

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

# THE FAMILY NEWS

Elmslie Memorial Charge

Volume 203, April 2022

*Built on Jesus Christ the sure foundation*

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## Service Times:

Sundays  
Elmslie Memorial United  
10:30am  
Prayer Service last Sunday of each  
month 6:30pm

Robert Young United  
583 Crewe Road  
8:45am



## From the Pastor's Desk

The temptations of Jesus take us on a spiritual journey into the wilderness and end on a Friday in Jerusalem where the old, rugged cross is standing on a hillside. During this time, we have an opportunity to recall the details of that treacherous journey. Satan tried to trip him up at every turn yet Jesus experienced protection for the journey by choosing good over evil.

Lent - what does it mean? What does it mean for you personally?

It can mean a variety of things. It is meant to be a time of reflection and self-examination as well as a time for inner healing. We can look back to the times we have fallen into the snares and traps that Satan set for us along the way. We can examine our attitudes, our ways of responding, and root out such things as unforgiveness and bitterness. The Lenten season is a time to allow the spotlight of the Holy Spirit to bring to the surface those areas that have brought failure and disappointment. It is a time of hope for us, as well. No matter how far we have strayed away from His plan for us, God is there to lead us back to safety. His protection for our spiritual journey is there for us each day.

We know that living the Christian life is far from easy. There are many stumbling blocks and potholes along the way. The decisions life asks of us too often overwhelm us. We often have to choose between almost equal choices, not being sure which would be the better of the two.

During the period of temptation, Jesus made divine choices. He said...

**1. No to self-reliance and yes to faith.** Jesus is weak and hungry from fasting. Just at the point when his stomach is growling from hunger, food is what he needs most, Satan arrives with the words, "If you are the Son of God, turn this stone into bread. You cannot minister and meet people's needs if you are weak from hunger. Take the easy way and feed yourself first. Don't wait for God to fulfill His promises. You've got to take care of yourself. Go ahead, take the shortcut, take the easy way. What will it hurt?"

Jesus answers from Deut. 8:3, telling Satan, "Feeding on God's word to satisfy a spiritual hunger is more important than my physical needs."

When we are confronted by the temptation to put ourselves first, we must realize that we are dependent on God's word and will. Woodrow Wilson is quoted as saying, "No one has ever risen to the real stature of spiritual adulthood until they have found that it is finer to serve somebody else than it is to serve themselves."

**2. No to self-glory and yes to hope.** Jesus has spent 40 days fasting and praying for God to direct him and his ministry. Satan then says, "Look at what you can have if you just do things my way. God's way will take too long and cost you too much. My way will be much easier. Take this shortcut to having the world at your feet. You'll accomplish the same thing, only faster. The end justifies the means. Don't work for it; let me give it to you. Don't set your standards so high. Strike a bargain with me and people will follow you."

Jesus answers from Deut. 6:13 "Worship the Lord your God and worship only Him." There is no compromise possible. Either you follow God's plan and teachings fully, or you don't. You can't be a part-time Christian.

**3. No to self-preservation and yes to love.** In his wilderness experience, God has promised Jesus that even in the difficult, trying places in his future, he will be there to protect and sustain Jesus.

Jesus answers Satan with Deut. 6:16. Demanding miraculous protection as proof of God's love and care is wrong. Our attitude toward God is to be one of trust and obedience. We cannot treat God as though he is our dog and we snap our fingers and whistle and God will roll over, bark and wag his tail because He's

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*Mission Statement: The George Town Charge exists to love God, love others and make disciples.*



## Au Revoir, SSUC

February was **Rev. Chris's** final month as minister of the South Sound United Church and it proved to be a very busy time for him. There was a baby blessing, a person received into membership, presentations of gifts and awards, and a farewell dinner - a show of gratitude and appreciation for his time spent with us. Thanks to **Sheila Johnson**, it was a very well organised and enjoyable evening at the Grand Old House. Those who attended were Rev. Chris and his wife, **Ann Marie**, his sister-in-law who was visiting Cayman, the RDGS **Rev. Yvette** and her husband, **Denver**, Sunday school and Bible study leaders as well as the board members.

This submission from the SSUC for the Family News is the last one. We have all looked forward to receiving this monthly 'newsletter/bulletin', whether on-line or as a hard copy at the church. It was always good to see what was happening in our sister church, Elmslie, as well as to have our own church events - especially the children's functions - shared with the church community. I can safely speak for others by saying that we will miss being a part of this.

It could not be an easy task to produce such a fine, high quality bulletin every month. I'm sure that just getting the articles and photographs on time from those who are to submit them must be very time-consuming and frustrating, not to mention demanding of much patience. However, there is no doubt that our two dedicated journalists/photographers/roving reporters/editors do what they do with much love and dedication. They have been doing this job of producing the Family News for many years and have set a fine example for whoever may want to carry it on whenever they stop. Thanks so very much, **Terri and Mike**, for all that you do to keep the Family News alive and interesting.

Blessings from everyone here at SSUC! (See photos on Pg. 4.)

### Jennifer Smith

**Editor's note:** Our special thanks to Jennifer who has been our primary SSUC link over the years. She has always responded to our monthly requests for "news from SSUC" faithfully and in a timely manner.

## News from Joan Page Bain

While Joan is officially retired, she still lives and ministers in her beloved Haiti where she continues to live with her husband **Allemand**.

She has recently returned from her bi-annual visit to Mandeville, Jamaica. During these trips, she has her regular medical check-ups and deals with other business. Her daughter **Jirene**, having completed college, was employed for a few months as a teacher at Knox College, filling in for someone who was away. Joan is concerned that Jirene gets a permanent job, and asks for prayer for this.

Joan continues to be concerned for the needs of Haiti following the recent disasters that so adversely affected the country. Further, crime has increased, with violent, armed gangs ambushing buses and cars at will. She indicated that a bus trip to Port-au-Prince from Les Cayes has doubled in price as known gangs await the buses halfway along the route and demand payment before they will allow it to continue - and sometimes they take everything.

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## Letter from the Borthwicks

Greetings Elmslie friends.

It's been too long since you've heard from us so we wanted to write and catch you up with our lives and ministry. Before launching into a little report, we first wanted to say a gigantic THANK YOU for your financial support of our ministry through Development Associates International ([www.daintl.org](http://www.daintl.org)). Many ministries have struggled through these past two years of COVID, so your faithful support is greatly appreciated.

**PERSONAL UPDATE:** The biggest item in our personal lives has been a household accident involving **Christie** back in October. In short, while **Paul** was in meetings in Colorado Springs, Christie tripped and fell on our basement (cement) floor and experienced a "trochanteric fracture" (the top of the femur). Surgery followed and then eight days in the hospital, twelve days in the rehabilitation hospital, and weeks on a walker, then a cane and multiple physical therapy appointments.

Recovery continues but it's been a long process. Christie writes: "I still have some level of pain and muscle spasms every day - so your ongoing prayers are appreciated. But I thank God for excellent progress!"

**MINISTRY UPDATE:** Ministry in 2022 has started like much of 2020 and all of 2021 - virtual ministry by Zoom. January and February has included everything from Paul speaking for the first time ever at a Zoom funeral to USA Zoom meetings, to teaching at various seminars, to virtual teaching and ministry to places like Sri Lanka, Singapore, China, India, Costa Rica and one hosted in Nigeria that was linked to over twenty countries of Africa.

**TRAVEL MINISTRY RESUMES** in March. our DAI face-to-face ministry resumed in early March - almost exactly 2 years since Paul returned from teaching in India on March 9, 2020. As travel resumes, please pray for wisdom, excellent ability to communicate, patience in dealing with all of the travel details re: COVID, and of course, good health! Here's what's on the schedule now through September. The following engagements took place in March:

- March 3-13 (Kampala and Mukono, UGANDA): DAI teaching the Culture, Ethnicity & Diversity course in the Masters of Arts in Organizational Leadership (MAOL) at Uganda Christian University; 21 students from across Uganda and from South Sudan.
- March 26-29 (Knoxville, TN): Paul speaking at the Mission Conference of Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church

Coming up in the months ahead:

- April 2-10 (San Jose, COSTA RICA): joining in ministry with our DAI Ministry Centre Director **Arthur Denyer** to offer training for pastors and ministry leaders in fund-raising.
- July 29-August 7 (Dakar, SENEGAL): joining in ministry with our DAI Francophone Africa Director **Kailu Kelly Kumbu** to offer training for pastors and ministry leaders in fund-raising and possibly the themes of the Culture, Ethnicity and Diversity course.

Once again Elmslie friends, we thank God for you, your encouragement, prayers, and partnership in this ministry.

**Paul and Christie Borthwick**



# 100th Anniversary Celebrations

On 19th March, our first event of the year - an old-fashioned Caymanian Fish Fry - was held at Elmslie Church. Many thanks to the organisers - especially **Evelyn Rockett**, (head of fundraising) and her team, as well as **Brian Barnes** and his team from the Lions' Club of Grand Cayman - who made this event such great success.

Following an Easter Sunday Musical on 17th April, our next event will be one you don't want to miss - **Jazz Under the Stars** which is now set to be held 20th May 2022. Watch this space and social media for more information.

Please send any old photos you may have of Elmslie congregants who have gone before us and any you may have of the church in olden days to [terri.merren@gmail.com](mailto:terri.merren@gmail.com). Please also submit names of any family members who were at any time an Elder of the church (see more pictures of the Fish Fry on pages 5 and 6).



## Quotable Quotes on Easter

"The appalling death of Christ on the cross was the will and work of God the Father, even though it was an act of evil of which He did not approve. It was part of God's plan. God did not merely foresee; God purposed the cross." (Anon)

"God made the cross, the very instrument of what the authorities calculated would be a shameful defeat, into the sign of God's victory... The ugly crucifixion, the most hideous symbol of death and shame ever devised, was converted at the resurrection into the holiest of holy symbols." (Chuck Colson)

"It was our sin, not the nails, that held Jesus to the cross." (Anon)

"The cross does not make me realise how I feel about my sin but how God feels about it." (Anon)

"Tis the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us: took the blame, bore the wrath - we stand forgiven at the cross." (Keith Getty and Stuart Townend)  
Regarding the resurrection as a hoax does not evoke hallelujahs, not does body-snatching produce changed lives... The church of Jesus Christ is not a monument to a dead man; it is an argument for a living Lord." (Selwyn Hughes)

"We must not look at the cross as defeat and the resurrection as victory. The cross was the victory won, and the resurrection the victory endorsed, proclaimed and demonstrated." (Selwyn Hughes)

## News from Joan (Cont'd. from Pg. 2)

Apparently, the police are not able to do anything! As a result, Allemand is not able to travel that way to the city, and the only other way, by the small mission plane, is unaffordable. He continues as principal of a school in the hills but has long reached retirement age. He also wants to spend more time helping the churches. However, the Government seems unable to pay him the pension funds owed him.

Joan meantime helps with women's and children's groups in various churches and still assists with the clinic at Guichard.

Please pray for Joan and her family during these difficult days.



**Cayman Keswick**  
2022  
*All One In Christ*

All meeting Sunday evenings: 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Feb 6 @ Cayman Islands Baptist Church  
Mar 6 @ First Baptist Church  
**Apr 3 @ First Baptist Church**  
May 1 @ Cayman Islands Baptist Church  
Jun 5 @ Church of God Chapel GT



**Sunday 3rd April**  
6pm  
First Baptist Church  
SPEAKER:  
**Pastor Winston Rose**

[www.facebook.com/caymankeswick](https://www.facebook.com/caymankeswick)

## Pastor's Desk (Cont'd from Pg. 1)

glad to see us. We cannot force God to act on our behalf. Nor can we blame God when suffering occurs. We are to follow God's leading and answer God's call.

Temptation is a universal human experience. The call of Christ Jesus is not to adhere to a list of rules and regulations. Rather, in our temptations we are expected to be faithful to the call and purposes of God.

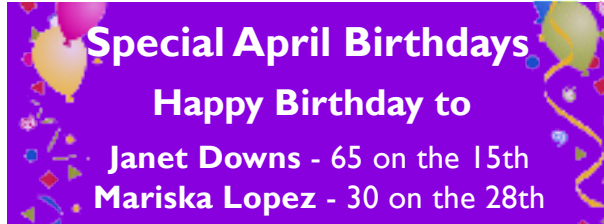
## Condolences

To **Austin (Junior) Ferguson** whose mother, **Nalma Ferguson** of Spanish Town, Jamaica, passed away on 23rd February. She had been bedridden following a stroke suffered just over a year ago.

To **David Boddin, Jr.** whose father, **David Boddin, Sr.** died unexpectedly in early March. Our sympathies also go out to David Jr's wife, **Linda**.

To **Shirlene Zelaya** and her family on the passing of her sister, **Lana** on Friday, 4th March. Lana had been unwell from childhood and Shirlene had for many years been her caregiver.

Also to the family of **Eva Jacques** following her sudden and tragic passing on Wednesday, March 9th. Pray especially for her husband **Miguel**, and their twins, **Gail** and **Andrew**. Eva was a member at SSUC.



**Special April Birthdays**  
**Happy Birthday to**  
**Janet Downs - 65 on the 15th**  
**Mariska Lopez - 30 on the 28th**



# South Sound Church Happenings



**Michelle Richie** being received into membership at SSUC.



Blessing of **Michael Heaney**, son of **Meagan & Gavin** and brother of **Madeline**



Youth Minister, **Roy McGregor**, receives his gift from Sunday School teacher, **Nadine Gray**



A gift of a painting on canvas of the SSUC church being presented to **Rev. Mason** by **Jennifer Smith**



**Sheila Johnson** presented **Diana Bodden** with a gift in appreciation of her administrative support over the years.



**Sofia Tobutt** on Dress Down Day in her traditional Caymanian dress. Sofia regularly attends SSUC and is a student at Savannah Primary School.



**Clive Hinds** receiving an award from **Rev. Rohan Forrester**, Chairman of Council, while **Rev. Mason** and **Rev. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield** (RDGS) look on.



# Anniversary Celebrations Fish Fry





