



THE FAMILY NEWS

George Town Charge

Volume 196, September 2021

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Service Times:

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

South Sound United
44 South Sound Road
9:00am

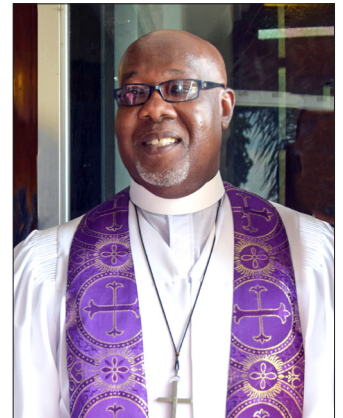
From the Pastor's Desk

"Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events" (Acts 5:11).

Over the past year, multiple crises have caused community-wide fear. A global pandemic has left millions dead and has caused disruption in all areas of life. Racist violence and oppression have gone unchecked and unresolved, and some protests have ended in destruction and bloodshed. Contested elections in several countries have caused more disruption, violence and suspicion. All these things and more have left people wondering what will come next. As a result, many people are living in fear.

I don't think that the "great fear" that "seized the whole church" in Acts 5 was due only to what happened to Ananias and Sapphira. Most of the people didn't need to be worried about being punished in the same way. They knew that God was powerful, and that truth-telling was important. But what they didn't know was what might happen next, and that was probably what they were afraid of.

When the world shut down from COVID-19 in 2020, we didn't know what would happen next. We didn't know when things would return to normal. We didn't know who would get sick. All that caused fear. But throughout everything, God was and is in control. So, we can remain calm. We can do what we need to do to stay safe. We can follow God's will for our lives and for our communities. And we can trust that no matter what happens, God is still in control.



Profile on Lisa O'Neil

One of the most familiar faces at Elmslie is that of **Lisa O'Neil**, a quiet but involved young lady who will usually be seen sitting in the south wing of the church. Many of her family are members, including her parents **Ronald (Rannie) and Alex** - sometimes known as Catherine. Before that, there was her grandmother, **Maisie**, and her uncle, **Rev. Talmage Ebanks**, among others.

Lisa is the middle of three, her siblings being **Andrea** - the oldest - and **Troy**. She has lived all her life on Grand Cayman, attending Cayman Prep, the former Cayman Islands Middle School followed by the High School before attending the Community College - now UCCI - where she obtained her Certificate in Business Studies.

"I have been working at Cayman National Bank for the past 31 years," she says. "I have held positions as Foreign Exchange Clerk, Junior Supervisor and Senior Supervisor. I am presently an Assistant Manager and have worked in most of the sections within the Bank. I attained an ACAMS certificate which means that I am a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist." Lisa recently received a long service award from the bank.

She has been a part of Elmslie from a very early age, attending Sunday school and other youth activities. "I became a Christian at the age of 15," she says. "Jesus is important to me as each day I can rely on his



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Camps and VBS

As usually happens during the summer months, there were many camps and activities available for the young people of the island. Our church ran the usual two camps at Prospect, with many of the congregations also offering a week of Vacation Bible School. Different from previous years, the Children and Teens' Camps were not residential. However, the young people enjoyed many of the usual activities of former years. Twenty-two children and teens from Elmslie attended, twelve at the Children's Camp the third week of July and ten at the Teens' one the following week.

Of special note, **Gabriella Webb** (pictured far right) was selected as Camp Girl of Children's Camp and **Nathan Boothe** (pictured far left) was awarded the



Spirit of the Camp. **Shackera Pouchie** (pictured centre) was awarded First Runner-up Camp Girl for Teens' Camp.

VBS had as its theme, *Mystery Island...Tracking Down the One True God*, and took place at Elmslie during the first week of August. It was packed out, with an average of 120 attending each night, together with some 50 leaders, teachers and helpers. The congregation was able to get a taste of the week during the final VBS service held on August 8th. (More pictures from the Sunday service, VBS and camps can be seen on Page 4.)

La Soufriere Volcano Relief

Following the volcanic eruption on the island of St. Vincent several months ago, many people reached out with their prayers and donations. At Elmslie, several sent their gifts directly to **Pastor Walford Thompson**. However, Council also organized fundraising, and a little over KY\$6,500 was collected and has been sent to the island. We are grateful to those who have supported the relief work in SVG. Pastor Walford has indicated that he has been overwhelmed by the support he has received, both in cash and in goods - to the tune of about a million EC dollars - including a container filled and sent from a church in Miami of which his son-in-law is the minister. However, he indicated that the larger amount received came from other Caribbean islands rather than the USA! The committee he formed to help meet the needs of those most affected by the volcano is still active as there continues to be many who remain homeless.



Lay Pastor Ormond William (2nd left), representing the Cayman Islands Support Organization for SVG relief, receiving the donation cheque. Members of Council Executive with him are **Rev. Rohan Forrester**, **Rev. Yvette Nobel Bloomfield** and **Rev. Louis Sully**.

Baby News

Congratulations to **Ian and Kristen Charlery** on the birth of their baby boy, **Eli Matthias Charlery**, on 20th July. Eli is the grandson of **Thomas and Pearlina Myles** and brother to big sister, **Mercy**.



Special September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to

- Jordan Forbes** - 30 on the 5th
- Marcos Tinoco** - 55 on the 8th
- Danielle Ramoon** - 30 on the 14th
- Clarise Polack** - 96 on the 16th
- Liz McLaughlin** - 55 on the 19th
- Alvernie Watson** - 96 on the 20th
- Linda Bodden** - 40 on the 26th
- Helen Merren** - 90 on the 27th
- Theoline Wellington** - 93 on the 28th

Overseas Students

As usual at this time of year, we have a number of students graduating from school and some will be heading for colleges and universities overseas. The Family News plans to have a list of those connected with South Sound United and Elmslie who have headed abroad for further studies in the next edition. This will enable our readers to better pray for them.

Rev. Myers Returns to Duty

Many have been praying for many months for **Rev. Donovan Myers** and his family as he has travelled a difficult pathway with health issues. Following extensive treatment, both here and in the USA, Rev. Donovan returned to his administrative duties at the John Gray Memorial United Church in West Bay at the beginning of August and will be back to preaching this coming month. We are grateful to God for his healing touch, and rejoice he is able to resume his ministry. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.



Back to Church Sunday

A recent CIRMC Weekly Update explains the origins of Back to Church Sunday. “Back to Church Sunday, as an evangelistic outreach, originated in the United Kingdom in 2004, focusing on inviting those who had been to church as casual visitors for a wedding, baptism or funeral, or they used to go to Sunday school. In 2009, it was ‘reinvented’ in the USA as a general evangelistic outreach and turned into an international movement. Since then, it has spread worldwide and, with the participation of over 40,000 church across 120 denominations in 90 countries, it reaches millions of people.”

Back to Church Sunday has been held in the United Church here in Cayman since 2012, and this year it will be held on the second Sunday of September. Members of the church are encouraged to identify people whom they might invite, pray for them and then ask them if they would accompany them to church on that Sunday.

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

175th Anniversary

HOPE IS HERE!

Elmslie Memorial (George Town) - 10:30am South Sound United (George Town) - 9:00am

Back to Church **Sunday**
Sept. 12, 2021

Lisa O'Neil (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

promises that he will never leave me nor forsake me. During difficult and good times I can count on him. I have forgiveness and grace through his blood shed for me. He has taught me to love and forgive others. I hold fast to this scripture from Jeremiah 29:11, ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

She is grateful to those who have had a positive, Christian influence on her over the years, including her parents and grandmother, Miss Maisie, her other grandmother, **Barbara Pixley**, as well as **Helen Merren, Zoe Bodden** and **Thomas Myles**.

Lisa is involved in various ministries in the church, including Girls' Brigade, Sunday school and Dance. “Being in these ministries has enabled me to share my faith and experiences with others,” she says.

When asked what she appreciated in being part of Elmslie, she replied, “I value the fellowship within the church, the love for one another and the support the church gives to the community and missionaries overseas.” She admits, however, that she would like longer praise and worship sessions, and more social gatherings for the church.

One of her primary concerns is that parents do not encourage their children to attend church. “I would like to see more parents attending church with their children and getting more involved with church activities. There is a lack of love for God and his church in our Cayman society,” she adds. She would also like to see genuine love and respect for brothers and sisters in the church - and the society as a whole.

When not involved in the life and work of the church, Lisa loves to travel, read, dance and spend time with family and friends.

We are grateful to God for the commitment of those such as Lisa and we pray that God will continue to bless and use her.

Cayman
Keswick
2 0 2 1
‘All One In Christ’



Sunday 5th September
6pm
Cayman Islands Baptist Church

SPEAKER:
Pastor Jason Every

Deaths

Our sincerest condolences to **Amelia Sanchez** on the loss of her aunt, **Nidia Lahera**, who died on 31st July of Covid 19. We understand from Amelia that Nidia left behind two daughters, three grandsons and had a granddaughter on the way. Nidia was like a second mother to Amelia so please keep Amelia in your thoughts and prayers.

Pictures of the Recent Camps and VBS

