



UCJCI UPDATE

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

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY INITIATIVE LAUNCHED AT ST. PAUL'S MAVERLEY. (READ ABOUT IT ON P.6)

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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.

PLANT YOUR FOOD

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FOOD AVAILABILITY, ACCESS AND USE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMATIC THE WORLD OVER. JAMAICANS ARE ABLE TO TELL THEIR OWN STORIES OF STRUGGLE WITH BOTH BEING ABLE TO ACQUIRE FOOD FOR HEALTH AND SUSTENANCE AND PRODUCING FOOD FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVELIHOOD. THE UNITED CHURCH IS MOVING FORWARD WITH EFFORTS AT ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY. IN UPDATE THIS WEEK, WE READ OF THE WORK ALREADY DONE AND THE WORK SLATED FOR COMPLETION. HOWEVER, OUR EFFORTS AT FOOD SECURITY WILL NOT BEAR FRUIT (PUN INTENDED) UNLESS EACH ONE OF US GETS INVOLVED. WHETHER IT BE AN ACRE OF LAND, A SMALL SPACE IN THE BACKYARD OR A PAINT PAN ON A BALCONY...PLEASE PLANT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE EATEN. LET'S REDUCE OUR GROCERY BILL AND IMPROVE OUR HEALTH.

DID YOU KNOW?

UCJCI's radio programme
United in Faith
is available on Spotify?
Follow our podcasts and
share with others.

THE POST-SYNOD 'TO DO' LIST

FOOD SECURITY

WHAT WAS THE SYNOD MANDATE?

- Assist the congregations and wider community to develop ways and means of producing or securing food for themselves in difficult times.
- Maximise Synod land resources to advance food security.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

- **A Synodical Food Security Task force** has been formed, a sub-committee of Property Synodical Committee. The task force is represented by all regions and is chaired by Rev. Nigel Pusey.
- **Videos** were shared with the wider membership at Day of Fellowship gatherings in 2023 aimed at assisting persons to set up their own farming spaces to grow small cash crops such as tomatoes, callaloo and potatoes.
- **A Virtual Backyard Gardening Seminar** was held following electronic invitations to a Zoom meeting, resourced by RADA. 50 persons attended. For those who missed it, the recording will be available through regions.

Synod 2021 gave birth to a focus on Food Security for our nations. According to the 1996 World Food Summit, food security is defined as “...when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”.



Photo contributed by Karen Francis

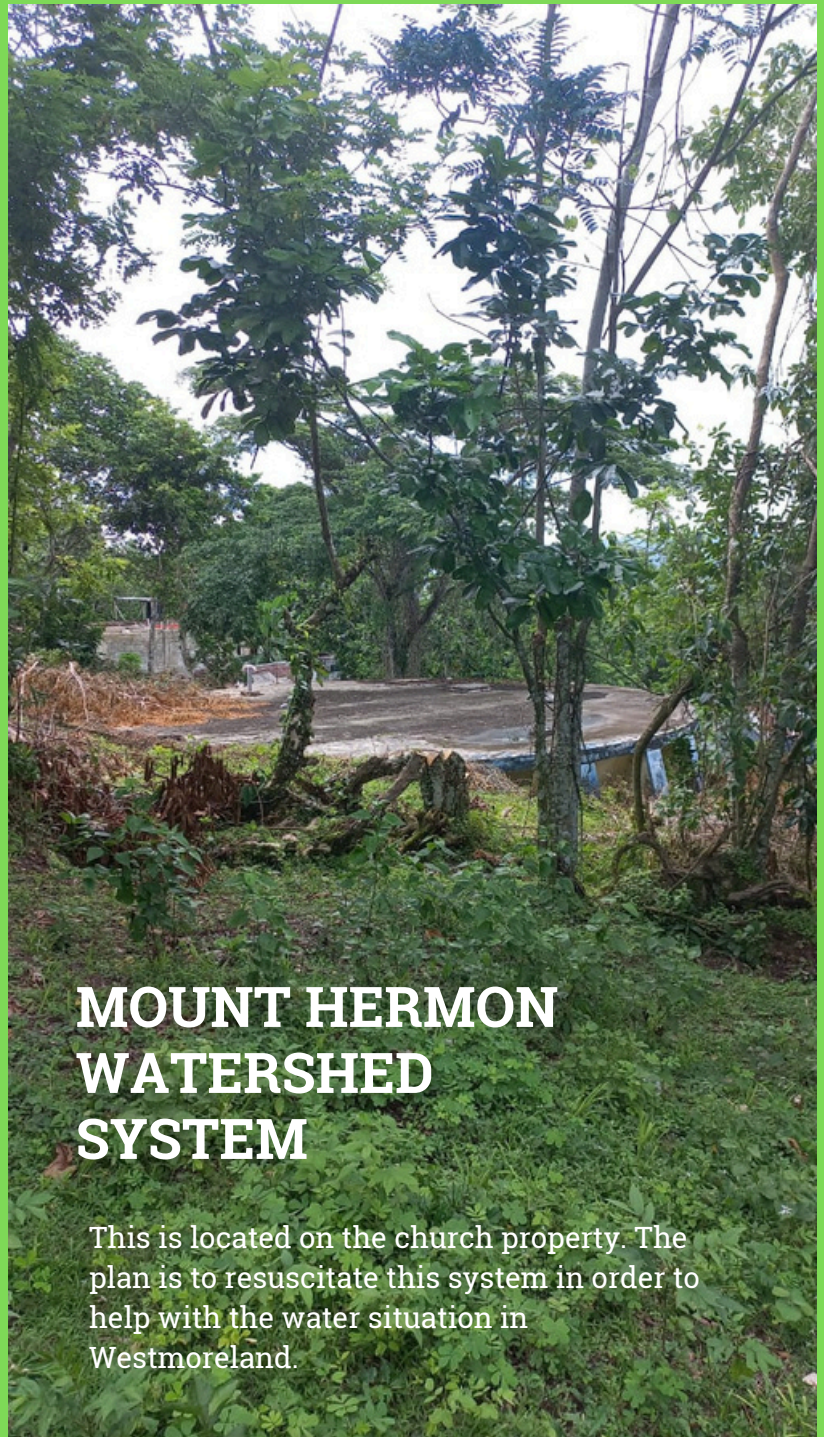
GROW YOUR FOOD



Photo contributed by Karen Francis

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

- **Four properties have been identified** which the Synod will make available for permanent crops to earn and to facilitate community earning. These properties are at Mount Hermon, Mt. Horeb, Castleton and Providence.
- **Links have been formed with the National Irrigation Scheme**, a division of the Ministry of Agriculture in Jamaica to explore ways farmers would be able to put in place adequate irrigation for their crops.
- **Explore community development of springs – utilizing a model from Mount Industry and Castleton.** This is aimed at teaching communities to effectively access and utilise water during periods of drought
- **Seminars on Backyard Gardening** planned and hosted by Boulevard and Greendale United Churches. The information will be shared with the wider church.
- **A link formed with RADA** to work with UCJCI on developing larger properties for production.



**MOUNT HERMON
WATERSHED
SYSTEM**

This is located on the church property. The plan is to resuscitate this system in order to help with the water situation in Westmoreland.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

- **A link with 4H is being explored in order to engage the children in our churches and communities and to encourage urban farming.**

NEWS FROM CIRMC

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE AND DINNER - WEBSTER MEMORIAL 170TH ANNIVERSARY



The month-long 170th Anniversary Celebrations of the Webster Memorial United Church, Bodden Town, ended on Sunday, May 26, 2024, with a Closing Worship Service and Dinner at the Church Hall.

The Sanctuary was filled with church members and visitors from across the Island who gathered to celebrate and hear the message of the Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of the UCJCI.



MODERATOR OF THE UCJCI SYNOD, RT. REV. GARY HARRIOTT



In his sermon, the Moderator reflected on the development of Cayman over 170 years. He highlighted its transformation into a modern, sophisticated, multicultural society with new social challenges and challenged the celebrating congregation to consider the nature of its mission in this new context.

Drawing parallels with the prophet Jeremiah, whom God called during a time of crisis, Rev. Harriott emphasized the importance of being attuned to God's voice and mission. The prophets warned against excuses and stressed the need for spiritual readiness and obedience to God's call, even when the tasks seemed daunting. God's people must clear away old habits and attitudes hindering transformation and growth. By surrendering to God's guidance, our congregations can become channels of God's blessings wherever they are.

A FELLOWSHIP DINNER AFTER
THE SERVICE.



During the service, the Moderator and Rev. Euthman Wray, Minister of the Savannah–Bodden Town Charge, unveiled a Memorial Scroll listing the names of the stalwart members who gave themselves to the service of God’s Kingdom and paved the way for the Church of today. The Moderator prayed that the names of those on the Scroll may inspire the members of the Congregation to avail themselves to serve faithfully and be remembered by future generations as such.



THANK YOU MS. FRANCINE GARDNER



The President of the Cayman Women’s Fellowship Council, Mrs. Jacynthia Anderson, and Ms. Kareen Watler, Elder, paid tribute to Mrs. Francine Gardner for her decades of tireless service to the Women’s Fellowship and the Webster Memorial United Church, Bodden Town.

“The Cayman Council Women’s Fellowship members extend a heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Francine Gardner for her incredible service. As our motto says, ‘By Love Serve,’ and Ms. Francine has truly embodied that spirit throughout her time with us.”

From the WMUC, Bodden Town

“We are forever grateful for her unwavering commitment and selfless service in the various ministries of this church. She gave countless hours of labor in faithful service to God, this church, and our community, and we know they were a blessing to many people. She has earned “Well done, good and faithful servant” from her Master. May God continue to bless her and her family.”

A WORD FROM THE CHILDREN OF THE GUN BAY UNITED CHURCH ON THE THEME: REIGNITED BY THE SPIRIT

“People can be spiritually dead and regain that spiritual passion again. Being reignited by the Spirit means renewing our faith and deepening our connection with God. It is like kindling a fire within us, empowering us to live boldly, love others, and reflect on Christ’s love. This renewal guides us through challenges, filling our lives with purpose and passion”.

NEWS FROM NERMC

ST. PAUL'S MAVERLEY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONNECTS CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

- CONTRIBUTED BY ELDER CHARMAINE BROOKS

'NUFF LOVE, PURE LOVE, GOD'S LOVE'

St. Paul's United Church Maverley launched our children's ministry 'God's Heritage' on 25th May 2024. This launch was a part of our 70th Anniversary celebration, with official Service planned for 25th August 2024.

God's Heritage is an evangelism thrust geared towards building a deep connection between the church and the community, fostering a sense of trust and unity and sharing the Love of Christ. "Nuff Love, Pure Love God's Love: is the motto of the volunteers.

We aim to reach the next generation which will shape the future and our shared community, and also to build relationships with their families, eventually winning souls for the kingdom of God.

On the 4th Saturday of each month, we will serve our children by sharing the gospel in practical ways. Members and friends have volunteered to comb hair for the girls and trim the hair of the boys. Other services offered include pedicure, reading and recreation corner and a clothes booth. The children will be exposed to presenters who will impart life lessons to them.

On the day of the launch, Dr Caithlin Williams Beecher, Endodontist, shared dental tips with the children. God's Heritage motto is "I am taught of the Lord, great is my peace" Isaiah 54 v13.



DENTAL TIPS FROM DR. CAITHLIN WILLIAMS BEECHER



PERSONAL CARE FOR THE CHILDREN



CONT'D ON P. 7

CEDAR VALLEY MISSION CONTINUES

LABOUR DAY WORK ON THE CHURCH BUILDING

Members of the community of Cedar Valley in partnership with other members in NERMC focussed their labour on cleaning the Cedar Valley United Church.

BEFORE



DURING



AND AFTER



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We celebrate with our Ministers and Synod Staff



**Rev. Dr. Margaret Downer
Messias**
JUNE 5



Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte
JUNE 6



Rev. Dr. Jane Dodman
JUNE 8

Let us Pray Together

WE PRAY FOR

- The exercise of ministry in Jamaica and Cayman in the face of significant obstacles and challenges at various levels.
- Rev. Delroy Harris whose sister Rema Fisher has died.
- Staff of the Synod Administrative Centre who have lost relatives.
 - Ms. Joy Williams whose aunt, Alice Kemble died
 - Ms Derrica Ellis whose uncle, Knute Davis, has died
- Mrs. Debesha Grant Roberts whose brother, Vinroy Grant died.
- Our young people who are undergoing exams.
- The on-going political turmoil between Israel and Palestine and in particular unrest and instability in Haiti which has led to loss of life and denial of justice.
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing challenges
 - Dr. Norma Smellie
 - Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans
 - Rev. Roy Dodman
 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
 - Rev. Karleen Thomas Barnes



*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.
Psalm 34: 18*

WORSHIP THEMES FOR HOME AND OUR CONGREGATIONAL GATHERINGS

LET US WORSHIP

Re-Ignited to Deepened Faith when we Cry out to God:

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Samuel's sons forsook the faith of their father. The elders called for a king, symbolizing the end of the era of the prophets. God viewed the request as a lack of faith in God's authority. What are the things that could indicate lack of faith in God's authority today? How may we as believers ensure that God remains at the forefront of our practices? [Note the difference in attitude between the Israelites in Samuel's day, and Adam's passing the buck].

Consider that if the light had dimmed in the temple when the leadership of Eli was in tatters, the rejection of Samuel and other prophets would have almost put it out! However, while the end of the era did not necessarily mean an end to God's presence and support, the way in which God would interact with the people shifted.

Look at the things which seem to push God out of your country and community. Shift gears to the Psalm and Corinthians passages. In both texts, reliance on God's Spirit is crucial for spiritual renewal and growth. How might this be kindled in the congregation? Use some of the sermon time/service for an intentional season of prayer for the church and nation.

**Theme for the
Quarter
ROOTED AND
RESILIENT: RE-IGNITED
BY THE POWER OF THE
RESURRECTION AND BY
GOD'S SPIRIT**

SUGGESTED READINGS

1 Sam 8:4-11, 16-20

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Take My Life and Let It Be
I'm Available to You

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 ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com for promotion in UCJCI Update.

**COMING
SOON**



REGISTER NOW

**Street/ School/
Prayer Pastors Training**

**NEXT COURSE RUNS
JUNE 1 - JULY 6, 2024**



WHATSAPP: A
876-909-0470

Join Today!



E-MAIL:
STREETPASTORSJA@GMAIL.COM

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



TRAINING OF LAY LEADERS MODULE 1

Training continues
Saturday
June 8, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Persons may join the
training for this single
topic at a cost of \$1.500.
Register with your
region.

Topic:
**PLANNING
AND LEADING
WORSHIP**

Resource Person:
Mrs. Karen Francis

For more information:
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SALTSPRING PEACE INITIATIVE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
SALTSPRING UNITED CHURCH
PRESENTS

A FREE

Gospel Explosion

ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS

SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH 2024

STARTING AT 4 PM

MC: PASTOR KEVIN BOWEN

FEATURING



DJ CHINNY



MIN YVONNE COHEN



SIS DONNA

AND OTHERS

"LORD, HEAL SALTSPRING"



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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(Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian)

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MODERATOR

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

GENERAL SECRETARY

Rev. Norbert Stephens

REGIONAL DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARIES

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Norbert Stephens (Acting)

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Southern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Janet McConnell

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry