



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

THE FAMILY NEWS

George Town Charge

Volume 190, March 2021

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Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Music & Worship Minister:

Antonio Sanchez

Youth Minister:

Roy McGregor

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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

Congratulations, Dr. Gerald Smith OCI

At the recent National Heroes' Day celebrations, **Dr. Gerald Smith** was one of eight prominent Caymanians to receive an award, gaining the higher Order of the Cayman Islands (OCI). He was the recipient for his longstanding contributions to the medical field in which he has practised for more than 35 years, and especially through his work in anaesthesiology and his instrumental leadership in the creation of the Anaesthetic and Intensive Care Service at the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority. Gerald also held the position of Chief Medical Officer for the Cayman Islands Government for many years. He served with the Medical and Dental Council and on the Board of the Health Practice Commission. He has become a National Heroes' Day award recipient as a "pioneer" in his field.



After successfully completing his 'A' levels at the Cayman Islands High School, Gerald was accepted into the University of the West Indies (UWI) where he successfully completed his medical studies, gaining a MBBS - Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery.

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The Smile That Is Jamalleo

Few who attend Elmslie with any frequency, whether old or young, would have failed to notice the young man who greets everyone with an infectious smile as they enter church or is seen helping an elderly person to their seat. This friendly and cheerful individual, **Jamalleo Ramoon**, has been part and parcel of the church for all of his 24 years, a large segment of his large family having been members for a long time.

"My mother **Francilla Myles** raised both me and my sister **Julisa**," he says. "She is a strong, independent and loving mother whom I love very much. She has encouraged me to get involved in many things as all she wants is the best for me. My grandmother the late **Alda Myles** also taught me good values and discipline as she did her children, who all have had a helping hand in raising me."

He added that growing up in a God-fearing household with strong Christian beliefs, attending church wasn't an option. "Now it is a choice," he says. "As I attended Elmslie, I began to get involved in the youth group programmes." He pointed to the time when he became a Christian. "Elmslie supports many different missionaries and during one of its mission weekends we had a speaker named **Chip Kirk** who through his ventriloquism presented the gospel in such a way I was touched by it and decided to commit my life to the Lord. I was baptized by **Rev. Dave Hazle** on Easter Sunday 2012 at the Seven Mile Beach."

Jamalleo particularly points to his **Uncle Tally (Thomas Myles)** as a role model. "Growing up, he was one of my sterner uncles, ensuring that no day was wasted when there was work to be done. Together with another uncle, **Son Son (Clarenton Myles)**, I learned various trades, from tiling to carpeting and some of everything.



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Youth Leaders' Appreciation Ceremony

"Great leaders don't tell you what to do. They show you how it's done." These words which were featured on the programme at the recent Youth Leaders' Appreciation Ceremony certainly hold true for the many youth leaders and volunteers, past and present, of Elmslie Church. On Sunday, 31st January, these faithful and dedicated members were honoured during a special service which was beautifully organized by Elmslie's youth minister, **Roy McGregor**, with musical items directed and accompanied by **Antonio Sanchez** and his team of musicians, **Dwight Williams**, Roy and **Marco Tinoco**. The service was led by **Elitia Vassell** with **Rev. Euthman Wray** as guest speaker. **Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield** extended greetings from the United Church Council.

The evening opened with a celebratory dance by the Junior Dance Group, and praise and worship music was led by the praise team consisting of **Hannah Robinson**, **Jennelle McLaughlin**, **Gabby Webb** and **Kimberly Eccleston**. There were musical items from **Zoe Myles**, Gabby and Jennelle, **Samuel Webb** and **Antoine Rockett-McLaughlin** (saxophone and soprano sax, respectively), and a poem was read by **Alyssa McField**. **Alana Tooker** read the scripture prior to numerous presentations being made by **Madda Whittaker**, **Rev. Chris**, his wife **Ann Marie** and **Roy McGregor**.

Please continue to keep our youth leaders and volunteers in your prayers as they guide and nurture the children of Elmslie.



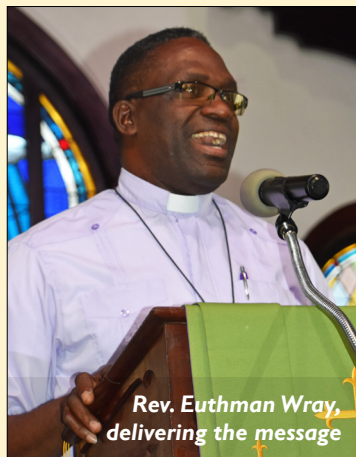
Alyssa McField, poetry reading



Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield, offering greetings from Council



Samuel Webb and Antoine Rockett-McLaughlin, performing at the Youth Leaders' Appreciation Ceremony



Rev. Euthman Wray, delivering the message



Alana Tooker, reading the scripture

Council News

The Cayman Islands Regional Council met on January 23rd, and issued a Popular Report of which these are some of the highlights.

• Synod 2021

The 42nd Synod will be a virtual event held between April 11th and 18th under the theme "Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)." This offers the opportunity, in cost-effective ways, to use a blended approach of physical and virtual spaces to extend the reach of the Synod beyond its delegates, to involve persons both locally and overseas, as well as achieve the purpose of reviewing the work of the church over the last synodical period. It will allow for determining the direction of the church in the midst of and beyond the pandemic.

• UCJCI Lay Leaders Training Certificate Course

The Training for Lay Leaders programme launched last year by the UCJCI Lay Training Institute has recently recommenced and been re-named. It is now known as the UCJCI Lay Leaders Training Certificate Course. Module 1 is for elders, Module 1-2 for those serving or desiring to serve in specialized ministry areas while Module 1-2-3 is for those desiring to receive qualification as lay pastors. Those participants who complete all three Modules may matriculate to the International University of the Caribbean's Diploma in Theology, providing they also have passed Mathematics

and English at the IGCSE/CXC level. Topics within a module will be delivered online by one presenter for all regions via Zoom on the second and fourth Saturdays, from February to August, typically for 6-7 hours, including breaks.

• CWM Mission Grants

In 2020 the UCJCI received a COVID-19 Relief Grant from CWM to be used in all regions to address technology needs (training and equipment). The CWM COVID-19 Mission Grant for the counselling of persons affected locally by the pandemic, through the auspices of the Bethesda Counselling Centre, has been received from the Synod administration.

• Leadership

a. **East End/Gun Bay Charge:** The Charge remains vacant and the Interim Minister **Rev. Rohan Forrester** and Lay Pastor **Ormond Williams** will remain in post until the joint board and the pastoral team in place will be able to assess the arrangement, hopefully before the end of the first quarter of 2021.

b. **John Gray Memorial Charge:** **The Rev. Donovan Myers** remains on sick leave. As of 15th November, the **Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield** attends to the administrative and the **Rev. Louis Sully** to the pastoral duties of the Charge.

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Jamalleo

(Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

Through the years, I have grown close to Uncle Tally for, as a 'no nonsense' guy, he has pushed me to be better, and I appreciate him and all those like him who wish and want the best for me." After high school, he continued his studies at UCCI where he gained his Associates of Arts in Hospitality Management. "The hospitality industry is something I enjoy," he says.

Through work experience when he was still at high school and while studying at college, he did a number of jobs in which he learned customer service and working with other staff members. "One job was working in a liquor store. As a Christian it had its challenges but I made every effort to stand out as a child of God and I enjoyed working there. It was a learning experience and I met so many people from many walks of life.

"More recently, another opportunity presented itself to help the community on a wider scale and giving more of my time to helping people. I joined Her Majesty's Fire Service where I am currently working. Assisting people is just like working in a mission field."

When asked about his involvement at church and in the wider community, Jamalleo replied, "Apart from going to church, prayer meetings and youth group, I serve as an usher, helping to assist some of the seniors who regularly attend Elmslie on a Sunday. I also enjoy being a part of the Cayman Islands Scouting Association of which I have been a part from Beaver to Scout. It has taught me good values and discipline, as well as a sense of pride as the scouting experience helps nurture young boys into men. He offers this encouragement to other young adults his age: "Get involved in the life of the church. If you are not part of a church, then join an organization that can hold you accountable. We all have struggles and we need that helping hand along the way. No one person can go through this world alone and it makes life that much more manageable as we fellowship with one another and get to know each other in new ways."

We are happy to have young men like Jamalleo as part of our church, and we pray that God will continue to bless and guide him and continue to use him as a blessing to others.

Special March Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to **Nickerson & Evelyn Godfrey** who will be celebrating 62 years of marriage on the 27th of March.

South Sound United's Kitchen Band

Worship Service director **Juliet DuFeu** is always looking for novel ways to get the children involved and interested during children's time, a regular part of the morning service at SSUC.

The inserted picture shows Juliet and the children during their rendition of the popular children's song, *This Little Light of Mine*. There is no doubt that everyone, children and adults alike, enjoyed the singing and the 'music'.

Juliet explained that the inspiration for the lesson came one Sunday during church while she was thinking what she could do to get the children more involved in music, and wishing they had instruments. She then had the idea to try to 'make' the instruments and seized the opportunity to bring some Cayman history into the talk. She reached out to her cousin **Nicholas** who plays in the Swanky Kitchen Band. He suggested she talk about the old time Caymanian kitchen bands and how they came about,



and to use things from the kitchen as instruments. To tie it into a Biblical theme, Juliet looked for a psalm that talked about playing instruments. For the call to worship, Juliet read Psalm 150: "Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with the tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals...". The children were advised in advance to listen carefully and were quizzed at the end on the names of the different types of musical instruments mentioned in the psalm. The "instruments" which they played included an egg carton and paper towel roll, an empty soda can, a plastic storage bin, a plastic bottle with water, an ice-cream scoop and some plastic containers with rice and beans separately and mixed up.

All in all, it was an interesting and enjoyable children's time, with several lessons for the adults as well as the children.

Baby Christening at Elmslie

On 14th February, **Seth Andrew Rivers** was christened by **Rev. Chris Mason** at Elmslie. Seth is the son of **Sheila Watler** and **Andrew Rivers**, and the grandson of **Ladner Watler** and long-time Elmslie congregant, **Pamela Watler**. Elmslie's **Helen Merren** and **Joan Wilson** are the baby's great-grand aunts.



Left to right: **Sheila**, her brother **Joe**, baby **Seth** and his grandmother, **Pam Watler**

Council News (Cont'd. from Pg. 2)

- **Triennial Visitation to Charges**

The George Town and the Savannah/Robert Young Charges are next on the schedule for visitation. Once the redesign of the process and the instrument receive the approval of the Church and Ministry Committee, the Council will conduct these visits.

- **Property**

The Atlantis building in George Town remains unoccupied. Several interests have been expressed but a suitable tenant has not yet been identified. The Cayman United Church Corporation continues to monitor this situation.

- **Election of Council Executive**

Chair of Council: **Rev. Rohan Forrester**
Vice-Chairs of Mission Action Teams (MATs):
Children & Youth: **Rev. Euthman Wray**
Discipleship: **Rev. L. Christopher Mason**
Evangelism: **Rev. Louis Sully**
Mission: **Ms Tessa Bodden**
Leadership: **Dr. Elizabeth McLaughlin**

Members at Large:

Mrs. Debra Humphreys

Mr. Ormond Williams

Mr. Christopher Allen

- **Election of Youth Leaders' National Executive (YLNE)**

Chair: **Mr. Roy McGregor** (Youth Minister, GT)

Dep. Chair: **Ms Camile Watt** (Youth Minister, SAV-RY)

Secretary: **Ms Vanda Powery** (JG)

PR Officer: **Mr. Garth Webster** (BT-NS)

Mr. Noel Wallace continues to serve on the YLNE as Council appointee/representative. **Mr. Jelani Hanson** (SAV) and **Ms Jennelle McLaughlin** (GT) were admitted to the YLNE as representatives of the Youth Advisers Committee.

- **Finance**

The 2021 Budget of the CIRMC was approved in the 30th November 2020 meeting of the Council. The CIRMC remains current with its statutory obligations.

The full Popular Report can be obtained from the church office.

Women's Service



Raquel Forrester, wife of **Rev. Rohan Forrester**, was the guest speaker at Elmslie's Women's Service on 24th January.

Condolences

We extend our sympathy to **Edward Rodney** whose brother **Selborn Rodney** died in Guyana on February 6th, aged 72. He leaves a wife and children.

Rev. Donovan Myers

News has been received that **Rev. Donovan** who has been ill for several months continues to receive treatment and is making some very good progress. We rejoice with him and his family, and continue to surround them with our prayers and support.

Gerald Smith (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

After graduation from UWI, Gerald returned to Cayman and worked for five months at the Cayman Islands Hospital before moving on to the UK to do postgraduate work in medicine. Here he worked first at St. Mary's Hospital, London, before moving on to several other hospitals across the UK, working to broaden his experiences and skills as much as possible while gaining postgraduate qualifications.

Having successfully completed his postgraduate studies, gaining his FRCA - Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists - Gerald returned to Cayman in 1984, and began work at the Cayman Islands Hospital as the first Caymanian anaesthetist. His studies never stopped, however, and to this day he regularly attends lectures and international anaesthetics conferences.

He is deeply respected in the community for his knowledgeable and caring disposition and highly regarded by the medical fraternity. To quote the official programme for Heroes' Day 2021, "Indeed, his nomination for this award comes with the resounding support of other very senior and highly respected medical officers."

Gerald said that he was quite surprised to receive a call from the Premier about this award which he believes was recommended by his peers at the hospital. He feels humbled and grateful and hopes to continue to contribute to the medical field and society as long as he is able. He enjoys what he does and thinks very highly of the people with whom he works.

He and his wife **Jennifer** together have two grown children, **Craig** and **Kristen**, who have completed their university studies and are making their contributions to our society, and two grandchildren, **Emery** and **Nicholai**.

Gerald attended Elmslie for many years but now worships regularly at the South Sound United Church.

We congratulate Gerald on this well-deserved award.

SSU Small Group

South Sound United Church is continuing its Wednesday Zoom small group meetings with an eight-part series looking at the Old Testament prophets. "Our plan is to look at two prophets each evening, and one of the group will do a presentation on the life, time, prophecies, and which king or not they spoke to," states **Bud Johnson** who provides leadership to the small group.

"To join in a Zoom Meeting, click on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84618626359?pwd=YWVlUjBkbWVtQ0lQRmFDKzNVSFovQT09>. It will be open from 6:45, but the study starts at 7:00pm, and we try to be finished by 8:30pm." Meeting ID: 846 1862 6359, Passcode: 271584

"Feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions," says Bud.