10

SEE YOU THERE!

# YOUTH NEWS

Lincoln Kirk United Church Youth Fellowship Presents

**YOUTH CONVENTION 2023**

Under the theme

**"TEK IT TO DEM"**

**October 22, 2023 9am - 9pm**

**3 Sessions for the Day**

**Morning Worship Midday Praise Evening Gospel Service**

Refreshments and Lunch will be on sale

For More Details

**1-876-468-7143 - 1-876-848-5209**





*United Theological College of the West Indies*

invites you to register for the Short Course

# **Issues in Gender and Preventing Gender-based Violence**

## **Topics**

Bible & Gender  
Understanding Gender  
Women Taking Their Place  
Gender, Leadership & Power  
Church, Gender & Human Rights



**Cost:**

USD 99

JMD 15,500

*September 30 -  
October 28, 2023  
Saturdays ONLY  
9:00 A.M. -  
12:00 P.M.*

Contact us at:

Tel: 876-927-1724/ 2868

WhatAspp: 876-585-5488

Email: [jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm](mailto:jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm)

***Register Here***

<https://forms.gle/Sie4uKW36YvRr8o66>



**REGISTRATION FOR  
STREET, SCHOOL AND  
PRAYER PASTORS  
TRAINING BEGINS  
SOON**

**COURSE RUNS OCT 07 TO NOV 11, 2023**



**REGISTER TODAY**

**Join our  
TEAM!**  
WE ARE HIRING!

**APPLY HERE:**

**<https://forms.gle/Uc28NWbyFmeoHMA70>**

APPLY HERE:

**OR WHATS APP 876-909-0470**

**STREET PASTORS JAMAICA  
HELPING, CARING, LISTENING**



HELLSHIRE UNITED CHURCH

30<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY

# HARVEST Concert

STARTS AT  
5:00 PM

**SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 29, 2023**

VENUE :

HELLSHIRE UNITED CHURCH  
379 BOULDER CRESCENT  
UPPERMOST "B"  
HELLSHIRE  
ST. CATHERINE

**ADULTS: \$2000.00**  
**CHILDREN: \$1000.00**



**MARKLAND  
EDWARDS  
MASTER OF  
CEREMONY**



**FEATURING  
JAMAICA  
CONSTABULARY  
FORCE BAND**

*An Evening of Praise*



+ (876) - 675 - 6513



hellshireunitedchurch@yahoo.com



379 Boulder Crescent, Hellshire



**SYNODICAL THEME:**  
**Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit**  
(Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite)

**OUR VISION**

*Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation  
through Christ*

**The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands**  
(Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian)

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 Jamaica, W. I.  
Tel: 876 9268734; ♦ E-mail: [synod@ucjci.com](mailto:synod@ucjci.com) ♦ Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://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**

North Eastern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**

Southern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Janet McConnell**

Western Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Mauleen Henry**