



# UCJCI UPDATE

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



**SUNSET BACKDROP AT TEENS CAMP 2023 MADGE SAUNDERS' CONFERENCE CENTRE.**

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## 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

CAMPS HAVE OFTEN BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE MOST POTENTIALLY PRODUCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REACHING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CHRIST. PRAYERS, PLANNING, CREATIVE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ENERGIES ARE POURED INTO ORGANISING CAMPS DURING THE SUMMER EACH YEAR SO THAT EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED AMONG OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH. IN THIS ISSUE, CAMP NEWS PRESENT THE EXPERIENCES OF NEW LEADERS, APPRECIATION TO PLANNERS AND LEADERS AND A DELIGHTFUL OUTCOME. BE SURE TO READ IT ALL. **(PAGES 2 -6)**



**CAMPERS AND LEADERS**



# Camp NEWS

## 500 YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED CAMPS 2023. A BIG THANK YOU!

**Sisters and Brothers and in particular all our Campers for 2023...**

***It is my delight on behalf of the Camp Ministry of the United Church to express a big THANK YOU for making this camp season successful.***

As a Church we are overjoyed that approximately five hundred (500) children and teens made it to camp this year. From all accounts the camps were "exceptional." We do not take for granted the sacrifices and contributions made by our congregations, parents, guardians, well-wishers, sponsors and the Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Caymans Islands.

A special thank you to all our leaders who took the time to ensure that our children and teenagers had a holistic experience towards their spiritual growth and development.

Thank you! Thank you!  
We go forward  
**'Deepa inna Christ!**  
**Firma inna Faith: Resilient!'**

We are looking forward  
to seeing you all and  
more next year!



Rev. Tara Tyme - Camp Administrator

## CAMPER TURNED COUNSELLOR - My Story

UCJCI Update interviewed two young persons who transitioned from being campers to the role of Counsellor in this year's Camp Ministry season. This is their story.



**JUVELLE GRANT**  
**Lucea United Church**

### **Why did you consent to be a leader at camp?**

I decided to become a camp counselor because of the personal importance camp was to me, and the experience I wanted to give kids who I could relate to.

### **What do you bring to the role? What is unique about you?**

I believe that my personality and level of interaction with the campers made an impactful difference as I was able to relate more to their generation.

### **How would you describe the experience of camp as a leader**

The experience as a camp leader was a challenging and beautiful experience, a lot of

new friends were made and I believed it had a spiritual impact on me.

### **What was different about being at camp as a leader and not a camper?**

As a camper I did not really care about competing I just wanted to make friends but as a leader it taught me the true meaning of team work and the impact of a good and bad leader.

### **Why should others consider the role of leader at camp?**

I believe others should consider being a camp leader because it is a way to grow in your spirituality, spread the word to the next generation and positively impact lives.



**Campers engage in bible study and projects.**



## CAMPER TURNED COUNSELLOR - My Story



**TREVAUGN HYLTON**  
**Ridgemount United Church**

### **Why did you consent to be a leader at camp?**

To be honest, I didn't plan on being a leader really, but Mrs. Debesha Grant-Roberts requested that I serve at Junior camp. Subsequently, it began running through my mind daily and the burning fascination of what the experience would be like as leader at camp took control of me. After my experience at Junior camp, I offered to help at Teens 1 and Teens 2.

### **What led you to make that decision?**

Junior camp was manageable as I expected but just for a greater challenge and more experience, I thought testing the waters at teens camps would be beneficial. It was also the fact that Teens 1 and 2 had no keyboard player and if you've been to camp, you would

know that music is a vital part of the camp experience.

### **What did you bring to the role of leader? What is unique about you?**

My addition to the leader's role I would say was my musical talents, which enabled me to create an atmosphere of praise in worship. I also led my family's bible study on a few occasions which was also my first time leading any bible study. This pushed me to dig deeper into the word in order to impart this knowledge unto the children of God.

### **How would you describe the experience of camp as a leader?**

Overall, the experience was quite an intriguing, event-packed, hot, and delightful one as I worked under and with different leadership and groups of campers.

Intriguing in the sense that different leaders brought different styles and there was no set way of running camp. It made it apparent that the leaders' role is exponentially impactful on the life and future of the different camps and, by extension, the campers. Spiritual and physical awareness were key to realizing the issues campers faced and resourcefulness was needed in solving them.

Event-packed in the sense that what was in previous years scheduled for 7 days (Saturday to Saturday) was now tightly packaged in 5 days (Saturday to Thursday).



## CAMPERS TURNED COUNSELLORS

Hot in the sense that you could not get a break from the heat unless you came with your own fan, set your bags of ice in the freezer, or stepped into that trusty walk-in refrigerator to replace the igloos of water for campers to quench their thirst.

Lastly, delightful in the sense that I was able to not only experience/serve at only one, but three camps. The ability to interact with different age groups of young people and be a guide and help when needed was a memorable experience. The activities were meticulously planned and executed to fit each age group and not to mention the family and dorm competitiveness. Big up to families RBIC (Resilient Believer in Christ), GROOTS (Growing Righteous Officers of the Saviour) and dorms 2 (Junior), 4 (Champion Dorm- Pacesetters) and 6 (Champion Dorm-Discovery). The daily and nightly discussions and bible study with my families and young men of the dorms were also insightful as our theme "Deeper inna Christ... Firma Inna Faith... Resilient!" brought their stories and experiences to light. In my opinion, these camps were mostly a success, and my prayer is that they will continue to positively impact the generations to come whether it be spiritually, mentally and/or physically.



**Campers engage in physical activity.**



**Enjoying meals.**

### **What was different about being at camp as a leader and not a camper?**

The biggest difference that hit me when I first stepped on the bus to Madge Saunders, was that I would be placed in charge of not only dorms filled with male campers but also families. I had previous experience of leading male dorms from High School but being a young leader in charge of a family was somewhat the hardest part. To be constantly trying to keep the campers engaged and breaking the tension from being split from their friends and thrown into this random group was quite the task. All this, while being one of the camp musicians as well, made it quite an experience from which I learned a few valuable skills.

### **Why should others consider the role of leader at camp?**

This would be a good opportunity to lead children to Christ and impact their life in a meaningful way. As an adult, more than likely he/she has some guidance that could change the life a camper for the better. This also is an opportunity to develop your own skills whether it be teamwork, communication, problem-solving, conflict resolution or adaptability.

# THEY MET AT CAMP *Congratulations*



*Ian and Naomi*

Many new relationships have germinated and blossomed at United Church camps over the years. That most important relationship with Jesus Christ, friendships and marriages.

We offer congratulations to Ian Silvera and Naomi Benjamin of Webster Memorial in NERMC who were married on Saturday August 19, 2023. Ian and Naomi met at Teens' Camp in 2015.

# COUNCIL NEWS - CIRMC

## VBS AT ELMSLIE MEMORIAL ON A ROLL WITH GOD!

Food Truck Party – On a Roll with God! was the theme of Elmslie Memorial United Church's Annual VBS which was held from July 31-August 4, (Monday – Friday)2023. The week's activities concluded on Sunday, August 6 with a special VBS Service. The daily activities took place in the evening, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Through the skillful work of congregants the sanctuary, church hall, church car park, and classrooms were beautifully transformed to give the participants complete immersion into the theme. At the center of the Sanctuary platform stood a food truck called "On a Roll", built by members, where the children and youth learned about the Daily Specials (Daily Learnings), which were lines from the Lord's Prayer.



**Mr. Roy McGregor, Youth Minister of Elmslie Memorial with the Food Truck.**



**Food, fun and creative activities.**



# COUNCIL NEWS - CIRMC

## VBS AT ELMSLIE MEMORIAL ON A ROLL WITH GOD... *cont'd*



The daily activities included engaging Bible stories and lessons reflecting each day's theme, lots of singing, interactive crafts and games encouraging teamwork, creativity, learning, and, as expected from a food truck themed VBS, mouthwatering food. One hundred and eight (108) children and youth participated in the VBS led by a capable and well-experienced leadership team of thirty-seven (37). Special thanks to everyone who made the Elmslie Memorial 2023 VBS a success.





## MISSION WITH CHILDREN AT CEDAR VALLEY

### Catering to the literacy and spiritual needs of children

In an attempt to begin the process of being intentional in our mission to the children in the Cedar Valley community, a partnership was developed between the North Eastern Regional Mission Council and the Cedar Valley Primary and Infant school (which is owned by the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands). In collaboration with the principal of the institution, a decision was taken to add literacy and numeracy classes to the VBS programme to adequately cater to the needs of all students.

This year, a combined Summer School and Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held at the Cedar Valley Primary and Infant from July 17-21 at 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. daily. The programme started with 14 children in attendance but ended with 26 children on the final day. The timely theme used for the VBS was "A Peace Wi Seh!" with the United Church's VBS booklet used as a guide for the week's lessons.



**Children were engaged in creative learning**

Each day began with registration and a devotional exercise. Students were engaged in Bible study activities, literacy and numeracy classes and a dance or art and craft workshop before the closing activities. Students, teachers and volunteers were provided with a snack and hot meal each day. T-Shirts with the Church logo and VBS theme were issued to all students and team members who assisted in the programme. These shirts were sponsored by a member of the Manning's Hill United congregation.



**Children proudly display their work.**

## MISSION WITH CHILDREN AT CEDAR VALLEY *cont'd*



### **Helping with the beautification project.**

A session with fun activities was also dedicated to helping students learn about aspects of our country including the parishes and counties. One of the priorities for the Vacation Bible School was to ensure that every child had multiple opportunities to hear the Gospel during the programme. Therefore, in all lessons the Gospel was reinforced with songs, crafts, scripture memory or recitation and stories from the Bible.

The students were also engaged in planting flowers on the compound as part of a beautification project so as to develop a sense of giving back to their school. A Fun Day with a bounce-a-bout and sports activities was hosted on the last day. The bounce-a-bout was sponsored by the Hellshire and Manning's Hill United congregations. Overall, the programme was well received by all participants and the children indicated that they wished the

programme was longer because they enjoyed themselves.

The programme was coordinated and implemented by a team led by Mrs. Karen-Ann Harris-McLean (Vice Chair, Children and Youth - NERMC) and Mrs. Audrey Francis (Vice Chair, Mission - NERMC), and included two teachers from Cedar Valley Primary School, a HEART/NTA volunteer and a chef. Other persons provided assistance on different days including the Principal Mr. Ryan Smith of Cedar Valley Primary and an Early Childhood Caregiver, the Minister, Rev. Ranford Hewitt and some members of Manning's Hill United Church, and Pastor Donald West from Carron Hall Charge.

The programme was mainly financed by the North Eastern Regional Mission.

# COUNCIL NEWS - NERMC

## NEWS FROM ST. PAUL'S UNITED (LOCKETT AVENUE)



## THANK YOU!

St. Paul's United Church, Lockett Avenue, expressed appreciation to Pastor Junior McCalla on Sunday August 13, 2023. Pastor McCalla who concluded service on July 31, 2023 served the congregation as Lay Pastor since June 2019.

Persons in the picture L-R - Mrs Jaqueline McCalla, Pastor Junior McCalla, Elder Naydene Williams, Elder Franklin DaCosta.

## WELCOME!



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands  
NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## INDUCTION SERVICE FOR

*Rev. Kraig De Leon Diedrick*  
to the St. Paul's United Church

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 AT 4:00 PM**

**St. Paul's United Church**  
3 Lockett Avenue  
Kingston 4



# Our Homes are Places of Worship



## AUGUST – REALIGN THE HOME

Our fellowship with God enables our communion with others. What happens in the home affects the society, hence God in Jesus Christ must be the Head of the home in order for the family to dwell together in peace.

### Theme this Week:

**The Holy Spirit can guide us as we seek to realign our commitment to each other, even those who are outside of our family circle.**

### Suggested Scriptures:

**Exodus 1:8–2:10**

Psalms 124

Romans 12:1–8

**Matthew 16:13–20**

- **Exodus 1:8–2:10** is a rich family-community story of commitment in the midst of oppression. The Midwives preserved the infants and in so doing preserved the nation.
- **Paul offers us the dynamic injunction**  
'For by the grace given to me, I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.'  
– Romans 12: 3

## Let us pray for

- Rev. Kevin Calvert who has recently lost both grandparents.
- Students who return to institutions of learning in September
- Parents and guardians who struggle to fund their children's education.
- Our students who are preparing for ministry and will begin their academic journey at UTCWI in September
- Those who face economic suffering as a result of the drought.
- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson who is unwell
- Mrs. Shernett Smith whose brother died recently and for her brother-in-law who has been hospitalized
- Rev. Hyacinth Edwards
- Sustaining faith for children and youth who have made recent commitments to Christ
- Our preparedness and safety during the hurricane season.



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

**OUR VISION**

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

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