

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



FAMILY NEWS

Elmslie Memorial Charge

Volume 215, April 2023

Minister:

Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Music & Worship Minister:

Antonio Sanchez

Youth Minister:

Roy McGregor

Office & Mailing Address:

108B Seafarers Way
George Town
P.O. Box 494
Grand Cayman KYI-1106

Elmslie Website:

www.elmslieunitedchurch.ky

Elmslie E-mail:

elmslie@candw.ky

Office Staff:

Janet Macmillan, Administrator
Diana Bodden, Office Assistant

Office Hours:

Mondays - Fridays
9:00am - 3:00pm
Phone: 345-949-7923

Council Website:

www.unitedchurch.org.ky
Council e-mail cirmc.info@gmail.com

Bethesda Counselling Website:

www.bethesdacounselling.ky

Service Times:

Sundays
Elmslie Memorial United
10:30am

Robert Young United
583 Crewe Road
8:45am

From the Pastor's Desk: Easter Reflection

For many people, Easter is about colourful Easter eggs and Easter bunnies. But there is far more to it. Easter is a 2000 year-old Christian feast with even older Jewish roots, but its meaning is still highly relevant today.

The background story of Easter

During Jesus' life on earth, He faced a lot of opposition, mainly from Jewish religious leaders who didn't acknowledge Him as the Son of God. Indeed, they accused Him of blasphemy and persuaded the Roman officials that Jesus should be crucified. Just before the Jewish feast of Passover, Jesus Christ died on a cross outside the city walls of Jerusalem.



The Gospel of Mark tells us how His body was buried: "And when he [the Roman official Pilate] learned from the centurion that He was dead, he gave permission for the corpse to be given to Joseph of Arimathea. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud and laid Him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid" (Mark 15:45-47).

What happened at Easter?

Mark doesn't end his Gospel here. It goes on in chapter 16:1-7, "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying

Continued on Page 3

DCFS Celebrates 60 Years



On Sunday, 5th March, Cayman delegates, current and past directors, staff and social workers of the Department of Children and Family Services came together at Elmslie to celebrate 60 years of service to the community.

Ministers Visit the Macmillans



On Monday, 13th March, **Rev. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield** and **Rev. Chris Mason** flew to Miami to visit with **Janet and John Macmillan**, the latter having been encountering medical challenges over the past several months. Our prayer is that God will restore His servant, John, to good health again, and give strength to Janet as she continues to offer him care and support.



Rev. Chris Mason pictured with **Bishop David Nichol** who preached the sermon on Sunday, 26th February.

Ministry Trip to St. Vincent

Mike Bowerman has been asked by **Walford Thompson** to visit St. Vincent to preach and to hold a Bible conference in Walford's church, Arnos Vale Covenant Assembly (AVCA) during Holy Week. He will be accompanied by his wife **Mary**.

Many at Elmslie will know Walford from his many visits to Cayman and the church, and for the mission he headed, Ministries in Action (MIA), headquartered in Miami. Many from our church – and a number of others on the island - went on mission trips, mainly to Haiti, under the auspices of MIA. Having retired from MIA, he and his wife Jen established AVCA where he serves as its pastor – although he is in his late 80s! He continues to be one of the missionaries we support as a church.

Mike will preach at the Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, and will give Bible teaching on the four evenings, Monday to Thursday.

He and Mary were commissioned on Sunday, 19th March and they are asking for the prayerful support of the church.



Easter Reflection (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

to one another, Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb? And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back – it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you."

Many witnesses

That is what happened at Easter: Jesus Christ rose from the death!

Besides Mark's account, we find descriptions of this event in other Gospels and in various letters in the New Testament. The tomb was empty, and angels announced the glorious news that Jesus had conquered death. Many eye witnesses had seen Jesus after He had risen. On various occasions, He appeared to one or more of his followers. Although they initially had much difficulty believing that He had really risen, they were finally convinced by Jesus Himself. He explained to them: "Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24:46-48).

Easter is something to celebrate!

Jesus' resurrection is not just a historic event. It has huge consequences for every single Christian. Paul wrote about this in 1 Corinthians 15:17-21: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead."

Jesus' resurrection is therefore the cornerstone of the Christian faith regarding forgiveness of sins and eternal life. If Jesus had remained dead, all hope would be lost forever. But since He has indeed risen, there is a solid hope beyond the grave. His resurrection proves that He has conquered sin and death, and that "in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). That's a great reason to celebrate!

Holy Week 2023 - Services at Elmslie

Sunday, 2nd April - 10:30 am Palm Sunday Service

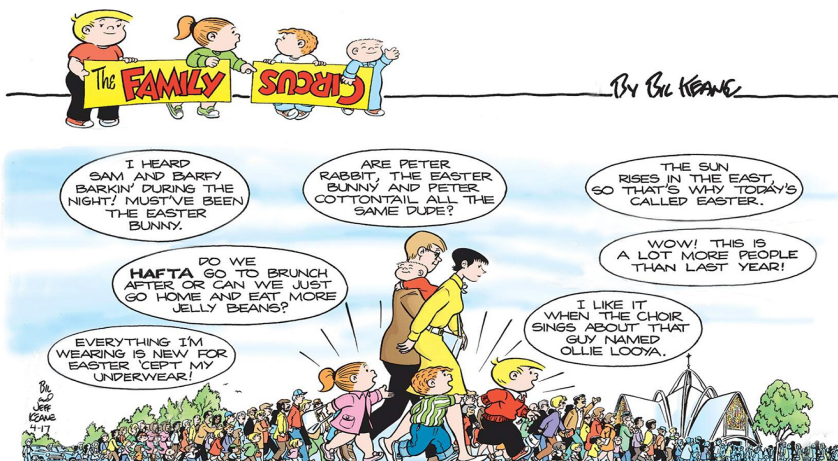
Thursday, 6th April - 6:30 pm Joint Tenebrae Service

Friday, 7th April - 9:00 am Good Friday Service & Baptism

Friday, 7th April - 7:00 pm Male Voice Choir

Sunday, 9th April - 10:30 am Easter Sunday

Musical Morning & Communion



FBC Easter Concert

Many have enjoyed and appreciated the bi-annual concerts put on by the First Baptist Church Choir over many years. This year, the *Easter Festival of Glory* will be held the evenings of Friday, 31st March and Sunday, 2nd April, at 7 p.m. in the FBC sanctuary.

The FBC Choir was to have visited Emslie this past month but the visit was postponed and a new date will be advised later.

Special April Anniversary Congratulations to

Jenika & Ke Vaughn Orgill who will celebrate one year of marriage on 23rd April. May God be first in your lives and bless you with many more years of marriage to come.

40 Years for Joan & Colin



Best wishes to **Colin & Joan Wilson** who will celebrate 40 years of marriage on 28th April. We pray that God will bless them with many more happy years together as they continue to serve Him!

One-out Keswick!

Cayman Keswick has not been able to return to the week-long conventions that were held pre-Covid. However, last year there were six successful Sunday nights when the churches were able to get together under the Keswick banner *All One in Christ Jesus*, with local pastors speaking.

This year, there was a one-out service at First Baptist Church on Sunday evening, 12th March, with **Charles Price** as the speaker. Charles was here for a missions conference at the church and agreed to also speak on the Sunday evening. There was a good turn-out, and Charles, who has visited Cayman Keswick on three previous occasions, spoke winsomely yet powerfully about what it really means to be a follower and a servant of Christ.

Zoe Turns 86!



Happy Birthday to one of Elmslie's long-serving and faithful members, **Zoe Bodden**, who turned 86 and celebrated with her family on Saturday, 24th March.

UCJCI Sports Day

Over the weekend of 17th - 19th March, a group from the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (six leaders and 13 youth) attended the *United Church Young People's Fellowship (UCYPF) National Sports Day* in Jamaica. A small group that did GREAT things. We didn't place 1st overall but walked away with 20 medals (6 Gold, 7 Silver, 7 Bronze) which we believe is an exceptional job by the youngsters. Special thanks to those who prayed and supported the team.

Roy McGregor, Youth Minister



Baby Blessing at Elmslie



On Sunday, 12th March, baby **Nyah Theresa Thompson** (pictured above with parents, **Lakeisha Watler** and **Tevin Thompson**) was baptised by **Rev. Chris Mason**. The baby's grandmother is **Loretta Ramoon** of Elmslie.

Home Groups

Home groups are taking a break over Easter but will resume on 12th April with a short series on the book of James. If you have never been to a small group and would like to try one, speak to **Elder Nigel Boothe, Sharon Walmsley** or the minister.

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



43rd SYNOD

23rd - 30th April 2023

Hosted by the

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

Public Events Held at Elmslie:

Sunday, 23rd at 4pm - Opening Service

Monday, 24th at 6pm - Moderator's Reception

Tuesday, 25th at 6pm - Celebration of Life and Witness

Wednesday, 26th at 6pm - Public Lecture

We Need Your Help

If you can assist by **hosting delegates, providing transportation** or **helping in any way**, contact **Roy McGregor, Rev. Chris** or **Ann Marie Mason**. Elmslie is responsible for providing meals on Monday, 24th April (breakfast, mid-afternoon snacks & drinks).

If you can assist, contact **Alex O'Neil** or **Joan McField**.