



# UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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*Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian*  
  
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**OUR VISION: "Touching lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ."**

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## PRAY FOR:



*Our missionary, Joan Page-Bain and Family, and the People of Haiti still reeling from the effects of 'Hurricane Matthew'*

# A MISSIONAL STORY

**The frequent bulletins of the impending category four Hurricane Matthew** took me back to September 12, 1988 when the onslaughts of **category three Hurricane "Gilbert"** ravaged Jamaica, taking the lives of numerous persons and leaving thousands homeless or having severe damage to their homes and properties.



A frightening experience that still remains foremost in my mind, which forced me to think seriously about the sheep for which I am shepherd.

**Unhesitatingly, I sought the Lord and responded to His directives** by going into my assigned charge of churches conducting a survey of the extreme needs of the less fortunate.

This mission included members of the church who demonstrated a willingness to accompany me on the venture. Based on our findings it was observed that some persons had no food, dwellings with very weak structures that would not be able to withstand the effects of Matthew. Indeed, some situations were considered grave. With much spontaneity after the survey I contacted the leaders of the church to solicit funds to purchase basic food items, ideal for hurricane conditions, and some members readily went to purchase and distribute same to

those in dire need. **It is now Sunday morning** and weather forecasts and bulletins still indicating that we are not going to escape the category four hurricane. I was extremely perturbed and overwhelmed by the level of unpreparedness of the indigents and shut-ins in the communities I serve. At very short intervals I constantly asked myself "what would Jesus do in this situation?" Then I was reminded of how Jesus broke the barrier in His time by healing the sick and attending to the needs of people on the Sabbath, a practice which caused great disturbance with the religious powers that be. With that in mind, I was prepared to be criticized for operating outside of the norm by interrupting the **Com-**

**munion Service (a highly anticipated event by all)** - to ensure that help was extended to the needy before a hurricane of such magnitude appeared. My mind was not at the place to sit in church and proclaim the goodness of God and how much Jesus loves and cares for His people without demonstrating it in a practical way.

**About twenty five (25) members and adherents wholeheartedly embarked on the mission** gathering ply board, zinc, nails, etc.

With a spirit of love and compassion teamwork enabled us to repair roofs, batten down windows, strengthen weak structures and distribute food to a family with small children.

**At the end of the mission we all expressed a sense of fulfillment in being able to share in a moment of need** as we served our brothers and sisters while quietly hoping that God would spare us from this terrible disaster:

*Hurricane "Matthew."*

## CELEBRATIONS



**70:**

**Rev. Donovan Myers**  
October 12

**Rev. Novlyn Hanson;**  
**Rev. Noel Murray; Mrs.**  
**Danielle Brown-Roberston**  
October 13

**Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis;**  
**Rev. Dr. Derik Davidson;**  
**Rev. Lennox Scarlett**  
October 16

## SUPPORT THE HAITI FUND



The UCJCI has established an account to assist our brothers and sisters in Haiti in their recovery from the impact of "Hurricane Matthew". We are encouraging congregations to have special offerings **each Sunday for the rest of October 2016**, and remit the amounts to: **NCB Cross Roads Branch. Acct # 234297392 – United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands' Disaster Appeal.**

## CANACOM'S NEW ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

**Mission Partners, CANACOM**  
**CARIBBEAN AND NORTH AMERICA**  
**COUNCIL FOR MISSION**  
**"Improving Our Serve"**  
**49 HOPE ROAD KINGSTON 10,**

*Announces, with thanks to its outgoing Administrative Committee, the new Administrative Council. (AC)*

***In Christ's Ministry and Mission***

Name	Position	Member Church
Rev. Carlington Keen	Chair	United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Rev. Izett Sama Hernandez	Deputy Chair	Iglesia Presbiterian Reformada en Cuba
Rev. Diana de Graven	Secretary	Reformed Church in Suriname
Mrs. Merle Buchanan	Treasurer	United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Ms Farida Da Costa Gomez	Caribbean Representative	Verenigde Protestantse Gemeente van Curacao
Rev. Dr. Jo Ella Holman	North American Representative	Presbyterian Church (USA)
Ms Anna Groebe	North American Young Adult Representative	Presbyterian Church (USA)
Mrs. Anniya Tomlinson-Morris	Caribbean Young Adult Representative	United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Mrs. Jennifer P. Martin	Education in Mission Secretary	United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

## CAMP REUNION 2016



**Date:** October 29, 2016  
**Time:** 9:30am – 4:00pm  
**Theme: Remembering the Life of Rev. Thames.** It will be a day of **Evangelism, Outreach and Inter Generational Fellowship.**

There will be friendly competition between the **Decades (70's, 80's, 90's, 00's, 10's)** in **Speech, Song and Dance.** Come out in your numbers and show off your talent as we reflect on the Camp Ministry and honour 'Father Camp'.

## PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Dr. Adlyn White** who is not well.
- **Mrs. Doris Longmore** who is not well.
- Our sisters and brothers in the Caribbean Region and the USA, who have been affected by **Hurricane Matthew.**
- **Rev. Nevroy Francis** who lost his grandmother. Service of Thanksgiving will be held on October 22, at Thicketts United Church at 11 a.m.

Send comments and news about your congregation to [ucjciupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ucjciupdate@gmail.com)