



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:

Mrs. Doris Longmore, wife of the late Rev. Robert Longmore, who is ill and in hospital.

Family of Mrs. Karen Doran, Guidance Counselor at the Cayman Prep & High School who passed on.



REFORMATION SUNDAY

Reformation Day is a religious holiday celebrated on **October 31**, in remembrance of the Reformation. It is celebrated among various Protestants and Reformed Church communities.

On **31 October** 1517, Martin Luther wrote to Albrecht, Archbishop of Mainz and Magdeburg, protesting against the sale of 'indulgences.' He enclosed in his letter a copy of his "Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," which came to be known as: '*The 95 Theses*'.

Hans Hillerbrand writes that Luther had no intention of confronting the Church, but saw his disputation as a scholarly objection to Church practices, and the tone of the writing is accordingly "searching, rather than doctrinaire." Hillerbrand writes that there is nevertheless an undercurrent of challenge in several of the theses, particularly in Thesis 86, which asks: *Why does the Pope, whose wealth today is greater than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build the basilica of St. Peter with the money of poor believers rather than with his own money?*"



Martin Luther

Luther objected to a saying attributed to Johann Tetzel that; *"As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory [also attested as 'into heaven'] springs."*

He insisted that, since forgiveness was God's alone to grant, those who claimed that indulgences absolved buyers from all punishments and granted them salvation were in error. Christians, he said, must not slacken in following Christ on account of such false assurances.

Luther's writings circulated widely, reaching France, England, and Italy as early as **1519**. Students thronged to Wittenberg to hear Luther speak. He published a short c o m m e n t a r y o n

Galatians and his *Work on the Psalms*.

The parish order for the New Church in Regensburg states that **the Reformation** of the city is to be observed the first Sunday after **October 15**, every year.

The 1569 church order in **Pomerania** states that the Reformation was to be observed on St Martins Day, which falls on November 11.

The hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, celebrated throughout the Protestant areas of Germany, was observed from **October 31** to November 1, 1617, but a standard annual observance began much later, sometime after the two hundredth anniversary commemoration in 1717.

We celebrate the tradition that grounds our faith on **Reformation Sunday**. A suggested Liturgy for the Day has been circulated on the e-group for use in our congregations.

It is always the **last Sunday in October**, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his **95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany**.

CELEBRATIONS



30:

Rev. Walter Russell
October 21

Rev. Norbert Stephens,
Rev. Herbert Redway Snr.
October 22

Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
October 23

CIRMC NEWS



The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council happily welcomed

Rev Norbert Stephens (c) on Thursday, Oct 13 for a 6-day visit. His schedule included visits/meetings with Council staff/Admin, Congregations, Institutions, Ministers, Lay Pastors, Elders and Youth Workers.

APPRECIATION



The Appreciation Service for the **Rev. J. Oliver Daley**, will take place at the Ridgemount United Church in Mandeville on Sunday October 30, at 4:00 pm. All guests are invited to be seated by 3:30 p.m.

Rev. Daley, who will transition into another phase of ministry, celebrates 47 years as an Ordained Minister of Word and Sacraments; having served 9 of those years at Meadowbrook, 21 years at Webster Memorial, and 17 years at Ridgemount.

He twice served as Moderator of Synod of UCJCI.

HAITI SUPPORT



HAPPENINGS

• **Camp Reunion** will be held on October 29, 2016 at Clarendon College, 9:30am – 4:00pm under the Theme: Remembering the Life of Rev. Earl Thames. It will be a day of Evangelism, Outreach and Inter Generational Fellowship. There will be friendly competition among the Decades (70's, 80's, 90's, 00's, 10's) in Speech, Song and Dance. **Don't Miss it!**

• **The National Men's Fellowship AGM** previously scheduled for October 8, has been rescheduled to **Saturday, October 22, at Ridgemount United at 9:00 am.**

• **Santa Cruz United** will be having an **Anniversary Service Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 4 p.m.**

• **Webster Memorial United Church** continues the celebration of its **75th Anniversary** in an **Awards Banquet** to be held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, **October 29th.** Some **50 persons** nominated for outstanding stewardship will receive **Awards of Appreciation.**

• **Hyde Park United** will be having its **Annual Rally Sunday October 30, 2016 at 5 p.m.**

UCJCI HAITI APPEAL

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.**

At left: Congregations in the Cayman Council collected **92 boxes** of supplies at **Elmslie Memorial United Church Hall**, which were donated and sent to our missionary, **Joan Page-Bain**, in Haiti for distribution to those severely affected by "Hurricane Matthew."