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Meadowbrook Focus

Newsletter of the Meadowbrook United Church

Advent/Christmas eEdition

December 2013

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".

Mark your calendar

December 25, 2013

Christmas Day Worship Service &
Holy Communion
at 5:30 am

December 31, 2013

Watch Night Service
at 9:00 pm

March 5, 2014

Ash Wednesday

April 2014

13 Palm Sunday
18 Easter Sunday
20 Good Friday

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Want to join the **Meadowbrook Focus** Committee?

Please contact the MUC Church office at
meadowbrookunited@flowja.com

Our Ministers



Rev Norman Francis

located in his personal commitment to Christ. It is a commitment which he states, shapes his vision of a vibrant worshipping community which is deeply connected and responsive to the context in which it is located.

Rev Nev is Meadowbrook's Associate Pastor, and he has a passion for Youth Ministry and Evangelism.

He represented the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in the CANACOM Bible Studies in Grenada, and the Council for World Mission (CWM) Africa Region Discovery Camp in South Africa & Botswana in 2011.

In 2013, The Meadowbrook United Church family welcomed **Rev Norman Oliver Francis** and his wife, **Mrs Karen Francis**, and **Rev Nevroy Francis** and his wife, **Mrs Andrine Tulloch-Francis**.

Rev Norman and Rev Nevroy both have the same initials, so in order to distinguish between the two, the MUC church family affectionately calls them **Rev Norm** and **Rev Nev** respectively.

Rev Norm is a highly articulate and thorough Bible teacher, whose commitment to serve as a minister of the Gospel is firmly



Rev Nevroy Francis

The Meadowbrook High School Choir

Congratulations to the Meadowbrook High School Choir for making it to the top 8 of the popular TVJ national choir competition All Together Sing. In this competition, high school students from across the island raise their voices in melodic harmony for the top prizes.

The choir sang songs such as "Jamaica Nice" on Folk Night, "Strong" on Reggae Night, "The Meadowbrook School Song" on Acapella Night, "Thou Oh Lord" in week 3 and "Before the Throne" in week 5.

Below are a few of Meadowbrook's highlight moments.



A prayer of Thanks

by Max Lucado

*Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to earth
as a baby so many years ago.*

*Thank you that He paid the punishment for my sins by
dying on the cross.*

*And thank you that He rose again to prove that death was
truly defeated.*

I place my trust in You to be my Savior.

*Guide me through the dark times of my life and give me
courage to live for You.*

Update from the Meadowbrook United Dance Ministry

The mission of the Meadowbrook United Church Dance Ministry is to praise and worship the Lord through the God-given gift of dance.

During 2013, the members of the Dance Ministry not only attended practice on Sundays at 1:30 pm, but they also participated in the church's Easter Cantata.

There were some slow periods during 2013 owing to the fact that several members of the Ministry took leave of absence.

The Ministry also met with Reverend Norman Francis to discuss the way forward for 2014 and to provide encouragement and support. Rev Francis was delighted that the Ministry reached out to him to seek his guidance.



The Ministry at Easter Cantata

During 2014, the Ministry hopes to:

1. Find a new Ministry leader.
2. Increase its membership.
3. Continue to encourage and support the current membership.

Look, tell me what you see

by K Johnson



A female without a full length mirror (or two) in her home?! This is very much possible because that female was me. One day I went grocery shopping and I heard one calling out to me – "...buy me..." Who knew mirrors could talk – go figure.

There in that aisle, the sky opened up, the lights came shining down and heaven started to throw a party – at long last, I found a full length mirror I liked.

On arriving home with my precious cargo, the task was to find the ideal spot to hang it.

Mathematics is what I do. Consequently, I had to 'run some figures'. After in-depth

modelling and numerous simulations, the results were in! The mirror was to find its home right beside my wardrobe – perfect, voila!

My mirror and I continued to strengthen our relationship. Imagine my disappointment when my mirror was broken.

For months, the broken mirror was leaned up against the wall. One day, I gave my tattered mirror a second glance and what I noticed was nothing short of amazing.

Owing to what I noticed, I decided to hang my broken and tattered mirror in the entrance passage to my home.

Above the mirror, I wrote a note: "Look, tell me what you see."

The responses varied. Some have responded, "I see absolutely nothing. What exactly is it that I am supposed to be seeing?" Other responses include, "I see me."

One very vain (or should I say confident) friend, who shall remain nameless, said, "I see GQ."

I saw ALL of me. Yes, a piece of the glass may be missing and yes, the frame is split open at one of the four edges, but I was able to see from the crown of my head to my feet.

There are times in our lives when we are broken, battered, bruised, tattered and split/splitting open at our edges. Be that as it may, Jesus still sees ALL of us, and He continues to choose to love us just as we are without judgement or condemnation.

Every time I look in my broken and tattered mirror, I am reminded of the unconditional love of my Saviour. I am reminded of the fact that He died on that cross for me and that I am saved His grace.

It is by choice that I keep my broken and tattered mirror. It is a constant reminder for me that no matter how broken, used and abused I feel, Jesus sees ALL of me and loves me unconditionally – just as I am – whole and upbeat or broken and tattered.

Did you know?

- that the Meadowbrook United Church has a daily devotional called **A Meadowbrook Moment**? This devotional is delivered via email and has covered topics such as:

God's World and Worshippers
Serve the Lord with Gladness
The Two Ways

Please contact the church office at (876) 969 6918 to be added to the mailing list.

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- that the Meadowbrook United Church has a games evening **every Friday at 6:30pm** in the Church Hall?

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- that **YouVersion** launched a Bible App for kids? **YouVersion**, creator of the hugely popular and free Bible app downloaded on more than 115 million smartphones and tablets, has launched the **Bible App for Kids**, geared to ages 4 through 10.

Help your children to fall in love with God's Word.

Available for free download from <https://www.bible.com/kids>

