

# The Information



April, 2015



## Resurrection...the God of endless possibilities



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis  
Chairman of PEC

When I think of the promise of Easter it speaks of courage in the face of daily fears. It is said that at the funeral of the late Prime Minister of England, Winston Churchill who died in 1965, something significant happened. At the close of the service that Churchill planned himself, a single trumpeter stood at the west end of St. Paul's Abby and sounded "Taps," the song that signals dusk and the close of another day and is frequently played at the end of a military funeral. But after a moment of stillness that followed the last plaintive note of that song, another trumpeter stood at the east end of St. Paul's, the end that faced the rising sun, and played "Reveille," the song of the morning and the call to a new

day.

Churchill perceived, you see, that Christ's resurrection signals above and beyond all else that our God is a God of new life and never-ending possibility. The good news of Christ's resurrection does not take away our fear, though sometimes we wished desperately that it would, but it does offer us courage and hope. It offers us courage and hope by anchoring us in the sure promise that God will have the last word, and that that word is one of light and life and grace and mercy and love and peace.

Since the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden, people were destined to be separated from God because of their sin. God's Spirit rested on the Patriarchs of our faith, but was not poured out on the masses. The Holy of Holies was the innermost and most sacred part of the tabernacle and ordinary people of faith would never get to have access to this place where God's Presence could be found. We were hopeless in our sins and distanced from God.

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### VISION STATEMENT

A Church - Transformed,  
United, Victorious in Christ

### MISSION STATEMENT

By the grace of God, we seek to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ; without distinction, we use all that we possess to call all peoples to the truth of the Gospel through worship, evangelism, discipleship and service.

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People of faith offered up animal sacrifices according to the laws given to Moses to ask God to forgive their sins and have mercy on them. Bulls, goats, doves, pigeons and lambs each had their significance. But the lamb had special meaning because it was lamb's blood the Israelites painted on their doorposts to avoid death on the night of Passover.

“This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.

<sup>12</sup>“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every first born of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.” (Ex. 12:11-13 NIV).

God gave Moses and Aaron specific instructions on how to honor God with annual Passover celebrations. Lamb is the pinnacle of the Passover meal. The lambs were to be spotless and even lived with the families for several days before they were sacrificed, adding to the understanding that the ultimate sacrifice was close to the hearts of those whose sins were atoned for. All of the many interesting details of celebrating Passover have significant meaning that points to the ultimate Passover lamb, Jesus Christ, a sinless God-man who lived among the people for a season.

What is the real meaning of Easter? In John 1:29, as he sees Jesus approaching, John the Baptist announces to the crowd around him, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

He knew that Jesus was the son of God, the long awaited Messiah, the one whom God’s prophets had promised to save mankind from their sins and to give them a deep heartfelt relationship with God the Father. The new covenant would be an everlasting covenant.

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 states, “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to <sup>[a]</sup> them, <sup>[b]</sup>” declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup>“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, “Know the LORD, because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” (NIV)

Jesus, our sacrificial lamb, our Savior, our God, our Redeemer, he laid down his life as our sacrificial lamb to pay for our sins. When he rose from the dead three days later, he gave victory over eternal separation from God (death) to all who put their faith and trust in him. That is the new Covenant, everlasting life spent with God through faith in all that Jesus Christ has done and continues to do.

The New Testament states that the resurrection of Jesus, which **Easter** celebrates, is a foundation of the Christian faith. The resurrection establishes Jesus as the powerful Son of God and is cited as proof that God will judge the world in righteousness. As we celebrate the resurrection, let us be mindful of what Jesus did on our behalf. Colossians 2: 14-15 speaks of how Jesus triumph over death and sin and the grave. “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; <sup>15</sup> And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” Let us celebrate the victory that Jesus has won for us.

May this Easter be a blessed one for You. May it breathe new life into you and may others be blessed because of you.

Happy! Happy Easter!

Hymn of the Month for April, 2015  
 Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts  
 Director, Provincial Hymnal Committee.

With the arrival of April, as a Church, we celebrate the joy of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Though Easter as we know it comes once a year, in many ways each Sunday when we gather for worship can be seen as a 'mini' Easter for as believers the proclamation of the resurrected Christ is central to our faith identity. Christians have long repeated what has been called the memorial acclamation captured in the following words:



“Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.” As we

continue then in this Easter season our hymn of the month for April is **And now O Father mindful of thy love**. This hymn was written by William Bright in 1874. The tune used for this hymn is **Unde Et Memores** and was arranged by William Henry Monk.

The opening line of this hymn sets the tone for the rest of the hymn. It communicates that there has been some divine revelation that has been received and embraced. With that comes a mega shift of perspectives. There is new knowledge and with this new knowledge there is a new appreciation of the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary's cross. But there's more. Because of what we now know, our view of all of life now happens through different lenses. We see just how inadequate even our best efforts are when compared to all that Christ has done for us. In spite of our own shortfalls, we are amazed that God's love for us is in no way lessened. Furthermore, with what we now know about the nature of God's unconditional love we desire that this same divine knowledge be received by others so that their lives too will be impacted as ours have been. This knowledge of God's love which has radically transformed our lives is reinforced every time we gather at the Lord's Table. And so even as we share in “this food, so awful and so sweet” because of what we now know we have absolutely no desire to remove ourselves from the presence of God.

Thankfully, once we know God's love, it can never be unknown! And now with because of that knowledge, life as we know it can never be the same.

Below are the words and music for the hymn of the month for April:

And now, O Father, mindful of the love  
 That bought us, once for all, on Calvary's Tree,  
 And having with us him that pleads above,  
 We here present, we here spread forth to thee  
 That only Offering perfect in thine eyes,  
 The one, true, pure, immortal Sacrifice.

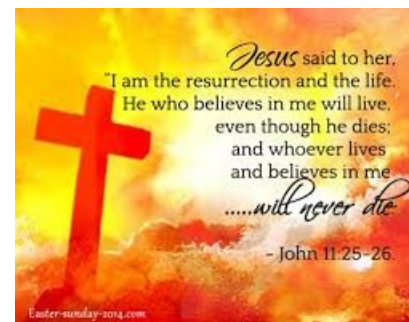
Look, Father, look on his anointed face,  
 And only look on us as found in him;  
 Look not on our misusings of thy grace,  
 Our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim:  
 For lo, between our sins and their reward  
 We set the Passion of thy Son our Lord.

And then for those, our dearest and our best,  
 By this prevailing Presence we appeal:  
 O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,  
 O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;  
 From tainting mischief keep them pure and clear,  
 And crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

And so we come: O draw us to thy feet,  
 Most patient Savior, who canst love us still;  
 And by this food, so awful and so sweet,  
 Deliver us from every touch of ill:  
 In thine own service make us glad and free,  
 And grant us never more to part with thee.

1874. William Bright

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## And Now O Father Mindful Of The Love

UNDE ET MEMORES

10.10.10.10.10.10

1874, William Bright

William Henry Monk

1. And now, O Fa - ther, mind - ful of the love that bought us, once for  
 2. Look, Fa - ther, look on his a - noint - ed face, and on - ly look on  
 3. And then for those, our dear - est and our best, by this pre - vail - ing  
 4. And so we come: O draw us to thy feet, most pa - tient Sa - viour,

5

all, on Cal - vary's Tree, And hav - ing with us him that pleads a - bove, we  
 us as found in him; Look not on our mis - us - ings of thy grace, Our  
 pres - ence we ap - peal: O fold them clo - ser to thy mer - cy's breast, O  
 who canst love us still; And by this food, so awe - ful and so sweet, de -

10

here pre - sent, we here spread forth to thee that on - ly of - fering  
 prayer so lan - guid, and our faith so dim: For lo, be - tween our  
 do thine ut - most for their soul's true weal; From taint - ing mis - chief  
 liv - er us from ev - ery touch of ill: In thine own ser - vice

14

per - fect in thine eyes, the one, true, pure, im - mor - tal sa - cri - fice.  
 sins and their re - ward we set the pas - sion of thy Son our Lord.  
 keep them white and clear, and crown thy gifts with strength to per - se - vere.  
 make us glad and free, and grant us nev - er more to part with thee.

## Cloud of Witnesses

### by Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts



*This monthly feature is to re-tell the stories of ordained Pastors who served in the Eastern West Indies Province in recent past. It is intended to inform us of the life and witness of these ministers and their spouses so that we can better appreciate the sacrifices they have made. Moreover, it is hoped that both the ordained and un-ordained will be inspired to continue our ministry diligently knowing that our labour will never be in vain in the Lord.*

The following biography of **The Reverend Rawle C. Belle** was submitted by his daughter LeVaughn Belle.

The Reverend Rawle C. Belle was born on Barbados on January 5, 1935, the first of four children born to Ethelind and Ernest Belle.

Rawle attended Welches primary school and Barbados academy and upon graduating from secondary school taught at the Modern High School in Barbados. His preferred mode of transportation to work was motorcycle and he often boasted of his prowess as a rider and how handsome he looked on the bike, especially in his Boy Scout Leader's uniform.

Rawle had a great love for the Church from his early youth. He enjoyed teaching Sunday School and singing in the choir and preaching at his Church, Sharon Moravian. He frequently spoke of the tremendous influence his minister the Rev Duncan C. Moore had on his Christian formation. It was no surprise when he responded to God's call to the ministry. He enrolled in Union theological seminary in Jamaica in 1962 and during his seminary years assisted at several churches around the island. His first assignment when he graduated was on the island of St Kitts where he pastored Estridge and Cayon Moravian Churches.

In 1970 he transferred to Tobago and was responsible for the churches at Bethesda, Spring Gardens, and Moriah. At Moriah he met Claudia Merlin Stewart whom he married in December 1971. In 1974 Rawle was called to serve at Memorial Moravian Church, St Thomas. He arrived in October with his wife and two young children, Walter, 1 year 6 months, and La Vaughn 5 1/2 months. His last child Brian, was born in 1976. He served Memorial until June 1979. While at Memorial he earned a Master of Theology degree from Clarkville School of Theology in 1977. He spent thirteen years in the ministry of the Moravian Church. His love for pastoral care, teaching, preaching, liturgy, and administration enabled him to make a significant contribution to the Church as a whole.

Due to family concerns, Rawle left the Moravian Church and became a Rector of St John's Episcopal Church in Christiansted St Croix. He enrolled in at Nashotah theological Seminary and graduated with a Master of Sacred theology in 1980. He served in the Episcopal Church for another 24 years until failing health caused him to retire in 2005.



## UNITY PRAYER WATCH 2015

The Eastern West Indies Province will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch from Midnight March 31 – Midnight April 14, 2015. The Schedule is as follows:

- ❖ Grenada - Midnight March 31- 12.00a.m April 02, 2015
- ❖ St. Kitts - 12:00a.m. April 02 -11:00a.m. April 03, 2015
- ❖ Trinidad - 11:00a.m. April 03- Midday April 04, 2015
- ❖ Barbados - Midday April 04 - Midnight April 06, 2015
- ❖ Virgin Islands - Midnight April 06 – 6.00am April 10, 2015
- ❖ Tobago - 6.00a.m. April 10 - 6.00p.m April 11, 20145
- ❖ Antigua - 6.00p.m. April 11 - Midnight April 14, 2015

Conferences are asked to observe the time allotted for our members to engage in the unbroken prayer chain. This prayer meeting began on August 13, 1727 when the Moravian Church had its Pentecostal experience. The Church was so much on fire that the Prayer meeting lasted for 100 unbroken years. Let us therefore encourage our members to be in prayer, as we continue to seek God's guidance and direction for our Church and indeed our lives.



## THE 31<sup>st</sup> PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The 31st Provincial Synod will be held in Antigua from July 10-16, 2015 at the Jolly Beach Resort and Spa. The committees are getting together and the Conference is in need of your support in prayer and hands on deck for smooth execution.

The PEC has also requested prayer for the election of another Bishop.

The opening service of Synod will be on July 12th at 9.00 am at Spring Gardens and the closing service and Holy Communion on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm at Cedar Hall. The Synod Programme will be held at the Gracehill Moravian Church on July 12 at 7.00 pm.

Members of the Church can attend Synod as casual observers or as official observers in which case a cost is attached.



## CHAIRMAN TO ATTEND JAMAICA SYNOD

The Chairman of PEC has being invited by the Moravian Church in Jamaica, to attend its 74th Provincial Synod, to be held at Bethlehem Moravian College in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica.

The Synod convenes on April 06 and ends on April 10, 2015

## 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Martyrdom of John Hus

July 06, 2015 will mark the 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Martyrdom of John Hus. In keeping with the historical significance of this celebration which will be observed throughout the Moravian Unity, the PEC proposes that the EWI Province participate in celebrating the legacy and memory of John Hus.

The PEC proposes the following:

Date of celebration ..... Sunday July 05, 2015  
Proposed theme ..... Courage to Stand  
Celebration format... Conference Combined Worship Service  
Worship and Music Resources:

- ▶ 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hymn
- ▶ Introit and anthem
- ▶ Special Anniversary Litany and suggested hymns
- ▶ A short (10 minutes) dramatic presentation by the youth

It is hoped that these resources will be provided by April 01, 2015 or before. Information will be forwarded to you from time to time.

The PEC proposes that the celebrations in Antigua be varied due to the 31<sup>st</sup> Provincial Synod. The Opening Service of Synod will be held on the morning of Sunday July 12, 2015, and emphasis will be placed on the John Hus Anniversary during the service.

On July 05, 2015, the congregations in the Antigua conference, as they celebrate Holy Communion, should place some emphasis on the John Hus Anniversary.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS MEETING

The Ministers of Christian Education met in the Trinidad Conference from March 10 - 13, 2015.



## BWM MEETING

The Rev. Dr. Errol Connor represented the Moravian Church EWIP at the meeting in North Carolina March 20 -21 , 2015.



## PEC MEETING

Your prayers are requested for the PEC as it meets for the final meeting before the 31st Provincial Synod. The meeting takes place in Antigua From April 28-30, 2015.





## Condolences

The PEC expresses condolences to the family of :

- ▶ The late Samuel Nathaniel of the Moravian Church in St. Kitts. Bro. Nathaniel passed into the nearer presence of God on Friday March 06, 2015 at the JNF Hospital in St. Kitts. Bro. Nathaniel served the Moravian Church well. He was a Lay Preacher and Treasurer of the Moravian Church in St. Kitts for a long time. In addition, he served as a Lay Member on the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) for a few terms. Our Brother will be missed not only by the Moravian family in St. Kitts, but by the entire Provincial family.

The Funeral Service of the late Samuel Nathaniel was held on Wednesday March 18, 2015 at the Zion Moravian Church in Basseterre, St. Kitts at 3.00 pm. The viewing and tributes started at 1.30 pm.



- ▶ The family of the late May Louise King who was born in St. Kitts on February 22, 1919. She was the daughter of Moravian Minister Rev. Archibald Theodore King and May Johanna Brow King of St. Croix. The family returned to St. Croix in 1922 following the death of Rev. King and resided in Frederiksted. She passed into the nearer presence of God on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at the Herbert Grigg Home for the aged in Kingshill, St Croix U.S Virgin Islands.

A Memorial service was held on Friday March 13, 2015 at Friedensberg Moravian Church, in Frederiksted, St. Croix at 9.00 am.



- ▶ The family of the late Bro. James Allan Blyden who served as an Acolyte in the New Herrnhut, Moravian Church, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. He passed into the nearer presence of God on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. Our Late Bro. James Allan Blyden also served as Lay Preacher, Leader of the Prayer Ministry, Custodian and Sexton. He was also a member of the Gospel Choir and Men's Chorale.

The service of thanksgiving for the late James Allan Blyden is set for April 7, 2015 at New Herrnhut. The Viewing will be at 9:00 am and the Service at 10:00am.

- ▶ Let us remember the families in prayer at this time.



**Anniversary Greetings**  
for the Month of April is extended to:

**Bro. Rudolph & Sis. Esther Moore-Roberts 22**  
**Bro. Elroy Christopher & Sis. Jane Thomas 27**

**Birthday Greetings**

for the Month of April is extended to:

**Bro. Elroy Christopher 04**  
**Sis. Dorothy Graham 07**  
**Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs 08**  
**Sis. Rosalind Prince 26**  
**Bro. Mikie Roberts 27**

**YOU TOOK MY PARKING  
SPACE AT CHURCH !**

One day, a man went as a visitor to a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near by and parked. The driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for the service, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but still said nothing.

After the service, the visitor went into the Sanctuary and sat down to pray. Another member came up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to come and dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. His clothing became a simple robe. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his now sandaled feet.

Someone from the congregation noticed Him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as His hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye,

**"I took your place!"**



# Scenes from the 259th anniversary of the SpringGardens Moravian Church in Antigua



Fulfilling the Mandate - Advance the Kingdom



The Service was held at the very spot under the Sandbox tree where the first service was held on April 01, 1756 by Missionary Samuel Isles. This Sandbox tree became the place where the Church gathered for worship for a period of time. This service was held at 6.am on Wednesday April 01, 2015.



**Fulfilling the Mandate - Advance the Kingdom**





## Moravian Multipurpose Complex

- ◆ Conferences
- ◆ Meetings
- ◆ Seminars
- ◆ Weddings
- ◆ Banquet
- ◆ Dinner

Only ten minutes away from the stores, shops and banks in St. John's.

Our International airport is also just ten minutes away.

Our balcony provides a refreshing view of undulating hills and valleys.

The conference center has a seating capacity for 200 persons.

We are situated on a hill overlooking the picturesque outskirts of the city of St. John's, Antigua.

There are **EIGHT LARGE APARTMENTS** which are available for rental. Each room is self contained with kitchenette. The rooms are air-conditioned with Available internet and cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.



## Conference Center & Apartments



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