



# Meadowbrook Focus Easter Newsletter April 2017

As followers of Christ, the "Meadowbrook United Church exists to glorify God and 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".

## Easta 'Tory Time

*The C&T Team was privileged enough to have one of our young reporters tackle Rev on the topic of Easter and how it relates to us in our everyday lives.*



**Bro. Kashief Barton:**

I'm sure when you looked at the vision statement you got the theme for the year from it which is 'Growing with God'. How

does the Easter Story help us to grow and understand God's love more?

**Rev. Norman Francis:**

Easter is all about the love of God. It is expressed in that well known passage of scripture *John chapter 3 verse 16, For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.* This is what He says He's all about, it is the ultimate demonstration of God's love that He would send his Son to suffer the indignity of crucifixion simply because he loved us and so I believe that Easter helps us to grow in our understanding of God's love because it demonstrates to us that God will stop at nothing, God will move every mountain, and God will build up every valley and God will make every crooked path straight in order for us not only to know that He loves us but that we will respond to His love as Paul said in Romans, "We love God because God loved us first".



**Bro. Kashief Barton:**

To be Christ-centered nurturing disciples reaching out transforming communities, how does this vision statement relate to Easter on a whole?

**Rev. Norman Francis:**

It is all about Easter, as someone said Christians are called Easter people. We are people of the resurrection. God has given us new life the old person has died as Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians, we are new in Christ. Christ has made everything new, the old has passed and the new has come. That's another language for resurrection and so the vision statement really is all about Easter for us to be Christ-centered means that the whole message and purpose for Jesus Christ is captured. For us to be able to nurture disciples it means calling people to walk in the path that Jesus Christ walked himself which led to the cross and to resurrection. For us to reach out it means sharing the Easter message with people and for us to transform communities it means doing so in the power of God. In the same power that God used to raise Jesus Christ from the dead is the same power that is available for us to go into the world and to transform communities.

**Bro. Kashief Barton:**

Thank you sir.

**Rev. Norman Francis:**

Your Welcome Kashief

The First Couple the Newsletter team interviewed has

## The McDonald's say!

# MAKING MARRIAGE WORK: ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

been together for over 55 years. They gave some insights on the topic based on their years of experience as a couple and through observations of other couples. Here are some of the pointers they expressed:

- ➔ Trust and respect each other.
- ➔ Respect each other's differences.
- ➔ Have faith in the Lord and stay close to Him.
- ➔ Have frank discussions and respect each other's view point.
- ➔ Be realistic and recognize that there will be challenges from time
- ➔ Be patient and considerate
- ➔ Family support is very useful.
- ➔ Focus on the good qualities which attracted you to your partner in the first place.
- ➔ Have a common goal
- ➔ Make time for each other
- ➔ Have fun together and be there for each other.



The McDonalds believe they got a great start because they were both grounded in the Christian faith even though Mrs. McDonald was considered young at the time. They had a fairytale beginning termed 'Love at first sight' but with God in the vessel and the examples and support of their respective families it is now 62 years and going. Experiencing and seeing examples around them gave them something to aim for, something to emulate something that seemed normal and as a default. There are some other key things however that were highlighted and these are as follows:

- ➔ Respect for Each other always
- ➔ Open and honest communication
- ➔ Trustworthiness
- ➔ Playfulness and a jovial spirit
- ➔ Share in all things and make decisions together
- ➔ Speak positives about each other
- ➔ Remove self, no I, no you, just us - Give as a couple, buy as a couple, get as a couple

With all these and God in the vessel you can set sail to any destination.

1 Corinthians 7

## Memory Gem - Sister Persis Clarke

"I remember attending Meadowbrook for the first time in 1978" From then until she has given consistent and committed service to Meadowbrook United Church. She has been Elder for several terms and has also been integral in the work and development of the Women's Fellowship. Of course Sister Persis didn't stop there, she was also a supervisor at the RegKeiz Evening School and taught history at the Citizen's College. Still not done Sis. Persis has assisted with the work of the Girl's Brigade where she would help them in preparation for competitions and even with cooking classes. She was also a part of the visiting team for the sick and shut-ins.

Now Sister Persis is involved in the Breakfast feeding program. As she said herself, serving helped to increase her spiritual maturity and to develop a common spirit among the fellowship. She further believes that serving is an important part of being a member of the church community. Sister Persis is even serving the wider Community in the capacity of Justice of the Peace. What a servant?

Romans 12:7

## Memory Gem - Sister Dorothy James

"I remember when we used to worship in the auditorium at Meadowbrook High School and then we moved over to the church in Easter 1964." This is how Sis. James started after the editorial team asked her about the history of the church and where it was coming from. "Our Minister was Minister McGhee and he is



acknowledged on one of the plaques in the church”, she continued. “Over the years I played a role in several areas of the church, I was a member of the choir, an elder and my biggest accomplishment was starting Girls' Brigade in 1975”.

She explained that the brigade went on camps and competed against many other companies across the island and was always successful and recognized as one of the best companies. There was however the Girls' Guildry prior to the Girls' Brigade and that was started by Reverend Madge Saunders. “When the Girls' Brigade started in Ireland the transition followed here in Jamaica with the transition to the Girls' Brigade and this swept across the island starting in Hanover.

Sister James was actively involved in activities of the church until she got ill in 2002. She also remembers a young lady by the name of Tanya Byndloss who she says received the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award. She was happy that Sister Byndloss is now leading the charge re the Girls' Brigade. Sister James also recall her trips abroad to represent the movement at conferences and meetings.

1 Peter 4:10

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL 2017

Good Friday Service = 14th 8:30 a.m.

Easter Cantata = 14th @ 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Services = 16th 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Monday = 17th All Day

Music Sunday = 30th @ 8:30 a.m.

### MAY 2017

Child's Month = All Month

Holy Communion & Worship Services = 7th @ 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Mother's Day Services = 14th @ 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Church School Anniversary Service = 21st @ 8:30 a.m.

### JUNE 2017

Pentecost Holy Communion & Worship Services = 4th @ 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**FEAST OF MUSIC = 11th!!!!**

Father's Day Services = 18th @ 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Bible Teaching Conference = 23rd-25th!



## Old but Good News

Last year the campers had a great time learning, sharing and fellowshiping, here's Bro. Joel's reflection on Camp 2016!

Youth Camp 2016 personally has been a great experience for me. It was a week full of new and great experiences. This particular youth camp was special for many reasons. Firstly this has been the largest youth camp in the past 10 years doubling the amount of persons attending last year. We went out on two occasions to do evangelism and outreach which was a new experience to some of us. I felt really good to know that I was sharing the love of Jesus Christ with people and helping to bring them to God.

Secondly this year at camp I made many new friends who share the Christian faith. It is nice to have friends like this who you can talk to about God and the Christian life. Also it is interesting to interact with persons from all over the island and hear about how things are where they come from. I also think the camp leaders set a good example for us to follow and offer good guidance especially when we do our bible studies.

Lastly we had a very unpleasant surprise when Rev. Thames passed away. Rev. Thames was a very influential figure when it came to Youth Camp and the United Church as a whole. He has served at every youth camp since the first one which was held 52 years ago. Even though I did not speak with him much I knew he was a great man of God and he died doing what he loved, which was bringing the youth closer to God.

## Palm Sunday Pictures- April 9, 2017



# Men's Fellowship Lyme - April 1, 2017

