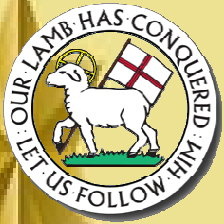


Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Conference Center & Apartments



A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

The Information

"I must turn aside and look at this great sight..." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses" And he said, "Here I am." Exodus 3 vs 3-4 (NRSV)

The Fullness of Time



Rev. Algernon Lewis  
Chairman of PEC

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

This is the final edition of the Information for 2021. We have had a full calendar year of living in and with the pandemic and even though the heightened tensions have subsided, we are yet to move pass its effects on lives and livelihoods. Sometimes we try shift focus elsewhere but the "protocols" quickly remind us that life is different in this scenario. This liminal space in which we exist brings its own weight and apprehension. It is as though we are existing in a bubble and who wants to live in a bubble?

For people of faith, people who are rooted in the liturgical realities of Christianity, this scenario should not be strange. We are an Advent people. Advents speaks of the coming of Jesus and we wait for four weeks in preparation for his nativity. The same concept is lived during Lent when we journey through the wilderness to the place of Resurrection.

Part of the message of Advent and Christmas is that God has his fingers on the pulse and knows exactly when to act. That might not be comforting for some of us, but it is divine truth. God's view is expansive, extensive, and enlightened. What might seem like an emergency to us might be part of the unfolding of God's drama to inaugurate the next move. People of faith must learn to activate their faith and live in faith. Of course, it is easier said than done.

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December, 2021

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Conferences

Weddings

Banquets

Meetings

Dinners

Graduations



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 over-looking the picturesque out-skirts 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 cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.

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, Evangelist discipleship and service.

Mailing Address

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Cashew Hill, P.O. Box 504  
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Answers to Bible Trivia

- 1. a
- 2. i
- 3. d
- 4. b
- 5. h
- 6. g
- 7. f
- 8. l
- 9. j
- 10. e
- 11. k
- 12. a

Mystery word

Worship

Yet it is core to who we are, our faith in a *Kairos* God makes us the alternative community God has called us to be. If we wait like everyone else, then we fail to be that special, called out people called the church.

Speaking of the church, we also need to be in a posture of waiting. The last twenty-one months have been challenging. Issues that were already taking root like declining and aging membership, disconnection from our context, pastoral inefficiencies, inadequate financial resources, lack of adequate discipleship and others were accelerated by the crisis. It has been said that a crisis only accelerates prevailing trends. We have seen that.

There are as many opinions on the way forward as there are people inside and outside the church. What are we to? One thing we have done is to pray. That might sound like a soft response but our Provincial Days of prayer have been a divine initiative to send us back to our knees to **Seek** and **Submit** to the one person who is responsible for the church—Jesus the Christ. In our times of prayer, we have sought the face of God for the Province and all our congregations, knowing that change in the ecclesiastical framework is not achieved by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord. In building the culture of active prayer in the Province, we have also enhanced fellowship and camaraderie. We will continue to pray believing that God will make room for the church once we are willing to **Hear** and **Heed**.

While the Province waited for our change to come, ministry continued. Pastors and members have used their **Imagination** and **Insight** to discern the leadership of the Holy Spirit in being faithful to the proclamation of the gospel. Throughout the Province, there have been various initiatives to effectively use our time of waiting. Sunday School, Confirmation Class, youth ministries, Board meetings, concerts, hangouts, Conferences, Seminars, and Worship services have all migrated to virtual and not hybrid.

Our period of waiting forced us to use imagination and insight on how best to be church. At the same time, we have had to **Focus** so that we could **Function** and not be distracted by the desire for yesterday or even tomorrow.

While in the liturgical calendar the seasons are linear and follow one another despite the other variables operating in the atmosphere, in our spiritual lives, it is not that simple. No one knows when this season of living in a bubble will be over. What we know is that God has gone ahead of us, and our “fullness of time” has been promised. **Total Transformation** may be far off, but Emanuel – God with us - is our hope. We need to use this time of waiting to grow as disciples, to solidify in our faith, being able to give an account for the faith that is in us.

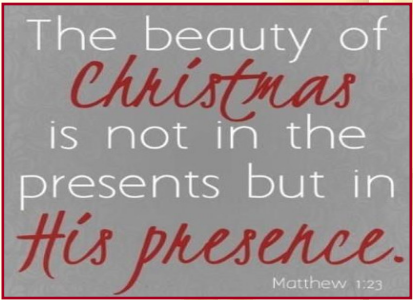
For those who wait for God’s *Kairos*, redemption is promised. I am not sure what that looks like. Ultimate redemption comes at the end of time. However, I believe God shows up consistently on our journeys to encourage us along the way. Let us keep looking for the unexpected as we wait and hope.

In the fullness of time God sent Jesus. In the fullness of time, God will show up in our circumstances and do the needful. As a church, let us wait on the Lord! Let us not lose hope knowing that God is active around us.

A Joyous and Peaceful Christmas to all!



Quote of the Day



**ALL** the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters to form the **Mystery Answer**.

Christmas Tradition

Angels	Joy	Rejoicing
Blessings	Lights	Rudolph
Bows	Magi	Santa
Candles	Malls	Shepherds
Decorations	Mistletoe	Shopping
Friends	Nutcracker	Sleigh
Fruitcake	Ornaments	Stockings
Gingerbread	Peace	Tannenbaum
Greetings	Poinsettias	Tree
Holiday	Presents	Wreaths
Ivy	Reindeer	Yule



For Unto Us a Son is Given

Match EACH Messianic prophecy to the Old Testament Scripture where it was foretold.

___ 1. The Messiah would be born of a virgin.	a. Isaiah 9:7
___ 2. He’d be a direct descendant of David.	b. Hosea 11
___ 3. The Christ would be born in Bethlehem.	c. Isaiah 7:14
___ 4. He would spend time in Egypt.	d. Micah 5:2
___ 5. He’d give hearing to the deaf and sight to the blind.	e. Psalm 34:20
___ 6. He would ride on the back of a donkey.	f. Isaiah 53:3
___ 7. The Messiah would be despised and rejected.	g. Zechariah 9:9
___ 8. He would be numbered with criminals.	h. Isaiah 29:18
___ 9. He would sacrifice Himself for our sin.	i. 2 Samuel 7:12
___ 10. None of His bones would be broken.	j. Isaiah 53:5-7
___ 11. He wouldn’t undergo decay but be resurrected.	k. Psalm 16:10
___ 12. Christ would rule over the house of David forever.	l. Isaiah 53:12





## Birthday Celebrants December 18th - December 25th

Bro. Hilton Joseph	18
Bro. Vankys Isaac	18
Cecile Rossington	22
Sis. Maureen Lewis	23
Bro. Alvin Barker	25
Bro. Matthew Crooks	25
Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield	25



## Birthday Celebrants January 5th - 12th



Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	5
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Bro. Moise Jean	12



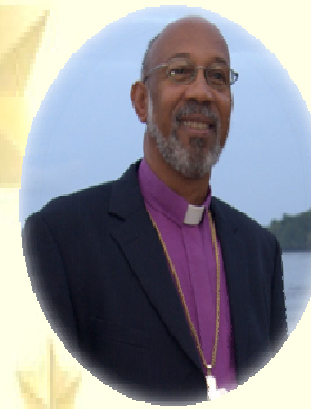
## Anniversary Celebrants December 19th - January 5th

Bro. Erwin Warner & Sis. Onita Samuel-Warner	19
Bro. Algernon & Sis. Denise Smith-Lewis	20
Bro. Errol & Sis. Joycelyn Connor	22
Bro. Patmore & Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	27
Bro. Hilton & Sis. Sharon McCardy-Joseph	29
Bro. Nevin & Sis. Billie Sterling-Lewis	05

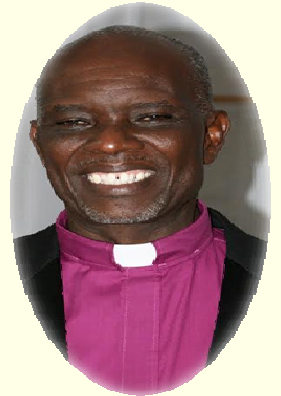


from the Entire Provincial Staff

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## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - 2021



Christmas is the celebration of the new crown prince, the descent of David. Isaiah 9: 4-7 gives us three reasons for our celebrations:

Deliverance from oppression.

Destruction of the gear of battle.

Descent or birth of the special child, the divine human, the Crown Prince forever.

For these reasons, Christmas comes with a celebration of joy, a festival of thanksgiving, an experience of victory, a vision of perpetual peace and an affirmation of the kingly rule of Christ. Therefore, let us once again celebrate the presence of God's saving activity among us through the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of the Incarnate Word, the intersection of divinity and humanity.

Let us celebrate the kingship of the Son who sits on the throne of David administering justice, establishing righteousness, and inaugurating the reign of perpetual peace. In this holy season, let us pray for peace on earth among the vulnerable populations of refugees, homeless, orphans, mentally ill, the marginalized and the disenchanted. Let us pray that we might all experience justice, mercy, peace, grace, and a joyful home in Jesus. Finally, let us strive to bring the peace of God to the communities in which we serve.

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth!

Respectfully and fraternally,

Bishops Kingsley Lewis & Conrad Spencer

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## "WE CAN'T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES" - NEW MINI PANDEMICS BORN FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

by Dr. Jilia Bird



While we remain focused on COVID-19 dashboards, nervously tracking new cases, new variants and deaths, we're missing some less obvious COVID-19 'side-effects' that, in the long term, are bound to cause more misery than the actual virus itself. I call them- **Mini Pandemics within the COVID-19 Pandemic – mostly avoidable conditions** - but many that won't just disappear if we continue to ignore them.

**The Mental Health Epidemic** created by the social isolation and stress of lockdown has been well dissected and debated but needs urgent proactive management.

**A Surge in Childhood Obesity** - This crisis started long before COVID-19, but the school closures and remote learning are causing a surge in obesity rates in children. 2020 saw a huge drop in physical activity as kids were kept indoors for fear of infection, cessation of all organized sports, and hours spent sitting at screens. A deterioration in healthy diets in the absence of school meals and with unsupervised access to refrigerators and sugary snacks also hit hard. The repercussions of this crisis will be immense.

**An Increase in infant speech delays.** Day care centers closed, well check clinic visits got cancelled and families were forced to stop socializing. Toddlers' TV time exposed to characters like Coco-melon increased exponentially. Add to this the muffling of speech and the hiding of facial expressions caused by masks and our babies began talking like Coco-melon! Many developmental delays are only now being recognized in our 'Pandemic Babies'. Parents can intervene in these crucial brain development periods by turning off televisions, removing masks and spending extended time in play with infants.

### **An Increase in Dry eye conditions and eyelid styes-**

We've seen an increase in dry eyes and styes since the pandemic started. Styes are small bumps in oil glands near the eyelashes. One theory blames all-day mask wearing that causes warm air we exhale to be redirected upwards towards the lids. Those glands in the lids produce some of

our tears, so irritating them will definitely lead to both dry eyes and styes. Reducing screen time where possible, to blink regularly, lubricating eyedrops and warm massage of the lids can help alleviate both conditions.

### **Pandemic Neglect of chronic health conditions.**

Traditionally, routine health checks are scoffed at, especially by young men. During lockdown, deferring 'well-care' became even more common with job losses, clinic closures, as well as a real fear of being infected wherever facilities were open. Months of delays for various investigations and treatments and cancellations of elective surgeries saw worsening of chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and many missed cancers. In one week recently, my office saw 4 men, aged 45 to 60 face blindness due to neglected hypertension, diabetes and glaucoma, causing them to be written out of the work force and put on premature disability. Their blindness would have been avoided had their conditions been treated appropriately and timely.

### **Increase in Childhood Myopia or Nearsightedness**

Myopia is a condition in which distant objects are blurry without glasses. One study in Chennai revealed that there had been as much as a **25 per cent rise** in cases of myopia among children in the last two years. The decrease in outdoor time, and the increase in screen time due to both the lockdown and remote learning can be blamed. Even toddlers' screen time has tripled as parents resort to devices to distract younger children while managing 'online school' with older kids. Exposure to natural outdoor light is critical for good health of cells in the eye that control eyeball growth. Too little outdoor light, causes elongation of the eye leading to progressive myopia, making it critical that children engage in regular outdoor activities. Many assume that Myopia is merely blurred vision easily corrected with glasses, but Myopia causes stretching of the retina putting persons at risk for other serious conditions such as glaucoma and retinal detachments. Children need to play for 1 to 2 hours in the sunlight outside and be allowed rest breaks every 20 minutes during online classes. Where possible, laptops allow a longer working distance from the screens than do phones, easing the stress on the focusing system.

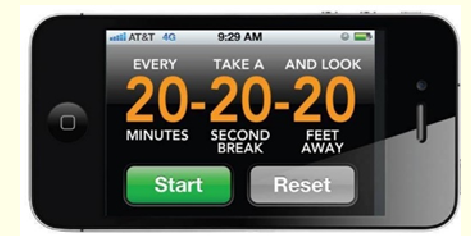
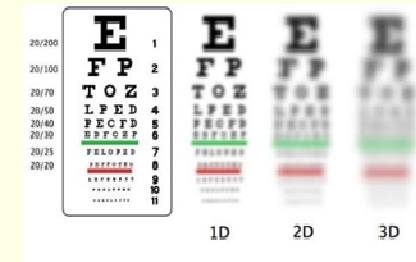
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## "WE CAN'T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES" - NEW MINI PANDEMICS BORN FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Continued from Page 4

As Christmas approaches choose gifts carefully with these problems in mind. **Ipads are not ideal gifts for young children.** I recently read a thought-provoking list of the **FIVE BEST TOYS OF ALL TIME!** **A stick, a string, an empty box, a paper towel tube and DIRT, .... yes SOIL**



### **PROGRESSIVE MYOPIA**

Hopefully we can capitalize on the current 'softening' of the COVID-19 curve and begin re-focusing vigilance on some of these avoidable conditions. This way we can be better prepared to meet future 'waves' HEAD-ON.

### **LET'S LEARN HOW TO LIVE, AND NOT DIE, WITH COVID-19**

**United Theological College of the West Indies**  
invites applications for the following short course:

**Music and Worship**

**What will you learn?**  
The technological fundamentals of church audio setup and use.  
The value of the digital world to church maintenance and growth.  
Locate the value of music in the functional life of church.  
How to identify the defining features of Caribbean church music.  
How music enhances church life.

**Why should you enroll?**  
**Expand** your knowledge of how music works in church life.  
**Broaden** your view of technological advances in music.  
**Acquire** skills in how technology enhances the use of music in different settings with focus on the Caribbean experience.

**For whom?**  
Choir Directors, Pastors, Deacons, Musicians  
Retreat Leaders, Lay Leaders, Choir Members  
Praise Team Members.

**Course Duration:**  
January 15, to March 5, 2022.

**7 Golding Avenue, Kingston 7**  
Tel: 876-927-1724, 927-2868  
Email: jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm

**Registration closes January 7, 2022**

## **Dedication of Memorial Moravian Church**

### **Trinidad Conference**

The Memorial Moravian Church Sanctuary was dedicated to the Glory of God on Sunday, December 12th, 2021. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis officiated at this Service.



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