



UCJCI UPDATE

NOVEMBER 29, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 28

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

ON THE INSIDE

- PAST AND PRESENT - FROM CHURCH SCHOOL TO IMPACTING SOCIETY
- NEWS FROM CAYMAN
- 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- CELEBRATIONS
- WORSHIP AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES
- UPCOMING EVENTS



RECOGNISED FOR HER KIND AND GENEROUS HEART - CAMILLE WATT (RIGHT) RECEIVES EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE FROM SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH.. (PAGE 3)

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

I HAVE OFTEN HEARD THE QUESTION, 'WHAT IS THE POINT IN WEARING BLACK ON THURSDAYS?' PERHAPS THERE IS NO POINT AT ALL. CERTAINLY IF IT IS PURELY A FASHION CHOICE THEN THE THURSDAYS IN BLACK CAMPAIGN WOULD HAVE MISSED ITS GOAL. THE CAMPAIGN IS INTENDED TO RAISE AWARENESS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH A VIEW TO BRING AN END TO SUCH CRUELTY.. READERS OF UCJCI UPDATE ARE ENCOURAGED TO NOT ONLY WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAYS, BUT TO BEGIN CONVERSATIONS WITH PERSONS THEY ENCOUNTER TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY ARE WEARING BLACK. IT MAY LEAD SOMEONE TO BE PROACTIVE IN ENDING SUCH VIOLENCE IN THEIR OWN CIRCLES. (PAGES 6 AND 7)



"GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DENIES HUMAN DIGNITY." (PAGE 6)

UCJCI CELEBRATES CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH



From Church School to Positively Impacting Society



MRS. MARISA CRAWFORD

Mrs. Marisa Crawford attended Sunday School at the John Gray Memorial Church during the 1960s. Marisa received the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in 1977.

Pictured RIGHT, Mrs. Marisa Crawford receives the coveted Gold Award only the the second to be awarded to a Caymanian.

VERNIE WATLER-HARRIS

Present occupation: Senior Account Administrator
Attended: Gun Bay United Church Sunday School 1969-1977
Superintendents during that tenure were the late Cleopatra Conolly, Late Alma Conolly, late Pheobe Spence.



NEWS FROM CAYMAN

Recognition of Service At the Savannah United Church



On Sunday, November 18, the Savannah United Church expressed gratitude to Ms. Camile Watt, Youth Minister of the Congregation, for her nearly five years of exceptional service. She was described as one with unconditional love for the children and youth, a mentor and friend who is always available, has a kind and generous heart, and goes far beyond the call of duty.

TRAINING IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

A two-day training course was held on November 11 and 18, 2023, at the Council Office for those involved in Children and Youth Ministry.



News from Cayman...Cont'd from p.3.

The purpose of the training was to deepen and broaden their knowledge and understanding of how to engage and nurture the spiritual and personal growth of the younger members of our congregations and communities. A total of twenty-one dedicated individuals attended the sessions.

The training covered various crucial topics facilitated by experts in their respective fields, each bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the sessions. Dr. Ginelle Nelson addressed the importance of mental health awareness, while Ms. April Lewis, an experienced counselor, shared her expertise in counseling techniques, offering valuable tools and approaches. The third segment of the training focused on cognitive development, led by Mr. Denver Bloomfield, an expert with extensive experience in the field.

The sessions provided attendees with valuable insights and practical strategies to foster a supportive environment and enable them to tailor their ministry approaches to the specific needs they encounter in their ministry. The presentations were not only informative but also highly engaging.

A special note of gratitude goes to a generous donor whose contribution made this training possible. Looking into the future, the organizers hope to continue the training in early 2024.

AN EVENING OF MUSIC

In support of the Lilla Nell Ebanks Music Fund



The John Gray Memorial Church Sanctuary (West Bay) filled to its capacity on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 6:00 pm as people from around the island gathered for an evening of music to celebrate the launch of the Lilla Nell Music Fund. The Fund was created to advance education in music and song amongst the children and young people of the John Gray Memorial Church, including its Youth Choir.

"One of those gifted individuals who stood as a testament to how music can impact our lives was the late Mrs. Lilla Nell Ebanks, who brought music to West Bay, particularly to the youth of the District, from 1947 to approximately 1980.

Cont'd on p. 5

An Evening of Music...Cont'd from p.5.

(Excerpts from the event programme)

This was at a time when the total population of the islands was less than 8,000! A number of those whom she taught to play on her beloved upright piano are present with us tonight, and some of her students serve on the Elders Board of our Church. Ms. Lilla saw life through a lens of love and forgiveness and, some say, with a 'song in her heart.'

As a faithful member of our Church and founding member of the Women's Fellowship (then known as the Women's Guild), Ms. Lilla spent her life giving her talents and skills to her Church and her community."

The programme featured artists and musicians like the JGMC Sanctuary Choir, the Cayman Male Voice Choir, pianists Mr. Glen Inanga, Ms. Abigail Parchment, Mrs. Christine Barnett, Mr. Andres Groves, Ms. Anabella Grace Voaden, and Ms. Nicole Bodden, violinists Ms. Katherine Inanga and Mr. Curtis Barnett, trombonist Mr. Lisvany Cisneros and soloists Ms. Freida Blake, Ms. Rebekah Jefferson, Mr. Reyamar Latap, Mr. Arek Nicholson and Ms. Anika Conolly.



Following the programme, refreshments awaited those who stayed behind for more fellowship. The event was a great success, not only because of the great interest and numbers in attendance but also financially, because the Fund received almost \$6,000 to begin its ministry. Congratulations to the organizing Committee and the John Gray Memorial Church for such a blessing enjoyed by so many.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM – END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Photo: Jamaica Gleaner

Rev. Merlyn Hyde Riley, an ambassador for Thursdays in Black.

“Gender-Based Violence denies human dignity”

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence is a call for action to end violence against women and girls. The recognition began 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and continues until December 10 – Human Rights Day.

Most recently, the Caribbean and North American Council for Mission (CANACOM) hosted a seminar which sensitized men in the Castleton charge of United Churches on the issue of Gender-based violence. The United Church has advocated for the protection of women and girls in various ways, the most consistent among them is by participating in the Thursdays in Black campaign which invites us to take a stand against violence against all persons. However, this effort is an ecumenical endeavour – it knows no denominational lines.

Rev. Merlyn Hyde Riley, Vice-Moderator, World Council of Churches and General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union shared the view that “Gender-based violence denies human dignity” in an interview with the World Council of Churches.

“Gender-based violence denies human dignity and it affects our humanity, and therefore one cannot tolerate any action that denies our dignity and our humanity. It impacts people’s physical and mental health. So many persons are absolutely devastated and destroyed as a result of the violence perpetrated against them. It impacts our productivity. People very often have to remain away from work and are unable to focus properly because of the emotional, mental, and physical harm that has been meted out against them.

We also recognize that gender-based violence constrains choice. People are sometimes in situations where they are not able to make basic human choices, and, sadly, it is often shrouded in secrecy, because when victims come forward, they

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS cont'd from p. 6

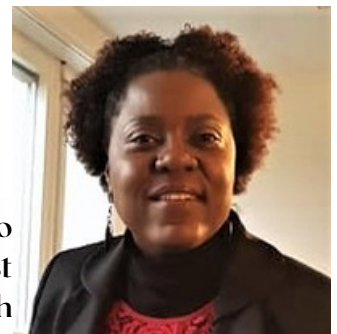
are twice victimized, and so it is really, really a very destructive act that is perpetrated against persons.

How can Thursdays in Black be a part of the solution?

Rev. Hyde Riley: The Thursdays in Black campaign, I believe, has great potential in terms of the solution to this issue. For one, we can increase awareness. We can participate in educating persons. What I am doing now, I am hoping to raise awareness. We are able to give visibility to this issue so more and more persons can recognize that this is not just a private matter, and I think we can't underestimate the impact of collective advocacy across the world. It's powerful when many persons from different parts of the world come together, and say "enough is enough," and say no to gender-based violence. So I believe that this campaign has tremendous potential to impact this issue and to improve the lives of so many persons who are impacted.

Source: [www.https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black](https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black)

UCJCI's Rev. Nicole Ashwood continues to serve the WCC as Programme Executive, Just Community of Women and Men which promotes the Thursdays in Black campaign.



*How can
Thursdays
in Black be
a part of
the
solution?*

**Wear black on Thursday
TAKE A STAND**

**Work towards a world without rape
and violence. Tell someone why you
are wearing black and continue the
conversation with them.**



UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE MODULES 2



January to March 2023



**FIRST SESSION - JANUARY 6, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M. - 12 NOON
VIA ZOOM**

**REGISTER NOW THROUGH
YOUR REGIONAL OFFICE**

**If you have completed Module 1
and desire to continue training
to serve your church through
key ministries, then Module 2 is
for you**

COST FOR MODULE 2 - JMD \$10,000

WHO IS MODULE 1 FOR?

- PERSONS WHO HAVE COMPLETED MODULE 1
- PERSONS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN HONING THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN SPECIALIZED AREAS SUCH AS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, YOUTH MINISTRY, EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, COMMUNICATION AND PIONEER MINISTRY WITH SPECIAL GROUPS (MEN, WOMEN, PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES)
- PERSONS WHO WANT TO OFFER TO SERVE AS LAY PASTORS

For more information
email:
ucjci.sheryl.chung@gmail.com

MINISTERS AND LAY PASTORS

LET'S SHARE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES



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

NORTH STREET AND ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCHES



WEEKLY WEDNESDAY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

TOPIC: DEFENDING OUR FAITH IN AND OUT OF SEASON
A STUDY IN APOLOGETICS

6:00 P.M.

JOIN VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 850 369 0667

Passcode: 3eEM4L

CELEBRATIONS!!

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 29

Rev. Lascelles Tulloch

and

DECEMBER 1



Rev. Delroy Harris



Mr. Nigel Henry

DECEMBER 4



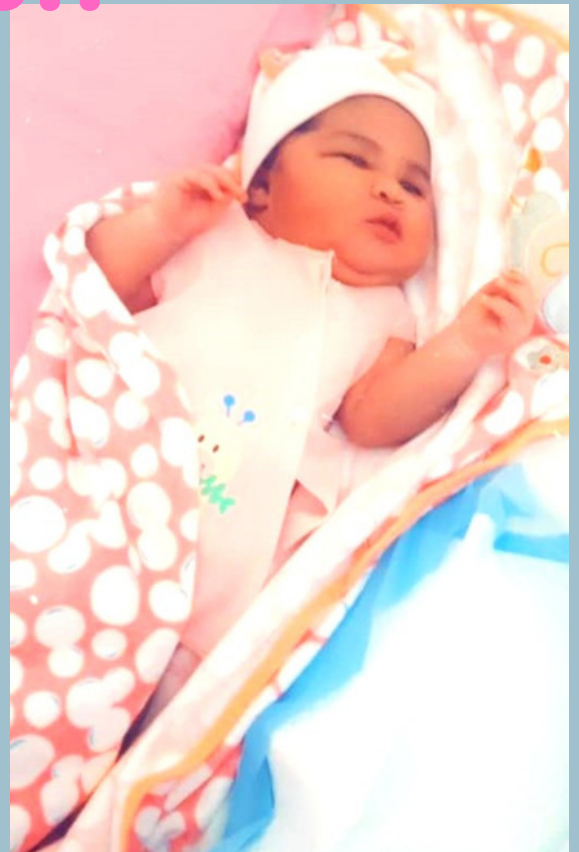
Rev. Rohan Kong

CONGRATULATIONS!!

**NEW
ARRIVAL!**

**Kah-Melly
Adoniyah Elcea
Lauriston**

Born to Rev. Elce and
Kahmal Williams Lauriston



NOVEMBER 22

LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER IN ADVENT

Advent
The Season of Hope and Expectation



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

When we are on fire for God, we will “feel like a fire shut up in our bones” - we simply have to share the good news that dispels hopelessness!

**RE-IGNITE AND
SPREAD THE
FLAMES OF HOPE**

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7,
17-19

PRAYER THEMES FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH TO USE IN OUR HOMES AND FOR GATHERING IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

Let us Pray Together

- Recurrent violence in educational institutions and against children in various incidents.
- The United Church family as we mourn the loss and celebrate the life of Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke.
- Ministers, Synodical and Regional staff of the United Church who are suffering bereavement and illness
 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
 - Rev. Sandra Collins
 - Ms. Annisea Bremmer
 - Rev. Karlene Thomas Barnes
 - Rev. Astor Carlyle
- The continuing disturbing conflict between Israel and Palestine and the resulting hardships to peoples of both nations

Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.
From the ends of the
earth I call to you,
I call as my heart
grows faint;
lead me to the rock
that is higher than I.

Psalm 61: 1-3

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 for promotion in UCJCI Update.

Children's Ministry Commission



"Transforming Children To Make
A Difference For Christ"

UCJCI Church School Teachers' Conference



Zoom ID: 876 3459 6146

Passcode: 778954

**Saturday,
December
2, 2023
at 9:30am**



Topics:

The Importance of Mental Health
An Approach to Children with Disabilities
A Guide to the Child Care and Protection
Policy



7 15 076 3459 6146



ST. ANDREW'S
SCOTS KIRK
UNITED CHURCH

Under the Distinguished Patronage of the
Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte
Presents

MUSICAL OASIS

43 A DUKE STREET, KINGSTON
SUNDAY, DEC 3, 2023
STARTING @ 4:00 PM

FEATURING:

**Kevin
Downswell**

Dwight Richards

Roy Rayon

Backed by:

**DESI JONES
BAND**

OTHER PERFORMANCES BY:

- Raheem Vassell
- Calvin (Bubbles) Cameron
- Everton Pessoa
- Ozou'ne Sundalyah
- Amelia Afflick
- Samantha Thompson

MC: OWEN "BLAKAA ELLIS



CONTRIBUTION
\$3,000

TICKET OUTLET:
Fontana, Barbican

For more information
telephone: 876-922-1818

PAH! DEAF DANCE COMPANY
Invites you to our fundraiser



Deaf Innate MOTION

SAT. DECEMBER 9 2023

**Margaret Gartshore Hall
(St. Andrew High School for Girls)**

Showtime: 6pm

Contribution: \$3,000

Tickets Available online at:

**[https://cari-flo.com/events/
deafinnate-motion](https://cari-flo.com/events/deafinnate-motion)**

**SPONSORED
BY:**



Cari-flo
stream · watch · go



For more info contact PAH!: pahdeafdanceco@gmail.com | Tel: 876-909-2533



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 ♦ 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

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Southern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Janet McConnell

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry