



Our Mission



“As followers of Christ, the “Meadowbrook United Church exists to glorify God and to live out God’s purpose for salvation by reflecting the unconditional love of God through dynamic Christian worship, mutual care & support, active community engagement and proactive servant leadership, working towards peace and harmony in community”.

Special Occasions



October 2015

Evangelism Month

4-5 October 2015

UCYPF National Planning Retreat

11 October 2015

Men’s Fellowship Sunday

24 October 2015

Elder’s Retreat

18 October 2015

Congregational Meeting

19 October 2015

National Heroes Day

Mark Your Calendar



8 November 2015

Church School Prize Giving

29 November 2015

1st Sunday of Advent

6 December 2015

Union Sunday

25 December 2015

Christmas Day Worship Service

31 December 2015

New Year’s Eve Watch Night
Service

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Rev Norman Francis

TRAGEDY TURNS TO TRIUMPH

How would you react if you actually heard a news report that Jesus' body had been found? Shock? Despair? Bewilderment? Fear? Denial?

No doubt these were some of the emotions Mary Magdalene too had experienced as she made her way to the place where the body of Jesus had been laid. Like the rest of Jesus' followers, she too had been hopeful. But now their only bond was a memory. The miracle they had expected had not come. Now it was too late. But, as we shall see, death is not the end – it is only a comma, not a full stop.

And so our story continues with Mary's early morning visit to the place where the body of Jesus was laid. But when she got to the place where Jesus had been buried, she made a startling discovery – the huge stone that sealed the entrance to the tomb had been rolled away, and Jesus' body was nowhere to be found!

And so, thinking that Jesus' enemies had secretly removed his body, she runs to warn the disciples. On hearing of this unexpected turn of events Peter and John now rush to the scene of the empty tomb. There they make another startling discovery. According to William Barclay's translation of John 20:6b, 7, Peter and John see, much to their utter amazement, "the linen clothes lying there and ... the napkin, which had been upon Jesus' head, not lying with the rest of the linen clothes, but lying apart from them, still in its folds, by itself."

It was the Jewish burial custom to wrap the body in strips of linen – yards and yards of thin strips of cloth like bandages, and to bind both hands and feet with what are called "grave-bands," the face being covered with a napkin (John 11:44; 19:40) – a large square piece of cloth.

The whole point of John's description is to show that Jesus' grave clothes appeared not to have been disturbed at all, but was "still in its folds," which means that the linen was lying there looking as if Jesus' body had just passed right through the wrappings leaving them still rolled up in the shape of a body. Also the cloth that covered Jesus' head was still in the shape of a head, and it was at about the right distance from the wrappings that had covered Jesus' body. When John saw the linen wrappings looking like an empty cocoon from which a butterfly had flown, it suddenly dawned on him what had taken place – and he believed! Yet, amazingly, Mary still has no thought of resurrection. Blinded by her own sense of grief, she could see no reality other than the visible problem.

Mary and John responded differently to the same reality. It demonstrates a principle of faith - when God becomes our focus, he changes our perspective. When the soldiers of the

Israelite army saw Goliath, they thought to themselves, "He's so big that we can never kill him!" But, when David looked at Goliath, he thought to himself, "He's so big that I cannot miss him!"

A similar change in our perspective occurs when we start seeing all our circumstances in relation to Jesus Christ. By so doing, we will then be able to look at all our difficulties through Christ, instead of at Christ through our difficulties. This makes all the difference!

Mary is now alone at the tomb, she weeps bitterly - oblivious to the presence of the risen Christ. Jesus asks her, "Who is it you are looking for?" Jesus speaks Mary's name aloud, and instantly, like a sheep, she recognizes the voice of the Good Shepherd and shouts ecstatically, "Rabboni!" - the Aramaic equivalent of "rabbi" - most commonly translated as "teacher," but which essentially means "my Lord." Mary greets Jesus as her master even though she does not yet understand the full implication of his lordship! But she *does* understand enough to know that her tragedy has now turned to triumph!

Our tragedies can be transformed into triumph, our grief into joy, and our despair into hope, if only we could discern the presence of the risen Christ in our midst.

Let us, like Mary, discover the presence of the risen Christ in our midst, for when we recognize and respond to the presence of Christ in our moment of despair, grief or bewilderment, he rises anew to rekindle our faith in him.

Management Team News!



LET'S TALK STRATEGY WITH MEADOWBROOK

2014 was spent listening, learning and planning for the next 3 years as a church community. What did we understand to be God's call to Meadowbrook to ministry and mission at this time in history? We consulted with the congregation asking you what you thought of what we were currently doing and how we could improve. We asked you what you would like to see. Here are the results of that process which we will share with you over time. In this issue of our newsletter we begin with YOUTH and EFC.

YOUNG PEOPLE SINTING

Youth ministry at Meadowbrook involves the young adults (- age group), youth fellowship (- age group), church school or Sunday School, the Brigades, youth choir and dance ministry. All our activities are aimed at developing the whole human being through social, emotional, educational and spiritual activities.



Some exciting things to look out for include:

- **Tun up di ting!** Greater use of technology to engage our youth. So projectors, tablets, animation will be used to aid the learning process and social media groups (Twitter, INSTAGRAM, WhatsApp, Facebook, LinkedIn) will be created. That's right Meadowbrook a gwaan wid tings!!!
- **Build bridges not walls!** Activities to encourage greater understanding between the generations. Social interaction between age groups including open days and mixers as well as participating in each other's' fun activities
- **Skills dem a pree!** Assess needs and develop training programmes to improve and broaden the skills of our young people.

Listen for, ask about and respond to invitations to participate to reach out to the youth in our congregation and community.



EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP AND CARE – ALL IN THE FAMILY

This is the area of our church's life where we look out for family – our nurture in the Christian faith (Education), building relationships with each other (Fellowship) and responding to needs in the family (Care).

Under the banner of education there are two forums coming up which you should look out for – *“FMO: For Marriage Only”* and this will target Youth. The other will focus on *Flexi-Work hours* and how the new government legislation can both affect us as a worshipping community as well as present us with opportunities.

A family fun day is coming up in July. This is aimed at fostering greater fellowship among us. We plan to include children and shut-in members on our birthday listings and introduce an Annual Art Exhibition/Culture Exposition on Jamaica Day in October.

Two areas of care and support which are planned are to offer help to persons needing transportation to church, or to pick up medications and to start an exercise programme for the church community. EFC is also making arrangements for a health professional to be on call during the services in cases of emergency.

So you see there is much happening at Meadowbrook during this year...and these are only two areas of our church's ministries. Make sure you are involved by playing your part in making these happen.

~ **Sis. Karen Francis**



DID YOU KNOW?



Fifty-six years ago on the 13th of September, 1959 twenty-five members of the Presbyterian faith met for divine worship in the Assembly Hall of the Meadowbrook High School. These worship services were led by Rev. W. R. F. McGhie who was the Minister of the Webster Memorial United Church.

Reverend Neil Banks was the Church's first resident Minister and under his leadership the Church started and was completed in 1965.

The formal dedication of the church took place on March 6, 1966.

MATTHEW 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together unto My name, there am I in the midst of them

Three eggs and \$100

The elderly pastor was searching his closet for his collar before church one Sunday morning. In the back of the closet, he found a small box containing 3 eggs and 100 \$1 bills.

He called his wife into the closet to ask her about the box and its contents. Embarrassed, she admitted having hidden the box there for their entire 30 years of marriage. Disappointed and hurt, the pastor asked her, "WHY?"

The wife replied that she hadn't wanted to hurt his feelings. He asked her how the box could have hurt his feelings. She said that every time during their marriage that he had delivered a poor sermon, she had placed an egg in the box.

The pastor felt that 3 poor sermons in 30 years was certainly nothing to feel bad about, so he asked her what the \$100 was for.

She replied, "Each time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them to the neighbours for \$1."



**I'M SORRY MAAM, THE RESURRECTION OF
JESUS WAS A MIRACLE, NOT A SERVICE OF
THIS CEMETERY**

Who are our Elders?



An elder is a member of the church who is in good standing, and who also demonstrates the characteristics and ability to carry out the role of the office. Such a person is elected by members of the Congregation to assist the minister/pastor in helping the church achieve its full potential through its spiritual and administrative development.

The duties of an elder include:

- Working with the pastor in providing pastoral care and support including visiting members of the congregation.
- Helping members to discover and use their gifts within the community.
- Helping persons to commit to Christ and towards church membership.
- Preparing and serving elements at Communion.
- Assisting in ensuring the orderly administration of the worship life of the congregation.

MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH LIST OF ELDERS 2015

NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
Mrs. Kerry-Ann Davis	1	Ms. Jacqueline Brown	17
Mrs. Ethel Francis-James	2	Mrs. Davon Wilks-Thompson	18
Mr. Christopher Beecher	3	Mr. Joscelyn Jolly	19
Ms. Sarah Palmer	4	Ms. Gloria Nelson	20
Mrs. Elise Douet	5	Ms. Sonia Mitchell	21
Mrs. Edna McLean	6	Ms. Tanya Byndloss	22
Mrs. Junie Crooks	7&29	Mrs. Sadie Findlay	23
Dr. Dawn Barrett-Adams	8	Mr. John Allen	24&25
Ms. Valerie Haughton	9	Mrs. Winsome Reid	26
Ms. Debbie Meek	10&15	Mr. Shaun Battick	27
Mr. Cory Anderson	11	Mrs. Selma Williams	28
Mrs. Judith Wilson	12	Ms. Shauna-Kay Battick	30
Ms. Carolene Lake	13		
Mr. Michael Lee	14		
Mrs. Corelle Thomas	16		

Just as the sun is sure to shine, so is God's love. Just as the rain is sure to fall, so is God's love. As God's love has been extended to us in so many ways, we ought to show and share God's love to the whole creation. Friends, in such a time as this where the world is rapidly changing and it seem as if men and women are clinging more and more to the secular world, we as Christians, need to exercise the true love of God in this world. It is time for us to move away from the selfish ambitions and desires and live according to God's command that we show love to one another.

All of us will not be at the same level in terms of status and social standing but the love of God should allow us to break down the barriers that seek to divide us to become one people. In this era, it is God's love that will sustain us as believers and will push us beyond the comfortable walls of the sanctuary to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need. That love, will allow us to be our brothers keepers; to care for our children and journey with the elderly. As Romans 5:8 reminds us - but God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. So too we ought to show selfless and inclusive love to the whole creation as we seek to be like Christ.

Finally, I give God thanks for his love that was demonstrated to me through his people; the Meadowbrook family. It has been a really good experience working with the congregation. The guidance and exposure really helped to develop and nurture my formation on this journey. I thank Rev. Norman Francis for his invaluable contribution to my development and the experiences that we had working together over these nine months. I also want to thank every man, woman, boy and girl who impacted my sojourn here in one way or another. My heartfelt thanks go out to you all. I have built good relationships with this congregation and I trust and hope that these relationships will only grow stronger. I leave you with these words that were said to me the first Sunday I came to Meadowbrook. They are "I thank God that you have come so we can show you some love" and indeed it was expressed. My God's blessings and peace engulf and sustain you through the ages.

Brother Rohan Kong



Highlights of Harvest 2015



Harvest was celebrated on Sunday the 22nd of February 2015

Highlights of Meadowbrook's Anniversary Service 2015



JESUS' ETERNAL SACRIFICE

God almighty, our holy one
Conquering, victorious and risen Son,
Saviour, redeemer, Lord of light,
You saved me, freed me, and gave me life
Is there a way that I can repay
What it cost you, my Lord, that fateful day?
When you gave your life upon the cross
For all mankind eternally lost
For I know I could never pay the price,
The cost of your eternal sacrifice
For salvation is a gift that you freely gave
When you died and arose from the grave
The hope that came from your sacrifice
Is the hope we have of eternal life.

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Get Involved!



There are 6 Areas in which you can get involved, show some interest and ask an Elder today!

Youth

The main objective is to encourage wider participation of young persons in the life and witness of the church and to encourage growth.

Finance, Property & Administration (FPA)

This team supervises all the financial, administrative and property affairs of the of the church.

Education, Fellowship & Care (EFC)

EFC seeks to promote Christian nurturing and discipleship by managing the church's educational programmes. It also organizes programmes to enhance fellowship among members.

Inter-Church & Social Services (ISS)

To promote goodwill and fellowship and collaboration with the community and partners of the church.

Communication & Technology (C&T)

To improve and enhance internal and external communications in order to enrich the worship experience.

Stewardship, Evangelism & Worship (SEW)

To enhance the worship experience of those attending service, and develop and promote an inspiring, enriching and spiritually fulfilling worship experience for all services.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4: 10 NIV



ANNIVERSARY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

P	M	Q	S	F	R	A	N	C	I	S	G
R	E	S	T	I	M	F	A	S	T	P	O
E	A	C	E	F	C	U	N	I	T	E	D
S	D	H	V	T	G	J	N	X	C	N	S
B	O	E	E	Y	H	O	I	U	O	C	A
Y	W	N	N	F	I	Y	V	P	W	E	U
T	B	E	S	T	E	P	E	I	A	J	N
A	R	D	A	V	I	D	S	O	N	E	D
R	O	E	Z	S	T	P	A	U	L	S	E
I	O	R	C	O	K	E	R	S	W	U	R
A	K	V	D	A	L	E	Y	A	C	S	S
N	F	L	E	M	I	N	G	T	O	N	J

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|--------------|--------|
| Anniversary | God |
| Saunders | Fifty |
| Flemington | Fast |
| Stevens | United |
| St. Pauls | McGhie |
| Presbyterian | Daley |
| Francis | Jesus |
| Meadowbrook | Coke |
| Scheneder | Spence |
| Davidson | Joy |
| Cowan | Pious |
| Banks | Six |

