



A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC EWI PROVINCE

The Information



To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ephesians 4: 12-13



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chairman of PEC

Looking back to look ahead

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are the favourite times of the year of many people. For some it is about the carols, hymns, and other songs we sing. For others, it is the feeling of fellowship, family, and friends. Others delight in the food, festivities, and sparkling decorations. At the same time, this time of year can be difficult for some. It reminds them of loved ones who are no longer present and painful circumstances they would rather forget. Whatever your view of these seasons, they provide an opportunity to look back (reflect) and to look ahead (forecast).

As we look back, we must take care to remember that this season is about the action of God on our behalf. The central message of this season is the unfolding story of God and God's redemptive action for humanity. If that message is obscured, we may find ourselves chasing after an illusion to make Christmas feel special. When we remind ourselves what our celebration is to be about, what God has done, and is doing, the focus will change from chasing after experiences to resting in the peace of God.

As I reflect on the story of the nativity, over 2000 years ago, I am awed by the way God chose to make Jesus known to the world. To begin with, Mary was not an influencer or a person of high estate. Yet God chose her to birth hope into this world in less-than-ideal circumstances. Then, Jesus' birthplace was nothing to report – an active animal pen. According to Luke 2:8, the announcement of Jesus' birth was made to shepherds out in the field and to wise men from the East. Shepherds were considered religious outcasts because they were never home to worship and the wise men from the East were even worse, they were not even Jewish – from a completely different faith. What was God doing here? Did the wires get crossed and the wrong people got invited to the party? Looks that way! However, since God does not make mistakes, we must interpret this to mean that God went to the "least of these" to announce that God has come for them in Jesus. The people who were among the first to hear and celebrate the Nativity of our Lord were not at the center of activity but were the focus of this singularly important redemptive event.

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December, 2023

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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, Evangelist discipleship and service.

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For the Christ-follower, Christmas is not just an event, it is a reminder that God comes to where we are daily. There is no other religion where the deity pursues the fallen and sacrifices to save them. In other religions, all the moves are made by devotees. In the Christian faith, God makes the initial moves towards us and invites us in. If we do not look back, we might miss that the word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood (John 1:14 MSG translation).

Looking back this Christmas might help us see the people God wants us to encourage. Most of the people we are buying gifts for this Christmas are not in need. Most of the people who will eat at our tables do not experience food insecurity. They may need other things from us like genuine care and love. Can we look beyond our usual spaces to see people who are waiting for an announcement that Jesus has come through the actions of those who have heard about the deeper meaning of Christmas.

Looking back grounds us and looking ahead inspires us to go further. As we vision forward, we must ask ourselves if we are oriented to people in the margin as God is. Recall the message of Jesus' birth (Christmas) went to others first. Are we open to people who are considered irreligious and outside the corridors of the Christian faith? I recently watched a news item on television where a retired soldier was planning to kill some Muslims while they were worshipping. The plan was to detonate a bomb and take out everyone. He went to visit the site to better plan the attack. When he got there, the Imam greeted him warmly with an embrace. The others were equally warm and kind. By the time he left worship he was confused because his feeling changed completely after one encounter. I believe they reached out to him after, and he kept coming to the mosque until he converted to Islam. Before his conversion, he told them of his plans, but they kept loving him. Whatever our feelings about the Islamic faith, we must agree that those Muslims were oriented towards loving a stranger until he became one of them. He is now married into the faith. Are we spiritually mature enough to love people who want to do us harm or care nothing for us?

Looking ahead, we must become a people who touch the people Jesus touched. We must look beyond the normal crowd to see those who are left alone or seem outside the corridors of the Christian faith and help them to know that they are seen by us and by God. The shepherds were surprised that they got a visitation from angels. They felt seen and appreciated. In 2024 we will focus on the second phrase of our Provincial .

Theme: Renewing our Purpose. To understand the purpose of the church now, we need to look at the early church, draw the parallels and also prayer for discernment.

The wise men or the Magi remain a challenge for us. Why did God reach outside of Jerusalem to bring people from a different culture and religion to worship Jesus. Let us be clear that they came well after Jesus' birth about, two years, and it was not told how many kings were present. What we know is that these wise men presented three gifts. It is unlikely that they were alone. They would have traveled with a full entourage to facilitate their trip

God casts a wider tent to include people unlike those in Jerusalem to let us know that there are other sheep that are not of this fold who we must also love and care for. We live in plural societies, meaning, there are varieties and faiths and beliefs. In looking ahead, we must commit to be conduits of the grace of God to everyone we meet. It is not easy, but it is necessary. Christmas reminds us that Jesus is not just concerned for me and mine but for the whole world.

As we are still in the Advent season which is the time of preparation, let us orient ourselves or SHIFT so that we can reach out to care for and love others who are considered the outsiders. Let us commit to being conduits of grace to people who believe differently than we do. May this Advent and Christmas season be transforming for you.

Joyous Noel!

By: Rev. Algernon Lewis

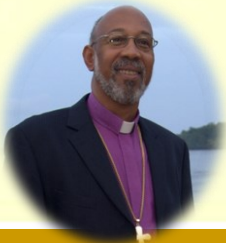


Quote of the Day

And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

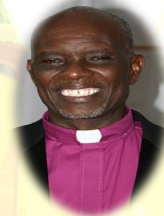
Luke 2: 12





Bishops' Christmas Message 2023

Kingsley Lewis & Conrad Spencer, Episcopi, Fratrum.



At the first Advent of Jesus, the message of His arrival came to some of the least likely people such as the shepherds. Shepherds were generally poor and of poor reputation. Yet God chose to announce the arrival of the Saviour, Christ, and Lord to those religious and social nonentities (Luke 2:10-12). Shepherds were the least likely to have God's favour on them. Therefore, it is good news to all of us that God's peace (Shalom), a quality of whole-

ness in life should reach the least of us in and through the One who would guide us into the way of peace (Luke 1:79), and who would provide the light of truth and forgiveness to all who were blinded by the darkness of sin.



Jesus, the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths in a manger crib, brings heaven's blessing of peace and joy to all humanity-the extraordinary coming in the ordinary. The homeless Jesus, who could not find a room at the inn (Luke 2:7) provides a home for all, even for the migrant, hostage, or refugee who is forced to leave his or her home. Through the vulnerable infant, born of a woman in Bethlehem, God visits with us sinful humans in His majestic presence, and in return, the least of us can glorify and praise God with the angels, saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14 NKJV).

Today, let us welcome Jesus, the Saviour, the Christ, and the Lord into our hearts and lives and experience anew the joy, peace and blessing of this Holy Season.

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad

Próspero año y Felicidad

(Repeat)

I wanna wish you a merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a merry Christmas

From the bottom of my heart

(Repeat)

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad

Próspero año y Felicidad

(Repeat)

I wanna wish you a merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a merry Christmas

From the bottom of my heart

(Repeat)

Carry The Light V

The Moravian Church Trinidad Conference resumed its annual carol service “Carry The Light” on 2nd December 2023. The evening featured the Trinidad Moravian Conference Choir, soloists and duets. This was a most splendid way to ring in the Christmas season. And what better way, than a choir of angels, with descants soaring in melodious beauty as a member from the audience reports. “I felt as if angels came and joined in the singing. It was so beautiful.”

The choir pieces and congregational songs were done to pre-recorded music and live accompaniment, all done by the maestro, Rev. Dr. Ulston Patmore Smith. The music was deliciously sumptuous. The lush accompaniments engendered a feeling that we were singing with a full orchestra, organ, piano, drums, steel pan and so much more. The choir was energetic, well dressed in their new robes, and well-rehearsed, to the delight of the congregation/audience.

The Conference is so happy for the return of this event. Special thanks to the members of the choir, the crew responsible for lighting, the conductor and all the persons who came to support and took part in this spectacular event.

Merry Christmas from the Trinidad Conference.



May the joy and peace that were present at the birth of Christ be present in your home this season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the Chairman and Members of the PEC, Moravian Church EWIP

Reminders/Updates

The EWIP Moravian App is available at the Google Play Store for Android devices. We are working with Apple for IOS device. Search the Play Store for eWiP and download. This App has the hymnal and the Liturgy Book.

The first draft of the music version of the Caribbean Music Praise (CMP) is nearing completion. This is a good time to finalize your order numbers.

The Province has gone Social:



@moravianewip
 @Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province
 @ChurchEwip
 Postings will increase in 2024.

Condolences

From the Provincial Elders Conference of The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province

Brothers and Sisters,

Warm Christian greetings in the name of Jesus, our Chief Elder.

We have learned of the passing to the more immediate presence of God on December 4, 2023, of the Rev Peter Madsen Gubi, M.A. at the age of 93. The son of Bishop Peter Madsen Gubi and Mrs. Maud Gubi, he was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands on May 3, 1930.

Bro. Gubi lived as a child in St. Thomas, Antigua, and Barbados attended the Antigua Grammar School and Harrison's College in Barbados.

He was ordained to the Diaconate in 1953 by Bishop Herbert Connor and marked the 70th anniversary of ordained ministry earlier this year. Bro. Gubi served the Cedar Hall congregation in Antigua, Zion, Bethesda, and Bethel in St. Kitts in two terms - 1954-1956 and 1961-1964. He served in Barbados in two terms - 1956-1961 and 1967-1975.

Following the devastation in Tobago by Hurricane Flora in 1963, Bro. Gubi was called to Tobago and was largely responsible for designing Moriah and other churches and rebuilding some of the churches there.

In 1975 the Gubis relocated to the British Province and served several congregations there before his retirement.

Bro. Peter Gubi was predeceased by his elder brother, John, and a sister. Sister Joyce Gubi predeceased him several years ago, but he is survived by a daughter, Anne, and a son the Rev. Professor Dr. Peter Madsen Gubi as well as a sister, and a brother, retired Moravian minister, the Rev. Paul Gubi.

May his soul rest in Peace.

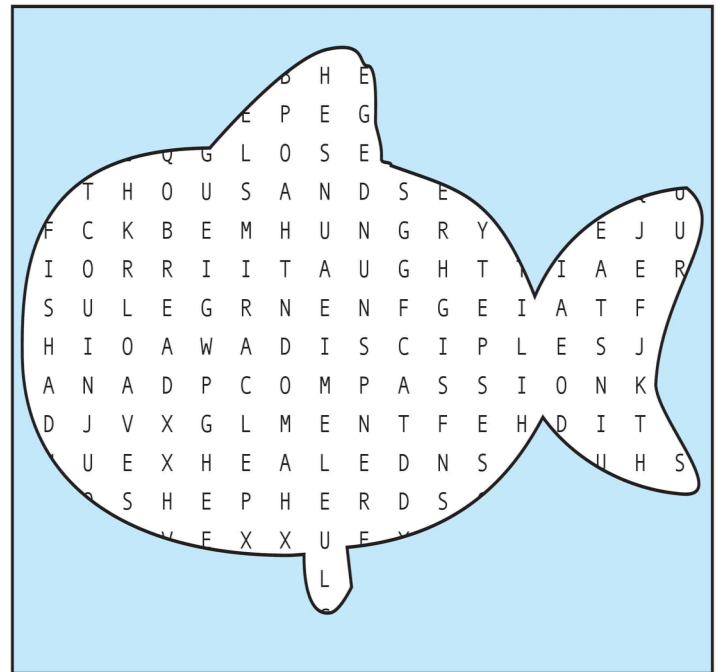


Children's Activity Corner



Jesus Fed the People Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.



BREAD
COMPASSION
DISCIPLES
EAT

FISH
HEALED
HUNGRY
LOAVES

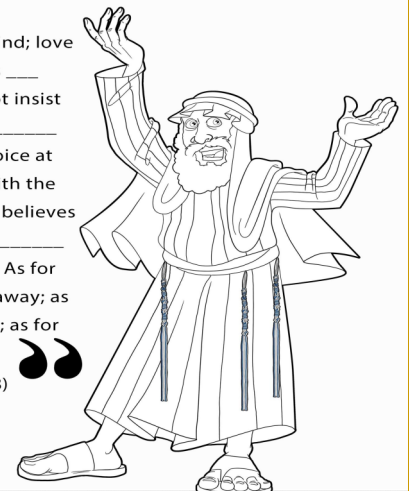
MIRACLE
SHEPHERD
TAUGHT
THOUSANDS

WHAT IS LOVE?

Fill in the Blanks. Color the picture.

“ Love is _____ and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is _____ arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not _____ or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but _____ with the _____. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, _____ all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will _____ away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for _____, it will pass away. ”

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)





Let Us Celebrate



Birthday Celebrants

December 16—31

Bro. Vankys Isaac	18
Bro. Hilton Joseph	18
Sis. Cecile Rossington	22
Sis. Maureen Lewis	23
Bro. Alvin Barker	25
Bro. Matthew Crookes	25



January 01—15

Bro. David Ince	02
Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	05
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Bro. Moise Jean	12

Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

December 16—31

Bro. Erwin Warner & Sis. Onita Samuel Warner	19
Bro. Algernon Lewis & Sis. Denise Smith Lewis	20
Bro. Errol Connor & Sis. Jocelyn Connor	22
Bro. Patmore Smith & Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	27
Bro. Hilton Joseph & Sis. Sharon McCarty Joseph	29



January 1—15

Bro. Nevin Lewis & Sis. Billie Sterling-Lewis	05
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Ordination Anniversary



Sis. Camille James-Joefield December 11, 2012

Congratulations

On behalf of the Provincial family, warm congratulations are extended to the following members:

1. The Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts, Minister of Christian Education in the Tobago Conference, who was awarded the Tobago Medal of Honour, Silver, for long and meritorious service in Education, Religion, and Culture.
2. Mrs. Deborah Moore-Miggins, Lay Member of the Provincial Board, who was awarded the Tobago Medal of Honour, Gold, for Public Service, Community Development, and Culture.
3. Sis. Evelina King-Harper J.P. of the Sharon Congregation in Barbados on being awarded the Barbados Service Medal on Independence Day 2023; for her dedicated community service and activism for the rights of those with learning disabilities and her commitment to volunteerism in support of the Association for the Correction of Learning Disabilities (The Learning Centre) and several church organisations.



Condolences

The Provincial family expresses condolences to:

- ◆ Rev. Adelyn Binta Mgonela and family on the death of her husband, Dr. Katema Mgonela.

After a brief illness, Bro. Mgonela died on Wednesday November 22, 2023 in Tanzania. The Funeral service will take place at the Moriah Moravian Church, Tabora, Tanzania.

Please pray for Rev. Adelyn Binta Mgonela, daughters, Ayeola and Namayombo, and their extended family as they mourn.

- ◆ Rev. Vera Waithe and family of the Barbados Conference on the death of her brother Feliston Gilkes. Bro. Gilkes died on Sunday, December 3 in Canada after a brief illness. He was 56 years old.

Please remember the family in prayer, especially his wife Sandra and their sons Kofi and Kymani.

ALL the words listed below are in the “Traditional Christmas 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**.



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

1. What is the name of the angel who was sent to tell Mary that she would have a baby? (Luke 1:26)
2. What is the name of the unborn baby who leaped for joy at the sound of Mary’s greeting? (Luke 1:44, 60)
3. Who was King of Judea when Jesus was born? (Luke 1:5)
4. Who was Roman Emperor when Jesus was born? (Luke 2:1)
5. What is the name of Jesus’ earthly father? (Matthew 1:18)
6. How long did Mary remain with Elizabeth during her pregnancy? (Luke 1:56)
7. What is the name of Jesus that means “God with us”? (Matthew 1:23)
8. In which city was the temple where Jesus was presented to the Lord? (Luke 2:22)
9. What is the name of the city where Jesus was born? (Luke 2:4)
10. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem before Jesus was born? (Luke 2:1)
11. What type of animal was sacrificed at the Temple as part of the purification of Joseph and Mary? (Luke 2:24)
12. What did the wise men see and follow to find Jesus? (Matthew 2:2)
13. Where was Jesus when the wise men found him? (Matthew 2:11)
14. What was Joseph’s line of work? (Matthew 13:55)
15. What gifts did the wise men bring to Jesus? (Matthew 2:11)

S	S	E	P	M	S	T	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R
H	H	C	S	U	N	U	T	C	R	A	C	K	E	R
O	E	A	T	A	O	S	H	T	A	E	R	W	P	M
P	P	E	N	B	I	Y	O	H	N	R	S	S	A	I
P	H	P	E	N	T	T	S	G	G	B	L	B	R	S
I	E	G	M	E	A	I	T	I	E	R	L	J	W	T
N	R	R	A	N	R	V	O	E	L	E	E	O	S	L
G	D	E	N	N	O	I	C	L	S	G	B	Y	L	E
Y	S	E	R	A	C	T	K	S	S	N	V	R	L	T
A	E	T	O	T	E	A	I	D	L	I	I	U	A	O
D	L	I	M	N	D	N	N	I	H	G	Y	O	M	E
I	D	N	A	A	G	E	G	R	U	D	O	L	P	H
L	N	G	G	S	I	H	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P
O	A	S	I	R	T	E	K	A	C	T	I	U	R	F
H	C	I	F	S	G	N	I	C	I	O	J	E	R	W

Merry Christmas

Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Conference Center & Apartments



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.

WORSHIP

Mystery Answer

1. Gabriel
2. John
3. Herod
4. Caesar Augustus
5. Joseph
6. About three months
7. Immanuel
8. Jerusalem
9. Bethlehem
10. To be registered in a census
11. Turtledoves or pigeons
12. A star
13. In a house
14. Carpentry or stonemasonry
15. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh

Answers to Bible Quiz