



CAYMAN ISLANDS
REGIONAL MISSION
COUNCIL

WEEKLY
UPDATE!

February 8, 2018

“On Ash Wednesday we must keep in mind these events which took place for our salvation. It was but the beginning of a drama that would change the whole world.”

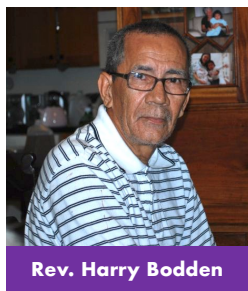
- Rev. Harry Bodden

ASH WEDNESDAY IS 38 DAYS BEFORE GOOD FRIDAY AND 40 DAYS BEFORE EASTER SUNDAY

IN THIS ISSUE

Ash Wednesday - First Day of Lent

Reflection by: Rev. Harry Bodden | February 8, 2018



Rev. Harry Bodden

Lent is a season of time set aside by the church to help us prepare to receive the message of the crucifixion and resurrection of God’s only son Jesus, our Lord. In Lent we commemorate the forty (40) day period that our Lord spent in the wilderness when He was tempted by the devil. (Matt. 4:1) Be it known, this was a time when Jesus had to face the decisive question in regards to His future ministry. **Ash Wednesday is 38 days before Good Friday and 40 days before Easter Sunday, that is, not counting the six Sundays in that period of time. It is one of the most sacred days on the Christian calendar marking a time that calls for penitential prayer and fasting.** In St. Matthew 4 we read that Jesus left the banks of the river Jordan where He had been baptized and identified

as the beloved son of God, and He was immediately led up into the wilderness by the spirit to be tempted by the devil. It was at this time that Jesus wrestled with the satanic forces and prepared to face the other devious forces that awaited Him in ministry. It was an important time and He had to make very serious decisions so he needed to be alone.

The hymn writer wrote, “love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine”; and here we see the story of love further unfolding itself. Out there in the wilderness of desert, dust heaps, lime stone and rocks, Jesus spent 40 days and 40 nights alone! Yet with God the heavenly father, He faced the devil who wanted Him to doubt his “son-ship” and so overturn His plan to redeem lost mankind: “if you are the Son of God.....”, was the first temptation. Doesn’t Satan try to get at us like that today? By questioning our identity? Who are you? What do you think about yourself anyhow? It is good for us to remember that Jesus did not let the devil overturn His plan for our salvation. That’s why we can be here and that’s why we have a mission to our brothers and sisters. We should not make anyone or anything the world offers us change our minds in following God’s plan for our lives. “Ah who yu fa?”

On Ash Wednesday we must keep in mind these events which took place for our salvation. It was but the beginning of a drama that would change the whole world. All of us have to answer questions about our own directions in life and we must take time to be alone. There are some questions that only the individual person can answer for him or herself. What direction or what road are we travelling as we make our way through life’s journey? This is where our prayer and fasting must come alive. We are living in a world that presents us with many things which look like they are good for us - stones that look like bread and goodies which seem ever so lovely and attractive. We have to know how to make our choices and it is only when our lives are in the hands of God, that we can discern rightly the directions we should take. Then we can affirm with Jesus, “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” The words of Jesus Himself as He



ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION

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VOICES OF THE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

What does it mean to serve on the Council Executive? Here from the voices of the persons who accepted the call to serve.



THE CALL TO SERVE

The first Leadership Development Workshop begins **THIS SATURDAY** from 9:00am - 12:00pm at the Council Office. Come and discuss the spiritual disciplines and what it means to take your Christian walk to the next step.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 10
Leadership Development #1 – Council Office at 9:00am – 12:00pm

February 14
Ash Wednesday Gathering – Savannah United Church at 7:30am/Youth Gathering at 10:00am

February 16 - 17
Girls' Brigade Overnight Camp – Prospect Youth Centre

February 17
Webster Memorial Women's Fellowship Tea Time

February 19 - 21
Synodical Standing Committee Meetings – Synod Administrative Centre, Jamaica

February 22 - 23
Moderator's Ministers Retreat

Click [here](#) to view the full CIRMC Calendar

Look Ya Nah!



Have you checked out Bethesda's Facebook page?

Click here to see more.

<https://www.facebook.com/BethesdaCounsellingky/>

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THEME: Knowing The Word

February 11 - Lay Pastor, Thomas Mason (Theme: The Word as Food for Daily Life) *Transfiguration Sunday*

February 18 - Lay Pastor, Herbert Crawford (Theme: The Importance of Lent - Power of the Word)

Ash Wednesday - First Day of Lent contd.



quoted scripture from Deuteronomy 8:4. Jesus knew the scripture He had learnt in His upbringing. He knew the story of Moses reminding rebellious Israel of how God had allowed them to go through some difficulties including that of suffering hunger. This was so that they could be taught that man cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Jesus had His scripture ready for use. Satan must be overturned and the love of God which is greater than all that the world offers, will bring us the peace which can heal and mend our broken world.

Ash Wednesday got its name from ashes. The ash from the palms which were used in worship service in the previous year, was used as a visible sign of penance. It was placed in the shape of a cross on the worshippers' foreheads who were also reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Some worshippers would wear the ash cross all day and some would spend the rest of the day in quiet meditation, not going anywhere- like agricultural shows and shopping. Whatever your plans are for Ash Wednesday, make it a day when you consider the direction you have taken in life's journey. Whatever your struggles might be on the way, be assured, God in Christ will continue to lead you through it all. Give a helping hand to another brother or sister whose struggle might be greater than yours.

Voices of the Council Executive

What does it mean to serve on the Council Executive?



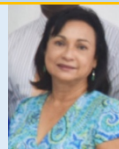
Ms. Angela Martins - Chair of Council

"It is a privilege to join with voices from other congregations across the CIRMC enabling support for contextual ministry to be carried out in our congregations, while also maintaining our ethos and polity which makes us uniquely UCJCI. I give God thanks for this opportunity to serve in his church at the time." **Bible Verse of Inspiration: Jeremiah 29:11** "For I know the plans I have for you, - plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Rev. Euthman Wray (Robert Young/Savannah Charge)
Vice Chair of Nurture & Capacity Building (Children & Youth)

"To serve on the Council Executive, is a response to further respond to Christ's call to be partakers in His Ministry in "the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ", i.e. disciple-makers. It is to respond to Jesus' directive - Feed (Shepherd) my sheep/lambs. (St. John 21:17) (Ephesians 4:12)



Ms. Theresa Bodden (South Sound United Church)
Vice Chair of Schools, Institutions, and Advocacy

"It is a privilege and a great responsibility to serve our Church on its Council Executive. We pray to God for guidance and wisdom in carrying out His work." **Bible Verse of Inspiration: Proverbs 3:5-6** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."



Lay Pastor, Ormond Williams (John Gray Memorial United Church)
Vice Chair of Congregational, Transformation and Growth (Church in Ministry)

"There is much to do in and for the Kingdom of God and a sense of urgency to do so. We need as many hands, minds, and lives engaged in God's work so that inviting people into a personal relationship with God, for His glory, is accomplished. I am grateful for the opportunities God presents to serve Him and to serve His people. As I surrender to His will, He uses me as He sees fit to accomplish His objectives in His world. It's all about us making ourselves available to God and our leaving Him to work through us." **Bible Verse of Inspiration: Isaiah 6:8** "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"



Rev. Alice Blair (East End/Gun Bay Charge)
Vice Chair of Mission, Evangelism, and Public Witness

"I wanted to decline when I was asked to serve; but a voice within said "If not you, who?" so, I humbly submitted to the will of God, undergirded by Zechariah 4:6 - "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord.""



Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield - RDGS

Vision for Council: A vibrant and growing Council -united and led by the Holy Spirit as we meet the needs of the persons in the Congregations and the community. That we honed our prophetic theological voice and challenge the society to live with integrity and justice and with respect for all including creation. **Bible Verse of Inspiration: Psalm 27:4** "One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple."

Other Members of the Council Executive are: Rev. Rohan Forrester (BT/NS Charge) - Vice Chair of Discipleship and Fellowship - Adult and Family Ministry), Ms. Sharon Thomas (Savannah) - Council Treasurer, Dr. Elizabeth McLaughlin (Elmslie) - Member at Large, Mr. Christopher Allen (William Pouchie) - Member at Large

SAVE THE DATE!

COUNCIL EVENTS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING #1

THIS SATURDAY!

The Call to Serve

February 10, 2018 from 9:00am - 12:00pm



ASH WEDNESDAY GATHERING

February 14, 2018 at 7:30am
Savannah United Church

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING #2

Word in Life/Worship

February 17, 2018 from 9:00am - 12:00pm

SPORTS DAY 2018

March 10, 2018
Truman Bodden Sports Complex

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council - UCJCI
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOPS 2018



WORKSHOPS ARE FOR ELDERS, YOUTH DIRECTORS AND THOSE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE UNITED CHURCH

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| 1 THE CALL TO SERVE
February 10, 2018 (9:00am - 12:00pm) | 2 THE WORD IN LIFE/WORSHIP
February 17, 2018 (9:00am - 12:00pm) |
| 3 UCJCI HISTORY/ETHOS
March 3, 2018 (9:00am - 12:00pm) | 4 THE ELDER - ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES
March 24, 2018 (9:00am - 12:00pm) |
| 5 THE SACRAMENTS
April 14, 2018 (9:00am - 12:00pm) | 6 WORSHIP
May 12, 2018 (9:00am - 12:00pm) |
| 7 MISSION/EVANGELISM SYMPOSIUM
June 2, 2018 (9:00am - 12:00pm) | 8 STEWARDSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP
June 9, 2018 (9:00am - 12:00pm) |

June 10, 2018

Leadership Development Training & Service of Dedication
at Elmslie Memorial, 5:30pm

LD Workshops 1-8 Will be held at the Council Office

NEXT WEEK WEDNESDAY!

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council



Ash Wednesday Gathering

February 14, 2018



Theme: **The Sacrifice of LOVE**
Making Disciples of Peace

Quiet Meditation: 7:30am | Worship Service: 8:00am

Youth Gathering: 10:00am

Location: Savannah United Church

ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO ATTEND!!

HAPPENING NEXT MONTH!!

Get Your Runners Ready!

SPORTS Day 2018

MARCH 10, 2018

TRUMAN BODDEN SPORTS COMPLEX

